

## Please pray:

- ✳ Semi-annual training (Live training and video training): May the Lord speak to His churches all over the earth; may the Lord release what is on His heart in this time; may we have a heart to be trained by the Lord; may the Lord prepare us to be ready to receive His speaking, training, and dispensing; may the Lord use this training to advance in His economy.
- ✳ Senior coworkers in the Lord's recovery: that the Lord would keep them strong and healthy in spirit, soul and body as they take the lead in the Lord's move; for the health of many older brothers and that of their family members; that the Lord would continue to mature and perfect many saints to take the way of ministry to become genuine ministers of the new covenant for the building up and going on of the churches.
- ✳ GTCA (Jan 27 - Feb 9): (1) Pray for the three Canadian cities: Airdrie (Ab); London / Guelph. Pray that this event eventually leads to raising up two new lampstands in Airdrie and in Guelph; (2) Specifically pray that the Lord would prepare many hungry people, both believers and unbelievers, to meet the GTCA serving ones, receive Bibles and literature, and open to the gospel; (3) Pray that we can find several outreach venues, such as college campuses, malls, markets and other public locations where people gather.
- ✳ Israel: On our way to the Winter School of Truth in the Netherlands, we will also visit the group of around 20 open believers (mostly young people) in Germany who came in touch with the Lord's recovery in Israel last April and August. A few saints from one of the nearby churches in Germany will also join us for this time. Please pray for the eyes of these dear ones' hearts to be enlightened that they might know what is the hope of His calling.
- ✳ Arabic-speaking work in Germany: We thank the Lord for His blessing on December 6-8, when saints from several countries, including Germany, Israel, Estonia, the US, and Ireland, all gathered with about 30 Arabic-speaking friends from various locations in Germany. We enjoyed messages on "Our Vision: Christ and the Church." One sister was baptized, and many testified that they had never heard such things. We were impressed with the genuine seeking among the people. Please pray that the word released would take root in our friends, and for their continued shepherding. Pray also for their contact and speaking with others, not only in Germany but in their home countries. Pray for the development of materials for their continued feeding and for the raising up of workers to assist in this labor.
- ✳ 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: Matt 8:23 – 10:42
- ✳ HWMR: Living in the Reality of the Body of Christ by Keeping the Principles of the Body, week 3

## 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 12If you are registered, please submit your donation of \$130 in an envelope with your name into the offering box or the service office.
- ✳ 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](http://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

22 Dec	Serving: Chinese East (陳劉淑真...) Cleaning: English Central, Chinese Central 3 and College (Dennis, Qiang, Jonathan responsible)
29	Serving: French (Julie ...) Cleaning: Whole Church
5* Jan	*District Meeting Serving: English (Rose...) Cleaning: French (Achille, Allan responsible)
12	Serving: Chinese Central (賈筱榮...) Cleaning: Chinese East 1 and 2 (Xie and John responsible)

## Upcoming Events

- ✳ Dec 23 – 28, Anaheim, CA: **Winter Training**
- ✳ Dec 24 – Jan 7: **Video Training**
- ✳ January 12: Lord's day meeting in districts

- ✿ February 9: Lord's day meeting in districts
  - ✿ Feb. 14-16, Anaheim, CA: **International Chinese-speaking Conference**
  - ✿ Feb 21 – 23, Toronto, ON: **College and Working Saints Conferences**
  - ✿ March 8: Lord's day meeting in districts
- The church website lists more events*

## This Week's Activities

<b>22</b>	✿	10am- 12pm Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
<b>December</b>		
<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	✿	12:15pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast
<b>23</b>	✿	
<b>Monday</b>		
<b>24</b>	✿	7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
<b>Tuesday</b>		
<b>25</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b>	✿	
<b>26</b>	✿	
<b>Thursday</b>		
<b>27</b>	✿	6:30-9:00pm: Various Home Meetings (English/French/Chinese)
<b>Friday</b>		
<b>28</b>	✿	
<b>Saturday</b>		
<b>29</b>	✿	10am- 12pm Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
<b>December</b>		
<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	✿	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

## **II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM(continued)**

### **B. Having Died and Risen**

Brothers, when we step into the water of baptism or when we look back after being believers for many years, we must remember that we are already dead. We allowed others to bury us because we believed that we were already dead. If our heart is still beating and we are still breathing, we cannot be buried. In order to be buried, we must be dead.

When the Lord was crucified, we were crucified too. We allowed others to put us into the water because we believed that we had died. The Lord Jesus has resurrected; He has put His resurrection power within us. Now we are regenerated through this power. This resurrection power operates within us and

causes us to be resurrected. This is why we rose from the water. We are no longer our former self; we are now resurrected persons. Today, we must always remind ourselves of this matter. When we went into the water, we believed that we died and needed to be buried. When we came up from the water, we believed that we had newness of life. Now we are on the side of resurrection. Death is on the other side, but resurrection is on this side.

### **C. I Am in Christ**

Once I saw a headline in the newspaper which read, "One Person, Three Lives." The article was about a pregnant woman who had been murdered. After the woman died, it became known that she was pregnant with twins. Hence, the headline read, "One Person, Three Lives." Please note that concerning the Lord, it is, "One Person, Millions of Lives." This is why the Bible repeatedly emphasizes the words in Christ. In the murder spoken of above, the murderer apparently killed only the mother; he did not kill the two children. However, because the two children were in their mother's womb, they died when their mother died. Likewise, since we are in Christ, when Christ died, we died in Him.

God has put us into Christ Jesus. This is the revelation in 1 Corinthians 1:30: "Of Him you are in Christ Jesus." Since Christ has died, we are all dead. The basis for our co-death with Christ is our being in Christ. If we do not know what being in Christ means, we will not understand what dying with Him means either. How could the children die with their mother? They died because they were in their mother's womb. The analogy in the spiritual realm is even more real. God has joined us to Christ. When Christ died, we died also.

As soon as this gospel is preached to us, we should learn to look from God's viewpoint and acknowledge that we have died in the Lord. We have died because we believed this to be a fact. We have been buried in the water and have come out of it. We declare that we are on this side of the tomb. This is resurrection. Reckoning in Romans 6 involves both reckoning oneself dead in Christ Jesus and reckoning oneself alive in Him as well.

Brothers and sisters, I hope that you will take this way once you are saved. These are two separate thoughts. One thought comes before baptism, and the other comes after baptism. Before baptism we must see that we have already died and that we need to be buried. After baptism we must realize that we are in resurrection and that we can therefore serve God today.

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>.