

February 26, 1990

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Dear Brother Kangas and Brother Robichaux,

I have recently read your book entitled, "A Response to Recent Accusations". It would be too long and tedious a task to refute your book in a detailed manner, therefore I have limited this letter to two points.

Firstly, it is clear from your book that regardless of denial on a doctrinal basis, in fact your concept of the Body of Christ only includes those Christians who agree with you and Witness Lee. Without belaboring this point I will only cite your following statements found on page 122, "Does (name of brother) have genuine peace with the Body? Peace is not only an individual matter (Rom. 8:6) - it is also a corporate matter, a Body matter (Eph. 2:15)...(Name of brother) by his speaking, has violated the peace of the Body. He may feel that he is at peace with the Body, but in a very real sense the Body is not at peace with him." Since you have said his speaking has violated the peace of the Body, which speaking especially relates to messages given by him and other brothers in Anaheim, California on August 28, 1988 and March 19, 1989 concerning these messages the following should be noted:

1. We believe, the vast majority of Christians, if questioned, would share the same concerns indicated in these messages. Many in the past have already shared these concerns.

2. Many within the local churches have publicly, in verbal and written form, testified of the help they received from these messages.

3. Many elders and coworkers also received help and benefited from the messages and have testified accordingly.

Since this is the case, who comprises the Body that you refer to in the quoted statements from your book? If when you use the term "the Body" you are not referring to the Christians in general, or to the many members who appreciated the messages, or even to your own coworkers who benefited from the same messages, then who exactly are you referring to?

Dear brothers, should we announce to the Christian public what is currently being taught by Witness Lee and/or his coworkers, such as, God's oracle being with Witness Lee and therefore he is God's deputy authority on the earth today, the believers owing their existence to Witness Lee, burning G.H. Lang's books, three kinds of apostles with

unequal standing or status, Witness Lee being of the first kind with the highest status (something he thankfully denies but his coworkers for some reason find it necessary to teach the saints otherwise), one leader in one age (or at one time - a teaching derived from the Papal system), relentless comparing of Witness Lee to the apostle Paul (whose writings comprise at least 13 of the 27 books in the New Testament - canonized and recognized for centuries by the Church as God's Holy Word), or on a more ridiculous note, to take the new way we need to learn from the Communists..., we need to learn from the Red Guards..., we need to learn from Satan, the new way requires no prayers, the new way does not require the Holy Spirit, we need to squeeze money out of the brothers and sisters, etc.? How do you believe such teaching will be received? Do you believe the Body will be at peace with YOU? Surely not.

All of the material produced in the defense and promotion of Witness Lee is little different then that of the Exclusive Brethren in their defense and promotion of J.N. Darby. Is it therefore surprising that the results have been so similar? The old adage that those who do not learn from history are destined to repeat it, sadly seems especially so with regards to church history.

Brothers, I'm sure you will agree that in the expressing of one's opinion and the publishing of such as you have done, one's judgement is impaired according to one's relationship with the subject matters. This brings me to my second point, which calls into question the validity of your book as an objective analysis of the messages given in Anaheim in August 1988 and March 1989, and the events that surround this issue.

If I am not mistaken the following is true:

1. You are employees of Living Stream Ministry a corporation owned and operated by Witness Lee and managed by his son.

2. Witness Lee through his company Living Stream Ministry distributed your material at his 1989 Winter Training in Anaheim, California.

3. No doubt, Living Stream Ministry typeset, printed and financed the publishing of your book.

It is only fair that your readers are made aware of these matters so they can put your book into it's proper perspective.

I am still waiting patiently for some brothers to stop the incessant promotion of Witness Lee, long enough to produce some material that clearly presents any actual

deviation from items of the common faith, in the speaking or writings of those many coworkers, elders and believers who may express disagreement with Witness Lee. Since there has been no such presentation one can reasonably conclude that their only "crimes" have been to disagree with Witness Lee and/or Living Stream Ministry and its management. Since, as you claim, these are not factors of oneness in the Body of Christ then surely the coworkers, elders, believers who express disagreement should still be warmly welcomed by you, Witness Lee and all those who claim to be local churches. Instead we have witnessed quite the opposite, in a wholesale effort on the part of Witness Lee and some of his coworkers, to persuade the saints to turn and in several cases cut off from fellowship those who express such disagreement. To enhance this persuasion these fellow members of the Body have been called derogatory terms such as: poisoned, negative, leprous, opposers, ambitious for position, rebellious, wolves, damaged, etc.

Perhaps the most surprising thing to me is your publishing of a 122 page book to denounce the above mentioned messages given in Anaheim, which for the most part are directly from "Beliefs and Practices of the Local Churches", yet not one page has been written by you, Witness Lee or your coworkers to refute the teachings among you, of not needing to pray, not needing the Holy Spirit, squeezing money from the saints, learning from Satan, etc. These teachings are not only different (I Tim. 1:3) they are preposterous, yet you have nothing to say about them. Would not even the most casual observer find it very strange indeed, that such teachings are allowed without repentance, correction or even comment, yet so much effort can be expended and so many words written regarding the two messages given in Anaheim?

Finally brothers, I consider your book a rather elaborate attempt to distract the Lord's people from the oneness of the Body of Christ with Him as the Head, to turn the saints from those who happen to disagree with Witness Lee and to focus their attention and rally around him as your obvious leader of preference. This is no different then what Paul soundly reprimanded the Corinthian believers for in I Cor. 1:11-13.

Please be advised that I consider this an Open Letter and will distribute it accordingly. May the Lord be merciful to us in these days.

Your brother in Him,



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