

Transcript of telephone conversation in 1978 between Sal Benoit, and elder in the Church in Boston, and Witness Lee.

All non-word sounds, except when they are clearly a reply or response, are deleted. Single words repeated in sequence (I, I, I; the, the, the) are transcribed as a single word except when the repetition is for emphasis (no, no, no). Instances of words being labeled unclear occur mainly when both men were speaking at the same time and a few times when the words spoken are difficult to understand. Sal's side of the conversation is presented in black, Witness Lee's side is in blue.

*(Phone Rings)*

*(Female voice): Hello*

Hello. Is Brother Lee there?

*(Female voice): Oh, he's not here. Who is this?*

This is Sal Benoit.

*Oh, he is not here.*

Oh.

*(Female voice): You are home?*

Yes. Do you know how I can get in touch with him?

*(Female voice): Oh, he just go out, but let me see if he come back or not.*

Okay.

*(Lee answers): Hello.*

Brother Lee?

*Yes.*

Hi. This, this is Sal Benoit.

*Uh-huh.*

How are you?

*Fine, thank you.*

Good. How was your trip?

*Very good.*

Good. Good.

*Uh.*

I, probably, you know, the main reason why I'm calling,

*Huh.*

most likely, I don't know if, you probably have been hearing what's been happening here and everything ...

*Uh Huh.*

But I just have some, questions you know, that I just feel really before the Lord . . . .

*Yeah.*  
to ask . . . .

*Yeah.*  
You know we've been together for a long time . . . .

*Right.*  
And I've given my life . . . .

*Uh-huh.*  
For the same ..

*Uh-huh*  
purpose.

*Uh-huh.*  
And sure, things have come down now to the point that I need to make probably one of the most important decisions of my life, so I'd just like to ask you some questions and I really pray that you'd not avoid answering any, but as you taught us, and as we know in the Bible, you know, just to keep the things in the light and really in honesty; Well, these are the questions that I have: They're mainly due firstly to the uh finances.

*Uh-huh.*  
The matter of the, that the Living Stream Ministry ....

*Yeah.*  
We know that we make all our training ...

*Right.*  
checks to the Living Stream Ministry ....

*Right.*  
And I just want to know if some of the money, if it has ever gone to the paying of the Daystar loans or losses. . . .

*(chuckling)*  
that we've had in the past.

*Well, Sal, I will say this is not your business.*  
Uh-huh.

*Right.*  
Uh-huh. Well ... !

*Why you have to ask this?*  
The main, the main reason why ...

*O.K.*  
Is, number one ...

*Yeah.*  
Is, I have been in the  
lead in a local church ...

*Right.*

Giving myself to this ...

*Uh-huh.*

and encouraging people

*Right.*

to give themselves, too ....

*Right.*

I don't think I have ever missed – if I have missed, maybe one, or two trainings in my

*Yeah.*

church experience ...

*Right.*

And I just wanted to know, I, please ...

*(words not clear)*

Please, will....

*(words not clear)*

Will---I just ask you please, that ....

*I just tell you ....*

Uh-huh.

*All the donations ....*

Uh-huh.

*were donated ...*

Uh-huh.

*to the Living Stream ....*

Uh-huh.

*It all went to the Living Stream account.*

Uh-huh.

*That is legal.*

Uh-huh.

*Living Stream is a legal, tax deduction . . .*

Uh-huh.

*Co-pation, corporation.*

Uh-huh.

*That's it.*

Uh-huh. Well, ....

*About Daystar, that is not your business.*

Well, the letter of ....

*No, I don't answer you.*

Well, ....

*I have no responsibility to answer anyone about this.*

Well, Brother Lee, I of course I realize that, you

know, on the one hand, it's up to you, but on the other hand ...

*No. No.*

on the other hand, on

*(words not clear)*

the other hand, I realize, that, you know, it's like this has been our thing, because so many years we've all given ourselves to it as partners, so that on the other hand I feel that you also owe it to me. I know on the one hand its, I don't need to know....

*I say again ....*

But then on the other hand I feel I do need to know.

*I say again ....*

Uh-huh.

*The donations were given to the Living Stream ....*

Uh-huh.

*Living Stream is a tax deduction corporation.*

Uh-huh, uh-huh,

*It is a legal thing.*

Uh-huh.

*What Living Stream, how Living Stream spends its money is all in the account.*

Uh-huh.

*That is legal account is all I can tell you.*

Can we see the legal account?

*You have no right to ... Not you ...*

Oh, we don't? Well, I'm a part ....

*No.*

I feel, a contributor ...

*No.*

to this. . . .

*No. You have no right. Um-hmm.*

Okay. I'll go on to the second question.

*This is too much, Sal.*

Well, I think it's very important, Brother Lee.

*No. No. No. I must say a word to you. This is too much.*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

*This is too much...*

Well, Brother Lee, I can't see why not. Look, I was just . . . .

*Right. You're going ...*

Somebody . . . . Somebody just came to

*Okay.*

me two weeks, let's see, a week and a half ago ....

*Yeah.*

and asked me, because they had heard certain things, that the property

*Who asked you ...*

at 50 Dudley Road was

*Yeah*

under my name

*Uh-huh*

and they asked me to ...

*Who are these?*

Well, one brother, [a brother's name] here ....

*Uh-huh*

he wanted to know where ....

*Uh-huh.*

What I was doing with certain things financially

*The church ....*

And on the one ....

*The church is, Sal*

Uh-huh.

*The church is the church of all the saints.*

Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

*Right?*

Right.

*You are responsible to show the saints how the account is kept.*

Right.

*Okay. The ministry is my personal ministry and*

Uh-huh, Uh-huh.

*this is incorporated.*

Okay, there are no ...

*I'm not responsible to*

Okay.

*anyone. I'm only responsible to the government.*

Okay, then, the other matter was that, as the

church here . . . .

*Yeah.*

We loaned Overseas Christian Stewards quite a lot of money . . . .

*No, You don't loan.*

We loaned.

*No, we resend [unclear word - may be "refund"]. Didn't we resend?*

No, no, .. . .

*No, no, no, no.*

Well, you did that . . . .

*Listen . . . .*

Uh-huh.

*You loaned to us*

Uh-huh.

*through Max*

Uh-huh.

*hundred thousand dollars.*

Right.

*We resend fifty,*

Uh-huh.

*Another twenty-five,*

Uh-huh.

*Another twenty-five.*

Right.

*That's all.*

Okay. I know we loaned it, but what did we lend it to?

*To Overseas Steward.*

Okay. And what is this?

*This is a corporation.*

Yes?

*See, you have no right to*

Well, . . . .

*Ask this, you see, you loaned the money to this name, to this (unclear words)*

. . . .

Well, Brother Lee, again I felt that I . . . .

*(chuckling)*

We did lend the money and I needed to know . . . .

*Yeah.*

I need a . . . .

*We resend it.*

Well, I know you refunded it . . . .

*Yeah.*

but I want to see what we contributed to, ....

*Uh-huh.*

that . . . .

*You didn't contribute to this, you lend to it.*

Well, even if it was a loan . . . .

*Yeah.*

The church's money here . . . .

*Yeah.*

was given for a time for this . . . .

*Yeah.*

So since it was given for this

*Uh-huh.*

for this very reason, I can definitely see where I, have the right to ask you . .

..

*Yeah.*

Since I was the one that released the money for this . . . .

*Uh-huh.*

So I, here again, I'm very much personally involved . . . .

*Sal, Sal . . . .*

Yes.

*This is my answer.*

Yes.

*You loaned to Overseas Steward . . . .*

Yes.

*through Max's hand,*

Yes.

*and later we refund.*

Yes.

*That's all.*

Well, Brother Lee, it's not that simple. I just can't see why you're evading,

*Uh-huh.*

because it gives me, it gives me, the sense of something

*No, no, no.*

.... dark.

*Why you want to know this?*

Well, because I, this is very important. I'm about to make the most important

*Oh, Uh-huh.*

decision, and I need, You see, this is important. You're not taking care of my conscience at all.

*Uh-huh.*

I don't see, I don't even see it funny.

*Okay, This is all time my answer. You lended to Overseas Steward . . . .*

Uh-huh.

*then Overseas Steward refund.*

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

*Right?*

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

*That's Okay.*

That's O – that's, to you it's okay, but surely the evasion of the question to me . . . .

*That's not evasion.*

Well you, I asked you bluntly and frankly . . . .

*What you want to know this?*

Okay, Because I was involved . . . .

*What?*

in lending you . . .

*Yeah.*

for a period of time . . . .

*Uh.*

a hundred thousand dollars . . . .

*Yeah.*

and it was given to Overseas Christian . . .

*Yeah.*

Stewards . . . .

*Yeah.*

And I did it honestly, simply . . . .

*Yeah.*

and faithfully towards you . . . .

*Yeah, yeah.*

and I want to see what I contributed to now . . .

*Right.*

That's all. . . .

*Okay. This is . . . .*

I think you owe this to me.

*Uh-huh. I owe you what?*

You owe me the answer to this question; what is

*Okay.*

this Overseas Christian Stew . . . .

*The Overseas Steward is a Steward of, composed with three brothers, representing the steward receiving gifts for the Lord's work.*

Uh-huh.

*You see? This has been there for years.*

Uh-huh.

*You see?*

For what reason?

*For the Lord's work.*

For the Lord's work where?

*In the, in the world, especially in the Far East, you see.*

Uh-huh.

*It has been there for years. (doorbell rings in background)*

Uh-huh. Has this Overseas Christian Steward . . . .

*Yeah.*

ever given money to Prosporus (sic) Corporation?

*That is Phosphorus, in Taiwan, belongs to Overseas Steward. See?*

Oh. So then, the work, the work of the Overseas Christian Steward for the Lord is a commercial business.

*Oh, no, no, no, no. Not that way.*

Uh-huh.

*The Overseas Steward is, is a stewardship . . . .*

Uh-huh.

*See? For the Lord's work . . . .*

Yes?

*Receiving gifts, right?*

Yes?

*to do a business,*

Yes?

*and the business' name is Phosphorus.*

Yes, okay.

*Right?*

So then, we gave money ...to the Overseas Christian Steward . . . .

*You, you lended it.*

We lent money to the Overseas Christian Steward

*Yeah.*

and the Overseas Christian Stewards does work for the Lord . . . .

*Yeah.*

in the Far East, mainly,

*Yeah.*

and it s a business ....

*Yeah.*

called Phosphorus.

*Yeah.*

So then, the matter of the Overseas Christian Stewards is something that is related to a private business called Phosphorus. This is what you're saying.

*I say again ....*

Uh-huh.

*The Overseas Steward, Overseas Christian Steward . . .*

Uh-huh.

*is stewardship representing the Lord's work.*

Yes, is this non-profit making?

*No, no. Never registered. This is never registered anywhere.*

Oh, I see. It's not registered anywhere.

*No, no, no, you see, we, me and brother . . . .*

Uh-huh.

*Samuel Chang and*

Uh-huh.

*brother Wei [spelling not certain],*

Uh-huh.

*we three*

Uh-huh.

*represent Overseas Stewards. (doorbell starts and continues to ring)*

Uh-huh.

*Overseas stewardship receives money . . . . (words not clear)*

Uh-huh.

*for the Lord's work.*

Uh-huh.

*You see? Then the Overseas Steward set up a factory*

Uh-huh.

*in the Far East*

Uh-huh.

*that is called Phosphorus,*

Uh-huh

*and then the Phosphorus factory belongs to Overseas Stewards.*

I see.

*Right!*

Wasn't Phosphorus part of Daystar?

*No. Daystar is the American corporation.*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

*Phosphorus is the Taiwan corporation.*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

*See? Yes, Phosphorus did produce motor homes for Daystar.*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

*Right.*

Uh-huh.

*And Daystar sells the motor homes. Okay?*

Right, Okay, right, okay, so there, it's kind of all related together. The  
*Uh-huh.*

Overseas Christian Steward, Daystar, and Phosphorus. There's some kind of link all together with it, but I just want to know, Phosphorus, now, this manufacturing or what have you, you remember that they made parts for Daystar, the machines and what have you. Are they now making, they just, were they making tennis racquets? Was that it?

*Yeah, right.*

Uh-huh.

*Right.*

I see. So . . . .

*Because the motor home market stopped, so it turned to the ? factory.*

I see, I see. So it was making . . . .

*Right, right.*

Okay, then . . . .

*manufacturing tennis racquets.*

I see, I see. So then, the matter of making tennis racquets and then before that the motor homes, right?

*Yeah.*

There they've been related or connected somehow to Overseas Christian Stewards?

*Overseas Christian Stewards owns the Phosphorus factory.*

I see, I see.

*Right.*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh. And so then when Daystar went bankrupt . . . .

*Stopped, stopped*

Right?

*Yeah.*

Right?

*Right.*

Now the Overseas Christian Steward took all the stock over . . .

*No, no, no, no. Overseas Steward took nothing from Daystar.*

I see. Uh-huh.

*Actually, Daystar owes Overseas . . .*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

*Okay?*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Now this is the last question . . . .

*Yeah.*

Okay. The Living Stream. . . .

*Yeah.*

Has it ever given any money to the Overseas Christian Stewards?

*Yes, Living Stream ....*

Uh-huh.

*lends money to Overseas Stewards.*

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

*Yeah.*

I see. Okay, so now Living Stream is a non-profit making organization ...

*Right.*

lending money to a corporation that's kind a kind of Overseas Christian Steward . . . .

*Right, right.*

And Overseas Christian Steward . . .

*This is all in account.*

That's related to the business . . . .

*Yeah.*

of the, of you know, just some business. So what we're saying basically is that the brothers and sisters, you know, all the money, or, some of the money, or part of the money that goes into Living Stream, has gone to Overseas Christian Stewards, and Overseas Christian Steward has this business work that they've done for this purpose. Am I right?

*This is the account.*

Um-hum. Okay, you know, Brother Lee, . . . .

*Yeah.*

I really appreciate that you've shared this. Of course, I don't know why still you won't share with me that,

*What? What's that? What?*

the matter that you some of the money from Living Stream goes to Daystar.

*No.*

I just really . . . .

*No, no, no, that . . . .*

To, to pay off some of

*No, no money, goes Daystar*

the . . .

*No, no, no.*

No, to pay off some of the back loans.

*Well, that is to the church.*

Uh-huh.

*Yeah.*

That is to the church?

*Right, right.*

Oh, so that means that some of – so Living Stream kind of does have some money that goes to pay off some of the debts. I just would like to know the truth. I, really, this, it's nothing more than that. Please!

*That is to the church. Okay.*

So the Living Stream pays it to the church?

*Right.*

And the church pays the loans, that, past loans to Daystar?

*Uh, that is another story (chuckles).*

What story is that?

*Well, there is no need to tell this much, Sal.*

Well, it's very important to me, Brother Lee. It's, I've

*So far, so far,*

given, I've given . . . .

*so far good enough. I . . .*

Well, the thing is I've given my life to it

*No, No.*

And I would like,

*No, No.*

To, like to get to . . .

*No, No.*

The side of it.

*I be very kind to you this morning, right?*

Um-hmm.

*I teach you as a brother . . . .*

Yes.

*Otherwise, I am not responsible to you for anything.*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Well, I feel you are before the Lord.

*Yeah. Okay.*

I feel maybe . . .

*I'm really, I'm a [unclear word] person before the Lord.*

Sure. I feel, I feel . . .

*But you have overstepping.*

Uh-huh.

*You see, you have overstepped your limit.*

Yes?

*See, you have no right to ask me about the Living Stream account.*

Uh-huh.

*No. That is not your standing . . .*

Uh-huh.

*But because you said to me, "You are a brother..."*

Uh-huh.

*And "You are this/that," so okay, I just let you know, that's good enough.*

Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

*Okay?*

Well, it's very important

*Okay, now . .*

because, you see what I see here—you know, I've been doing a lot of research,

*Yeah.*

And a lot of . . . . .

*Right.*

Looking into things

*Right.*

And you know what I see here,

*Yeah.*

At this point, just from our little talk, you know, I . . .

*You see, let me say this: the donations of the*

Uh-huh.

*saints from the church to the ministry,*

Uh-huh.

*the ministry as a coporate (sic) has the full right to use it in any way.*

Uh-huh.

*Yeah.*

Yeah, I agree with that.

*That's all, that's all.*

Yeah, I . . .

*You go over top. That is over.*

Well, . . . . .

*out of your limit.*

Well, like I said, the main reason why I was asking is, number one, we contributed . . .

*No, no.*

as the church here, we contributed to as the church here, we contributed as

*Well, . . . .*

people in trainings,

*Right.*

So you know it is not that, it's not that simple as you put it.

*That goes to the Stream Corporation.*

Right. Goes to Living Stream and Living

*(word not clear)*

Stream has some money go to OSC . . . .

*Yeah.*

And OSC has some money . . . .

*Stream uses. That is Living Stream's limit.*

Uh-huh

*See? Living Stream has its own jurisdiction.*

Yes.

*Right?*

Uh-huh.

*If you don't like to donate, just don't donate.*

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

*See? As you've donated, that goes to the account of the Living Stream.*

Uh-huh.

*Living Stream has its own jurisdiction. This is fair.*

Right, but Brother lee, this is what concerns me.

*Yeah, you don't need to be concerned.*

No, listen, Yes, I do, and I will tell you this, and that is that . . . .

*I repeat to you, Sal. . . .*

You what?

*I repeat to you: you donated to the*

Uh-huh.

*Living Stream. The Living Stream entered into the account. The Living Stream has its own jurisdiction*

Uh-huh.

*to use it. This is all. If you ask me further*

Uh-huh.

*I am not responsible to tell you.*

Well, you see . . . .

*I have explained to you already.*

Uh-huh, well . . . .

*Let's stop here, Okay?*

Yeah, well, I would like to end with a last word. Here I like, I . . .

*(words not clear)*

Please! Let me speak!

You see, you control the conversation and of course I'm . . . .

*No.*

I'm being, I'm being blamed . . .

*No.*

See, look at right now.

*(words not clear)*

I'm being blamed for

*(words not clear)*

setting up hierarchy,

*(words not clear)*

etcetera, etcetera, and yet still I can't even bring things out, I can't even speak

*I told ...*

to you clearly . . . .

*I just like to stop the talk. Sorry.*

Okay, listen, Brother Lee.

*Okay, you talk. If you talk in fellowshipping way, I like it.*

Okay, well, I'm fellowshipping with you

*You talk this way, yeah.*

as a brother.

*Yeah.*

Brother Lee, I've been looking into these things . . . .

and I'm just concerned as a brother for you. I've appreciated your ministry .

. . .

*Okay.*

You've been bringing me up in the Lord.

*When you talk this way, I like to talk.*

Okay. This is the truth, and this is why

*Yeah.*

I'm concerned for this. You've helped me in the Lord; you've helped me in the Word . . .

*Right.*

And you've brought me up and I'm very grateful to you, . . . .

*Right.*

And I speak this as before the Lord. I've learned things, I've been taught things that I never would have known unless the Lord would have brought me to you. The handling of the Word, the sensing of things, has been abundance of experience that you've handed to me, and I appreciate this greatly.

*Sure.*

I really do, and I just would like to tell you this.

*Yeah, Good.*

These days, you know I of course am put in qa position that I have to make a decision. The decision, as we know, is whether I would stand for the ministry, your ministry, or if I would stand for brother Max, and as you

know, he's been here with us, and I just realize that this is a very crucial decisions for me. So I've had to be searching

*Yeah.*

things, looking to things, and exercising as much as I possibly

*Yeah.*

of the things you have taught me . . . .

*Yeah.*

before God.

*I have to, you know when I was there,*

Uh-huh.

*I asked you to bring the things before the Lord, right?*

That's right, that's right, but, and this is what I've been doing.

*Right.*

Now, of course, you know,

*Right.*

and I've been trying to be open to God, . . . .

*Right.*

to please, "I will drop any concept, I would turn from anything...

*Right.*

that's not of Yourself."

*Right.*

I don't want something that's not of God in

*No.*

my life.

*Right.*

And I do want to walk upright before the Lord.

*That's good.*

And, anyway, this is, no doubt here, another – this is why I've asked you the questions, because I have felt that this is very important also to me. Maybe you don't think it is [unclear word] my business, or what have you, but the position I'm in, it's very crucial to me to know the whole thing. Of course, you say I don't need to but . . . .

*Sal.*

You know, I just tell you my feeling.

*Yeah.*

Now, as I see it, Brother Lee, a non -profit-making organization. . . .

*It's the account of this I put already...*

Yes . . .

*You don't need to waste time . . .*

Yes . . .

*not waste time at all.*

I would just finish with this before you.

*No. If you talk further about this, I'll stop. Sorry.*

Okay, well, . . . .

*If you fellowship with me about other things, that's okay.*

Well, Brother Lee, I just feel, in my research, in my speaking to C.P.A.'s, my looking into things, before law, I feel ashamed

*No, no, don't do this. Stop.*

that you have . . . .

*I, stop. Stop, Sal.*

Manipulated . . . .

*If you talk further,*

that you have . . . .

*this will stop.*

committed . . . .

*Okay, Sal.*

*(Lee hangs up the phone.)*

Conversation is ended.