

## Please Pray

✳ **The Spiritual Significance of the New Year:** Every change in our spiritual experience involves light, whether it is a great change like a new year, a lesser change like a month, or a small change like a day. Whenever we encounter light, there is a change. When we met God, who is light (1 John 1:5), there was a change... When we approach a new calendar year, we should come to God and open ourselves to His light concerning not only the state of our earthly affairs but also the condition of our spiritual life... These encounters bring in changes that are like the changes associated with days, months, and years. If we want to have changes, from small changes to great changes, we must meet God... God's work in the universe is a work of renewing. He wants to end the old things and begin something new. When His work is accomplished, He will be able to declare that all things are truly new (2 Cor. 5:17). The proper celebration of a new year is to have a new beginning. We need to go before God and touch His presence. When we touch God and meet God, we will enter into a new year and have a new beginning. May we all have a new beginning with the Lord for the year 2023 by meeting with Him.

✳ **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.

✳ **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.

✳ **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: James 2:1 – 5:20.
- ✳ HWMR, Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Kings, Vol. 1, Week 3.

## Announcements

✳ The following table presents the schedule of the English and French Semi-Annual Video Training sessions, some of which being on Zoom and others in the Meeting Hall.

Msg	Date	Time	Venue
1	Tues-Dec-27	7pm-8:45pm	Zoom
2	Wed-Dec-28	7pm-8:45pm	
3	Thurs-Dec-29	7pm-8:45pm	
4	Sat-Dec-31 →	10am-11:45am	Meeting Hall
5		1pm-2:45pm	
6	Sun-Jan-01 →	11am-12:30pm	
7		1:30pm-3:15pm	
8	Mon-Jan-02 →	10am-11:45am	
9		1pm-2:45pm	
10	Tues-Jan-03	7pm-8:45pm	Zoom
11	Wed-Jan-04	7pm-8:45pm	
12	Thurs-Jan-05	7pm-8:45pm	

✳ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, [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

- ✳ February 17-19, 2023, Anaheim, CA: **International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference.**
- ✳ March 24-26, 2023, 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-Jan-01</b> <b>LORD'S DAY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 10am-11am: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.</li> <li>✳ 11am-12:30pm: Message 6 in the Meeting Hall.</li> <li>✳ 1:30-3:15pm: Message 7 in the Meeting Hall.</li> </ul>
<b>Mon-Jan-02</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✳ 10am-11:45am: Message 8 in the Meeting Hall.</li> <li>✳ 1pm-2:45pm: Message 9 in the Meeting Hall.</li> </ul>
<b>Tues-Jan-03</b>	✳ 7pm-8:45pm: Message 10 on Zoom.
<b>Wed-Jan-04</b>	✳ 7pm-8:45pm: Message 11 on Zoom.
<b>Thurs-Jan-05</b>	✳ 7pm-8:45pm: Message 12 on Zoom.
<b>Fri-Jan-06</b>	✳ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
<b>Sat-Jan-07</b>	✳
<b>Sun-Jan-08</b> <b>LORD'S DAY</b>	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

## OCCUPATION (cont'd)

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

### II. THE PRINCIPLE OF OCCUPATIONS (cont'd)

#### D. What the Bible Disapproves of—Trading

There is one occupation of which the Bible particularly disapproves. Please pay special attention to this matter. If a new believer has the ability to choose his profession, I hope that he will not take trading as his occupation. Why? We should consider this matter from a broader perspective. Perhaps that will give us a clearer picture. Suppose there are one hundred persons here and each one has a million dollars. If we put them all together, we will have a hundred million dollars. Suppose I begin to trade as one of them. Naturally, I would want to make money. I would like my one million dollars to become two million dollars. Forget for a moment how I handle my business, whether it is done righteously or unrighteously. After a month I have two million dollars. This means that someone must have less money. This must be the case because there are only one hundred persons, each of whom had only one million dollars. Even if I conducted my business in the most righteous way, I would still have caused someone to lose money when I increased my money to two million.

I am a Christian, and let us say that you are a Christian also. You are my brother. Does it look good for me to make money and become richer by making you poorer? Certainly not. Even if you are a Gentile and a heathen, I am a Christian. I am a child of God, and I have my standing and status as a child of God. God's children should not cause an unbeliever to become poorer by increasing their own money. I would feel bad even if I employed righteous means to gain other believers' money. I would feel equally bad if I used righteous means to gain an unbeliever's money. This is what it is like to engage in trade. You cannot take money from another's pocket and put it into your own pocket. It does not matter how you do it. As long as you turn the money in another's pocket into your money, you are causing a loss to others. This is a fact.

Of course, the basic God-approved occupations in the Bible pose no such problem. Suppose I am a tiller of the ground, and I have harvested a hundred loads of rice. This will not cause another brother's possession to be reduced from ten loads down to nine loads. I cannot cause him to have any reduction. My hundred loads of rice will not reduce anything from anyone or cause anyone to become poorer. This is not making money; this is increasing the abundance of the land. We must completely differentiate between the two: Making money and increasing the

abundance are two different things altogether. God does not want His children to make money just for the sake of making money. God wants our occupation to increase the abundance. This basic principle is quite clear. A new believer should not have his mind occupied with money day and night. Do not try to constantly consider how you can make money. Please remember that as long as you have made some money, others have lost money. The principle of trade is that when one's money increases, the money of others decreases.

### III. CHOOSING FROM THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF OCCUPATIONS

Here we see three different kinds of occupations. One is to trade, another is to work, and the third is to produce. The highest occupation God has ordained in the Bible is the one that produces. Since Adam, God's eyes have been on occupations that produce, because production increases the abundance of the earth rather than imposing poverty on others. If I raise a hundred sheep and after a certain number of years they have become four hundred, I have increased by three hundred sheep. This increase does not decrease a single dollar from any brother's or sister's pocket. How much money you have at home will not change. You will not have less just because my sheep has brought forth lambs. This is the basic scriptural principle of occupation. I should always be increasing and should always be adding to riches. I may sell my sheep and receive money. But in so doing, I have not made anyone poorer.

If a new believer has the chance to choose his own occupation, I hope he will choose one that will increase goods rather than increase his money. To increase money but not goods is very selfish. We need to learn to increase the things of the earth, not to increase our personal wealth. There is a great difference between the two.

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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>.