

In the Local Churches of “the Lord’s recovery” there are wonderful aspects to talk about, and I have done so in www.LordsRecovery.us Church members from the beginning knew nothing but to pursue these “wonderful aspects”. Even if we noticed that things may not have been right in our family or church life, many of us continued unwaveringly to pursue the positive things and to stay away from addressing anything negative. As a result, over the years we might have developed an insensitive conscience and not care for the truth, even though it screams into our ears. Two blatant unheard cases in the leadership provide us prime examples.

“I have heard that some brothers notice things happening that are not right, but they dare not say anything. To avoid getting involved, they stay silent and let the suffering go on. To do this is to play politics. This is what some of you have been practicing. Dear brothers, change your mind. Repent. Let us have no more such things.” (Witness Lee, *Practical Talks 2*, p. 23, 1983)

“Now we realize that every local church must be a police station and that every saint must be a policeman. Many have been reluctant to act as policemen for fear they might cause trouble... If we see evil deeds but do not function as policemen, then we are not practicing the truth...” (Witness Lee, *Truth Messages*, Ch. 1 Section 2)

Two Unheard Cases

Dear brother Witness Lee,

It has come to our attention recently through several witnesses that gross immorality and some other sins mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:11 have been committed by your son Philip Lee (who is identified as your Ministry Office) on more than one occasion over a long period of time. This deeply disturbs us. It grieves us even more that you and some of your close co-workers were aware of the situation and yet not only tolerated it but covered it up. What is worse is that, while this was happening, you and your co-workers were promoting and exalting him to the extent that he was able to intervene in the churches’ affairs in recent years....

Before God, before the brothers and sisters in the local churches, before the Christian public, and for the sake of the Lord’s testimony, we are compelled by our conscience to fully disassociate ourselves from such sins and behaviour in your work.

– John So and elders of nine churches in Europe were the signatories - Sept 1989

The content of this letter was not disputed. However, it was not acted upon either by Brother Lee. But some knew of the validity of the content of such a letter. Francis Ball, for instance, declared in those days that he was happy to be an “ostrich with his head in the sand”. Another brother, Philip Lin, said that according to his conscience he knew what the truth was, but that in his culture he had to be loyal to Brother Lee. This meant that they were, like some other leaders, willing to sacrifice the truth and cover over an abominable record. Indeed, Philip Lee played a major role in causing division among the churches, but his name is never mentioned in LSM accounts of local church history. All blame in this regard was displaced onto others.

Refer to www.HidingHistoryintheLordsRecovery.us

Case of Philip Lee

“Besides his usurpations of elders, his violations of oneness in the Body, and the exercise of his temper around the saints, Philip Lee was an immoral, fleshly, and fleshy person acting as manager of LSM, with top elders and co-workers answering to him and coming under his sway and sphere of influence. His relationship with the elders corrupted them. His relationship with sisters at LSM corrupted them. It was a huge mistake to hire him. It was also a huge mistake *not* to fire him. His tandem leadership relationship with his father damaged Brother Lee and spread corruption throughout the whole recovery. Benson Phillips and Ray Graver followed this person and encouraged others to do the same....” (*Deviating from the Path*, intro to appendix 6)

Case of Samuel Liu

Not only has Philip’s case never been rectified, it bred another case in California that has gone unchecked for years - with abuse, cover up, displacing of blame - and with leaders who are reluctant to solve the serious problem. It involves an elder, **Samuel Liu**, of the church in Ontario, along with a blended co-worker, James Lee, and Walter Ortiz. Elders Chris Nerstad and Les Cites also warrant attention in their part in a bizarre and grievous story.

Hearing the Cases

Deut. 1:16: **And I charged your judges at that time, saying, “Hear the cases between your brothers, and judge righteously between a man and his brother.”**

A Sister Reports Abuse

To brother Tom Seratti:

May 23rd, 2005

I, Alicia Miramontes, want to thank the Lord for His mercy and grace in giving me the opportunity to come to the middle-age training. After much prayer and consideration and led by the Lord, I decided to write this letter to express my concern regarding the situation I have experienced in my two terms serving in Ontario with brother Samuel Liu.

I pray to the Lord that He would cover me with His precious blood, my intention in writing this letter is not to vindicate myself, criticize or judge anyone but my main concern is for the future trainees that will come to be trained would not go through the same bad experiences as I did.

The Lord has allowed me to see in many circumstances how the trainees including myself have been affected by the mistreated and abused behavior of our brother Samuel Liu. For example, I have seen the intimidating way Samuel speaks, especially to the sisters. Screaming and yelling, losing his temper in front of all the trainees in his house, leaving us in tears.

Brother Samuel, the way he controls us in his house has been to the point of making us feel like we are robots. We are not even free to sit wherever we want unless it is assigned by him. He just likes to control and manipulate.

One of the experiences that I had personally was when I needed to go to the doctor. It was on Saturday, when I asked Charlene, my teammate, to please tell Samuel that I was not going to be able to assist the meeting on Saturday morning at 8:00am. When Charlene told Samuel that I was not going to make it, Samuel talked to Charlene in a very rude way saying; "Why are you taking a responsibility that has not been assigned to you, this is not your position to do?" Charlene was so intimidated by Samuel's controlling speaking and inappropriate behavior in front of the trainees, it left her in confusion.

To my surprise, brother Samuel, after speaking with Charlene, called me on my cell phone while I was at the Doctor's office. He said to me, "What happened to you? Where are you? You are supposed to be here at 8:00 A. M. in my house? I told him, "brother Samuel I needed to see the doctor, and I asked Charlene to please let you know." The reason I needed to see the doctor is because I was being affected by all the stress produced by Samuel's controlling, mistreatment, and emotional abuse. I started to have heart problems that make me very concern for my health. I was hoping from Samuel, since he is a trainer, that at least he would be concern of my health as a trainee, but instead, I didn't received any word of comfort like he didn't care at all, he just wanted me to be there at 8:00 A. M. at his house so he can control.

This is one of the many more situations that have been happen in Ontario. Because I am led by the Lord to write this letter before I leave the training, I want to have a clear conscious and not covering any unrighteous and inappropriate behavior that could damage the future trainees.

Once again I thank the Lord for letting me finish the two terms.

Your sister in the Lord, (Alicia Miramontes)

Sisters' House Quandary

May 23rd, 2005

This is the fellowship between Charlene Richardson, Alicia Miramontes and Lucila Lopez, regarding the living conditions at Prisca Chen's house in Ontario, CA:

It was our understanding from Brother Samuel Liu that this house was a "Sisters house". To our disappointment once we move in we discover that we were sharing a second floor and refrigerator with an unbelieving male. This male tenant keeps beer in the refrigerator, and drinks it on his days off and weekends. On several occasions we have found him drinking his beer in different areas of the house downstairs. In one occasion, two of us were coming home from a meeting, we were surprise when we saw the front door open, the doors of his truck were open and he was playing music, and he was drunk sitting in the living room even we could smell the alcohol coming out his breath with his red face.

I, Lucila, since I'm disabled I spend most of the time during the day by myself in the house. Because of this male living in the house I have found myself with much fear to the point that I lock every door I go in, thinking this person is drinking is not in his five senses he could do anything, therefore, I'm scare when I'm alone in the house with him since they both work all night and are home during the day.

Within the last 30 days there has been another male move in to the room across the hall. Upon his living there I, Charlene, found myself becoming afraid during the night when both men are home together with at least one drinking. While there has never been any inappropriate behavior, as a female at home I'm uncomfortable with a male drinking in the house.

We feel that this particular living arrangement is inappropriate for any sisters to live under, particularly in the FTTMA and the FTTA. While we are prepared to complete our training here we feel burden to let you know the circumstances here in Ontario with the living arrangements with the FTTA and Middle-age trainees in this house.

Your sisters in the Lord,
Charlene, Alicia and Lucila
Cc brother David Koo, Victor Molina, Walter Ortiz, James Lee and Tom Seratti

Note: There was no response from the brothers above to the letter from the sisters. The sisters eventually moved out, not the men.

The Sandoval's in Ontario

letter **May 18, 2005** to James Lee and co-workers

Mario and Dora Sandoval described their experience to James Lee by letter. After migrating from San Diego to Charlotte in 1999, they signed up for the middle-age training in 2003 in Anaheim. They desired to be trained and become full-time in the church work, and were thankful for the opportunity opening before them.

One of the trainers, Samuel Liu, told them after a "glorious pre-training week" that there was a note in their application for the training that Mario and his wife should not serve full-time. It was written by Bob Little of Dunn Loring, VA, who said that San Diego brothers actually made the assessment, one of them being Les Cites. No reason was given to the Sandovals for being unqualified to serve full-time.

Samuel Offers Full-Time

Although the note said they could not serve full-time, Samuel encouraged them that he could find a way if they came to Ontario, CA. Before graduation day from the middle-age training the brothers from Charlotte came to have fellowship with the Sandovals and Samuel Liu. Samuel prepared the couple for what they should say to convince the Charlotte brothers that they, Mario and his wife, should stay in Ontario and not go back with the

brothers to Charlotte, the church the Sandovals were representing and where they were expected to return. But word was that they could not serve full-time in Charlotte and Samuel was promising them that they *could* serve full-time under him.

Charlotte Brothers Disappointed

The Charlotte brothers were disappointed: “the brother Don Orr said to us, ‘I hope Samuel is not recruiting you to Ontario.’ Brother Todd Olson, his tears came down because he wanted us to go back to Charlotte to serve with the Spanish-speaking saints. He said the saints will miss you, especially the Spanish-speaking, but if that is what the Lord is leading you to do our blessings are with both of you.”

Abusive Behavior Begins

“From that time our decision was to stay in Ontario to serve the Lord. We worked seven days a week with no days off. We thought that this was part of the training. In the first term brother Samuel Liu mistreats us so badly, he lost his temper every day.... When some papers were not done the right way he burst into anger to the point of not controlling himself, making us to do one paper sometimes over 15 times just for one little error.”

“When he demanded some work, we needed to have it done right away no matter what. He did not care if we were eating or resting, he wanted the work to be done. For example at the Chinese Conference in Feb. 18th-20th, 2005, he made us email all the statistics like how many group meetings we have going in Ontario to so many churches, even though the information in the statistics was not accurate.

“After all that labor at the end of the conference on Feb. 20th, at noon time brother Samuel Liu lost his temper, yelling, screaming to me, (Mario) in front of some of the local saints and the saints from Baja California, even the brothers from Baja California told me, “What is wrong with Samuel? Why he is so angry and upset for such small thing? What brother Samuel Liu wanted for me to do was to find immediately 20 brothers to clean up the windows in one of the buildings in LSM Center. He made such a big show and display of his inappropriate behavior in front of all the saints from the churches in Mexico.

“We knew something was wrong, the way he loses his temper, the way he mistreat the middle-age trainees and the way he behaves with us and other saints was not a good testimony for a leading one and trainer. But we continued again and again because we wanted to be trained to be useful vessels for the Lord and we didn’t want to miss the opportunity the Lord had given us.”

Patience Ends after Two Years

“We served the Lord with Samuel Liu for two years faithfully with no murmurings or reasonings, but did everything he asked us to do. They brought everything to the Lord again and again in prayer and petition. They thought that it would get better after the middle-age training but things with Samuel got worse toward the trainees, the way he

talked and treated them and asked them to do things for him. "Never we heard a thank you; can you please; or I'm sorry. We never heard these words from his mouth. Every thought that came to his mind for us to do on computer, we did for him, but we never pleased him. He was never happy, always angry."

"So a concern in my wife and I started to rise up in our being. We knew that something was wrong with his person that the Lord was not happy with, but we did not know what to do. It got to the point of my wife and I getting physically sick. Our spirit was quenched and the joy of the Lord was gone every time we worked with brother Samuel, but we continued praying for him and asking the Lord what to do."

"Sometimes we spent 12 to 15 hours a day working with him. It was at this time we saw he has everything in his hands, controlling every aspect of the church, even the Lord's table and every member."

"He advertised Ontario for saints in other localities to move here. Always telling them we have the way and criticizing other localities, especially the church in Diamond Bar, saying the situation in Diamond Bar is not right."

"He controlled every home meeting, every group meeting, changing meeting after meeting, mistreating brothers and sisters, matching people to get married, losing his temper in front of saints in the church."

"On April 3, 2005 Samuel argued and lost his temper with the janitor in front of many saints in the high school where we met. He also forced saints to open their homes for home meetings and burdened some low income families to cook every week to feed 10-15 people from the middle-age training."

"This and many, many, many things went on for two years. We served faithfully during this time with no hesitations, but on April 5, 2005 led by the Lord I had fellowship with three brothers and opened my heart to them."

Fellowship with Three Brothers

Mario told them that the reason he and Dora became full-time was to take care of people. They had raised up 15 Spanish-speaking meetings with children and adults that they were caring for during the week, starting at 3 pm each day, and much singing, praying, and labor for the gospel was taking place. (In the morning they served in the church office doing clerical work for Samuel Liu, getting advertisements ready to send to many churches in California and Taiwan for the sake of "building up the image" of Ontario and among the churches. They now wanted to have that morning time free to visit those homes and care for problems among the people that had come to their attention.)

The response from the three brothers was a big Amen for them to follow this burden the Lord had put on their heart. Mario and Dora were relieved and very happy to see the response of the brothers.

Samuel Meets with Four Brothers

Samuel Liu countered this early elation in a meeting with the same brothers, plus one more. Samuel informed them then that the Sandovals were not to serve full-time, according to the Bob Little statement wrote on their application, although they had been doing so with Samuel himself for two years.

Climactic Meeting with Samuel

“Two days later brother Samuel Liu called me and asked to come to our home. I told him he needed to bring a brother with him, we didn’t want to be alone with Samuel, and we needed a witness.”

“Samuel brought his wife and another couple also. Mario and Dora asked what he wanted in this meeting, and Samuel said that he wanted them back to serve again as before, “doing all the clerical work, keeping statistics and to be under him, working in the church office, in his house.”

“After he spoke to us we told him, ‘Brother Samuel by no means we will be under your controlling, manipulating, subduing person and behavior. We did not want to help you to build your own empire and monarchy.’ Also we said that ‘all that you are doing in Ontario is not according to God’s Economy, neither according to the constitution of the Ministry’. And that we would not be under his controlling person. We also said to him that his person is not right; mistreating us like animals for two years we will no longer tolerate this behavior and mistreatment and be under him anymore. By that time brother Samuel Liu realized that we will no longer be under his controlling, manipulating, subduing, intimidating dictatorship. After the meeting in my house, Samuel called the four brothers, which included Benjamin Liu. Brother Samuel Liu left my house so angry that even until today, (Sept 2007) Samuel has not speak one word to us.

The Four Brothers Say Samuel was Wrong

“On May 3rd, 2007 at 11:00 pm in the night they called us for a meeting, the four brothers; Benjamin Liu and three other brothers telling us that we couldn’t be full-time because of Bob Little’s note on the application. But that they knew what Samuel Liu did with us was wrong, in getting us to serve full-time in Ontario without fellowship with the brothers. Also that he did wrong in getting our private confidential information from the files of the middle-age training and used it to intimidate and subdue us.

“They knew he was wrong, but they did not know how to deal with him, how to stop him. They told us to please cover the situation, not to tell anybody and that the co-workers were going to take care of Samuel Liu. They said we know he is wrong and mistreated you for so long (2 years) but we don’t know how to handle the situation. We were told to be patient and go back to work to earn our living, and that we should remain in Ontario taking care of the 15 homes. We were not to say anything to nobody and were to wait for what the Lord was going to do. We

needed to cover the situation for the sake of the church, the saints, and the Body. Our response was Amen. We would remain in Ontario and wait on the Lord.

“We knew that this was going to happen because we knew how brother Samuel Liu controls the brothers and how angry he was with us for not going back to serve under him in the office and for telling him that he could not have us under his domain, control and slavery.

“Now, because Samuel had changed everything where my wife and I served, the saints were wondering what happened to us? Two weeks before we were the top, so good, the best, then all of a sudden everything changed. Now we are the bad ones, no good, not qualified, etc. We told the brothers that many saints were asking what happened, why we were not in meetings where we were serving before. But it was because brother Samuel Liu had changed schedules, days and times of the meetings so we can no longer participate.

“Even the key of the church office which is in his house, he took away from us. Therefore, we could go there to make copies to supply the homes. He closed my house where we had a room for hospitality so the saints from the middle-age training could come over on the weekend; they are not coming any more.

“He told Brother David Koo from the middle-age training that my house was not appropriate at this time. Samuel Liu had assigned two trainees to come to my home meeting that I have in my house on Saturdays, but he also closed the door for the trainees to come to my house. Also, he canceled my class at the middle-age center that I held every Tuesday with a new brother. All this and more changes he has done in two weeks without letting us know and still brother Samuel is doing more changes.

“Dear brothers, this is our experience in the past two and a half years. Now we are here in Ontario having home meetings and visiting the saints. If the situation continues the same way as it is right now in Ontario, definitely we will not have the blessing from the Lord. We realized that this is a Body matter and that we can't do anything but just to plead and wait on the Lord and in the Body. This experience has helped us tremendously in seeing ourselves, what we are, and how we need the “Body”.

“Brothers, we have the sense within us about all the things we saw during this period, that it was not for the building up of the Body of Christ, is not healthy, not building but damaging.”

Your brother and sister in the Lord, Mario & Dora Sandoval

Bro. Steve, They never answer to us or gave us the opportunity to talk to them. Instead they called the elders around South California for them not to let us go into their meetings.

The following letter from Mario & Dora Sandoval is a continuation of the letter to James Lee and the co-workers May, 18, 2005.

September 14, 2007 - "We continued meeting in the church in Ontario, California. Since they told us that we couldn't be no more full-timers, and that we needed to find a job to support ourselves and at the same time to take care of the home meetings we had which were about 15 homes a week. They were giving us \$500.00 dollars per month for both of us, my wife and I. So, I had to find a job and so did my wife.

"I continued meeting with the leading brothers every Monday night at Samuel Liu's house, but the behavior of Samuel towards me became worse and worse. It came to the point that he would not even speak to me. I waited for about a year and half to see if Samuel would become reconciled with me and talk to me, but he would not.

"These meetings were supposed to be the coordination with the leading ones for the church in Ontario. The situation with Samuel bothered me so much that I couldn't be in that kind of a meeting. The brothers told me to share about "the oneness" when it was my turn to share.

"That Monday I stood up and said to them, "brothers, how can I share about the oneness? I have been meeting with all of you for about a year and a half and here, pointing my hand to Samuel Liu, he would not speak to me. I asked Samuel in front of everybody, "Is not that right, bro. Samuel, that you don't talk to me? Then I (Mario) said to Samuel, you brother Samuel say that you are one of the co-workers and yet you cannot talk to me? Samuel replied, "everything is in the hands of the blended co-workers."

"I (Mario) replied, to bro. Samuel what does this have to do with the blended co-workers? This is something between you and me. After this the behavior of Samuel was unbelievable, He cross his arms, put his head down, close his eyes, even foam came out of his mouth and said, 'Like I said before, **everything is in the hands of the blended co-workers**'.

"So, the meeting was over, we all left for home and nobody said nothing regarding the reconciliation between Samuel and me. All the brothers seemed to be afraid of Samuel since he controls and manipulates the meetings. After trying a couple of times to be reconciled without results from the brothers in Ontario, and also waiting for the answer of the 2005 letter that I wrote to the co-workers, I talked to James Lee asking him concerning the letter, what are they going to do with Samuel?

"James Lee said, we got the letter and we will take care of it. I waited and waited and nobody responded to me, to my May 18, 2005 letter sent over two years before. The brothers in Ontario saw how bad the situation was getting, so they called JL, and asked him if they could

meet with him. Tom Serratti, Benjamin Liu, Damaso Flores, Samuel Liu and I from Ontario met with James Lee. Samuel Liu was forced by his flesh brother Benjamin Liu to come to this meeting. James Lee said; "I am only going to listen to you, since I can't do anything".

"I (Mario) said, this meeting is for brother Samuel Liu and I to be reconciled. Samuel Liu started doing the same thing, he said, **"everything is in the hands of the blended co-workers"**, cross his arms, bow down his head, close his eyes, and foam came out of his mouth. The meeting was over and nothing was done. His brother, Benjamin Liu, came to me and said, Mario this time we couldn't do anything, maybe next time.

"After calling and calling Benjamin Liu for at least one month for us to meet again with James Lee, we were able to meet see if at this time SL would reconcile with me. We had the second meeting but sad to say the same thing happened. At the end of the meeting, SL said the same thing, "everything is in the hands of the blended co-workers". SL would not talk to me and did not want to be reconciled with me.

James Lee admits Samuel is Sick

"After the meeting was over brother James Lee came to me (Mario) and Damaso Flores, and said, "brothers, Samuel has a sickness; it is the same sickness that his two children have, and if you want to follow him in Ontario, that is up to you." Also, he said that everything SL was doing in Ontario he didn't believe, especially with the statistics. Samuel counted the brothers and sisters 4 times, the same people. Here again the second meeting with James Lee and nothing was done. And, still we have not received a response from our letter sent May 18, 2005 to the co-workers.

"This letter is just to let you know few things what I have gone through with Samuel Liu for us to be reconciled. Later we will continue with more letters of our experiences that we are having now that they don't let us meet in the church in Ontario, California.

"Praise the Lord! He has delivered us from a controlling and manipulating system, that we were so blinded in giving ourselves since 1980, but now we are free, Praise the Lord for His mercy, we love the Body, we love Him. Amen."

Mario & Dora

September 17, 2007

From Mario & Dora Sandoval

“We continued meeting in the church in Ontario, California. Samuel Liu’s behavior became worse and worse. For instance, we had different meetings, breakfast at 8:00 am., 9:30 am another meeting, 11:00am another meeting - finished at 12:00pm, then we had lunch all together. In each meeting we had, SL controlled by counting how many people was in each meeting, and who was going to speak, even where to sit down in each meeting. We met in different groups by language, Spanish, English and Chinese.

“Samuel Liu will come to see what we were doing in each one of the meetings. For instance, SL would come to the Spanish meeting and standing up in a corner he would start making signs like a baseball couch, for me to go out of the Spanish meeting and to go to the English meeting. SL did this couple times, and was forcing me to also go to the English speaking meeting, until one day I couldn’t stand it no more, and went to him and nose to nose told him, “Samuel, the church is not yours, listen Samuel, the church does not belong to you”. He did this every Sunday and I would tell him the same thing over and over again, “Samuel, the church is not yours”.

“One Monday night, in the brothers meeting in SL’s house, I told them that if SL would go to the Spanish meeting and make signs like a baseball couch, I was going to stand up and speak loud in front of all the saints, saying, “Samuel, what do you want, the church is not yours, the church belongs to Christ and saints”. Terry Chang, one of the coordinated brothers said to me; “Our, leader is sick we know that, (referring to Samuel Liu) but we don’t know what to do” He also said to me, you Mario continue coming to the meetings of the church and coordination meetings, don’t let it bother you”. He continue saying, I know SL since we were in Taiwan, even my wife went to school with him we know him for long time and we know that he is sick

“After I confronted Samuel few times, SL became very angry with me, put his head down, and left to another group and did the same thing, moving brothers and sisters from meeting to meeting, he was interested in the statistics and numbers. Samuel Liu let us all know that he was *the chief in command, he like to control.*”

Walter Ortiz

“Since Samuel Liu couldn’t control the Spanish speaking meeting, Samuel spoke to Anaheim and asked if they could send Walter Ortiz to help with the Spanish speaking saints.”

When Walter came to help Samuel, Mario told him what was happening in Ontario with brother Samuel. Walter said, “Mario, yes, I know, this is why I am here. I know Samuel from Toronto, and I know he is like an animal, a beast, and I am here to be on your side and whatever problem there might be, “throw it up.”

At the beginning Mario did not understand what was meant by “throw it up.” He thought he meant that when there was a problem we just should throw it up in the air. But to his surprise in one meeting Walter explained that he was “the one that is up” and Mario was “under him.” He said, “Mario, you could go and rebuke bro. _____ because you are on top of him, but I am on top of you.”

In one of the meetings Mario attended, Mario said, **“Walter Ortiz called us animals, beasts, and told us “you are thieves and you are miserable because you don’t give tithes, the 5% to the church, and this why you Spanish-speaking are always poor and live in misery. The saints were so condemned after the meeting by Walter’s speaking, some of them did not want to come to meetings no more. Walter Ortiz used rude words to treat the brothers and sisters with too much authority subduing the saints by his intimidating speaking.”**

At this time, the Sandoval’s were still meeting with those they had raised up and were caring for, and they were kept busy with them daily in the homes. But Walter, without Mario’s fellowship or sign of intention to do so, began visiting the same people as Mario and Dora. Little by little, the Sandovals’ noticed that he was going to the homes of the saints and had started to speak against them. **“The brothers and sisters from the home meetings started to call us asking what was happening, something is going on in Ontario. It was Walter Ortiz going from house to house and telling the saints negative things against us.”**

He told them not to receive Mario and Dora in their homes because they were negative. **“He intimidated the saints, putting fear in them, so they started closing their homes to us. These were new people we’re talking about. All the home meetings were closed to us.”**

Mario confronted Walter about what he was doing, causing division like this and saying nothing to Mario about what he was doing. **“Oh, what a lack of wisdom,”** says Mario.

“I was angry with Walter and told him that I have known him for many years, but you come here to Ontario like Superman, changing everything. Now I know what you mean by you were ‘up’. I told him come down to the earth. Who do you think you are, you have been damaged by the position LSM gave you to speak on the radio”, you think you are someone special, higher than others. Did Samuel Liu convince you to do these things against us? Walter, I’m speaking to your conscience to see if it still works. I really feel sorry for you, where you have fallen. May the Lord have mercy on you and all the saints you are damaging with the poison you have infused into them. After this talk with Walter, he started speaking negatively about us in all the churches.”

Final Meeting in Ontario

From Mario & Dora Sandoval

September 21, 2007

“After all the home meetings that my wife and I were taking care of in Ontario were closed by Samuel Liu and Walter Ortiz, we didn’t have any more meetings left except the Lord’s Table. One Sunday morning I went to the table meeting in Ontario, when I entered, the leading ones saw me coming in and started making signs to each other, walking from one place to another, and they seem very nervous just to see me sitting there. Finally Walter Ortiz and Benjamin Liu they came to me, and all this was right in the middle of the Lord’s table when it was going on, Benjamin said to me, “Mario come back here to a corner, we want to talk to you,” and I say, “Please, brothers don’t bother me, just let me enjoy the Lord’s table with the rest of the saints.”

“They were afraid that I would stand up in the meeting and speak before the whole congregation. They told me, “Please don’t speak in the meeting and do not contact nobody” Then I said to them, “Ok, I didn’t want to fight, I just wanted to enjoy the Lord” When the Lord’s Table meeting was over, Benjamin came and stand right next to me, just to make sure that I would not speak to no one and scolded me out to my car. That was the last meeting that I attended in the church in Ontario, California.

Chris Nerstad

“The following Lord’s Day we went to meet with the saints in Temecula. They had a love feast from different localities, and we were able to meet with lots of saints. Our brother Chris Nerstad from the church in Vista was there, and we had a wonderful fellowship with him. We know him for about 27years and he was very happy to see us.

“Chris invited us to his son’s wedding that was going to be in his house, and said that later he was going to mail the invitation, also he suggested to us why we don’t move to the church in Vista because we are so few and we need more Spanish speaking saints, brother Chris mention that to us. We told him we were going to pray to the Lord and see if he opens the doors. Three days later we received the wedding invitation, we were so happy because once again we would have an opportunity to be with the saints.

Not Welcome in Vista

"To our big surprise, the following Saturday at 10:00pm, we received a phone call from our brother Chris Nerstad and he told me, "Brother Mario, please don't come to my son's wedding in my house, don't come to the meetings of the church in Vista, and don't move to live in the city of Vista, Ca. I was so shock, and I said, 'Bro. Chris, what happen.' Then Chris said, 'Bro. James Lee had fellowship with me and told me not to receive you in the meetings of the church in Vista and I respect the fellowship that comes from James Lee.' Then I said, 'You know me for about 27yrs, and because somebody says something against me you are not going to talk to me no more, I'm a member of the Body too.' Chris was nervous when he was talking he wanted to finish his conversation with me, he said again I don't want you to come to my house, to the wedding, to the church meetings and don't move to the city of Vista. Then I said, not even to the city of Vista, that is too much brother, ok good night."

Doors Closed in Chula Vista

"The following week, Jorge Lara from the church in Chula Vista, called at 10:30pm to tell me, please don't come to the meetings in the church in Chula Vista, CA, then I said to him, "Why? And Jorge said, "don't take it personal is not something from me, but they called me from Anaheim, Ca and told me not to receive you in the meetings of the church in Chula Vista." Then I said, "Brother Jorge, I thought that you believed in the manuscripts of brother W Nee, "the administration is local in each city." He said again, "don't take it personal, they called me from Anaheim, CA and told me not to receive You." Then Jorge wanted me to cancel the meeting that I was going to have in my house, here in Corona, CA the next day, where my mother, my two sisters and brothers and sisters were coming for lunch from San Diego, CA.

"Then I said, "Jorge, is one thing not for me to go to the meetings in Chula Vista, because someone order you from Anaheim, Ca., but, is another thing that you wanted me to cancel the lunch that I'm having for brother and sisters in my own house, you are going too far." These were the last two churches we were trying to meet with the saints but we couldn't because they had received orders from Anaheim, CA not to receive us.

"We had written that letter to the co-workers and they never answer to us, instead they are talking to the local churches giving them orders not to receive us in their meetings. Until this moment we don't know why?

"All the blame that should be on Samuel Liu and Walter Ortiz they twisted and blamed on us, we are the bad ones, we are the trouble ones, we are divisive ones, the poison ones etc.

Quarantined in the Churches

This couple, then, was set aside from the church life and officially quarantined from the churches. They found this out for certain after attending a conference meeting October 2011 and were summoned to meet in a room with Les Cites, who informed them that if they wanted to come back into the church life they needed to first report to brothers in Anaheim. Then there is the need for them to repent to the churches for putting their letters of complaint about Samuel onto the internet. (This step was taken because Samuel refused to reconcile with Mario, and the Sandovals, not Samuel, were cut off from church fellowship completely.)

Conclusion

Samuel Liu's account makes no sense at all. Like in the case with Philip Lee, it makes a mockery of justice as there are no men to hear the cases and "judge righteously" between a man and his brother. Indeed Les Cites and Chris Nerstad don't even know what the "charges" are against the Sandovals. They are just taking orders from Anaheim and that is good enough for them. It does keep the system in place and their "jobs" secured.

But tying in to "headquarters" is not good enough for justice to be served, as Anaheim does not have a sterling record in this regard; and neither do those leaders of churches who have been trained to follow Anaheim blindly.

Certainly, to find men of character has been the glaring need throughout the Local Churches, as Moses also was charged to seek out among the Israelites.

¹⁶And I charged your judges at that time, "Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly...¹⁷ Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike...Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it."

(Deut.1:15-17, NIV)

I do hope these matters will be addressed and resolved, and I desire to fellowship with you to this end. If I don't hear back from principals in three days, I will proceed with spreading this word far and wide in efforts to pursue a righteous resolution, particularly to the alarming Samuel Liu case, since it is current. Of course, the Philip Lee case is deplorable and will need a righteous resolution also.

Steve Isitt
February 5, 2012
Vista, CA