

Please pray:

- ✳ **New year 2022:** Praise and thank the Lord for the year 2021. 1) May this new year 2022 be a year consecrated to the Lord. May we consecrate our whole being, our family, our time, our relationships, our future, our finances, and all our belongings to the Lord. 2) May this year be a year of being renewed day by day until we are fully conformed into His image. 3) May He gain what He is after in us this year. 4) May we learn how to cooperate with Him in His work in us this year.
- ✳ **New government restrictions for meetings:** 1) When everything seems chaotic, may we all be like Hannah (Samuel's mother in the Old Testament) to pray with desperation and urgency, prevailing prayers for the producing of Samuels and for the establishing of God's kingdom to end this age. 2) May each saint be taken care of during this time. 3) May we learn how to enjoy the Lord and be built up together with the means available to us.
- ✳ **2021 December Semi-annual training:** We thank and praise the Lord for His speaking in this training. 1) Pray that the words spoken forth be sown on soft and good ground and may we facilitate the growing by providing nutrients in the soil by exercising our spirit. 2) Pray that we may cooperate with the word spoken by praying with desperation to be today's Hannahs and serve Him as Nazarites for the establishing of God's kingdom on the earth to be today's Samuels.
- ✳ **All the churches in the Lord's recovery on the earth:** 1) Pray that all the saints would be strengthened to put on the whole armor of God to fight as the one new man. 2) Pray that, as the pandemic still continues, the saints would be covered with the helmet of salvation to quench all the flaming darts of the enemy directed towards the mind. 3) Pray that the wearing-out tactics of the enemy would be overthrown by our enjoyment of the resurrection life of Christ.
- ✳ 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: 1 Cor 12:12 – 14:40
- ✳ HWMR: Crystallization-study of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes, week 11

Announcements

- ✳ All children's meetings will be online until the government regulations allow us to return to the meeting hall. The new online children's meetings schedule is as follows:
 - Group 1: Lord's Day 1:30pm - 1:45pm
 - Group 2: Lord's Day 1:45pm - 2:15pm
 - Group 3: Lord's Day 11:00am - 11:45am

- ✳ Please consider before the Lord carefully and provide us with the prayer burdens before Saturday of every week. Please send the prayer burdens to Allan Y. His email address is allan.yeow81@gmail.com. Note that due to limited space on the newsletter, we may not be able to put all the prayer burdens that are sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✳ December 20-25: **Semiannual Training**
The church website lists more events

This Week's Activities

2 January LORD'S DAY	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings
3 Monday	✳
4 Tuesday	✳ 7:30-9:00pm: English/French/Chinese prayer meetings by districts via conference calls
5 Wednesday	✳
6 Thursday	✳
7 Friday	✳ 6:30-9:00pm: Various Home Meetings (English/French/Chinese) via Zoom
8 Saturday	✳
9 January LORD'S DAY	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table & Prophesying meetings

EARLY RISING

Scripture Reading: S.S. 7:12; Psa. 57:8-9; 63:1; 78:34; 90:14; 108:2-3; Exo. 16:21

I. EARLY MORNING BEING THE BEST TIME OF THE DAY

What time should believers rise up every day?

A sister once put it well when she said, "How much a person loves the Lord can be judged primarily by the way he chooses between his bed and the Lord. Do you love your bed or the Lord more? If you love your bed more, you sleep a little longer. If you love the Lord more, you rise up a little earlier." She spoke these words more than thirty years ago. Yet they are still fresh to us today. A man must choose between his love for

his bed and his love for the Lord. The more he loves the Lord, the more he will rise up early.

A Christian should rise up early because the early morning is the best time to meet the Lord. Except for those who are sick, all the brothers and sisters should rise up early. Actually, many sicknesses are not sicknesses at all. They become sicknesses because men love themselves too much. Other than those who are advised to rest by doctors, everyone should rise early. We do not want to go to extremes; we advise sick brothers and sisters to sleep more. However, the healthy ones should get up as early as possible. The best time to meet the Lord, to contact Him, and to fellowship with Him is early in the morning. Manna is gathered before the sun rises (Exo. 16:14-21). Anyone who wants to eat God's food should rise up early. When the sun waxes hot, manna melts and is gone. If we want to receive spiritual nourishment and spiritual edification, and if we want to have spiritual fellowship and spiritual supply, we need to rise up early. If we rise up late, the manna will be gone. The early morning is the very time when God dispenses His spiritual food and holy fellowship to His children. Whoever is late will not gather anything. Many children of God lead a sick life, not because they have spiritual problems, but because they rise up too late. Many children of God have no lack in consecration, zeal, or love, but they cannot live a normal Christian life because they rise up too late. Do not think that this is a small matter. Do not think that this has nothing to do with spirituality; it has much to do with spirituality. Many people are not spiritual because they rise up too late. Many people have been Christians for years, yet they fail to live a proper Christian life because they rise up too late. We do not know of anyone who knows how to pray, yet rises up late. Nor do we know of anyone who has intimate fellowship with God, yet rises up late. All those who know God rise up early. They rise up early as a rule to fellowship with Him.

Proverbs 26:14 says, "As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed." Here it says that a slothful person in bed is like a door that turns upon its hinges. The slothful keeps turning upon his bed; he cannot leave it. He turns to one side on his bed. Then he turns to the other side on his bed. Whichever way he turns, he is still on the bed. Many people cannot part with their bed. They love their bed as they turn from one side to the other. When they turn left, they are on their bed. When they turn right, they are still on their bed. They love to sleep and cannot part with their bed. Many people just want to sleep a little longer; they cannot get out of their bed. If one wants to learn to serve God and be a good Christian, he has to rise up early in the morning every day.

Those who rise up early in the morning reap much spiritual benefit. Their prayers at other times of the day cannot be compared with their prayers in the early morning. Their Bible reading at other times of the day cannot be compared with their

reading in the early morning. Their fellowship with the Lord at other times cannot be compared with their fellowship in the early morning. The early morning is the best time of the day. We should spend the best time of the day—the early morning—before the Lord, rather than in other things. Some Christians spend the whole day on other matters and kneel down to read the Bible and pray only at night when they are about to go to sleep. No wonder they are ineffective in their Bible reading, their prayer, and their fellowship with the Lord. They wake up too late in the morning. The moment we believe in the Lord, we should set apart the early morning for fellowshiping with God and for contacting Him.

Note: The content is extracted from New Believers Series: #12, Early Rising by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org/alphabetical.cfm>.