

Please pray:

- ✿ Turkey: that the Lord would gain some local families to open the way for His recovery; that the political situation would become more conducive for the gospel; for the strengthening and increase of the translation and publication work in Turkish.
- ✿ Romania: that more local saints would be burdened to labour on the literature contacts; that many readers of the literature would be brought into the church life; that local churches would be raised up in several new cities, including Arad and Cluj-Napoca.
- ✿ Ottawa: Establishing the saints in the apostles' teaching; raising up of a vital group church life; increased blending and regular visits by saints from Montreal; gaining of contacts in Gatineau.
- ✿ Brothers' retreat, March 15: the Lord's release of His burden concerning the direction of the church; perfecting, building up and knitting together of the brothers in love.
- ✿ Renovations: kitchen renovation from January to March; renovating the downstairs stage area; fellowship and building up of saints through the labour of renovation; financial provision for the renovations.
- ✿ 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: Psa 31:1 – 43:5
- ✿ HWMR: Crystallization-study of Genesis (I), Week 8
- ✿ Life-Study of Genesis, Message 94 – 96

Announcements

- ✿ Because of renovations in the kitchen, the love feast on the Lord's Day will be canceled from January 19 until March 2. It will resume next week on March 9.
- ✿ The Annual General Meeting of the church corporation will be held in the meeting hall (3201, rue Hochelaga) on Lord's day March 16 at 12 pm.
- ✿ Because of our busy schedule of activities, there will be no 96 Lessons training in March. The next training will be on April 19.
- ✿ All the saints who took out Bibles to distribute for Bibles for Canada, please indicate on the form near the bookroom if you have given them all out and bring in any forms you have received that are filled out. We had at least 300 Bibles signed out and would like to confirm what has been given out. Please feel free to continue to sign out the Bibles so we can reach our goal.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Clean-up Schedule

MAR 2	✿ Love Feast Canceled	✿ Serving: English (C) ✿ Cleaning: Whole meeting hall cleaning
9	✿ Serving: English (C) ✿ Cleaning: Whole meeting hall cleaning	✿ Serving: English (B) ✿ Cleaning: North
16	✿ Serving: English (B) ✿ Cleaning: North	✿ Serving: Central Chinese 1 ✿ Cleaning: North
23	✿ Serving: Central Chinese 1 ✿ Cleaning: West	✿ Serving: Central Chinese 2 ✿ Cleaning: West

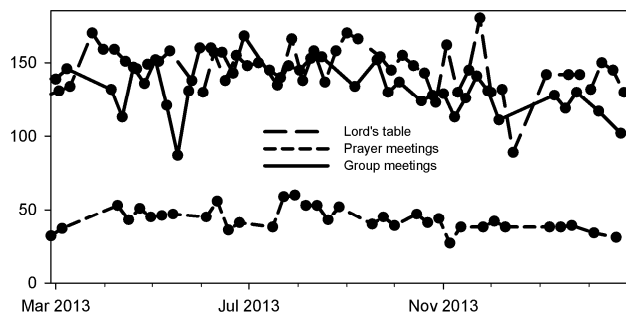
Upcoming Events

- ✿ Mar. 22-23, Toronto, ON: **East Canada Teachers' Training**
 - ✿ Mar. 28-30, Toronto, ON: **East Canada Parents & Serving Ones Conf.**
 - ✿ Apr. 04-06, Anaheim, CA: **Spring Intl. Training for Elders & Resp. Ones**
 - ✿ Apr 11-13, Palgrave, ON: **East Canada Young People's Retreat**
 - ✿ Apr 19: **96 Lessons Training**
 - ✿ Apr 25-27, Wickliffe, Ohio, USA: **Regional Blending Conference in Cleveland**
 - ✿ Apr 26-27, Paris: **Conference in France**
- More events are listed on the church website*

This Week's Activities

MARCH 2	✿ 10am – 12:30pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting
LORD'S DAY	✿ 12:30pm – 1:30pm: Love feast ✿ 1:30pm: Whole meeting hall cleaning
3 Monday	✿
4 Tuesday	✿ 7:30-9pm, English / French / Chinese prayer meetings by districts
5 Wednesday	✿
6 Thursday	✿
7 Friday	✿ Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)
8 Saturday	✿ 3:30-6pm: Young People's Meeting
MARCH 9	✿ 10am – 12:30pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting
LORD'S DAY	✿ 12:30pm – 1:30pm: Love feast

Attendance Statistics



The Priesthood

II. THE KINGDOM OF PRIESTS BECOMING THE HOUSE OF PRIESTS

B. The Israelites Serving the Idols

While Moses was up on the mountain, the people at the foot of the mountain wondered about his delay. They said to Aaron, "Up, make us gods, which shall go before us" (32:1). Aaron succumbed to their words, collected gold, and made a golden calf. The people then worshipped the golden calf and said, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt" (v. 4).

They began to worship the idol. They sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. They indulged in great celebration. At last they had found a visible golden god for themselves. The God that Moses taught was mysterious; one could not identify where He lived or where He could be located. Even Moses, the one who worshipped this God, was nowhere to be found. Now there was a visible golden calf which they could worship. God had appointed them to be priests, but even before they were able to be His priests, they became priests to the golden calf. God's desire was for them to be a kingdom of priests. But even before they could do that, they had turned to idol worship and served the golden calf. They established other gods and other forms of worship apart from Jehovah their God.

This is man's concept of God. Man always tries to make his own god and worship according to his own ways. Man likes to worship a god created by his own hands. He does not accept God's sovereignty in His creation. He does not like to acknowledge Him as the Creator.

C. God Assigning the Priesthood to the Tribe of Levi

While Moses was on the mount, God told him to go down. Moses turned and went down with the two tablets of testimony, the Ten Commandments, in his hands. As he drew near to the camp and saw the condition of the people, his wrath waxed hot and he cast down the two tablets. Standing at the gate of the camp he said, "Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me" (v. 26). All the sons of Levi gathered around him. He said to them, "Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor" (v. 27). Regardless of whom they saw, they had to kill them all. Because the people had worshipped the idol, the golden calf, those who were faithful had to draw their sword and slay them, no matter what kind of relationship they had with them.

Many people think that this order was too cruel. Who can slay his own brother? Who has the heart to kill his own friends? Eleven of the twelve tribes did not move. They felt that the cost was too high. As a result, only the tribe of Levi drew their swords, went to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slew about three thousand men on that day. Those slain were the brothers, relatives, and friends of the Levites.

Let us consider this a little. After the incident of the golden calf, God immediately told Moses that from that time on the nation of Israel could no longer be a kingdom of priests. Although nothing was said explicitly to that effect, God had reassigned the priesthood to the tribe of Levi alone. The priesthood was originally for the whole nation of Israel. Now, the priesthood was limited to the house of Aaron of the tribe of Levi.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #23, The Priesthood by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.