

Please pray:

- ✳ Prayer time with the whole church: Many saints have put their names to pray with saints in various time slots for a period of 21 days or 30 days depending on which language group. Please pray that the Lord will encourage us, strengthen us, and release us to keep these prayer times; that the Lord will release many more saints to be available for these prayer time slots; that these prayer times may be a time to fight for the Lord's interest, and to lay tracks for Him to move for His Economy; may this time help us to build up a prayer life for our Christian life.
- ✳ College work on campuses during the start of the school year: 1) Pray that the Lord will brood over the campuses to seek out the sons of peace and those seeking for the Lord; 2) that the Lord will bring them to meet with us to have personal appointments, to come to the Bible studies, the meetings, and the different activities; 3) that the Lord will bless all the details of the coordination, fellowship, and preparations; 4) that the Lord will give us remaining fruit.
- ✳ French-speaking conference in Montreal (Aug 30 - Sep 1): Pray for the fellowship, speaking, services and preparations for this conference; 2) pray for the releasing of the French-speaking saints to attend this conference; 3) pray that many new ones in Montreal and the surrounding areas will also be released to come and hear the Lord's speaking; 4) pray that the Lord will gain what He is after in this conference.
- ✳ Districts in Montreal: that the Lord might lead us as He multiplies us into various district meetings; for a clear and controlling vision of the oneness of the Body of Christ; genuine blending between the saints in the districts regardless of language; the Lord's burden and blessing for the propagation of the gospel of the kingdom in each of our neighbourhoods; a way to provide proper spiritual care for our children in the districts.
- ✳ 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: Amos 3:1 – Jonah 4:11
- ✳ HWMR: The Reality of the Body of Christ, week 4

Announcements

- ✳ The registration for the Montreal French Speaking Conference (Aug 30-Sept 1) is now open. Please register at the link here: <https://forms.gle/geFTr8SLbbt78Tgb6>
- ✳ Prayer time with the whole church: Many saints have put their names to pray together on the phone during different

times of the day for a period of 21 days for the English and French speaking and 30 days for the Chinese speaking saints. We encourage many more saints to join these prayer times. Please give your name if you would like to join to Johnathan Lin (for the English speaking), Allan Yeow (for the French speaking), and Joe Zhou (for the Chinese speaking).

- ✳ The churches in the Maritimes welcome all saints to the Maritime Blending Conference, in Moncton, NB on Oct. 12-13, 2019. The conference will be at the Quality Inn, Dieppe and rooms there include hot breakfast, parking and wifi. Please reserve your rooms by Sept. 12 to get the group rate of \$119/room/night for up to 4 people in the room. Hotel reservations can be made at 506-858-8880. May the Lord bless this conference!
- ✳ The Library is finishing inventory. Please ensure all material borrowed is returned. The Library will be moving location soon so any willing to help serving with the Library when it is set up, please advise Monica or Phaik Keen.
- ✳ Piano service: if anyone is able to play the piano, please consider serving. There is an urgent need for serving ones.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

25 Aug	Serving: Chinese Central (賈筱榮...) Cleaning: French (Achille, Allan responsible)
1 Sep	Serving: Chinese South (陳世山、劉學成...) Cleaning: Chinese East (Xie, Guorong responsible)
8	Serving: Chinese East (陳劉淑真...) Cleaning: English Central, Chinese Central 3 and College (Dennis, Joe, Qiang, Jonathan responsible)
15	Serving: French (Julie ...) Cleaning: Chinese South (Xuecheng, Shishan responsible)

Upcoming Events

- ✳ Aug 30 to Sept 1: **French speaking conference**
- ✳ Oct 12-13, 2019, Moncton, NB: **Maritimes conference**
The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

25 August	✳ 10am- 12pm Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
LORD'S DAY	✳ 12:15pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast
26 Monday	✳
27 Tuesday	✳ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
28 Wednesday	✳

29	✳	
Thursday		
30	✳	6:30-9:00pm: Various Home Meetings (English/French/Chinese)
Friday		
31	✳	10am-12pm: French Speaking Conference, Msg 1
Saturday	✳	7pm-9pm: French Speaking Conference, Msg 2
1	✳	10am- 11am: Lord's Table meeting
September	✳	11am-12:30pm: French Speaking Conference, Msg 3
LORD'S DAY	✳	12:30pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast
	✳	2:30pm-4:30pm: French Speaking Conference, Msg 4

THE PRIESTHOOD

VII. THE RECOVERY OF THE PRIESTHOOD

A. There Being No Problem in the Early Churches

The danger that haunted the nation of Israel is the same problem that has confronted the church over the past two thousand years. From the time of the Lord's departure until the time of the writing of Revelation and a little beyond that point, all of God's children were priests. Everyone who considered himself a child of God was a priest of God. There was no problem then. There was no problem from the first century up through the third century. Individually, there were isolated problems here and there, but as a whole there was no problem. Here and there some of God's children refused to be priests, but as a whole we did not see any problem. As long as a person was a child of God, he was a priest of God.

B. The Church's Nature Being Changed after the Roman Empire's Acceptance of Christianity

When the Roman Empire endorsed Christianity, many people began to creep in. There were material benefits in believing in the Lord; one became a fellow believer of the emperor and a brother of Caesar. Originally, the Lord's charge was, "Render then the things that are Caesar's to Caesar and the things that are God's to God" (Matt. 22:21). Now both the things of Caesar and the things of God were rendered to God. This indeed was a big victory for Christianity. Constantine was converted to Christ. The result was a gradual but significant shift for the church. Believers were no longer the same as those who professed their faith at an earlier age. During the ten periods of persecution under the reign of Rome, tens of thousands of Christians suffered martyrdom. It was not easy to pretend to be a Christian. But then the situation

totally changed. It became fashionable to be a believer and to share the same faith as the emperor and to call him one's brother. When this shift occurred, many decided to join Christianity. As a result, the number of people increased, while the number of priests remained the same. It is easy to creep into the Christian fold, but it is absolutely impossible to creep into God's service.

C. A Separation between the Spiritual Ones and the Worldly Ones

The church witnessed a drastic change in the fourth century. During that period, many who joined the church were either unbelievers or half believers. They appeared to be believers, yet they held worldly power in their hands. They had no desire to serve the Lord in the church. At the most they were saved, but they could not serve the Lord. Spontaneously, some spiritual ones rose up to take care of the affairs of the church. The others then said, "You do it! Go and serve the Lord. We are the secular ones." The word secular was introduced in the fourth century. Some would attend to earthly affairs, while others would attend to spiritual work. As a result many served God, but many more no longer served.

At the time of the apostles in the first century, every believer served the Lord. From the fourth century on, men began to say, "We are merely God's people. We attend to our own affairs in the world and keep our positions in society. Once in a while, we give a little money. This should qualify us as Christians. Let the spiritual ones take care of the spiritual things for us." From that time forward, the church followed the footsteps of the nation of Israel; it worshipped "the golden calf" and created an intermediary class. No longer were all of God's people priests. Some became merely His people but not His priests.

Today, clergymen in the Roman Catholic Church are called priests. In China they are known as fathers. These so-called fathers are actually called priests. Some state churches follow the example of the Roman Catholic Church and give their pastors the title of priests. Those who tend to earthly affairs are called God's people, while those who manage spiritual things are called priests. The church has been divided into priests and people.

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>.