

Topic Two

ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A HEALTHY BOOK SERVICE

Three Keys for a Healthy Book Service—People, Products, and Programs

I. The First Key: People—build up a proper service group:

- A. In order for all the saints to get into the proper and ongoing burden for the ministry publications, there must be a group of saints who will take the lead to help the saints to enter into the burden and practice of reading and distributing the publications:
 - 1. The book service members must be burdened saints.
 - 2. Assigning saints to participate is not sustainable.
 - 3. Both brothers and sisters can serve.
 - 4. Some leading brothers must also be involved for oversight and church coordination.
- B. All those in the group must share the same burden, i.e., the reading and distribution of the ministry publications in the church:
 - 1. “The most important burden of the book service is not to care for the inventory of the 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.
 - 2. The book service “must encourage the saints in the localities where we serve to cultivate the habit of studying the truth.
 - 3. “We also must have a proper heart and attitude in our way of doing business. We are not selling books like street vendors.
 - 4. “You should urge the saints to have the books in their homes and encourage them to do their best to read them” (*CWWL*, 1984, vol. 5, “The Faithful and Diligent Spreading of the Truth—Concerning the Publication Service,” p. 191).
- C. Form the service group according to Brother Lee’s principles on the formation of the vital groups:
 - 1. Firstly go to the Lord yourself, regarding reading and promoting the ministry publications through speaking, posting, loaning, giving, and selling.
 - 2. Pray for others with the same burden to join you.
- D. The book service group should be active like other church service groups, e.g., children’s work and young people:
 - 1. Meet weekly to pray about the burden, read and enjoy the ministry together.
 - 2. Fellowship about ways to promote the literature among the saints.
 - 3. Provide “direction, encouragement, and incentive” for reading and promoting.

II. The Second Key: Products—setting up a book room or a book display (Topic 6).

III. The Third Key: Programs—promoting reading the ministry and the pursuit of the truth (Topic 5).

IV. Workshop:

- A. Church book service testimonies.
- B. Prayer and fellowship about establishing or strengthening the book service in your church.
- C. Questions and answers about a healthy book service.