

Please pray:

- ✳ Egypt: That the Lord will continue to cause the church life in Cairo to be more deeply rooted and grounded. We believe this year will see a major expansion of the work as we will now have a team of four young full-timers labouring full-time in Cairo. May the Lord develop a strong model of a Jesusly-human God-Man church life. This includes encouraging the serving ones to be filled in their spirit with joy and grace despite the various struggles of daily life that come with living in such an intense (and for many - a foreign) environment; pray that the Lord will bind all the enemy's attempts to sow discord and chaos in Egypt (e.g. the recent attack on a Coptic church in the Cairo area) or to stir up persecution of the believers. The past 7 years have been very good for the believers to meet and labor for the Lord in Egypt – we need the Lord to continue to give us some “golden years” of jubilee (Luke 4:18-19) so He can reap in a rich harvest in Egypt
- ✳ Israel: In the years 2016-2017 around 25 saints (including children) have gained citizenship in Israel. Please stand with them in prayer as they become established, find adequate employment, and that their children's needs would be met, so that they all could fully participate in the church life for the building up of the Body of Christ.
- ✳ Netherlands: For the advancement of the Lord's move in the Netherlands, the saints there are burdened to raise up the Lord's testimony in two major cities—Amsterdam and Rotterdam.
- ✳ 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.
- ✳ As a new year has begun, let us pray for the church life that all the saints will have a renewed desire to feed on His Word daily, and pray for the Lord's interest to advance in us. Let the outflow of our enjoyment become the source of supply to live a God-man living and we would be deeply rooted in Him. May we continue to pray for our children, young people, college-age saints, all the families, to be avenues of His blessing, and learn to coordinate with one another to carry out His desire in an organic way.
- ✳ 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: Job 34:1 - 41:34 (see website for daily schedule)
- ✳ HWMR: Crystallization study of Ezekiel, Vol 3, week 13

Announcements

- ✳ Please renew or sign-up for the HWMR subscription for 2018. If you have not yet paid your district serving one, please pay right away to your district serving one who gives you HWMR.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

Jan 14	✳ Serving: Chinese South B
	✳ Cleaning: French (Achille, Allan responsible)
21	✳ Serving: Chinese East
	✳ Cleaning: Whole meeting hall cleaning
28	✳ Serving: Chinese North
	✳ Cleaning: English West, Chinese West and Young People (John Y., Boy, Aaron Cha. responsible)
Feb 4	✳ Serving: English A
	✳ Cleaning: Chinese North and Chinese Central 1 (Jun, Gerry Chan responsible)

Upcoming Events

- ✳ Jan 21, 1:30pm, Meeting hall: **Lessons for sisters**
- ✳ Jan 27 - Feb 11, Ottawa/Montreal: **GTCA**
- ✳ Feb 23 - 25, Montreal. QC: **Working saints conference**
- ✳ Apr 13-15, Anaheim, CA: **Spring ITERO**

The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

14 JANUARY LORD'S DAY	✳ 10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting
15 Monday	✳ 12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast
16 Tuesday	✳ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
17 Wednesday	✳
18 Thursday	✳
19 Friday	✳ Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)
20 Saturday	✳
21 JANUARY	✳ 10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting

LORD'S DAY ☼ 12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast
☼ 1:30pm: Lessons for sisters

DELIVERANCE

Scripture Reading: Rom. 7:15—8:2

III. THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE FREEING US FROM THE LAW OF SIN

Romans 8:1-2 says, "There is now then no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death." The way to victory is to be freed from the law of sin and of death. This verse does not say, "The Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from sin and death." (I am afraid that many Christians think this way.) Rather, it says, "The law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death." Many Christians see the Spirit of life setting them free from only sin and death. They do not see the law of the Spirit of life freeing them from the law of sin and of death. It takes many years for some Christians to realize that sin and death are a law in them and that the Holy Spirit is another law in them. When the Lord opens their eyes, they will see that sin and death are a law and that the Holy Spirit is a law as well. The realization of the Holy Spirit as a law is a great discovery. When we realize that the life-giving Spirit is a law, we will jump up and exclaim, "Thank God, Hallelujah!" Man's will cannot overcome the law of sin, but the law of the Spirit of life has freed us from the law of sin and of death. Only the law of the Spirit of life can free man from the law of sin.

Once we realize that sin is a law, we will no longer try to do anything by our will. When God grants us mercy to see that the Holy Spirit is a law, we will experience a great change. Many people only see the Spirit of life giving us life. They do not see that the Holy Spirit is another law in us, and that we can be freed spontaneously from the law of sin and of death when we trust in this law. There is no effort involved for this law to deliver us from the other law. We do not need to will, to do anything, or to hold on to the Holy Spirit. We do not need to be that busy when the Lord's Spirit is in us. If we fear that the Lord's Spirit will not work in us unless we rush in to help Him in times of temptation, we have not seen the Spirit as a law within us yet. May we see that the Holy Spirit is a spontaneous law within us. The way of deliverance from sin is not through the exercise of the will. If we exercise our will, we will end up in failure. God has given us another law which spontaneously frees us from the law of sin and of death. The problem of one law can only be resolved by another law.

There is no effort involved when we try to overcome one law with another law. We have mentioned before that gravity is a law. It pulls every object down to the ground. But helium is a gas which is lighter than air. If we seal it in a tight balloon, the balloon will rise up. It will rise spontaneously; there is no need to fan it or support it by any force. As soon as we let go, the balloon will rise. The rising is a law, and we do not need to do anything about it. In the same way, no effort is involved when we deal with the law of sin and of death by the law of the Spirit of life.

Suppose someone scolds you or strikes you without cause. It is possible for you to overcome the situation even without realizing what has happened. After the whole thing is over, you may wonder how you did not get angry when you were scolded. You should have been very angry at the other person's word. But surprisingly you overcame the situation without even realizing it! Indeed, all victories are unconscious victories because the law of the Holy Spirit is operating and upholding us, not our own will. This kind of spontaneous victory is genuine victory. Once you experience this, you will realize that only the indwelling Spirit can keep you from sin; you do not have to will not to sin. It is also the indwelling Holy Spirit who is enabling you to overcome; you do not have to will to overcome. Since this law dwells in you, you are delivered from the law of sin and of death. You are in Christ Jesus, and the law of the Spirit of life is in you. Spontaneously, you are free. As long as you do not rely on your own will and effort, the Holy Spirit will bring you into victory.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #15, Deliverance by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.