

Please Pray

- ✿ **Prayer Ministry of the Church:** Pray that many saints will build up a prayer life during our daily living to be men of prayer; that many saints will pick up the burden to join the prayer meetings of the church to pray as the church and exercise the prayer ministry of the church; that we may learn to pray as the church in the position of ascension, in the victory of Christ and exercising His authority that He has transferred to the church to release and bind what He has already released and bound in the heavens.
- ✿ **Shepherding of the Saints:** The Lord loved the church and gave Himself up for her (Eph. 5:25). After the Lord's resurrection, He asked Peter "Do you love Me?" Peter responded by saying: "Lord, You know that I love You." The Lord's response to Peter's love was "Feed My lambs." and "Shepherd My sheep." The Lord desires that we would love the church as He did. This is also our way of showing the Lord that we love Him. (1) May the Lord infuse us with His heart to love, care, shepherd, and feed the saints. (2) May we learn to first come to the Lord to be loved, cared, shepherded, and fed by Him, so that we will know how to shepherd and care for the saints. (3) May we learn how to love the saints regardless of their comeliness, condition, and situation. (4) May we have a heart to contact and care for the saints who are no longer in the church life. (5) May the Body build itself up in love.
- ✿ **The Life-Study Messages Pursuit:** (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.
- ✿ **FTTA Gospel Trip to Europe and North America (January 6 to February 11):** FTTA gospel trip teams will go out to 20 countries in Europe, as well as in U.S. and Canada to join with the local saints for the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom. Please pray that: (1) The Lord will blend and build all the saints involved so that He will have the free way to fully bless these trips; (2) The sanctifying Spirit will go before the saints to prepare the hearts of those the Lord has chosen; (3) The preaching of the gospel of the kingdom will be prevailing and reach all those the Lord desires to save; (4) Fruit, even remaining fruit, will be borne in each place visited, and the Lord will add to the churches as His testimony in each of these nations; (5) The Lord will fully cover the travel, safety, security, and health of all those involved.
- ✿ **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: 1 Pet 1:1 – 1:25.
- ✿ HWMR, Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Kings, Vol. 1, Week 5.
- ✿ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 1 and 2.

Announcements

- ✿ [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) is releasing a series of four talks by Brother Minoru Chen on the matter of getting into the Life-Studies. The subsequent talks will be released weekly on Mondays. You can [subscribe](#) to the [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) to receive updates. All four outlines of this series can be downloaded [here](#).
- ✿ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, 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

Sun-Jan-15 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jan-16	✿
Tues-Jan-17	✿ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Jan-18	✿
Thurs-Jan-19	✿
Fri-Jan-20	✿ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Jan-21	✿
Sun-Jan-22 LORD'S DAY	✿ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

OCCUPATION (cont'd)

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

IV. AVOIDING PURE COMMERCE (cont'd)

Christians must not try to make money from other people. Never harbor any thought of taking advantage of others. As God's children, we have a high standard. It does not look good for us to try to rack up the lowly money of the world. Suppose the president of a foreign nation comes to Kuling and finds a local native infected with malaria. Suppose he tries to sell him some quinine pills, saying, "I bought them for five dollars per pill. Now I am selling them to you for six dollars per pill." What kind of story would that be? It does not match the status of a nation's president to earn a dollar from a coolie. For a Christian to earn someone else's money is even worse than a president taking money from a coolie. Our status is different. We cannot make money from anyone.

Christians are noble people; we have our dignity, our standing, and our principles. It is a shame for us to make money from anyone. We cannot increase our wealth this way. I would rather be a farmer who tills and plants. This is more glorious than making money from others. God has prepared nature to work for us, and we will be more noble if we do not try to make money from others. Christians must have the thought that they will not earn money at the expense of other human beings.

Any occupation that increases the quantity and value of goods is acceptable to God. But pure commerce is not acceptable to God. Please pay special attention to Ezekiel 28. The principle of aggrandizement through trade began with the prince of Tyre. God rebuked him, saying, "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence." In Revelation 18 the world has come to an end and the kingdom is about to begin. There we see Babylon being judged. Commerce continues throughout history until the end of Babylon. All the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for Babylon. There we also see all the goods of the earth. The first is gold and the last are the souls of men. Everything is open for purchase and for sale, from gold to the souls of men. Man always thinks of making money and becoming rich. But brothers and sisters, we must flee from this low occupation.

V. PURE COMMERCE BEING DIFFERENT FROM PRODUCTION

I hope you can differentiate between pure commerce and production. Wheat, cows, sheep, tents, and fish can be sold. This is not the commerce we are talking about. The so-called commerce in the world means that today I buy one hundred sacks of flour from another person. I store them until the price goes up and then I sell them. Or I buy fifty tins of oil and put them away until the price goes up and then sell them. The wheat or oil has not increased its volume because of me. The oil has not increased, neither has the wheat. But my money has increased. I have not increased the goods of the world, yet my wealth has increased. This is a shameful thing. This is one thing that believers should try to avoid at all cost.

It is all right to buy and sell for the sake of taking care of our production. But it is wrong to buy and sell for the sake of buying and selling. It is right for a brother to sell products from his farm. But it is wrong for the same brother to buy rice and then sell it again. Although both are selling, the principles are altogether different. If a brother buys ten tents and resells them, he does not have the same occupation as Paul's. If I make tents at night and then sell them in the morning, I have the same occupation as Paul's. The two are absolutely different. If you labor on something and then sell what you have labored on, this is something that can be blessed by God. But if you buy something and then sell it, hoping in your heart that you will make money in the process, you are engaging in the lowest occupation, not only from a Christian's point of view, but also from a Gentile's as well.

No brother engaging in pure commerce can be a responsible brother, for such a person can never be fully delivered from money. Our way is becoming clearer and clearer. God's children must be fully delivered from the power of mammon. This is the only way for them to serve God and for the church to have a way to go on.

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>.