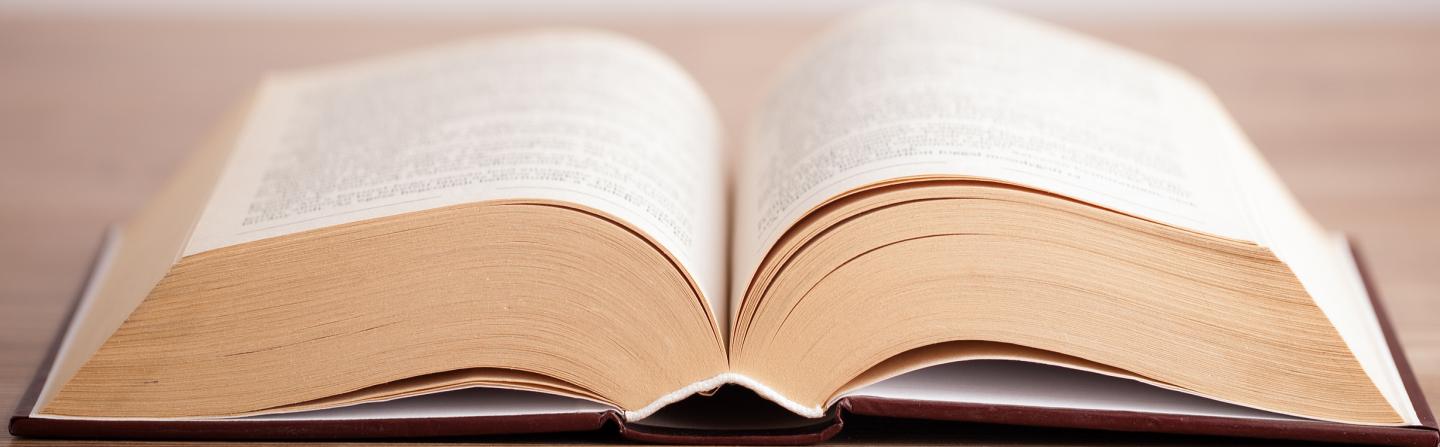


The Book Service and the Spreading of the Truth

Excerpts from

*the Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984, Vol. 5,
“The Faithful and Diligent Spreading of the Truth”*



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1 The Faithful and Diligent Spreading of the Truth

- Go, therefore, and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Teaching them** to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age. (Matt. 28:19-20)
- ...our Savior God, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the **full knowledge of the truth.**
(1 Tim. 2:3-4)



2 The Burden and Goal of the Book Service

“In 1 Timothy 2:4 Paul says that God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.” Today most of the churches pay attention to the first half of this verse by preaching the gospel to bring people to salvation; however, we are not up to the standard of God’s goal in the matter of **leading the saints to know the truth**. The responsibility for filling up this lack and arriving at God’s goal lies with us. (the book service)” (CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.191)



2 The Burden and Goal of the Book Service

“The most important burden of the book service is not to care for the inventory of books but to **study** and find a way to **spread every book into all the homes** of the saints in your locality and, once the books are in the homes, to find a way to **deposit their contents into the saints' hearts.**” (CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.191.)



Knowing the Truth Requiring Others' Explanation and the Lord's Opening of Our Minds

- The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-39
- Two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24:13-35
- Peter referring to Paul's writings as 'hard to understand' in 2 Peter 3:16
- The difficulty of understanding the Book of Hebrews and the opening of the book through the Life-study of Hebrews

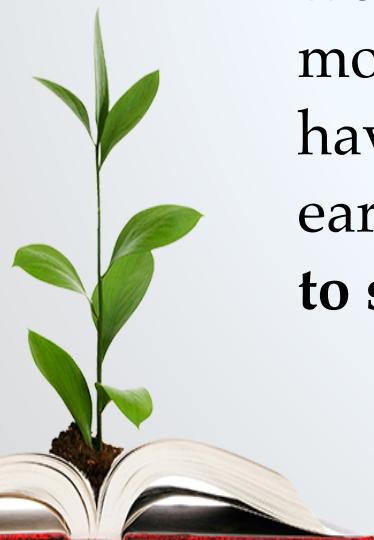


4

The Spreading of the Publication Work

“Regardless of whether we are full-timers going out to work or those who serve with books, our goal is to **spread the divine truths** for the accomplishment of God’s goal of establishing and building up churches in every place so that they may become the expression of Christ.

I would like to make something clear from the start. If we think that the goal of the publication work is to make money, we are wrong. From the first day until now we have not had the slightest thought of making money or earning a profit. **Our burden is to spread the truth and to serve the churches.”** (CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.198)



4

The Spreading of the Publication Work

“Beginning from Luther the Lord has manifested His work of recovery. However, **over the past five hundred years the Lord has never done as much related to the recovery of the truth as He has done among us**pointing out the crucial items concerning Christ, opening the minds of the saints, and bringing us into the depths of God’s economy so that we would advance toward His ultimate goal.” (*CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.199*)



5 Getting the Truths into the Believers' Homes

“What the Lord wants to accomplish in this age is to recover the truth...when you look at the publications among us, they are full of rich truth. This is not my boast; it is proof that the Lord has blessed us. Therefore we should receive the burden and not worry that there are too many books piled up in the meeting halls; instead, we must **find a way to distribute these books, and we must first get them into the homes of the saints.**” (CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.205)



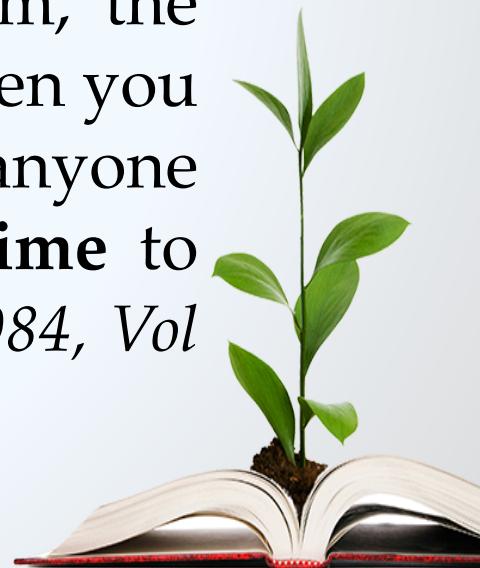
5 Getting the Truths into the Believers' Homes

"Today the Lord has gained saints who have a heart to serve Him; some serve as elders, some serve as deacons, and some serve in book sales. We thank the Lord for this, but please forgive me for speaking honestly to you in love: **I am afraid that even you are not clear about the truth.** This is the matter that concerns me the most. If we are a group of believers who have only been saved but do not understand the truth, what will be the future of the Lord's recovery? The present teaching in the homes is insufficient; **we must get the truth into the saints' homes.**" (CWWL 1984, Vol 5, p.206)



5 Getting the Truths into the Believers' Homes

"I hope that in **every church each household** would teach and study the truth. The churches in one particular area of the United States are the best pattern in this particular matter; the homes of the saints are full of our publications. Whether you go to the study, the bathroom, the living room, the bedroom, the dining room, or even the kitchen you will find open ministry books. Wherever anyone goes in these homes, they can **seize the time** to read a paragraph of a message." (CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.206)



⑥ The Proper Attitude in the Book Service

- “We have obtained His mercy to serve Him in His word.”
- “We must do our best to **urge people** to read His word.”
- “If we take the Lord’s word lightly, how can we have the boldness to promote the publications among the saints?”
- “I hope we could have a jealous heart for the Lord and change the atmosphere so that everyone would have a desire to **read the Bible** and each household would make **reading** the spiritual publications a priority.” (*CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.207*)



⑥ The Proper Attitude in the Book Service

- “We must understand that our service is not to help the Book Service do business and make a profit; rather, it is to bear a burden to minister the word of the Lord and to send out His truth.”
- “We must see that serving in the book sales is really to be **the Lord's co-worker**, to promote His truth, and to spread the divine economy and divine speaking to the whole earth.” (CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.207)



6 The Proper Attitude in the Book Service

- “The primary matter is not to promote the books but to **stir up** the saints interest in **pursuing the truth** and to encourage them to enjoy reading the spiritual publications.”
- “The Lord’s word will require that we bear the responsibility to labor willingly to **zealously encourage and urge** everyone in all the local churches to pursue the truth and read the spiritual publications.” (*CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.208.*)



7

Learning the Truth in the Service

- “Learn, practice, and equip ourselves with these rich truths.” (1 Tim. 4:15-16, 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- “Speak the truth.” (Eph. 4:25, Zech. 8:16)
- “Live according to the truth.” (Eph. 4:20, Phil. 1:21)
- “Read, study, and even write out the truth.” (1 Tim. 4:13, 2 Tim. 4:2)

(CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.232-33)



7 Learning the Truth in the Service

“Since the truth among us is very rich, I especially hope that those who serve in the Book Room would develop the habit of **studying, speaking, and using** these riches to produce, uplift, and strengthen the spiritual atmosphere in the Lord’s recovery.” (CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.233)



Building Up the Habit of Reading and Making Reading a Priority

“Some brothers and sisters spend more time reading the newspaper and watching television than they do reading the ministry publications; this really grieves me. I hope that we could have a jealous heart for the Lord and change the atmosphere so that everyone would have a desire to read the Bible, and each household would make reading the spiritual publications a priority.”

“Despite the fact that the co-workers frequently go to help the churches, their true, long-term help has come from the supply of the publications.”.— CWWL, 1984, Vol. 5, *The Faithful and Diligent Spreading of the Truth.*

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- Collected Works of Witness Lee – 137 Volumes
- HWMR
- DMS or similar programs
- Ministry of the Word
- LSM Website ePubs
- Online Publications, <http://www.ministrybooks.org>

The Living Stream Ministry

Catalogue Contents

- Life-study Messages
- The High Peak Truth Series
- Books on Life
- Books on Service
- Books on the Church
- Books on the God-ordained Way



The Living Stream Ministry Catalogue

- Books for the New Believers
- New Books
- Collected Works of Watchman Nee
- Collected Works of Witness Lee
- The Conclusion Messages
- The Ministry Magazine



Setting Up a Church Book Service and Lending Libraries

- Every church having an active book service
- Establishing weekly prayer
- Displaying the Living Ministry publications
- Developing a lending library in the churches and in the homes



Summary

- Testimony and Experiences
- Response from the Brothers
- How do we go on from here?



Contact Information

- **Michio Miyake**

- miyakem3@gmail.com
- Mobile: (714) 299-1463

- **Samuel Liu**

- chenshiliu@gmail.com
- (909) 618-4909

- **Steve Watts**

- steveawatts@gmail.com
- (832) 289-5527



8 A Prayer

Lord, we worship You. We sincerely confess that we are a group of people who have received mercy. We are the offscouring of the world and the scum of all things. We are worth nothing, we are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. But, Lord, You chose us and separated us, and You have made us useful vessels in Your hands. We thank You for the portion of usefulness that You have given us. We thank You for greatly blessing this publication work so that the riches of Your truth have been stored up in the publications. We believe that Your grace is sufficient for us. Every day we want to be overshadowed by Your grace to experience and enjoy the supply of this grace. (*CWWL, 1984, Vol 5, p.233*)