

Please pray:

- ✿ Montreal brothers retreat (Dec 6 - 7): Pray that many brothers will be released to attend this crucial time for the advancement of the church in Montreal for the years to come; pray that the Lord will speak to the brothers concerning what is on His heart; that the Lord will give us ears to hear His speaking to His church.
- ✿ Seven years goals for Canada: Let us pray that in the next seven years there will be at least 23 more churches raised up, more than 2000 new saints to be added to the churches and at least 75 additional full-timers to be raised up by the Lord to serve the Him; pray for the raising up of new local churches in the province of Quebec; pray for a renewed culture of migration for the strengthening of His testimony throughout Canada.
- ✿ The brothers have identified three cities in Canada to participate in GTCA (Gospelize Truthize Churchize North America) in 2020. They are Airdrie, Alberta and London/Guelph in Ontario. Pray for the gospel to reach many sons of peace, and that seeking Christians can receive the ministry literature that will satisfy their longing. Also pray for the venues where meaningful contact can be made with many people.
- ✿ Germany: 1. Berlin meeting hall: We thank the Lord for providing the funds needed to meet the contract requirements! Please pray that the Lord would grant the wisdom, the design, the personnel, the supply, and everything that is needed for the renovation work that needs to be done to make the new meeting hall most useful for the Lord's interest. 2. Arabic-speaking work: In fellowship with the co-workers in Germany, a conference for Arabic speakers will be held for the first time from December 6-8 in Waldeck near Gut Elim. Up to 50 Arabic-speaking seeking ones are expected. Please pray for this conference that the Lord may gain remaining fruit for the church life. 3. Regarding the Farsi-speaking work: Please pray that the Lord would meet the need of Farsi translation for the Thursday night and Lord's Day morning meetings and for the shepherding appointments.
- ✿ 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: Gen 18:1 – 24:67
- ✿ HWMR: Crystallization-study of Numbers (2), week 12

Announcements

- ✿ The 2020 HWMR subscription is now open. The cost will be \$70 for the annual subscription. Please sign up with your district serving ones and pay the \$70 subscription by December 29 so we can order the correct number of books.
- ✿ The upcoming Winter video training schedule for all languages will be as follows:
 - Tuesdays at 7:00pm
Dec 24: message 1, Dec 31: message 7
 - Wednesdays at 2pm and 3:30pm
Dec 25: messages 2&3, Jan 1: messages 8&9
 - Saturdays at 2pm and 3:30pm
Dec 29: messages # 4&5 and Jan 4: messages 10&11
 - Lord's days at 1:30pm
Dec 30: messages 6, Jan 5: message 12
 If you are registered, please submit your donation of \$130 in an envelope with your name into the offering box or the service office.
- ✿ You are invited to join the wedding meeting of Hoang & Lily Lord's day Dec 8 between 4:30pm and 8pm at the meeting hall. Please RSVP using the following link by Dec 1. <https://forms.gle/FYH5mbvaEjHjaVss9>
- ✿ The monthly Ministry digest is now available for order and subscription. It is available in English, Chinese and Spanish and Korean. The purpose of this monthly digest is to help the saints get into the riches contained in the Collected Works of Witness Lee topic by topic. For more information go to ism.org. Please stop by the bookroom if you have questions or to place your standing order.

Lord's Day Lunch Serving and Cleaning Schedule

1	Serving: English (Rose...)
Dec	Cleaning: French (Achille, Allan responsible)
8*	*District Meeting Serving: Chinese Central (賈筱榮...) Cleaning: Chinese East 1 & 2 (Xie and John responsible)
15	Serving: Chinese South (陳世山, 劉學成...) Cleaning: Chinese South (Xuecheng, Shishan responsible)
22	Serving: Chinese East (陳劉淑真...) Cleaning: English Central, Chinese Central 3 and College (Dennis, Qiang, Jonathan responsible)

Upcoming Events

- ✿ Dec 23 – 28, Anaheim, CA: **Winter Training**

☼ Dec 24 – Jan 7: **Video Training**
The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

1	☼	10am- 12pm Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
December		
LORD'S DAY	☼	12:15pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast
2	☼	
Monday		
3	☼	7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
Tuesday		
4		
Wednesday	☼	
5	☼	
Thursday		
6	☼	6:30-9:00pm: Various Home Meetings (English/French/Chinese)
Friday		
7	☼	
Saturday		
8	☼	10am- 12pm Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
December		
LORD'S DAY	☼	12:15pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast

BAPTISM

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12

I. WHAT BAPTISM DOES FOR A PERSON (continued)

C. Baptism Being for the Washing Away of Sins

Let us consider the case of Paul. Ananias came to Paul and said to him, "Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name" (Acts 22:16).

Paul was the foremost and greatest teacher, prophet, and apostle of Christianity. Was there a little error in his experience? Sometimes we preach the right doctrines but have the wrong experience. What would happen when we gave our testimony? What would happen if others did the same thing we do? The testimony of a teacher is very important because it may mislead others. Could it be that the experience of the foremost teacher of Christianity was wrong?

"And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name." Please take note of this verse. It says that baptism can wash away one's sins. The Catholics quote this verse and regard it as a personal matter before God. The error of Catholicism lies in saying, "If you are baptized, your sins will be washed away." Therefore, they claim

that a death-bed baptism can wash away sins. They do not realize that the significance of this matter is not before God but before the world.

Formerly, Paul was a man in the world. After he had believed in the Lord Jesus and had seen Him, he needed to rise up and be baptized. The moment he was baptized, his sins were washed away. The moment he severed his relationship with the world, his sins were gone. If you are a Christian secretly and are not baptized, the world may still consider you as one of them. You may say that you are saved, but the world will not admit it. You may say that you have believed in the Lord Jesus, but they will say that they have not seen it. Once you get into the water, they will see it; they will know that you have believed in Jesus. Otherwise, why should a person be so foolish as to get into the water? The moment you are baptized, you are freed from the world. Water baptism is a severance of one's relationship with the world.

If a person believes in his heart but does not have any outward gesture, the world will still consider him to be part of it. For instance, in Kuling of Fukien there is a strong tradition of idol worship every fall; everyone is required to donate some money. If a person merely says that he has believed in the Lord, others will not believe him. But the moment he is baptized, they will know that he is no longer one of them. Therefore, baptism is the best way to free oneself from the world. If you want to be freed from the world, you must be baptized. You must tell the world, "My relationship with you is over." By doing this, you come out of the world.

Baptism is an open testimony, and we should not be afraid to let others witness it. Unbelievers can also be present during our baptism. Recently, when we baptized some people in Foochow, a brother said, "We do not like to conduct the baptism meeting in such a messy way. There were too many spectators." If this is the case, John the Baptist would have to learn from this brother because John conducted baptisms that were not that orderly. Even the baptisms of the three thousand on the day of Pentecost were not that orderly. The issue is not whether a meeting is orderly. Of course, it is not good to be disorderly. But all the brothers and sisters should know what we are doing. When we baptize someone, we should let the whole world witness what we are doing.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #1, Baptism by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.