

## Letter to the leading ones concerning ITERO

Dear leading brothers in the churches,

Over the years we have noticed an increase in the number of brothers who participate in the International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (ITERO), and particularly we have noticed that in some localities the number of registered brothers is inordinately high. Also, a number of the co-workers have noted that there is an increasing number of brothers who seem immature or are not yet suited for this kind of training, and this hinders what can be released by the ministering brothers to those who should properly attend. Looking back at the way Brother Lee first established the elders' trainings in the U.S. in the 1980s and how he continued to conduct these trainings in the 1990s, we, in fellowship with the ministering brothers who oversee ITERO, feel that some adjustment is necessary to bring this training back in line with Brother Lee's original arrangement. Thus, we are writing to you, the leading ones, to clarify who should be invited to participate in ITERO.

First, it should be stressed that ITERO is not simply a perfecting training for the brothers in the churches. We understand that in some places the leading ones may feel that ITERO can help many brothers in the church to grow in life and to be perfected in service, but this is not the intention for ITERO. This training is, as its name indicates, a training for brothers who are actually elders or who bear responsibility in the church, and the purpose of ITERO is to train and perfect these brothers in this particular service. Second, we also understand that it may be difficult to clearly define how much responsibility a brother should bear in order to be invited to participate in ITERO. Thus, after careful consideration and fellowship, we would like to offer some clear guidance. Of course, every brother who has been serving as an elder is invited to participate in ITERO, and we hope that every elder will attend as often as the Lord gives him the way to do so. But there may be other brothers who bear responsibility in the whole church, not just in a district or in a group, who also should participate in ITERO. These brothers should be ones who often join the fellowship among the elders as the elders care for the whole church. No doubt, these ones will be responsible for a district or a smaller group of saints, but that should not be the limit of their responsibility; they should be ones whom the elders feel bear some responsibility in the church as a whole. Third, Brother Lee allowed "learners" to attend ITERO, and by this we understand that he meant those brothers who are being raised up and are now learning to bear responsibility for the whole church, not only for a district or smaller group. Following his lead, we hope these learning ones would also participate in ITERO.

Brothers, we fully trust your discernment in this matter as well as your heart for the proper arrangement and atmosphere in this training. We hope that by clarifying what ITERO is and is not and by offering some guidance concerning who should participate, you will be able to assist us in making sure that ITERO remains true to Brother Lee's intentions. We also realize that these clarifications may limit the number of brothers who should attend ITERO and that some brothers who formerly attended will not be invited to attend in the future. We hope that you will be able to shepherd these ones so that they will not be discouraged and to continue to perfect them in their pursuit, growth, and function.

Your help in this matter will be greatly appreciated and will no doubt serve the training for the elders and responsible ones greatly.

Thank you, brothers.

In Him,

The brothers who oversee LSM