

## Please Pray

- ✳ **2022 December Semi-Annual Winter Training:** (1) Pray that we would have ears and be open to hear and receive what the Lord has in store for us during this time. (2) Pray for the release of the Lord's speaking to His churches for the advancement of His economy. (3) Pray that the Lord will gain the cooperation of His Body to move with Him in His move.
- ✳ **End of Year 2022:** We praise and thank the Lord for year 2022. (1) May we count the Lord's blessings and thank Him for all that He has done this year. (2) May we prepare ourselves for the year 2022 by reconsecrating ourselves, our whole being, our future, and all our belongings to the Lord. (3) May we pray with our companions with desperate prayers for the Lord's blessing to His Body in this coming year.
- ✳ **Get Into the Life-Study Messages:** (1) Pray that we would all enter into the reality of being the proper pillar and base of the truth, especially through the reading of the Life-Studies. (2) Pray that our appreciation and understanding of the Word would be opened by the Life-Studies. (3) Pray that we would all be open and give ourselves to enter and enjoy the Life-Studies.
- ✳ **Southwestern Ontario:** As an answer to our prayer, during the past number of years several families in Southwestern Ontario have come into fellowship with the saints in the local churches and have gradually participated in the meetings. We are thankful that saints began to migrate to Chatham-Kent to increase the flow of fellowship with these brothers and sisters, that a proper church life may begin in the area where they reside. Let us all pray for the continued spreading of the divine life in Southwestern Ontario.
- ✳ **Pray for various local needs in Montréal:** The saints, their contacts, and for the persons in need of care and shepherding.

## Weekly Readings

- ✳ Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes: Heb 13:1 – James 1:27.
- ✳ HWMR, Crystallization-Study of 1 & 2 Kings, Vol. 1, Week 1.

## Announcements

- ✳ The 2023 HWMR subscription is now open, at the annual cost of \$75.00. Please contact your district responsible serving ones **TODAY**, December 18, 2022, to proceed with your registration and your payment.
- ✳ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Y., [allan.yeow81@gmail.com](mailto:allan.yeow81@gmail.com) before Wednesday evening of every week. Please note that due to the limited space in the newsletter, we may not be able to publish all prayer burdens that are sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

## Upcoming Events

- ✳ Dec. 26-31 in Anaheim, CA (if safe to do so): **December Semi-Annual Training.**
- ✳ Feb. 17-19, 2023, in Anaheim, CA: **International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference.**
- ✳ Mar. 24-26, 2023, in Anaheim, CA: **International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**

*Please refer to the church's website where more events are listed.*

## This Week's Activities

<b>Sun-Dec-18 LORD'S DAY</b>	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
<b>Mon-Dec-19</b>	✳
<b>Tues-Dec-20</b>	✳ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
<b>Wed-Dec-21</b>	✳
<b>Thu-Dec-22</b>	✳
<b>Fri-Dec-23</b>	✳ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
<b>Sat-Dec-24</b>	✳
<b>Sun-Dec-25 LORD'S DAY</b>	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

## OCCUPATION

*Scripture Reading: 2 Thes. 3:10-12.*

Occupation is very important to a Christian. If one chooses a wrong occupation, he will not be able to go on in a positive way. A Christian must pay attention to the matter of choosing an occupation.

### I. THE GOD-ORDAINED OCCUPATIONS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE

#### A. In the Old Testament Age

After God created man, He prepared an occupation for him. God assigned Adam and Eve the job of guarding and keeping the garden. The matter of occupation existed before man sinned. Adam and Eve's occupation in the beginning was that of a gardener; they guarded and kept the garden of Eden which God had created.

After Adam and Eve sinned, the earth no longer rendered service to them. They had to eat in the sweat of their face and till the ground so they could eat (Gen. 3:17-19). This shows us clearly that after man's fall, his God-ordained occupation was to be a farmer and to till the ground. Man has to till the ground in the sweat of his face in order for the earth to yield food to him. To this day farmers are still the most honest kind of people. In the beginning God ordained man to till the ground.

In Genesis 4 Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel was a keeper of sheep. Here sheep farming came in. This shows us that shepherding is also an occupation that is acceptable to God.

After this, when men began to multiply on the earth, there arose all kinds of craftsmen. There were blacksmiths, coppersmiths, makers of musical instruments, and artificers in brass and iron (4:21-22). By the time of the tower of Babel, there were bricklayers and carpenters (11:3-4). (Although building the tower of Babel was wrong, men were nevertheless learning to build. Hence the coppersmith, blacksmith, maker of musical instruments, and craftsman are all proper occupations.) In Genesis 12 God chose Abraham. He was a herdsman. He had many cattle and sheep. Jacob also had flocks of cattle and sheep. This shows that their main occupation was animal husbandry.

When the Israelites were in Egypt, they worked as craftsmen, burning bricks for Pharaoh. But after they came out of Egypt, God promised them a land flowing with milk and honey. Clearly, we see two occupations: raising livestock and farming. The grapes of the land required two people to carry them. This proves that there was farming. God said that if the Israelites disobeyed Him and worshipped idols, He would cause the heavens to be as brass and the earth to be as iron; the heavens and the earth would not work for the Israelites. This shows clearly that the occupations in the promised land of Canaan consisted of tilling the earth and raising livestock. These were the occupations in the Old Testament.

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Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 29, *OCCUPATION*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.