

Pray for:

- ✿ Completion and follow-up of Bible distribution in 30 cities in North America in January and February; in Canada, the focus is on Hamilton and Guelph, Ontario; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Coquitlam, BC.
- ✿ International Chinese-speaking conference in Anaheim, California, February 18 to 20.
- ✿ Eastern Canada Conference for college, university and young working saints in Belleville, Ontario, March 18 to 20.
- ✿ Trainees in the full-time training centres around the world, as they began a new term.
- ✿ Raising up of vital groups in the church in Montreal in all the languages; that all the saints would rise up to live vitally with vital companions for gospel preaching, shepherding, pursuing the truth, and prophesying to build the church.
- ✿ Pray for various local needs, including saints in Montreal, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✿ New Testament Recovery Version with footnotes: Week 67, Eph 2:19 – 4:10
- ✿ HWMR: Crystallization-Study of Isaiah, Vol 1, Week 4
- ✿ Truth Equipping Series – Ministry Literature Sets Reading Schedule: *The Economy of God*, Chapter 18

Announcements

- ✿ There is a conference for college and young working saints in Belleville, March 18-20. Deadline for registration is in 2 weeks, Feb 20. Please register as soon as possible with Monica

Lord's Day Lunch Serving & Clean-up Schedule

Feb 13	✿ Serving: Chinese South (A) ✿ Cleaning: Chinese (North, South, West)
20	✿ Serving: N.D.G ✿ Cleaning: Chinese (East, Central) ✿ Whole meeting hall cleaning
27	✿ Serving: Chinese YW ✿ Cleaning: English
Mar 6	✿ Serving: Chinese Central (A)

✿ Cleaning: French/Spanish

Upcoming Events

- ✿ Jan. 29 – Feb. 14, Halifax, NS: **Gospel Sowing Trip**
- ✿ Feb. 18-20, 2011, Anaheim, CA: **Chinese-speaking New Year's International Conference**
- ✿ **Mar. 18-20, Belleville, ON:** Belleville Conference for College and Young working saints
- ✿ April 1-3, 2011, Anaheim, CA: **International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones.**
- ✿ May 12-14, 2011, Karei Deshe on the Sea of Galilee, Israel: **Spring Conference in Israel**

This Week's Activities

FEB 13 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10am to 12:30 pm, Meeting hall: Lord's table and prophesying meetings ✿ 12:30pm to 1:30pm, Meeting hall: Love feast
14 Monday	
15 Tuesday	✿ 7:30pm: District prayer meetings at various homes
16 Wednesday	✿ 7pm – 8:30pm, Andrea's place: College meeting
17 Thursday	✿
18 Friday	✿ Various home meetings (Chinese/ English / French)
19 Saturday	✿ 7pm – 9:30pm, Meeting hall: Young People Meeting

Prayer

Scripture Reading: John 16:24; James 4:2-3; Luke 11:9-10; Psa. 66:18; Mark 11:24; Luke 18:1-8

II. CONDITIONS FOR PRAYERS BEING ANSWERED

A. Asking

All prayers should be genuine petitions before God. After a brother was saved, he prayed every day. One day a sister asked him, "Has God ever listened to your prayer?" He was surprised. To him prayer was just prayer; why did anyone have to bother about whether or not they were answered? From that time on, whenever he prayed, he asked God to answer his prayer. He began to consider how many of his prayers were

answered. He discovered that his prayers were quite vague and capricious. It did not matter whether God answered them, and it did not matter whether God ignored them. They were like prayers to God for the sun to rise the next day; the sun would rise whether or not he prayed. He had been a Christian for a year, yet none of his prayers were answered. All that time he had been just kneeling and muttering words. He could not pinpoint what he had asked for. This amounted to not having asked for anything at all.

The Lord says, "Knock and it shall be opened to you" (Matt. 7:7). If what you are knocking on is just the wall, the Lord will not open the wall to you. But if you indeed are knocking on the door, the Lord will surely open the door to you. If you ask to go in as well, the Lord will surely let you in. The Lord said, "Seek and you shall find" (v. 7). Suppose that there are many things here. Which one do you want? You must ask for at least one thing. You cannot say that anything will do. God wants to know what you specifically want and what you specifically are asking for. Only then can He give it to you. Hence, to ask means to demand something specific. We have to ask. This is what it means to seek and to knock. Suppose you want something from your father today. You have to ask for the specific thing you want. If you go to a pharmacy for medicine, you must say exactly what medicine you want. If you go to a market to purchase vegetables, you must say what vegetables you want. It is strange that people can come to the Lord without saying what they want. This is why the Lord says that we need to ask and ask specifically. The problem with us is that we do not ask. The hindrance is on our side. In our prayers we need to speak what we need and what we want. Do not pray an all-inclusive prayer in a frivolous way, caring little whether or not it is answered.

A new believer needs to learn to pray. He needs to pray with a specific goal in mind. "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). Many people go through the motion of prayer without asking for anything. It is useless to spend an hour or two hours or even eight or ten days before the Lord without asking for anything. You need to learn to ask for something; you need to knock, really knock hard, at a door. Once you clearly identify the entrance and seek to go in, knock

hard at the door. When you seek something specific, you will not be satisfied with just anything; you want that particular thing. Do not be like some brothers and sisters who stand up in the meeting to pray for twenty minutes or half an hour without knowing what they want. It is strange that many people have long prayers that do not ask for anything.

You must learn to be specific with your prayer. You should know when God has answered your prayers and when He has not answered your prayers. If it makes no difference to you whether or not God answers your prayers, it will be hard for you to effectively pray to Him if you come across a difficulty in the future. Empty prayers will not be effectual in times of need. If prayers are empty when needs are specific, one cannot expect any solution for the problem. Only specific prayers can deal with specific problems.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series #11 by Watchman Nee