

## Please pray:

- ✿ Montreal Chinese speaking local conference (Dec 16): Pray that the Chinese speaking saints would be released to attend the conference; may the Lord release the burden of His heart during this time; that the saints would be prepared to receive His word, be revived and freshly consecrate themselves to the Lord; may the Lord release saints from other languages to serve in practical areas of the conference.
- ✿ College saints and contacts' winter break: May the Lord guard the good deposits that have been deposited into them during the semester; may the Lord still grant them a hunger to pursue the Lord during their breaks by reading His word, reading the ministry books, spending time with Him, and spending time in prayer.
- ✿ Puerto Rico: Please pray for the strengthening of the saints and the churches in Puerto Rico. Beyond the material needs caused by the hurricane, there is much uncertainty among the saints about the future of the churches and the Lord's move on the island. This is due to a significant number of saints who have lost their jobs and are moving to Continental US.
- ✿ Laval: Pray that the Lord would grant us a burden and a heart to continually pray for this land; that shepherds be raised up to take care of the contacts who come to the Bible studies or express desire to be contacted; that the Lord would raise up a proper testimony in Laval according to His timing.
- ✿ 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: 1 Cor 3:10 - 6:20 (see website for daily schedule)
- ✿ HWMR: Cooperating with the Heavenly Ministry of the Ascended Christ, weeks 6 and 7

## Announcements

- ✿ Please renew or sign-up for the HWMR subscription for 2018 starting this week with your district serving one who gives you HWMR. The cost for the annual subscription is \$75. We want to complete the sign-up by December 18.
- ✿ Registration for the video training is now late. Please add a \$25 late fee to your payment. Please sign up right away on the board so we can confirm how many outlines in each language are needed, even if you only plan to attend part-time. Here is the schedule:
  - Messages 1, 2: Tue. Dec 26 at 5:30pm and 7:30pm

- Message 3: Wed. Dec 27, at 7:30pm
- Message 4: Thu. Dec 28, at 7:30pm
- Message 5: Fri. Dec 29, at 7:30pm
- Messages 6, 7, 8: Sat. Dec 30 at 3pm, 5pm and 7:30pm
- Messages 9, 10: Sun. Dec 31 at 11 am and 1pm
- Messages 11, 12: Mon. Jan 1 at 5:30pm and 7:30pm
- ✿ The bookroom is working on clearing up past due accounts. If you know you still owe money for books you have picked up in the past, please see the bookroom to pay for those books. Saints will be advised of any outstanding accounts.
- ✿ The 2018 International Chinese New Year Conference will be held from 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2018 in Taipei. Preceding the conference, there will be a blending trip with the churches in Taiwan. Brother James K from Toronto will lead the group, and the invitation is extended to all saints in Eastern Canada. Please contact brother Joe for more information.

## Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

Dec 10	✿ Serving: Chinese East ✿ Cleaning: Chinese North and Chinese Central 1 (Jun, Gerry Chan responsible)
17	✿ Serving: Chinese North ✿ Cleaning: Chinese East (Xie, Guorong responsible)
24	✿ Serving: English A ✿ Cleaning: Chinese South (Xuecheng, Shishan responsible)
31	✿ Serving: English B ✿ Cleaning: Chinese Central 2 and Chinese Central 3 (Qiang, Wenxiong responsible)

## Upcoming Events

- ✿ December 25 to 30, 2017, Anaheim, CA: **Winter Training**
- ✿ December 26, 2017 to Jan 1, 2018, Meeting hall: **Video Training**

*The church website lists more events*

## This Week's Activities

10 DECEMBER LORD'S DAY	✿ 10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting ✿ 12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast
11 Monday	✿
12 Tuesday	✿ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts

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<b>Wednesday</b>	✳	
14	✳	
<b>Thursday</b>		
15	✳	Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)
<b>Friday</b>		
16	✳	
<b>Saturday</b>		
17	✳	10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	✳	12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast

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## FORGIVENESS AND RESTORATION

**Scripture Reading:** Matt. 18:21-35, 15-20; Luke 17:3-5

### II. RESTORING THE BROTHER

It is not sufficient for us to just forgive our brother. This only takes care of the negative side. We still need to restore him. This is the charge in Matthew 18:15-20.

### E. Finally Telling the Church (continued)

What if he still refuses to hear? Verse 17 continues, "If he refuses to hear the church also, let him be to you just like the Gentile and the tax collector." This is a serious word. In other words, if he refuses to hear the church, all the brothers and sisters in the church should no longer communicate with him. Since he does not want to face his problem, the church should consider him as a Gentile and a tax collector and should have no fellowship with him. Though he is not excommunicated, all the brothers should consider him as a Gentile and tax collector, and no one should pay any attention to him. If he speaks, no one should listen. If he comes to break bread, everyone should ignore him. If he prays, no one should say "amen." If he wants to come, he can come. If he wants to go, he can go. But everyone should consider him as an outsider. If God's children will hold such an attitude in one accord, it will be easy to restore a brother. The purpose for dealing with him in this way is still to restore him.

Verse 18, which says, "Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven," is related to the previous verses. The Lord in heaven acknowledges what the church does on earth. If the church considers a person who refuses to hear the church as being wrong, the church will look upon him as a Gentile and a tax collector, and our Lord in heaven will acknowledge the same thing.

Verses 19 and 20 are also based on the preceding portion. "Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens. For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst." Why does the previous verse say "that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established"? Here we see that the principle of two or three is the principle of the church. If two or three act upon a matter in one accord, and if these two or three deliberate something before God in one accord, God will acknowledge the decision. Matthew 18:18-20 is spoken in the context of our dealing with the brothers. When a matter is brought up to two or three people and then to the whole church, the Father in heaven will acknowledge such a decision.

Here we want to mention something in passing. How does the church make important decisions? Acts 15 shows us that when brothers come together, everyone can speak and debate. Even those who are for the law can stand up and speak their mind, even though their opinion is altogether wrong. In other words, all the brothers have equal opportunity to speak. But not all the brothers can arbitrate matters. All the brothers can express how they feel before the Lord. After the elders have listened to all of them, they should speak their feelings before God and make a final judgment on the matter. The responsible brothers may have the same feeling before the Lord. This feeling is the feeling of the church; it is also the conscience of the church. After they have spoken, everyone should submit and go along with them in one accord. This is the way of the church. The church does not muzzle people's mouths or forbid anyone to speak. But no one should speak carelessly. When the time comes for a decision, the elders should speak under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and all the brothers and sisters should listen to the elders. If the Holy Spirit's authority is present in the church, such matters can be resolved easily. If the Holy Spirit has no authority in the church and there are many opinions of the flesh, the church will not be able to arbitrate anything at all. We must learn to submit to the authority of the Holy Spirit and to listen to the church.

May God be gracious to us. May we be like our Master who is so full of grace. If a brother offends us, we should forgive him from the heart. Moreover, we should bear the responsibility of restoring him according to the Lord's Word. May the Lord lead us to live such a life in the church.

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Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #14, Forgiveness and Restoration by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.