

Pray for:

- ✿ Winter training (December 24-29, 2012) and video training (Dec 25-Jan 6).
- ✿ Life-study of the Bible radio program in Sweden: a station began broadcasting the Life-study of the Bible program from Uppsala in Sweden (in English) 7 days a week. Please pray for this program to reach and nourish the seeking ones in Sweden.
- ✿ The campus work: pray for getting tables for the next semester and that the students would pick up the burden to contact new ones and shepherd them.
- ✿ The saints in Montreal would have a burden to make passing out Bibles to their friends or in the metro as part of their daily living.
- ✿ Campus club at McGill: Pray that the Lord would open the door for a club at McGill university to effectively reach the students.
- ✿ Pray for various local needs, including saints in Montreal, contacts, and those in need of care and shepherding.

Weekly Readings

- ✿ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: Josh. 5:1-12:24
- ✿ HWMR: Taking the Lead as Elders and Responsible Ones, week 8

Announcements

- ✿ There will be a book sale today. Most books will be at a 25% discount.
- ✿ The bookroom is looking for Chinese speaking saints to serve. If you are available, please see any book room serving one.
- ✿ The video training will be from December 25th to January 6th. Please sign up in the bookroom if you would like to participate even if only for part of the time.

Week 1

- Tuesday, Dec 25: 2 messages with prayer meeting
- Saturday, Dec 29: 2 messages
- Lord's Day, Dec 30: 2 messages

Week 2

- Tuesday, Jan 1: 2 messages with prayer meeting
- Saturday, Jan 5: 2 messages
- Lord's Day, Jan 6: 2 messages

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Clean-up Schedule

23	✿ Serving: East Chinese ✿ Cleaning: Chinese District One
30	✿ Serving: West Chinese ✿ Cleaning: Chinese District Two
JAN 6	✿ Serving: North District ✿ Whole Hall Cleaning
13	✿ Serving: South Chinese ✿ Cleaning: Non-Chinese

Upcoming Events

- ✿ Dec. 24-29, Anaheim, CA: **Winter Semi-Annual Training**
- ✿ Dec. 25- Jan.6, Montreal: Video Training

More events are listed on the church website

This Week's Activities

23	✿ 10 – 12am, Meeting hall: Lord's table
LORD'S DAY	✿ 12:30–1:30pm, Meeting hall: Love feast

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Monday

25	✿ 4-6pm, Meeting hall, Video training, msg 1
Tuesday	✿ 6-7pm, Dinner (Please bring a sac dinner)
	✿ 7:00-7:30pm, Combined English and French prayer meeting at the meeting hall, Chinese by districts
	✿ 7:30-9:30pm, Meeting hall, Video training, msg 2

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Wednesday

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Thursday

28	✿ Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)
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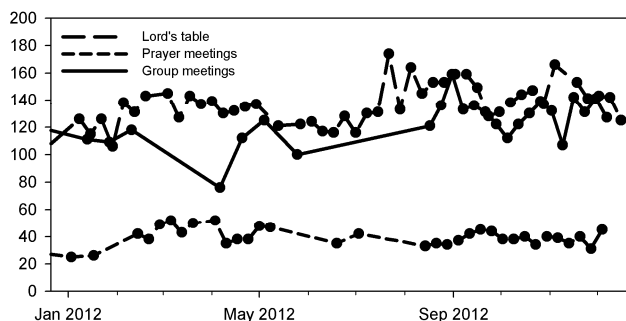
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Saturday

- ✿ 4-6pm, Meeting hall, Video training, msg 3
- ✿ 6-7pm, Dinner (Please bring a sac dinner)

	☼ 7-9pm, Meeting hall, Video training, msg 4
30	☼ 10-11am, Meeting hall: Lord's table
LORD'S DAY	☼ 11am-1pm, Video training, msg 5
	☼ 12:30-1:30pm, Meeting hall: Love feast
	☼ 1:45-3:45pm, Video training, msg 6

Attendance Statistics



Governmental Forgiveness

GOVERNMENTAL FORGIVENESS

There are at least four different kinds of forgiveness in the Bible. We will give a different name to each of them: First, there is eternal forgiveness. Second, there is instrumental forgiveness. Third, there is forgiveness in fellowship. Fourth, there is governmental forgiveness. If a believer desires to run a straight course in his spiritual pursuit, he must learn the meaning of God's governmental forgiveness. We will first distinguish the differences between these kinds of forgiveness, and then we will speak about governmental forgiveness.

I. ETERNAL FORGIVENESS

Let us call the forgiveness that comes with our salvation God's eternal forgiveness. This is the forgiveness spoken of by the Lord Jesus in Luke 24:47: "That repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem." This is eternal forgiveness. The forgiveness spoken of in Romans 4:7 is eternal forgiveness as well.

This forgiveness is called eternal forgiveness because once God forgives our sins, He forgives them eternally. God casts our sins into the depths of the sea and the abyss. He no longer sees or remembers our sins. This is the forgiveness we obtained at the time we were saved. The moment we believe in the Lord Jesus, we are forgiven of all our sins; the Lord removes all of our sins, and we are left with no trace of sin before God. This is called eternal forgiveness.

II. INSTRUMENTAL FORGIVENESS

God often tells man directly, "I forgive you." But often He declares His forgiveness through the church: "God has forgiven your sins." Therefore, the Bible shows us another kind of forgiveness which we call instrumental forgiveness. John 20:22-23 says, "And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. Whosoever sins you forgive, they are forgiven them; and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained." In sending the Holy Spirit to His church, the Lord charged the church to be His representative on earth. The church has become His vessel. Forgiveness is now granted through the church. This is called instrumental forgiveness. However, we must be careful not to fall into the kind of forgiveness taught by the Catholics. We must realize that the basis of instrumental forgiveness is the Lord's breathing into the church and saying to the church, "Receive the Holy Spirit." After the church receives the Holy Spirit, it has the power to retain and forgive sins. The church can declare that the sins of certain ones are retained, while the sins of others are forgiven. The church has such authority because it is under the authority of the Holy Spirit. The Lord breathed into the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit!" After this He said, "Whosoever sins you forgive, they are forgiven them; and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained." This is a kind of indirect forgiveness. In this forgiveness God forgives men through the church; the church acts as His channel.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #18 Governmental Forgiveness by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.