

Please pray:

- ✿ GTCA Ottawa/Montreal: Please pray that the Lord would gain students who would pick up the burden and continue the campus work at Carleton University; that the Lord would keep the saints in the oneness and in the one fellowship concerning the purchasing of a meeting hall in Ottawa; pray that the trainees' time in Montreal would be a time of enjoying, encouraging, blending, building up and shepherding to the saints and to the trainees; pray that the Lord would prepare the ones that He has chosen to be contacted on the 10th and bring them to the gospel meeting; that the Lord may gain what He is after in Ottawa and in Montreal during this trip.
- ✿ Report on Jan. 2018 Cairo conference: Dear saints, we feel the Lord was very much with us at this conference. There were about 25 local Egyptian saints, plus the families that have migrated to Egypt from abroad. There were saints who came from about 8 other countries. Four came from Lebanon. It was such a joy to taste the one new man! The overflow session was almost entirely in Arabic as almost every local saint shared some rich point they had enjoyed. Please pray that the Lord would continue to bless His testimony in Egypt and in the Arabic world.
- ✿ Israel: Please pray that the Christian brothers and sisters who are meeting with us recently at Tel Aviv University will see and experience Christ and the church to such an extent that when they return to their home cities and countries this summer they will enter into the church life. Pray that the proper connections be made. We are also praying for a wise inoculating and shepherding of the new ones meeting with us.
- ✿ Laval: May we continue to pray for this land; that the Lord may continue to shepherd the contacts in their situations; may the Lord gain a proper testimony in the city of 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: 2 Cor 1:1 - 3:11 (see website for daily schedule)
- ✿ HWMR: Crystallization study of Ezekiel, Vol 3, week 16

Announcements

- ✿ As part of GTCA, we will have a bible distribution as well as a seminar/gospel meeting here in Montreal on February 10. Saints can participate by bringing food for the love

feast at lunch and joining the distribution or bringing food for the love feast at 6pm for dinner and then join the seminar/gospel meeting.

- ✿ All the saints who are going to join the Working saints conference from February 23 to 25 need to register. Please contact the serving brothers in your districts to access the registration form and to pay your fee. The deadline is February 18th.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

Feb 4	✿ Serving: English A ✿ Cleaning: Chinese North and Chinese Central 1 (Jun, Gerry Chan responsible)
11	✿ Serving: English B ✿ Cleaning: Chinese East (Xie, Guorong responsible)
18	✿ Serving: Chinese Central 1 ✿ Cleaning: Chinese South (Xuecheng, Shishan responsible)
25	✿ Serving: Chinese South B ✿ Cleaning: Chinese Central 3 (Qiang, Wenxiong responsible)

Upcoming Events

- ✿ Jan 27 - Feb 11, Ottawa/Montreal: **GTCA**
- ✿ Feb 18 1:30pm Meeting Hall : **Lesson for the sisters, Message 2**
- ✿ 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

4	✿ 10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and prophesying meeting
FEBRUARY LORD'S DAY	✿ 12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast
5	✿
Monday	
6	✿ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
Tuesday	
7	
Wednesday	✿
8	✿
Thursday	
9	✿ Various home meetings (English / French / Chinese)
Friday	
10	✿ 10am, Central District Reading Place at LaSalle metro: Prayer and coordination
Saturday	✿ 12:00: Love feast

	✿ 12:30pm-3:30pm: GTCA Bible Distribution
	✿ 6pm: Dinner and Gospel meeting/ seminar
11	✿ 10am – 12:15pm: Lord's table and
FEBRUARY	prophesying meeting
LORD'S DAY	✿ 12:15pm – 1:30pm: Love feast

OUR LIFE

Scripture Reading: Col. 3:4; Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20

II. FOR TO ME, TO LIVE IS CHRIST

There are many Christians who have greatly misunderstood Philippians 1:21. When Paul said, "For to me, to live is Christ," he was stating a fact. They think for to me, to live is Christ is a goal or a hope. But Paul did not say that his goal was to live Christ. Paul was saying, "I live because I have Christ; I cannot live without Him." This was a fact in him, not a goal he was seeking. It was the secret to his living, not the hope he was cherishing. His living was Christ. For him to live was for Christ to live.

Galatians 2:20 is a very familiar verse to many Christians. But many misunderstand it more than they misunderstand Philippians 1:21. They have made Galatians 2:20 their goal, praying with aspiration and hoping they will reach the state when "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." Each time this verse is read, they are full of aspiration. Many people pray, fast, and hope that one day they will be crucified with Christ and reach the state when "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." Galatians 2:20 has become their goal and their hope.

According to our experience, no one with such a hope ever reaches his goal. If you make it your goal and hope to attain such a state, if you aspire to be crucified, that is, to no longer be the one who lives but instead to have Christ living in you, you will wait forever before seeing your aspiration fulfilled, because you are hoping for something that is impossible to achieve.

God has given us a wonderful gift of grace. There is a way. Those who fail can overcome; those who are unclean can be clean; those who are worldly can be holy; those who are earthly can be heavenly; and those who are carnal can be spiritual. This is not a goal, but a way. This way lies in the life of substitution. Just as we found a vicarious death in the Lord's grace, we also can find a vicarious living in Him. On the cross the Lord bore our sins. Through His death we were spared death. Our sins were forgiven, and we were spared judgment. Similarly, Paul tells us that we are spared of our living through the Lord living in us. The implication is simple: Since He lives

in us, we no longer need to live. Just as He died once for us on the cross, today He is living for us and in us. Paul did not say, "I hope that I will not live. I hope that I will allow Him to live." Instead, he was saying, "I no longer live anymore. He is the One who is living." "It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." This is the secret to victory. This is the way to be victorious.

The day we heard that we did not need to die, we embraced that word as the gospel. Similarly, it should also be a day of the gospel to us when we hear that we do not need to live. I hope that the new believers will pray much for God's enlightenment and will see that Christ lives in us and that we no longer need to live by ourselves.

Unless we see this, maintaining a testimony or living the Christian life is a great burden. It is a great burden to fight temptation, to bear the cross, or to obey God's will. Many believers feel that it is very hard to maintain the Christian life. Daily they try, yet daily they sigh. Daily they struggle, yet daily they fail. Every day they try to maintain their testimony, yet every day they bring shame to the Lord. Many people do not have the strength to reject sin, yet they feel guilty when they do not reject it. They feel condemned when they lose their temper, yet they cannot be patient. They feel sorry for hating others, yet they have no strength to love. Many people are exhausted from trying to live the Christian life. They feel that the Christian life is like climbing a hill with a heavy burden on their back; they can never reach the top. Before they were saved, they had the burden of sin on their back. Now that they have believed in the Lord, they have the burden of holiness on their back. They exchange one burden for another, and the new one is just as tiresome and burdensome as the old one.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #16, Our Life by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.