

Pray for:

- ✿ GTCA: Bible distribution in Hamilton and St. Catherine, Ontario, Jan. 25 to Feb. 11.
- ✿ Europe: Gospel trip in the UK and other European countries, Jan. 24 to Feb. 7; grace and building up for the FTTL, FTTA and FTTA-Boston trainees who will participate; follow-up of contacts from 2012 Bible distributions in the UK and Europe.
- ✿ Quebec: Shepherding of contacts in Quebec City and other cities in Quebec; the Lord's raising up of His seekers throughout this province; gaining of typical Quebecers for Christ and the church.
- ✿ Campus club at McGill: Pray that the meeting with an interest group coordinator might gain an advocate to help craft the constitution; that the Lord would establish a club at McGill University as a tool for building up His testimony on that campus.
- ✿ Prayer ministry of the church: that the Lord perfect us all to be men of prayer at every opportunity throughout the week, cooperating with Him to pray for His will on the earth.
- ✿ 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: Judg. 1:1-7:25
- ✿ HWMR: The Genuine Oneness of the Body, the Proper One Accord in the Church, and the Direction of the Lord's Move Today, week 4

Announcements

- ✿ The 2013 International Chinese-speaking Conference will be held from Friday, February 15- Lord's Day, February 17 in Anaheim, CA. All saints are invited to participate in this gathering. Please see brother A. Chen to register.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Clean-up Schedule

20 ✿ Serving: English (B)
✿ Whole Hall Cleaning

27 ✿ Serving: Central Chinese 1
✿ Cleaning: French and Young People

FEB 3 ✿ Serving: Central Chinese 2
✿ Cleaning: Chinese 1

10 ✿ Serving: N.D.G.
✿ Cleaning: Chinese 2

Upcoming Events

- ✿ February 15-17, Anaheim, CA: **International Chinese speaking conference**
- ✿ March 15-17, Belleville, ON: **Working & College Saints Conference**
- ✿ March 22-24, Toronto meeting hall: **Parents & Serving Ones Conference**
- ✿ April 12-14, Anaheim, CA: **International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones**

More events are listed on the church website

This Week's Activities

20 ✿ 10am -12:30pm, Meeting hall: Lord's table and prophesying meeting
LORD'S DAY ✿ 12:30-1:30pm, Meeting hall: Love feast

21 ✿
Monday

22 ✿ 7:00-9:00pm, English, French, Chinese prayer meetings by districts
Tuesday

23 ✿
Wednesday

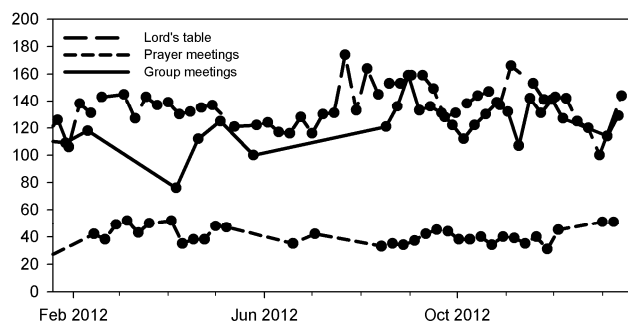
24
Thursday

25 ✿ Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)
Friday

26 ✿ 3:30-6pm, Location TBA, Young people's meeting
Saturday

27 ✿ 10am-12:30pm, Meeting hall: Lord's table and prophesying meetings
LORD'S DAY ✿ 12:30-1:30pm, Meeting hall: Love feast

Attendance Statistics



Governmental Forgiveness

IV. GOVERNMENTAL FORGIVENESS (continued)

What is government? Government is the way of doing things. In our words, God's government is His way of doing things; it is His administration. The mother forgives her child's sin. She says, "Since you have eaten the food already, I will not pursue the matter any further." She forgives her daughter, and the fellowship is restored. When the daughter sees her mother, she can be as happy and intimate as before. But the next time the mother leaves the house, the cabinets and the door to the kitchen will be locked. In other words, the way of handling things will be different. Fellowship can be restored, but the way of doing things cannot be easily restored. The mother is afraid that her child will do the same thing again. She will no longer grant her daughter the kind of freedom she had before. She will put on some kind of restrictions. The way is changed. Please bear in mind that God treats us according to the same principle. Forgiveness in fellowship is easy. Fellowship is easily restored for those who confess with a true heart. Once they confess that they have sinned against God, God will recover the fellowship between Him and them. But God's way of dealing with these ones may immediately become different. God's discipline may be exercised upon them. He may no longer allow them to be as free or loose.

One day the disciplining hand of God may be lifted. At that time we will have governmental forgiveness. After a period of time, the mother may feel that her child can once again be trusted. She then leaves the kitchen door open once more. This is called governmental forgiveness.

Forgiveness of fellowship is one thing, while governmental forgiveness is another. A father may tell his sons to go outside to play at four o'clock and to come back for dinner at six o'clock. Suppose one day the children go out and fight with other children. When they come home, they confess their sin to their father. The father forgives them and lets them out again the next day, but they get into a fight with other children again. What should the father do? They may confess their sins day after day and the father may forgive them day

after day, but the father will wonder whether his way of government is wrong. He may wonder if it is wrong to let them out every day. He may say, "Starting from tomorrow, you will stay at home and not go out because you have been fighting outside." The father's hand has come in. When we sin against God, God will forgive us when we confess our sins to Him. However, we cannot stop Him from using other methods to discipline us. God will forgive us, and our fellowship with Him can be restored, but He may change His way with us. A man must realize that God's governmental hand is not easily removed. It is not easy for God to take away His governmental hand. God will remove His governmental hand only when He has full assurance that His children are doing the right things. When the father sees his children continuing to make trouble, he will tell them to stay at home and withhold their freedom. He will shut them up for days, weeks, or even months, until he is satisfied that they will no longer cause trouble, quarreling or fighting with people. At that time the father may say to his children, "You have behaved well during the past two months. You may go out for ten minutes tomorrow." The governmental hand is lifted. Have you seen this? We call these ten minutes a governmental forgiveness. The governmental way has changed. The father still has to observe how the children behave among others during those ten minutes. If the children do not engage in a fight, the father may allow them to go out again for half an hour the next day. After some time, he may extend the time to an hour. Perhaps after one or two months, they may play from four o'clock to six o'clock again. When that day comes, we can say that governmental forgiveness has been fully exercised in the children! Brothers, what does governmental forgiveness mean? Governmental forgiveness is absolutely different from eternal forgiveness, instrumental forgiveness, and forgiveness in fellowship. Governmental forgiveness is related to the way God manages, rules over, and deals with us.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #18 Governmental Forgiveness by Watchman Nee, published by

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<http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.