

Please pray:

- ✳ For the raising up of vital groups in the church in Montreal in all the languages; that all the saints would rise up to live vitally with vital companions for gospel preaching, shepherding, pursuing the truth, and prophesying to build the church.
- ✳ Eastern Canada College/Working saints conference (Feb 21 - 23): Pray for all the fellowship and preparation for this conference; may the Lord release the saints to attend this conference; may the Lord speak to the saints a timely word for the advancement of His work in Eastern Canada.
- ✳ GTCA: That the seeds sown during the trips would take root and grow and the contacts reached would be connected to the saints; for saints to migrate for the strengthening of the churches; may the saints be strengthened to shepherd the contacts into the church life; new local churches could be raised up around the Aylmer and Dresden areas, that will afford the seeking saints there to participate in a normal church life.
- ✳ Europe: First Lord's table meeting in Hamburg, Germany (23 February) and Zagreb, Croatia (1 March)
- ✳ Asia: Bangladesh - Pray for a breakthrough in the gospel to Hindus and people in other religions and for having home meetings and Bible-reading with our contacts in their homes. Vietnam - Pray for the editing of hymns in Vietnamese; pray for the national training for co-workers from Feb 18 to 20 and the training for elders and responsible brothers from Feb 20 to 21 in Ho Chi Minh city.
- ✳ 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 18:1 - 20:34
- ✳ HWMR: The Development of the Kingdom of God in the Christian Life and the Church Life, week 6

Announcements

- ✳ There will be a fellowship with parents of grade 5-6 children and of young people today during lunch in the downstairs Chinese-speaking prophesying room.
- ✳ You are invited to the wedding meeting of brother Haowei Song and sister Sissi Lin on Mar 7th at 2:30 pm.
- ✳ All Canada FTTA Short term training and blending trip is from May 1 to 9, 2020. Registration deadline is March 1.
- ✳ 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

16 Feb	Serving: Chinese South (陳世山、劉學成...) Cleaning: Whole Church
23	Serving: Chinese Central (賈筱榮...) Cleaning: English West, Chinese West and Young People (John Y., Boy, Aaron Chao responsible)
1 Mar	Serving: French (Julie ...) Cleaning: Chinese North and Chinese Central 1 (Jun, Gary Chen responsible)
8*	*District Meeting Serving: English (Rose ...) Cleaning: French (Achille, Allan responsible)

Upcoming Events

- ✳ Feb 21 - 23, Toronto, ON: **College and Working Saints Conferences**
- ✳ Mar 1-2: **Gr. 5/6/YP Family blending**
- ✳ March 8: Lord's day meeting in districts
- ✳ Mar 27 - 29, Anaheim, CA: **International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones**
- ✳ May 22-25, Atlanta, GA: **Memorial Day conference**
The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

16 February	✳ 10am- 12pm Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
LORD'S DAY	✳ 12:15pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast
17 Monday	✳
18 Tuesday	✳ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts
19 Wednesday	✳
20 Thursday	✳
21 Friday	✳ 6:30-9:00pm: Various Home Meetings (English/French/Chinese)
22 Saturday	✳
23 February	✳ 10am- 12pm Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
LORD'S DAY	✳ 12:15pm - 1:30pm: Love Feast

TERMINATING THE PAST

II. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF DEALING WITH THE PAST (continued)

D. The Termination of Unsettled Matters

When a person is saved, he surely has many unsettled secular matters at hand. These may easily hinder him from following the Lord. What should he do? "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead" (Matt. 8:22). This is another biblical case of terminating the past. Here, a man came to Jesus and said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father" (v. 21). The Lord said, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." The word *their* refers to the first use of the word *dead*, whereas the second *dead* refers to the man's father. The first *dead* refers to those who are spiritually dead. In God's eyes those in the world are spiritually dead. The Lord was saying that the man should let the dead bury his father, while he should follow the Lord.

I am not exhorting new believers to not make funeral arrangements for their fathers. I am saying that the dead should bury their own dead. We must lay hold of this principle. We should let go of unfinished business. If we wait until we have finished settling them before we become Christians, we will never have the time. There are hundreds and thousands of items of unfinished business in our families, with our fathers, and in our lives. Who then could become a Christian? There is only one word to describe the principle behind all of these things—these are dead people. Let the dead bury their dead. Let the spiritually dead handle the matters of the dead! This is the principle. This is not to exhort new believers to neglect their family. It means that they should not wait until they have settled all their earthly matters before coming to the Lord. If they do, they will not be able to follow the Lord.

Many people want to settle all of their affairs before they believe in the Lord. If so, they will have no opportunity to believe in Him. We should not be bound by matters of the dead. Instead, we should just regard the unsettled matters as settled. If we want to settle them before following the Lord, we will never make it. Matters concerning idols, improper things, and debts must be dealt with thoroughly. As for other unsettled matters, we should just let them go!

With regard to the attitude of a new believer towards his past, I can only find the above four categories of things in the Word of God. As for many other unsettled affairs, we should regard them as settled. As to family duties, we should let the dead take care of the dead. We have no time to deal with them. We want to follow the Lord. Those things are not for us to settle; they

are for the dead to take care of. Let the ones who are spiritually dead handle them.

A QUESTION

A brother asked: If I have offended a person and he is not aware of it, must I also confess to him?

Answer: It all depends on whether or not he has suffered material loss. If the other party is aware of this loss, you should deal with the matter by following Zaccheus's example. Even if he is unaware of this loss, you should still confess to him, especially when material loss is involved. It is best to bring the matter to the church and let the more experienced brothers help you solve it because they know what is most expedient.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #2, Terminating the Past by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.