A FAITHFUL WORD

SERIES SIX

"By the Mouth of Two or Three Witnesses"

CONCERNING THE PRESENT TURMOIL IN THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Book 6

DEFENSE & CONFIRMATION PROJECT

© 2007 Defense and Confirmation Project

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval systems without permission from DCP.

> 1st printing, May 2007 2nd printing, June 2007 Electronic printing, July 2007

Published by Defense and Confirmation Project (DCP) P. O. Box 3217 Fullerton, CA 92834

DCP is a project to defend and confirm the New Testament ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee and the practice of the local churches.

Phil. 1:7 – Even as it is right for me to think this concerning you all because you have me in your heart, since both in my bonds and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel you are all fellow partakers with me of grace.

All verses and footnotes are from the Holy Bible Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry. All books cited are publications of Living Stream Ministry and are from either *The Collected Works of Watchman Nee* or the published ministry of Witness Lee unless otherwise noted. Excerpts from the Recovery Version and the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee are copyrighted by Living Stream Ministry and are used by permission.

Boldface type has been used for emphasis in quoted passages and is not in the original quoted material unless otherwise noted.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface
A WORD REGARDING THE PRESENT TURMOIL IN THE LORD'S RECOVERY
The Attack on Living Stream Ministry10
The Attack on the Blended Co-workers17
The Attack on Having One Publication in the Ministry in the Lord's Recovery20
The Attack on the Seven Annual Gatherings or "Feasts" 21
The Attack on the Use of the Publication The Holy Word for Morning Revival
The Attack on the Full-time Training in Anaheim27
Needing to Realize That the Enemy Is Behind the Present Attacks Against the Lord's Recovery
Speaking the Truth to the Church and All the Saints Being Constituted with the Truth for the Enlightening of the Saints and the Preservation of the Church

PREFACE

- Deut. 19:15 One witness only shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity or for any sin which he has committed; at the word of two witnesses or at the word of three witnesses shall a matter be established.
- Matt. 18:16b ...that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.
- 1 Tim. 5:19 Against an elder do not receive an accusation, except based upon two or three witnesses.

In the Thanksgiving Weekend Conference held in Washington, D.C. on November 23-26, 2006, Brother Benson Phillips spoke concerning the present turmoil in the Lord's recovery. In his speaking he addressed attacks against:

- Living Stream Ministry;
- The blended co-workers;
- Having one publication in the ministry in the Lord's recovery;
- The seven annual gatherings, or "feasts";
- The use of the publication *The Holy Word for Morning Revival*; and
- The Full-time Training in Anaheim.

This healthy fellowship was printed in *The Ministry Magazine*, vol. 11, no. 3, March/April 2007. We have reprinted that fellowship here with permission from Living Stream Ministry and Brother Benson. The last portion of Brother Benson's speaking has not been reproduced here because it is not related to the topic of this series.

A WORD REGARDING THE PRESENT TURMOIL IN THE LORD'S RECOVERY

At this time in the Lord's recovery there is a certain amount of turmoil, and I would like to say a few things concerning it. Among the children of Israel in the Old Testament and among the churches in the New Testament, Satan repeatedly stirred up turmoil. This is both our history and our destiny. There is an adversary in this universe named Satan, who is always trying to stir up unrest in the Lord's recovery. Brother Nee and Brother Lee passed through periods of turmoil. Many attacks came upon these brothers because they spoke the living word and the truth of God. Satan hated the ministry in the Lord's recovery and attacked them repeatedly. Nevertheless today, in spite of all his attacks, there are local churches over the whole earth. This is the issue of these brothers' ministry, the issue of the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom. The Lord's recovery is spreading, and wherever it goes, the gospel of the kingdom is being preached. Only the Lord's recovery has this gospel. Christianity has the gospel of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 24:47), but the Lord's recovery has not only that gospel but also the gospel of the kingdom (Matt. 24:14). The gospel of the kingdom brings people under God's divine authority so that He can rule over them in order to sanctify them, renew them, transform them, and conform them to the image of Christ so that He can be expressed through the church as His Body.

The ministry that we are under was raised up by the Lord in the 1920s through Brother Nee and was continued through our Brother Lee. Throughout all these years the enemy has stirred up turmoil after turmoil in the Lord's recovery. Different ones have been stirred up to rebel, to oppose, and to write and speak things which damage the church by bringing in confusion and disappointment that affects the weaker ones, the new ones, and those who are not so clear. What the dissenting ones write and speak often sounds appealing, but behind their words is something evil. We all must realize that the source of this present turmoil is not dissenting brothers but God's enemy, the devil. I am concerned that some of the saints may have the feeling that this turmoil is a matter of brother against brother, a matter of agreeing or disagreeing, or a matter of one having one view and one having another. We all need to see clearly that the enemy is behind everything causing turmoil in the Lord's recovery at this time. The aim and direction of these attacks clearly show us that the enemy is fighting against the Lord's recovery in order to damage it and bring it to naught. The Lord's move in His recovery today is perhaps the most significant move in the history of the church. If this move in the Lord's recovery is God's final move to end this age, surely the enemy would be desperate to try to destroy the Lord's recovery.

If we examine and consider the matters in the Lord's recovery that are being attacked today, we will be fully convinced that the enemy is behind this present turmoil. Of course, when the enemy attacks, we need to fellowship with the saints in order to help them so that they would not be set in confusion or carried away from the Lord's recovery, but we mainly need to pray. It is more crucial that we pray much, because it is the enemy who is Ultimately, speaking behind these attacks. our will not accomplish very much unless it is accompanied by much prayer.

Now we all need to consider before the Lord the following points regarding the present attack on the Lord's recovery. These points involve the ministry of Brother Nee and Brother Lee, and they involve certain things that are very dear to us and that are necessary for the building up of the Lord's recovery, not in the way of doctrine or organization but in the organic way of life and truth. Every item that is currently under attack has been used by the Lord for many years to build up His recovery. Brother Nee first practiced these things, Brother Lee followed him, and now we are following Brother Lee to practice the same things. The Lord's recovery today is the same recovery that was on the earth when Brother Nee was here, and it is the same recovery that was here when Brother Lee was among us. We all are the continuation of the Lord's recovery today. You may have heard it said, "Brother Nee, then Brother Lee, and now Brother 'We.'" Today, the leading ones among the churches are the ones who must carry the Lord's recovery forward. If they remain faithful and are steadfast, the future of the Lord's recovery will be bright. However, if any of them become weakened and are unable to stand in a steadfast way, the church in their locality will be shaken.

Do not think that we are at the end of this present turmoil. We all know that particular churches in certain parts of the United States are being affected, but we have to realize that this turmoil is virtually worldwide. This same turmoil has spread to Europe, to Africa, to Taiwan, to Korea, to Thailand, and to many other places. This is because we all are one recovery, and we are fighting one battle against one enemy who is opposing the Lord's recovery. Together we are the Lord's recovery on this earth. We may live in the United States, Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, or any other place, but we are still a part of the Lord's recovery, and we are all engaged in building up the one Body of Christ.

In October 2006, the blended co-workers wrote an open letter of warning to all the saints and all the churches in the Lord's recovery concerning a certain brother and those who have joined him to promote and disseminate his divisive teachings, publications, practices, and views. In light of the dissension and division that these brothers were causing in and between the churches, the co-workers surely had to write a letter of quarantine regarding them. This letter of warning to quarantine these divisive ones was signed by sixty-three co-workers from six continents. Nevertheless, some churches are refusing to go along with the quarantine of these dissenting brothers. Why would the leading ones in those churches have that kind of attitude? In one of the past turmoils, Brother Lee was very concerned for some of the leading ones who at that time would not go along with the quarantine of certain divisive ones and who even led their churches not to go along. This is extremely serious. We are one recovery, which was brought in and built up

10 CONCERNING THE PRESENT TURMOIL

by the one New Testament ministry. All of the churches in the Lord's recovery were raised up by this one ministry. However, some dissenting brothers are saying that their churches were raised up and brought into the Lord's recovery by someone other than Brother Nee and Brother Lee. We disagree. Outwardly, those churches may have been raised up by another person, but whatever truth that person possessed to minister for building up, he received it from the same source as the rest of the recovery—the ministry of Brothers Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. It is absolutely and fully through the contents of the ministry of these two servants of the Lord that the Lord's recovery was spread over the whole earth.

The Attack on Living Stream Ministry

The first entity that is under attack by some brothers is Living Stream Ministry. Why is Living Stream Ministry under attack? Brother Lee established and maintained two entities to publish all of his and Brother Nee's written ministry—Taiwan Gospel Book Room and Living Stream Ministry. These two publication houses were set up and have been kept absolutely by Brother Lee to put out all of his and Brother Nee's written ministry in Chinese and English. Of course, because they spoke in either Chinese or English, it requires a large amount of translation work from Chinese to English or from English to Chinese. Under Brother Lee's direction, these two entities have published all of Brother Nee's written ministry and continue to put out Brother Lee's written ministry. All these publications in Chinese and English become the source for putting out their ministry in many other languages.

Brother Lee did not set up Living Stream Ministry for himself or for his own glory; he set up Living Stream Ministry so that his and Brother Nee's ministry could go out to Christians all over the earth. Today there are at least twelve publication centers that coordinate with Living Stream Ministry; they are scattered throughout the earth and are translating the same messages that are being published in English and Chinese. We all have to realize how much the enemy hates this publication work, because it is this ministry that is being used by the Lord to build up His Body, to prepare His bride, and to beautify His church throughout the earth. Therefore, the enemy continually attacks this ministry in many ways, and we must learn to say "No" to the enemy every time.

Brother Lee told us clearly that eighty percent of the increase in the Lord's recovery in the Western world was through the literature of the ministry. This was my own experience. What I touched first was not the meetings of a local church or the saints in the recovery but the literature. For a great number of those who have been added to the Lord's recovery, their door was the literature. Therefore, the first thing that Satan needs to stop is the publication work of the Living Stream Ministry, and this would include all of the publication centers throughout the earth that are getting this ministry out in so many languages. The publication work is a glorious work. The enemy would try to cause the churches to cease their support and those serving in Living Stream to shrink back, but this is a service that should be supported and prayed for continually so that the purpose of this great work might be fully realized.

Saints, just consider what the recovery would be like without the publications, without our brothers' speaking that is brought to us through the printed pages of the Recovery Version, the Life-study messages, and all of the books. Yet today, many outside opposers and some dissenting ones within the recovery speak and write against Living Stream Ministry. This is because the enemy knows that if he can stop the publication of this ministry and if he can stop the distribution of this ministry, it is a big step toward terminating the reception of this ministry. The enemy is desperate to end the publication and distribution of this ministry.

According to its charter, Living Stream publishes the ministry of our brothers Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. This is Living Stream Ministry—a publisher of the ministry of the age as it was presented to us in the ministry of Brother Nee and Brother Lee. The purpose of Living Stream Ministry is to do only one thingto produce, distribute, and promote the ministry of the age for all of the Lord's children. The ministry of the age is not merely for us in the local churches but for the whole Body of Christ. Thus, this ministry must be released throughout the whole earth. Praise the Lord that little by little the Lord is spreading this ministry in His recovery throughout Asia, North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Australasia. However, there still is the need for a publisher. Praise the Lord that under Brother Lee's direction and training, the Living Stream Ministry office was raised up to bear this responsibility.

Of course, Living Stream Ministry is related to the Full-time Training in Anaheim and does help the training in some practical matters. Even though the Living Stream Ministry campus and the full-time training center are so close together in Anaheim, Living Stream Ministry does not run the training. This may be a surprise to some of the saints. Then who bears the responsibility for the training of so many full-time trainees in Anaheim? Nearly every week the co-workers, not the employees of Living Stream Ministry, come together at the training center in Anaheim to fellowship concerning all the aspects of the training and the particular needs of the trainees. Living Stream Ministry mainly ensures that the full-time training remains financially sound so that the training can continue indefinitely. Today the Full-time Training in Anaheim has over three hundred trainees. This past June one hundred trainees graduated, the largest group yet, and sixty-six expressed the desire to serve full time. We are full of expectation. If we give the Lord another ten or twenty years, His recovery will spread all over this earth, not only through the graduates of the fulltime training but also through so many other saints from all the local churches.

After a decision has been made by the co-workers as to where the annual blending conferences will be held, Living Stream Ministry functions as a helper, a facilitator, to locate acceptable meeting places. Living Stream Ministry works out the contracts with the hotels or convention centers that will be leased. Someone must do this. Such things would be difficult for a local church or for the co-workers, so Living Stream Ministry bears the burden in fellowship with the co-workers to help with this need. Living Stream Ministry found this place that we are in this morning and evaluated it, and then they fellowshipped with the co-workers and leading ones in the Washington D. C. area. Everyone felt good about the facility, so Living Stream Ministry rented this facility in fellowship. Yes, the meeting place was rented in the name of Living Stream Ministry, but Living Stream Ministry does not function as a headquarters. Living Stream Ministry does not touch one thing concerning the sharing of the word in any of the meetings. For instance, Living Stream Ministry does not decide what the topic of any conference or training will be. Some might have had such a thought because of all the evil speakings, but in this respect, the Living Stream Ministry office is merely an observer, having no say or influence regarding the ministry in any of the conference or training meetings. Living Stream Ministry does not extend itself beyond its bounds or beyond its measure. In some aspects, Living Stream Ministry is extremely active during a conference or training in taking care of many practical services. There are those who prepare the meeting place and set up and test all the audio and video equipment, there are those who record the speaking of this ministry in order to make the video webcast and the video and audio tapes and CDs available to the whole recovery, and there are those who display and sell the publications of this ministry before and after every meeting. However, the ones who decide the topic and fellowship the content of the conference messages are the co-workers, and the ones who speak in the meetings and pray together before the meetings are also the co-workers, not the employees of Living Stream Ministry. While the co-workers are praying and while the one who speaks is ministering, Living Stream Ministry is carrying out a number of practical services.

Everyone needs to know that Living Stream Ministry also does not touch the churches to control or direct them. Of course, there are times when Living Stream Ministry needs to have fellowship with the churches to carry out its practical

14 CONCERNING THE PRESENT TURMOIL

responsibilities. Living Stream Ministry sells publications to the churches.

Living Stream Ministry helps to carry out the two semi-annual trainings each year by providing a place for the saints to meet together. Living Stream Ministry cleans the campus, the buildings, and the restrooms, makes and hangs the banners, moves and arranges the chairs, arranges for translation into various languages, and administers registration for the training, but it has nothing to do with the carrying out of the speaking burden in the trainings. The semi-annual trainings are not Living Stream Ministry trainings, for the co-workers are the ones who conduct the trainings.

For the practical release of this ministry, Brother Lee needed Living Stream Ministry. Living Stream Ministry is a corporation with directors, officers, an office manager, and nearly one hundred forty employees. It is a fact that most of the directors and officers are also co-workers, and a number of co-workers are also employees of Living Stream Ministry. However, we all must realize that Living Stream Ministry is an entity that is distinct from both the churches and the work. Living Stream Ministry has only one burden-to put out the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. Although Living Stream Ministry may render some practical help in many ways, it does not give direction to either the churches or the co-workers. Living Stream Ministry does not give any direction to anyone except its own employees. Those who think that Living Stream Ministry is controlling the Lord's recovery are dreaming. If Living Stream Ministry ever began to control any aspect of the Lord's recovery, I would be the first one to stand up with many others and say, "No." However, as one who has observed Living Stream Ministry for over thirty years, first from a distance and later as one who was involved with Living Stream Ministry to a certain degree, I can say that the Living Stream Ministry you see today is the same as the Living Stream Ministry that I saw thirty years ago. Today I am living in Anaheim and can see directly for myself what Living Stream Ministry is doing. Brothers and sisters, do not believe the falsehoods that are being spread about Living Stream Ministry. An evil propagandist once said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." This is a tactic of the devil.

Some have questioned Living Stream Ministry's relationship to the Defense and Confirmation Project. Those who serve in the Defense and Confirmation Project are writing many things to answer the opposers and those from within who are rising up against the Lord's recovery and against Living Stream Ministry. Living Stream Ministry does not control or direct the Defense and Confirmation Project. The Defense and Confirmation Project has its own serving brothers, and according to their feeling, the Defense and Confirmation Project must act as a separate corporation as they work to serve the churches and the saints. Thus, the Defense and Confirmation Project has its own officers and directors, and they are the ones who oversee and direct its work. Living Stream Ministry is not directing what is being put out through the Defense and Confirmation Project on the Internet or any projects in which they may be involved. Of course, the brothers who serve in the Defense and Confirmation Project fellowship with the co-workers, a number of whom serve in Living Stream Ministry, but that does not mean that Living Stream Ministry bears any responsibility in the Defense and Confirmation Project.

It is the same with the Lord's Move to Europe. Living Stream Ministry also does not control or direct the Lord's Move to Europe. Living Stream Ministry must at times have fellowship with the Lord's Move to Europe regarding financial matters, such as passing on gifts that have been placed in the offering box and designated for Lord's Move to Europe, but Living Stream Ministry does not get involved in the work of Lord's Move to Europe.

In a number of ways, the church in Anaheim is probably the closest to Living Stream Ministry. However, the elders in the church in Anaheim can testify that Living Stream Ministry has never controlled or directed the church. Furthermore, those of us who take the lead in the churches can testify that Living

15

Stream Ministry has not and does not control or direct any of the churches. The church is the church, Living Stream Ministry is Living Stream Ministry, the Defense and Confirmation Project is the Defense and Confirmation Project, and the Lord's Move to Europe is the Lord's Move to Europe.

Once when I was a young boy, my parents took me to the Rocky Mountains on their vacation, and as we approached the mountains from afar, I thought, "What a beautiful mountain!" However, as we grew closer to the mountain, I discovered that what had appeared to be one mountain was actually many mountains; it was only from a great distance that they appeared to be just one thing, one mountain. Living Stream Ministry, the Defense and Confirmation Project, the Lord's Move to Europe, the full-time training, and the church in Anaheim may look like just one big mountain, but in reality they are many mountains; it is more of a mountain range than a single mountain. The work of the Lord's recovery in Anaheim may be somewhat intimidating to some because the church in Anaheim is there, the Defense and Confirmation Project is there, Living Stream Ministry is there, the full-time training is there, and the Lord's Move to Europe is there. However, none of those entities is under the control and leading of another. Has Living Stream Ministry ever directed any of the migrations throughout the earth? Absolutely not! Neither has Living Stream Ministry forced anyone to come to any conferences. Everyone here in this conference made a personal and individual decision to be here as brothers and sisters to meet together and worship the Lord. Whether or not someone comes to a conference is up to each one. I would say that it is better to come, but no one is forced to come. No control is exercised over the saints anywhere at any time to force them to attend the seven annual gatherings.

There is a certain amount of negative talk in the recovery today, and I believe that some of you came to this conference believing that Living Stream Ministry is controlling everything. If you think that Living Stream Ministry is wrong in any way, please call the Living Stream Ministry office right away and ask for the office manager or any of the officers. Attacks of the enemy are a further proof that the raising up of this entity to publish the books of the ministry was the Lord's doing. Such attacks are a confirmation that the work of Living Stream Ministry is under the Lord's blessing. We cannot allow the negative speaking to penetrate our being in any way. We all have to rise up and reject these attacks and falsehoods.

The Attack on the Blended Co-workers

The second point of attack involves the spreading of accusations and evil speakings concerning the blended co-workers. Just as Brother Nee suffered fierce opposition, and then Brother Lee, now it is the blended co-workers who are suffering various attacks. What is a blended co-worker? This is not a title or a position, as the dissenting brothers would have you believe. A blended co-worker is simply one of the co-workers who is blended. Consider how general this definition is. A blended co-worker is simply a co-worker who has been blended with the other co-workers. The blended co-workers are simply a group of brothers who come together to consider matters related to the Lord's recovery and to pray, fellowship, and serve together in the way of blending. They are not a special category of brothers; rather, they are simply brothers who have been blended together to a certain extent and who fellowship together because they are burdened for the carrying out of the Lord's recovery. They are brothers who have given themselves to care for the Lord's recovery. Some of them speak from the podium; some never speak in this way. In some ways, those who have never spoken from the podium in a conference are more crucial than the ones who have.

Toward the end of his life on earth, Brother Lee wrote an open letter to all the saints in the Lord's recovery. In that letter he said, "As the Lord provides me the strength and time, I intend to continue to serve and speak in the coming days. The Lord has shown me that He has prepared many brothers who will serve as fellow slaves with me in a blended way. I feel that this is the Lord's provision for His Body, and the up-to-date way to fulfill His ministry" ("A Letter of Fellowship with Thanksgiving," March 22, 1997). Then on April 6, 1997, in fellowshipping concerning sharing the high-peak truths with the saints, he said, "I believe the blending brothers will do a good job, speaking according to my speaking. Then all the elders and co-workers will see how they should carry out their work." Brother Lee was happy that the Lord had raised up a group of blended fellow slaves who would carry out the Lord's recovery in a blended way. Praise the Lord that the Lord has raised up many brothers who have the time and the burden to function in this way. These brothers are from many different places throughout the earth, and they are blended simply because they have been blending together for a period of time. If another brother were to join them in their blending, he too would become a blended brother.

Just consider, if the co-workers never came together to fellowship and blend, where would the Lord's recovery be today? We cannot say that there would be no recovery, but the saints in Japan would possibly be going their own way according to their own view, the saints in Taiwan would be going their own way according to their own view, and the saints in the United States and Europe would be the same. It is largely because of the fellowship of the blended co-workers and the speaking of the blended co-workers in the seven annual gatherings that we have all been able to go on in one accord as one recovery.

Concerning certain of the dissenting ones, the blending coworkers have spent almost ten years endeavoring to bring those ones into the blending, but they have chosen not to blend. If they do not want to blend and instead want to do things on their own and according to their own feeling, or leading, that is between them and the Lord, but they should not criticize other co-workers for wanting to serve in a blending way. Their choosing not to blend does not give them the right to openly criticize the ones who have chosen to blend. As we have said, the true source of these attacks is the devil. The enemy is attacking the blended co-workers because they are simply speaking what Brother Nee and Brother Lee taught for many years. They are bringing all those riches into the recovery and looking to the Lord that nothing would be lost or buried but that the recovery would walk in our brothers' teachings, being preserved in the apostles' teaching. This speaking by these two brothers is surely the ministry of the age.

Furthermore, in order to speak this ministry, there must be those who dig out all the riches in the ministry. We all know that many of the revelations in the Bible are not revealed in a direct or simple way. Instead, a great truth may be scattered throughout the Bible, a little here and a little there (Isa. 28:10). Brother Lee's ministry is much the same because he ministered on the entire Bible. Thus, throughout his ministry there is a portion of a truth here and another portion there throughout all his writings. But if you can put all the portions together into an outline and then speak them to the saints, it becomes a great revelation. The revelation that was released in this conference concerning the mingled spirit and the reality of the Body of Christ came from the piecing together of different portions from various sections of his written ministry. Most of us could not have put the pieces together in such a marvelous way. But praise the Lord that He has raised up some brothers who worked with Brother Lee to edit his messages and who have the ability to put all the portions of the ministry together so that the truths in the Bible can be fully unveiled to His recovery.

We should all thank the Lord for the outlines and messages that have been released by the blended brothers. This can be considered as the continuation and even enlargement of Brother Lee's ministry, not in the sense of making it something different but in the sense of helping us to understand it and to enter into it more deeply. In a sense, the blending brothers are "tape recorders," speaking what the Lord has given to us through the ministry of the age, but the blending brothers are also speaking a ministry that has been enlarged practically for the saints, because the shining of the light in their speaking comes from many different sources in the ministry.

The Attack on Having One Publication in the Ministry in the Lord's Recovery

The third thing that is under attack is the matter of having only one publication in the ministry in the Lord's recovery. After Brother Lee first released the word concerning the matter of one publication in the ministry in the Lord's recovery in 1986, some brothers and their co-workers rose up against Brother Lee to oppose this matter. Eventually, a number of saints left the recovery over this matter. Likewise, immediately after the brothers released this word again in 2005, certain other brothers were stirred up to oppose it. Simultaneously, the blended coworkers, Living Stream Ministry, and the one publication in the ministry were spoken against. Even though the co-workers knew of the possibility that this would stir up opposition, they felt that this matter, which both Brother Nee and Brother Lee practiced for over seventy years and Brother Lee taught, had to be opened up again to the whole recovery because of the present situation among the churches. The co-workers had hoped that there would not be any negative reaction, but some did rise up to oppose this matter. That attack has grown since then, and there are now writings and arguments against having one publication in the ministry in the Lord's recovery. The reason this has become such a big issue is that Satan knows this is a great factor in the Lord's gaining the one accord in His recovery. Different teachings can and do divide the Lord's Body.

Brother Nee practiced the matter of one publication in the ministry. At one time, due to the political situation in China, there were three branches of the one Gospel Book Room for the publication of his ministry—one in Hong Kong, one in Taipei, and one in Shanghai, but there was still only one publication. Brother Nee said, "Now the three political regions—the mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan—all differ from one another. So we will have the Gospel Book Room divided into three: one in Shanghai, one in Taiwan, and one in Hong Kong. They are not three Book Rooms; rather, they are one. Due to the political situation, the three places will be on their own financially" (*The High Peak of the Vision and the Reality of the Body of Christ*,

pp. 24-25). These three branches of the one Gospel Book Room kept the principle of only one publication in the ministry in the Lord's recovery. Both Brother Nee and Brother Lee practiced the matter of one publication over the whole earth. Should not the blended co-workers and the whole recovery do the same? Other publications may bring in a situation of division and stumbling, as described in Romans 16:17, by bringing in things "contrary to the teaching which [we] have learned." Differing publications bring in dissension because of their different teachings, and they can damage and eventually destroy the Lord's recovery. One of the dissenting brothers went to China and spoke out against the matter of one publication. He said that the problem in the recovery in the United States was the one publication and that the one publication was causing division. Another brother in turn responded saying, "If the one publication is dividing the Lord's recovery, how many publications are needed to make the Lord's recovery one?" Having one publication does not damage anything; rather, it builds up. One reason we are still in the Lord's recovery today is because Brother Nee kept the principle of one publication, then Brother Lee followed him to keep the same principle, and today the blended co-workers are following both to keep this same principle. In this matter the blended coworkers are following in the footsteps of Brother Nee and Brother Lee to have one publication in the ministry, which supplies all the local churches throughout the earth and aids in building up and keeping the recovery in the practical oneness. The co-workers' burden is to minister only those teachings that are in accord with those revelations that were unveiled through Brother Nee and Brother Lee and stressed by them. Satan's attack on the matter of one publication is his strategy to kill the boldness of all the brothers who are faithfully speaking in one accord with what has been spoken by our two brothers.

The Attack on the Seven Annual Gatherings or "Feasts"

The fourth matter that is being attacked is the seven annual gatherings, or "feasts," that we have each year in the Lord's recovery. Certain brothers criticize these gatherings, criticize what is spoken in these gatherings, and even criticize the fact

that the recovery holds seven of them a year. However, there were a number of brothers with Brother Lee shortly before he went to be with the Lord who can testify that Brother Lee told us directly that he hoped the recovery would continue to hold these seven gatherings every year and that we should consider this as his will for the recovery. Why would Satan oppose the seven annual gatherings? Because it is through these seven gatherings that the ministry of the age is continually being infused into the Lord's recovery. Brother Lee said that we need the seven annual gatherings for two reasons—for the release of the word and for the blending of all the saints and all the churches. Praise the Lord that we are approaching our seventieth feast since Brother Lee's passing. For almost ten years the Lord has enabled us to carry out these feasts. What a marvelous blessing this has been to His recovery!

We all must admit that these gatherings have been a great help to the churches. Much has been deposited into the recovery, and a great work of blending has taken place. The outlines and the messages that have been released during these gatherings have been very much of the Lord, and the Lord's presence, anointing, and blessing have always been with us. At every conference and training saints from various countries come together to blend. We may not be able to communicate with all of them, but when we see them at the feasts, we realize that this is truly the Lord's recovery and that the Lord's recovery is in oneness and is spreading over the whole earth.

It would have been a great loss if the Lord's recovery had not held these seven annual gatherings. Most did not see the need for these feasts, but Brother Lee did. When he fellowshipped with us about carrying out these gatherings, he was very burdened and quite strong. In these gatherings, the blended coworkers are all speaking the same thing that Brother Lee spoke. This does not mean that they are speaking in a rote way from memory, apart from their spirit. Rather, it means that they are burdened to build up the churches in the Lord's recovery with the same divine truths that Brother Lee and Brother Nee brought to the recovery. For just under ten years we have held these seven annual gatherings. Whether one has attended all of these gatherings or has only been in a few of them, we all are still in the Lord's recovery. Where would the recovery be today if we had not held these gatherings for the past ten years? Where would the churches in Japan, Taiwan, Korea, the United States, Africa, South America, and so forth be today? These seven annual gatherings are an important factor that has preserved, supplied, and built up the saints and the churches in the Lord's recovery. The enemy knows this, and thus, opposes these gatherings.

The Attack on the Use of the Publication The Holy Word for Morning Revival

The fifth item that is under attack today is the publication entitled The Holy Word for Morning Revival. There has been much speaking against the use of this publication in these days because the enemy greatly hates it. The reason he hates it is because through this publication, thousands of saints in the Lord's recovery are daily entering into the central revelation of the Bible as the Word of God. Furthermore, through these books the saints throughout the earth are daily getting into the writings of the ministry, which is the ministry of the age. This is why the enemy hates this publication and is attacking the use of it. If he can take us away from the Word of God and from the New Testament ministry, he has won the victory. Therefore, even if we do not get into anything else during the day, we can at least get into that day's verses and excerpts from the ministry in The Holy Word for Morning Revival. We all can be in the Word and in the ministry at least a little every day. Moreover, in every day's portion there is some divine truth. Sometimes there are a number of great truths on one page. Over a period of one year, through getting into The Holy Word for Morning Revival, you can become constituted with hundreds of divine truths!

There are saints who work to prepare these books in English, and then they are translated into Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and many other languages and sent out over the whole earth. This is a big reason that the enemy hates Living Stream Ministry. He

24 CONCERNING THE PRESENT TURMOIL

hates Living Stream Ministry because every day there are saints at Living Stream Ministry working on the books that will help to transform the saints. When the saints experience what is contained in these books, those experiences strengthen the Lord's move in His recovery and even enlighten many brothers and sisters who are not currently meeting in the local churches.

It was not the co-workers but Brother Lee himself who had the leading to have The Holy Word for Morning Revival. In the late 1980s Brother Lee was very burdened regarding how to take the Lord's recovery on. He asked the brothers if there was any way that they could help all the saints in the Lord's recovery enter into the Word and the New Testament ministry every day to be revived by the Lord each morning. He also asked them if there was a way that could build up the matter of the prophesying of all the saints in the church meetings. Then some brothers from the churches in Taiwan and the United States began to consider and coordinate with Brother Lee to find a way, and the result was The Holy Word for Morning Revival. Brother Lee fellowshipped the practice of using this publication with the burden that the saints would spend a time with the Lord every morning to eat and drink Him and also receive some enlightenment from the Word to have something to speak in the meetings. He wanted there to be a publication that would bring the saints to the Lord in His Word every morning for spiritual nourishment and to the interpreted Word so that it would help the saints to be constituted with the truth and to have something to prophesy in the church meeting on the Lord's Day.

This is exactly what has happened as a result of the local churches encouraging the saints to use *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* every day for nourishment and enjoyment and enlightenment and revelation. In the church in Taipei, at least five thousand saints prophesy every Lord's Day morning, and in the church in Anaheim at least two hundred and twenty-five saints prophesy. In contrast, in the meetings in Christianity only one person speaks something on the Lord's Day. The reason that five thousand saints are able to prophesy every Lord's Day in the church in Taipei is because the saints in the church in

Taipei are in *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* every morning. I believe that we are the only Christian group on the earth that practices the matter of all saints prophesying. The Bible says that prophesying builds up the church (1 Cor. 14:4), and *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* is a great instrument that the Lord has used to build up the prophesying in the church meetings.

With *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* every brother and sister in the Lord's recovery has the full opportunity to be in the Bible and enjoy the words of the ministry every day. Some may murmur about paying five dollars for this publication every one to two months. However, that five dollars is the best five dollars you will ever invest, because there is truth and nourishment on every page. When you do not have a time of morning revival, you feel weak and powerless; you do not have the supply or the energy because you did not get more mingled with the Lord in the morning. However, if you get into *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* every day for between ten and thirty minutes, the Lord will touch you and transform you some every day. Then after a year you will have entered into and become constituted with hundreds of points of the truth, because every day of *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* contains at least one truth.

The dissenting brothers are saying that by putting out The Holy Word for Morning Revival, we are trying to unify the Lord's recovery. Some accuse Living Stream Ministry of trying to make the recovery uniform by making everyone the same. They even accuse Living Stream Ministry of using The Holy Word for Morning Revival to make money because Living Stream Ministry knows that the churches will buy it. There are many evil accusations related to the local churches using The Holy Word for Morning Revival. However, we would like to tell everyone that The Holy Word for Morning Revival was no one's leading except Brother Lee's. Every morning Brother Lee himself was in the same volume of The Holy Word for Morning Revival that the church in Anaheim was in. Sometimes Brother Lee would read the ministry portion for that day and say, "I cannot believe that I said that." He would also tell the elders and co-workers how much he personally and daily enjoyed getting into The Holy Word

26 CONCERNING THE PRESENT TURMOIL

for Morning Revival. Brother Lee fed on the same thing that the church in Anaheim was feeding on, and he came to the meeting on the Lord's Day and prophesied out of *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* just like all the other saints.

Living Stream Ministry publishes *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* from each of the seven feasts every year. All total, this adds up to over fifty weeks of *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* every year. Even though there are only fifty-two weeks in a year, the church in Anaheim goes through every week of *The Holy Word for Morning Revival*. Whenever they get a little behind, they cover two weeks of *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* in one week. I am not saying that all the churches must take this way of using *The Holy Word for Morning Revival*, but I surely recommend it.

There are also some who are spreading the thought that we should not use *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* at all but that we should use something else. These ones want to be different. Because of their pride, they do not want to follow the churches, be the same as the churches, learn from the churches, receive the profit from the churches, or be in what the other churches are in. If some do not feel that *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* is helpful and if they would rather use other materials, that is up to them. There are no rules or regulations regarding this matter. If that is how they feel, they are free not to order this publication from Living Stream Ministry, but neither should they damage the Lord's recovery by speaking against it.

In the last conference that Brother Lee gave, he spoke about our being "tape recorders" of this ministry. We want to be "tape recorders"; that is, we want to speak the same thing that Brother Lee spoke. Brother Lee respected Watchman Nee to the uttermost and considered himself as one who coordinated with Watchman Nee to the very end. He followed Watchman Nee and spoke what Watchman Nee spoke. Now that Brother Lee is gone, who on the earth will follow Brother Lee's example and pick up the burden to present the ministry of the age, using our brothers' utterances and not their own? There must be some who will do this. Without the ministry of the age, the ministry that the Lord gave to us through our brothers, there would be no recovery. And if Brother Lee had not come to this country, there would be nearly no churches here. All the churches in the United States and Canada were raised up through Brother Lee's ministry, regardless of who may be trying to take the credit for it. I participated in the Lord's move in Russia for five years. In the beginning of that move, we did nearly nothing; it was mainly the ministry that did the work. Now there are at least one hundred seventy churches in the Russian-speaking world. The factor that raised up all those churches was the ministry of the age, the New Testament ministry.

The Attack on the Full-time Training in Anaheim

The sixth matter that is being attacked is the full-time training, which was established by Brother Lee. There are now over three hundred trainees in the Full-time Training in Anaheim, and this past June one hundred graduated. It would be a great thing if every term the training would graduate over a hundred young brothers and sisters who are full of the divine truths of the Lord's recovery. These young graduates have the strength to serve and are full of the Word and the ministry. They have the supply they need to carry on the Lord's recovery.

The Full-time Training in Anaheim is not the only full-time training center on this earth. There are over ten full-time trainings being conducted in various countries, and every year hundreds of trainees graduate from these trainings and will gradually go out over the whole earth. Such a thing is truly glorious. However, certain dissenting brothers are discouraging the young people in their localities from attending the Full-time Training in Anaheim. Sometimes when ones come to the training, it is a struggle to break through the different concepts that have been built up in them as a result of the different teachings they have received. Nevertheless, the Lord is going on. While certain ones criticize the training and teach differently, the training continues to expand and bring the trainees fully into the truths upon which the Lord's recovery has been

28 CONCERNING THE PRESENT TURMOIL

founded and into the truths that will build the churches. Brothers and sisters, the Lord is with the training, and thus, the enemy hates it and opposes it.

The seven annual gatherings, *The Holy Word for Morning Revival*, and the full-time training are much maligned and are under a strong attack because the speaking of the word at the seven gatherings, in *The Holy Word for Morning Revival*, and in the full-time training is becoming more and more prevailing. The ministry of the word is raising up saints throughout the recovery who can live Christ and be built up as the glorious church. This ministry will accomplish this. Therefore, the enemy does and will oppose such reality.

What has been released in the messages of this conference, one of the seven annual gatherings, is simply the New Testament ministry, not another ministry. What Brother Nee and Brother Lee ministered was the ministry of the New Testament for this age—a ministry that the Lord brought forth in this age to emphasize something that had never before been emphasized or fully realized in the church of God. That is why this move of God is called the Lord's recovery. In the Lord's recovery the Lord is recovering what has been lost. For instance, He is recovering the truth that God became man to make man God in life and nature but not in the Godhead. Man will never join God in His Godhead, and man will never be all-knowing or allpowerful. But the Bible reveals that we have received God's divine life and divine nature and that the Lord is now operating in us to make us God in His life and nature. He is also operating in us to cut off our old man, our self, sin, and all the other negative things within us. In eternity God Himself will dwell in us, and we will dwell in Him.

Some have said that the high peak truths spoken by Brother Lee and released in the seven gatherings are too difficult or too high. However, one of the reasons that I came into the recovery and chose to take this way was because in the recovery I had touched something higher than I had ever touched in the denominations. Furthermore, as I have been observing the recovery for the last forty years, the speaking has continually gone higher and higher, year after year. As a result, the experience of the saints has also gone higher and higher. To say that the high-peak truths are too difficult to enter into and too hard to understand is of the enemy. Brother Lee's burden was that we would enter into the high-peak truths not only in the way of knowledge but also in the way of experience so that the Lord would have a way to prepare His bride. Without the saints seeing and entering experientially into the high-peak truths that the Lord released through Brother Lee at the end of his life, the bride will never be prepared. Praise the Lord that these truths have opened the way for the bride to be prepared. We will speak these truths as long as the Lord allows us to speak them. We will minister all these truths to the Lord's recovery so that we can be brought into the experience of these truths and the bride can be prepared.

Brother Lee told a group of co-workers that he felt that beginning from 1994 the Lord's recovery had entered into a new age, the age of the release of the truths of the highest peak of the divine revelation of God's eternal economy. He said that the Lord would use these high- peak truths to end the age, prepare His bride, and bring in His second coming. Furthermore, he pointed out that these high-peak truths are not only for those among us but also for all of God's children on the whole earth. He charged the brothers, as he did all of us, to enter into this new age and new stage of the Lord's move in His recovery. Right after sharing this, Brother Lee warned the brothers not to follow the dissenting brother who is now taking the lead to cause division among us in the present turmoil in the Lord's recovery. He said that "only the blind would follow him!" This is a great word of exhortation and warning to us. This is why Brother Lee told us to "be careful in following any co-worker whom we appreciate and to whom we are attracted" (A Word of Love to the Co-workers, Elders, Lovers, and Seekers of the Lord, pp. 56-66). Those who follow this divisive leader of the present turmoil will be led away from the present move of the Lord's recovery, and they will not enter into the flow of the age through the ministry of the age. We need to follow those who closely follow

the ministry of the age and the vision of the age by looking to the Lord for His mercy and grace to see and live a life according to the present truth of the highest peak of the divine revelation. At the end of our brother's ministry, he pointed out that the Lord's burden is to bring his entire recovery into a new revival through arriving at the highest peak of the divine revelation, through the God-man living, and through entering into the shepherding through the vital Lord's groups the in God-ordained way to build up the Body of Christ in reality. This is to live and serve according to the heavenly vision of the highest peak of God's eternal economy. The present turmoil, brought in through the divisive teachings of certain dissenting ones, will carry people away from what the Lord is doing in His present move on earth, the greatest move in the history of the church to bring Him back. We need to ask the Lord to keep us intrinsically in His up-to-date recovery. We need to consecrate all that we are and have to the Lord for His present advance in His recovery to bring all of us into a new revival that will change this age and bring the Lord back.

Needing to Realize That the Enemy Is Behind the Present Attacks Against the Lord's Recovery

Why is Living Stream Ministry being attacked? Why are the blending brothers being attacked? Why is there an attack on the matter of having only one publication in the ministry in the Lord's recovery? Why are the seven annual gatherings being attacked? Why is our use of *The Holy Word for Morning Revival* in the churches being attacked? Why is Full-time Training in Anaheim being attacked? We need to realize that we have an enemy and that the enemy wants to damage Living Stream Ministry because it publishes Brother Nee and Brother Lee's writings not only for the local churches but also for the benefit of all the believers. The enemy wants to stop Living Stream Ministry because it is spreading this ministry over all the earth. Satan is also attacking the blended co-workers because they are the ones who are standing up to speak this ministry. Satan wants to attack them strongly and, if possible, defame and discredit them before the whole recovery, because they are speaking the words of this ministry. The good health of the churches throughout the earth is due to the speaking of the healthy words of this ministry. The blended brothers are not a special class; they are simply brothers who are blending, and no more. It is even difficult to attack the blended brothers as an entity because some are from Taiwan, some are from Korea. some are from the United States, some are from Japan, some are from Europe, and others are from other countries. These brothers are blended together; they pray together and fellowship together, and sometimes the Lord gives them some leading. How do you think the recent letter of warning was composed? It did not just drop out of the heavens. It was the result of hours, days, and weeks of fellowship and prayer among the co-workers, who eventually made a strong decision and are still standing in that decision to quarantine the divisive ones. The co-workers in the Lord's present recovery mean what they have written to protect the Lord's recovery and are very serious about what they have done. I hope that all the churches would follow them. Do not listen to the accusations against the blended brothers. Do not be cheated by the enemy's wiles.

Who is stirring up the opposition? It is Satan, the adversary, the enemy of the Lord's recovery. Satan wants to slay Living Stream Ministry and do whatever he can to prevent the written ministry from being spread over the whole earth. He is also attacking the blended brothers. Some of these brothers travel very much in their service to the churches. They are from many different countries, and they travel all over the earth because they have the burden to be blended. They all speak the same one thing, the unique teaching of God's economy. They all speak the same one ministry. They want the work in Taiwan to be blended with the work in the United States, they want the work in the United Sates to be blended with the work in South America, they want the work in Europe to be blended with the work in Japan, they want the work in the Russian-speaking world to be blended with the work in Africa, and so forth, all over the earth. Satan also wants to bring multiple publications into the churches in order to distract people away from the one publication in the ministry in the Lord's recovery to something else. By bringing in other publications, whether they are good or not, Satan can divide and conquer the Lord's recovery. Satan is also attacking the use of The Holy Word for Morning Revival by the churches in order to keep the saints from daily being in the Word of God and in the words of this ministry in order to stop the building up of the church through the nourishment of life and by all saints prophesying. Many of these dissenting ones have gone back to the practice of Christianity, the practice of one man speaking and the rest listening. But we endeavor to stay in the present advance of the Lord's recovery with all the saints being brought into function as members of the Body to prophesy for the building up of the church. Lastly, Satan wants to stop the seven annual gatherings. I am so glad that we come together seven times a year. During these times the saints and the churches come together to blend. All the saints who come to these feasts are the blended saints because they come together to blend. There is nothing special about these saints; they are simply blended saints. During these times we come together from various places to fellowship and enjoy the Lord together. We are one recovery, and the one recovery is clearly expressed at the seven annual gatherings. Furthermore, the word that has been released in these seven annual feasts has been a great factor in the going on of the Lord's recovery in these past ten years. I am so glad that Brother Lee led us in this way, to come together seven times a year to blend and receive the Lord's fresh speaking. Through these gatherings wethe Lord's recovery—are all being built together. We should never tire of gathering in this way. Rather, we need to come to these feasts as often as we can.

There are some in the Lord's recovery who need to wake up regarding the present situation, and there are others who need the Lord's mercy to fully turn back to what the Lord is doing in His recovery. In the Lord's recovery, there are some who may not understand what is going on, but there are many saints who are clear, strong, and bold and who are going on in a positive way. Praise the Lord that we are all going on together. I love the Lord's recovery, I love this ministry, I love Brother Lee, and I love Watchman Nee, even though I have never seen him. This is the Lord's recovery, and He will continue to bring it higher and higher. Do not pay attention to what the opposers of the Lord's recovery are saying. Do not pay attention to the dissenting ones' speaking in the churches. Simply go on with the saints who are positive. Eventually, we will all reach the goal together. We love the Lord's recovery and want to see the recovery go on so that the bride may be prepared and the overcomers may be raised up. May we all stay together and keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace in the Lord's recovery.

Speaking the Truth to the Church and All the Saints Being Constituted with the Truth for the Enlightening of the Saints and the Preservation of the Church

The Lord's recovery needs to pick up Brother Lee's fellowship in the book The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today. In that book Brother Lee thoroughly covers the matter of the God-ordained way. Yet in that book there is also a section on perfecting the saints in the truth. In that section he says that in all the churches we need to have meetings in which we teach the saints the truth. He says that once a month we could have a time together with the whole church in order to open up the truths of the Lord's recovery. In the church in Anaheim we have been fellowshipping for several months concerning how to bring this into practice. In the church in Anaheim there has been some increase; the God-ordained way is slowly being worked out, and many young ones, many spiritual babies, are being produced. Most of these who have come into the church within the past few years are probably babies with regard to the knowledge of the truth. There are many truths in the Lord's recovery that these saints need to enter into. We need to have fellowship with them regarding these truths so that they may enter into them. We are considering to use one weekend every month in order to speak the truths of the Lord's recovery. We could come together on Saturday afternoon and evening, keep the prophesying meeting on Lord's Day morning, and then meet once or twice

34 CONCERNING THE PRESENT TURMOIL

more after having lunch together. We all need to be constituted with the truth.

Brother Lee said that some churches may feel that they must invite certain co-workers to come help them to speak the truth. Brother Lee indicated that this way is a possibility, but we must also realize that in most cases we are able to do it ourselves in our localities. When I was in the church in Houston in the early years of the Lord's recovery in the United States, we were burdened for the church to be clear regarding the ground of the church, the ground of locality. So we gathered all the books that were in print at that time and found every place where Brother Lee and Brother Nee spoke concerning the ground of the church, and several brothers prepared to share the content. Then we had several meetings on the ground of the church, and after those meetings, everyone was clear; we were all on the same page.

Today there are many churches across the United States. If we want the saints in our locality to grow up and all be on the same page, we need to practice having these kinds of meetings in which the truth is presented. This does not mean that we are returning to the way of one man preaching. No, we believe in all saints prophesying, but we also believe that the Lord also speaks to the church through His servants, whether they are elders, responsible brothers, or co-workers. There is the need for healthy teaching in the church. We may prepare outlines for the saints simply by getting into a chapter in one of the ministry books. In that way our speaking will be according to Brother Lee's speaking, not our own.

Brothers, I am concerned that we would let this burden slip away. This is something that Brother Lee fellowshipped with us and also practiced. Whenever he spoke on the platform, he was presenting the truth to the Lord's recovery. Today all of these truths are in the books of the ministry. If we have a heart to bring the saints in our locality into the truth for their preservation in the Lord's recovery, we need to enter into these truths and consider them. If we speak these truths to the saints once every month for a few years, the church in our locality will be different and on a higher plain. Perhaps not all the saints will enter into the truths thoroughly, but many will enter into them, and they will be equipped. Then, even if another turmoil comes, they will not be shaken because they know the truth.

In one church in North America, the church has had much increase in recent years. The Lord has added many to the church there, yet today many of the saints have been caught up in the turmoil. If the church there had practiced using one weekend a month to get into the truth, all the new ones would have been preserved. Whatever the dissenting ones would have said, the saints would have refused it, because they would have known the truth. Unfortunately, because this church did not bring the saints into the truth, the enemy had a way to enter into their situation. The truth will keep the enemy out. It would be a great thing for all the saints to know the truths that are in the Lord's recovery. The Lord wants to bring us into the God-ordained way in which we fellowship together and bring people to the home meetings. However, we must also bring the saints into the truth. This is Brother Lee's speaking, not mine. Even if the leading ones feel that they do not know the truth well and cannot speak the truth, they can get into the books of the ministry with four or five others, and they can coordinate together to hold a conference in their locality. The leading ones must exercise in their care for the church to help all the saints be constituted with all the truths in the Lord's recovery. To care for the Lord's recovery in this way is a great matter.

Today in the recovery we see the shortage of the knowledge of the truth. There are some churches that have made the decision not to stand with the churches in their quarantining of certain dissenting brothers. In making such a decision, they are going their own way, doing their own thing, and carrying out their own way to build up the church, but I assure you, this is not wise. The only way to build up the church is with truth and life. The churches must be organic, living, vibrant, and full of life, but they also need the truth. May the Lord preserve all the churches with all the saints in these days. We need to read and study *The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today*. We need to see and learn many things from this book, and then we need to go to the saints and fellowship with them regarding the God-ordained way and the way for the church to go on. The way to go on is in this book, but because the churches have not adequately practiced this way, there is now turmoil in the Lord's recovery. This turmoil is a test to the churches; it will expose which churches have been adequately helped in the truth and which churches are lacking in the truth. It will also expose those churches, or regions of churches, that are following another ministry, another work. Those that remain standing after this turmoil passes will be those that were always in the proper ministry in some way.

Some churches are quite large, so it would be good to have the whole church come together at least six to eight times a year in order to keep the church fully in the truth. These gatherings should not be at the same time and date as the seven annual gatherings within the Lord's recovery. The Holy Word for Morning Revival is great for life and truth, but we need something more. The truths of the Lord's recovery need to be solidly constituted into the churches so that they could never be lost or forgotten. Then regardless of what storms may come, the saints could never leave. Because they have been constituted with the truth, they do not waiver and are not afraid. They will be ready to stand, because they know what the Lord's recovery is. It is because of the truth that we gave our lives to the Lord's recovery. However, those who do not get into the truth will find it difficult to stand when the turmoil comes. May every church find a way through some kind of presentation of and perfecting in the truth with further digestion and constitution (See Elders' Training, Book 3: The Way to Carry Out the Vision by Witness Lee).

[Benson Phillips]