

January 25, 1992

To the Elders of the Church in Vancouver
2255 Quebec St.
VANCOUVER, B.C.
V5T 3A1

Dear Brothers,

We recently received your letter of January 9, 1993. Writing takes time and consideration. We hope that this kind of communication would enhance our relationship. It is also our desire that all the churches would profit by our coming to a mutual understanding of the truth.

We appreciate your intention to bring our concerns to the Lord for His leading and guidance. We are of the same feeling, presenting these matters to the Lord. However, we don't understand the meaning of your statement, *"It is a great surprise to us that our letter dated October 17th, 1992 took two months to get to your locality."* Brothers, is it possible that you are being sarcastic? If you are, then your statement is neither spiritual nor in the spirit of fellowship. Only the sweet fellowship in spirit will profit the Lord, the church in Vancouver and the churches here in Metro Toronto. Brothers, we still hope our correspondence will bring us into sweet fellowship and a common understanding.

Brothers, we were encouraged to read that you intend to respond to our concerns once you receive the Lord's clear guidance. This is one characteristic of a proper spiritual exercise. However, the serious matters outlined in our December 18th letter are not items merely for prayer. Rather, the seven points we addressed relate to the truth of the Lord's one Body and the practice of the church life. Wouldn't you agree that the truth is the truth? The truth transcends and governs our personal leading from the Lord. Any guidance we receive must be one with the truth. Our actions as brothers serving the Lord are governed by our understanding of the truth. We don't understand your actions. It seems that your understanding of the truth differs from ours. Brothers, for the sake of the churches, we ask, What is your stand concerning the truth respecting each of the points addressed in our previous letter?

It is our understanding that a problem arose recently between you and the church in Seattle. It seems the elders in Seattle had some concerns regarding your understanding of the truth. We share similar concerns. When this problem arose, you brothers requested the elders in Seattle to resolve this 'offense' quickly. On more than three occasions within one month, both in writing and in telephone conversations, you insisted the elders in Seattle clear up the 'offense' within a few days. (If our understanding is in error, forgive us.)

Brothers, when you feel you have been offended, you are strong to demand an immediate response. This puzzles us. In your relationship with us, it seems you are not applying this same principle - that offenses ought to be resolved quickly. Brother Chia visited Metro Toronto in August and September 1992. His visit produced a number of offenses against the churches in Metro Toronto which remain unresolved to this day. Are we asking too much to request that you exercise the same urgency toward us that you have requested of Seattle?

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize a few matters which greatly concern us.

We are concerned about the principles governing your practice of the church life. While you stress that the saints should follow the teachings of Watchman Nee, it seems you have ignored one of the most crucial commitments of his ministry - the oneness of the Body of Christ. You have given the saints under your care the feeling that you are one with the other churches in the Lord's Recovery. Yet, at the same time it seems you have ignored the fact that some brothers are divisive. Their activities are damaging the oneness of the Body. Dear brothers, according to our observation, your receiving of brothers is according to your own taste and preference, rather than upholding the principle of the one Body.

Furthermore, to our understanding, while you have asked the saints in your locality to listen and submit to the elders, it seems you have not given the same exhortation to the dissatisfied brothers from Metro Toronto. We are puzzled. When the unhappy brothers from this area called you, did you admonish them to bring their concerns to the elders in their own localities? If indeed you did admonish them, we have not seen the result. Over the past few years a young co-worker among us has become a sacrifice. When [REDACTED] visited you in April 1990, we can't help but conclude that he did not receive the same admonition that you give the local saints - to listen and submit to the elders. Had he received fellowship in life and been encouraged to take a proper stand in his relationship with the elders in North York, we believe both he and the churches in Metro Toronto would not have suffered so much.

Dear brothers, you have reminded us of Brother Chia's service to the Lord in helping to raise up the church in Toronto in the early days. May the Lord remember each one's labour. We remember the brothers from outside Metro Toronto who have endeavoured to help the churches here. At the same time we wonder if there are any brothers outside of Vancouver who have been used by the Lord to raise up the church there? Do you give them credit for their labour? Were all the saints in Vancouver raised up locally? Has the church in Vancouver been raised up all by herself? In these many years has the church in Vancouver received any help, any life supply, any light of truth, or any strengthening from other brothers in the Lord's Recovery? If so, do you acknowledge such brothers? Haven't the churches in the Vancouver area and Metro Toronto been receiving the life supply from the same brothers? We in the churches in Metro Toronto are happy that we have received help from, are still being supplied by, and remain open to brothers in the Lord's Recovery outside of our own localities. This is how we are in fellowship with all the other churches in the Lord's Recovery.

Brothers, we have taken the liberty to write to you again. We hope our writing would not be misunderstood. As we previously wrote, "by this detailed and frank letter we continue to try to restore our fellowship." Dear brothers, please bear this in mind. We implore you to carefully consider all the points we have raised in our letter of December 18, 1992. We feel that each one of the seven points merit your response as they all relate to the practice of the truth. May the Lord have mercy on us all.

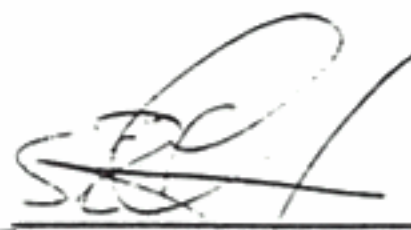
Your brothers in Christ,



David Wang,
North York



Allen Jones,
Scarborough



Steve Pritchard,
Toronto