

# INTRODUCING AN-OPEN-LETTER.ORG

From the Local Churches and Living Stream Ministry Concerning the Teachings of Witness Lee and Supporting Testimonies

A new site with an open letter from the local churches and Living Stream Ministry sets forth our faith, a brief history of the local churches from China to a global presence, and some matters to aid in understanding the testimony of the local churches. The site features positive testimonies from respected Christians and resources related to crucial truths. We encourage your participation through social media and the site's comments page.

- INTRO
- OUR FAITH
- LORD'S RECOVERY
- HISTORY
- CONCLUSION
- TESTIMONIES
- UPDATES
- RESOURCES
- COMMENTS

## INTRODUCTION

Over the past nine decades the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee has edified believers in Christ and produced local churches on all six inhabited continents. Their ministry, which is published by Living Stream Ministry (LSM), stands upon the shoulders of the many great Christian teachers of the past in order to present both the broad span and the spiritual depths of the New Testament truths, particularly from the perspective of the believers knowing Christ as their life for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. The resilience of the churches produced through their ministry is exemplified by the believers in China, who have proven steadfast and have flourished in the face of decades of extreme persecution, as well as by hundreds of local churches in North America that have faithfully persevered and spread despite nearly forty years of intense opposition.

## OUR FAITH

The faith that the local churches affirm is that which is common to all believers, namely that:

- The Bible is the Word of God, written under His inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16), and is the complete and only written revelation of God to man (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19);
- There is one God (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4b; Is. 43:10) and one triune—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, of the same substance (John 1:1; 1 Cor. 13:14) and co-inhering (John 14:10-11) in three hypostases, distinct but never separate, from one another;
- Christ, the only begotten Son of God (John 1:14) and a genuine man through incarnation (John 1:14) and human natures (Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 2:5), the Father and the Son combined in one person and being preserved without confusion or change and without forming a third person;
- Christ died for our sins and was raised bodily (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Acts 4:10; Rom. 8:34), has been exalted to the right hand of God as Lord of all (Acts 5:31; 10:36), and will return as the Bridegroom for His bride, the church (John 3:29);
- Christ is the King of kings to rule over the nations (Rev. 19:11-16).

**Peter Kuzmic, Th.D.**  
"...the larger evangelical community in this country and elsewhere will come to realize that your cause is right..."

**J. Gordon Melton, Ph.D.**  
"I personally have been unable to find a single point upon which it [the teaching in the local churches] deviates on any essential doctrine of the Christian faith..."

**Randall Balmer, Ph.D.**  
"I was impressed by the interracial character of the congregation..."

**Tom Ascol, Ph.D.**  
"...I have been blessed and challenged by their humble devotion to our Lord..."

**Paul Copan, Ph.D.**  
"I...urge all true Christians to embrace our brothers and sisters in the Local Church, who share the same faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

The interactive scroll links to the Testimonies page which offers statements of affirmation and experience by various respected Christians who have come to know us over the years.

Use the comments page to join the ongoing conversation about our open letter. "Like" or recommend these pages on Facebook or Google+ or tweet your appreciation.



**Tom Ascol, Ph.D.**  
is the pastor of Grace Baptist Church of Cape Coral, Florida, Executive Director of Founders Ministries, and editor of *Founders Journal*. He has edited books including *Reclaiming the Gospel and Reforming Churches* and *Dear Timothy* and has contributed articles and chapters to numerous publications.

The "Open Letter from the Local Churches and Living Stream Ministry" includes a statement of their orthodox, evangelical beliefs that should be welcomed by all who love the Lord Jesus and who affirm the full authority of the written Word of God. As I have grown to know some of the brethren in this movement and have worshiped with them in several of their Chinese churches I have been blessed and challenged by their humble devotion to our Lord and commitment to the work of making disciples. May the Lord continue to bless and use them in the extension of His kingdom throughout the world.