====== Introduction and Testimony ======

An Introduction: I was an adult unbeliever before I was saved and baptized in the 'Recovery church' in Taiwan. Over the years, I have educated myself firstly through the church life with the abundant materials from WN and WL, then later with precious materials I researched and found in Christian bookstores and on the internet. At present living in the US, I am still meeting there, but also regularly interacted with Christians from other groups, like in Bible studies. Many years ago, I have come to believe that my conscience should be at peace to go meet with any other Christian group to seek supply of Life and Spirit, with or without the intention of leaving my present group.

## **A Testimony:**

Dear saints,

I am currently still meeting in a Recovery local church. I was an agnostic unbeliever (grew up in a family with no religious faith) before becoming a Christian as an adult. I had the opportunity to occasionally hear the gospel in some denominations over the years. Yet I was untouched by the gospel until one day someone led me to a Recovery local church meeting (in Taiwan). From my first day there, the corporate Spirit in the meetings was so strong that the gospel words came alive to me and made me a devote believer from the day of my baptism. Right away, for years I diligently pursued the Lord in meetings, in church life. There were so many meetings a week to occupy me, and so much "church" materials to learn from, that I did not want to bother with looking outward to go meet with any other denominations or reading their ministry books (in the pre-internet age).

After being told repeatedly how much Christianity is degraded overall, I became quite curious. Eventually, after about ten years of church life, I felt I was "constituted "(with the truth) enough to check it out for myself, that is, more exactly how degraded or NOT degraded Christendom was.

It was around that time that I migrated to the USA, where Christian churches and Christians (including the self-professed) are evidently much more widespread than in Taiwan. After getting a job in a large company, I found out about and joined an existing regular weekly noontime one-hour Bible study in my workplace. That initial bible study experience, once started, was consistently so good, that I ended up regularly attending the bible studies,

eventually for a great many years. I learned a lot from the attendees who were from different denominations. I believed they also appreciated learning something from my sharing. With only company employees attending, therefore without a "pastor" nor a permanent leadership, it was a miracle to me that the bible studies went on week after week for so many years. This testified to the continuing zeal and harmony among the attendees. I appreciated it and had come to regard it as an important part of my church life.

There was one essential condition upon which I stayed or continued in the bible study sessions: I made sure that I remained in harmony with other believers yet without compromising the essential truths in the Bible (as I understood it). Otherwise, I would have stopped attending.

Here is how I practiced "standing on the local ground of oneness" as an individual Christian, when attending bible study in the workplace: I come representing nobody, no church group, but myself, a Christian, a sinner saved by grace. I come assuming no ecclesiastic title/position, but that of a brother in Christ. I do not come to speak on behalf of "my" church. When I speak or share, it is not on behalf of any minister or ministry I may have been a follower of. I come to speak either simply for the Lord, or simply for myself. I come to seek spiritual fellowship hoping to find oneness and joy in Christ with the attendees, all of whom I regard as belonging to the Body of Christ. (Romans 12:18 – "If possible, as far as it depends on you (me), live in peace with all men."). Lastly, if anybody found out and wanted to label me as a Christian belonging to the "Recovery" church, I would be neither proud nor ashamed of that label.

The following was, and still is, my attitude towards Bible studies in the workplace: 1) I would not join if I did not think I can learn anything from others. I would not join if I thought I had nothing spiritual to offer others. 2) I had no intention of coming to steal sheep. I also conceded the possibility that I myself as sheep might be stolen successfully by some denomination. 3) I would not continue to attend if I had no chance of sharing (speaking) anything. 4) I had no intention at all to "take over" the Bible study, for instance by trying to become one of its leading ones.

I joined this forum with the same attitude as above, hoping for a mutually helpful fellowship in the Lord with all. May the Lord bless you all.