

Please Pray

- ✳ **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 (Jan. 6 - Feb. 11):** FTTA gospel trip teams will go out to 20 countries in Europe, as well as 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.
- ✳ **Cairo (Egypt) International Book Fair (Jan. 26 - Feb. 6):** (1) Pray for all the upcoming prayer and coordination before, during and after the bookfair. (2) Pray for the safe and smooth arrival of the serving ones who are coming from overseas, for their health, function in the Body, and for a speedy recovery from the jetlag. (3) Pray for the Sweet oneness and one accord among all the serving saints at the booth. (4) Pray for the remaining four new titles to be delivered by the printer in a timely way. (5) Pray for the pouring out of His blessing through this endeavor and use of the serving saints as open channels and vessels to flow Himself out to the entire Arab world and in the Middle East, for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry unto the building up of the Body of Christ (Eph 4:12).
- ✳ **2023 North America College Training (Jul. 16-22):** Registration for the 2023 North America College Training is now open! The subject of this training is "Love Prevails," and it will be held in Champaign, Illinois. Thousands of college saints who participated in previous college trainings received extensive and lasting spiritual benefits, especially the incoming freshmen (graduating high school seniors). Our expectation is that the Lord would use this special time to freshly gain this generation, to constitute them with the vision of the age and to equip them with the truth for His eternal purpose. (1) Pray for the stirring up of at least 1,400 saints throughout North America to register and pay in the month of January, boldly registering in faith and giving the Lord the first place in their summer plans! (2) Pray that the serving and shepherding saints could provide the proper fellowship to all those considering the NACT and that all impediments for those who

would like to go would be completely removed. (3) Pray that the Lord would stir up the students not only to register but also to pray for this time and encourage others around them to "Come forward!" to the NACT without delay!

- ✳ **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: Jer 31:1 – 36:32.
- ✳ HWMR, Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Kings, Vol. 1, Week 6.
- ✳ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 3 and 4.

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-22 LORD'S DAY	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jan-23	✳
Tues-Jan-24	✳ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Jan-25	✳
Thurs-Jan-26	✳
Fri-Jan-27	✳ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Jan-28	✳
Sun-Jan-29 LORD'S DAY	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

OCCUPATION (cont'd)

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

VI. THE OCCUPATIONS WHICH ARE PLEASING TO GOD

Both shepherds and farmers are producers. Merchants belong to another category. There is a third kind of people who come in between these two. They are workers, like doctors and teachers, who work with their skills. These are also good occupations according to the Bible. Although they are not producing anything, they are not extorting anything from others either. They do not receive anything from nature, but they do not take anything from people either. They maintain their livelihood by utilizing their own contribution of time, energy, and mental power. The workman is worthy of his pay. This is one scriptural occupation that is acceptable to God. We can say that the highest occupation is the occupation which produces. The second highest is the occupation that works with skills and that receives rewards by contributing intellectual or physical strength.

The producer takes from nature and receives nothing from men. The worker takes nothing from nature and receives nothing from men. The merchant receives nothing from nature but takes things from men. These are three totally different kinds of occupations. The producer obtains something from nature while taking nothing from men. This is the highest occupation in the Bible. The worker puts in his energy, whether mental or physical. He puts in his time and energy to earn what he deserves. He does not make others poorer. Others pay him for the service he renders, and the interests of both parties balance out each other. This is an occupation acceptable to God. The merchant who deals with pure commerce receives nothing from nature but receives something from men. He has no other motive than to make money. This is the lowest occupation according to the Bible.

Today the way is clear, and the principle is also clear. We hope that all the brothers would try to have a turn in their occupations.

VII. THE WAY TO GO ON

I do not wish to see anyone taking the extreme way. Do not condemn those who are engaged in commerce as soon as you meet them. They did not have the opportunity to choose their occupation. I knew a brother who was quite pure when he left school. After he went into business, his heart gradually became corrupt. He tried to make money day and night. If you wanted him to buy something for you, he would try to make some money in the process. He always tried to make some money from others. This is too poor. I believe such a person has been corrupted in his heart. We hope that anyone who can choose his own occupation will not go into pure commerce. We must open the eyes of those who are already in it and help them to have a change. Do not embarrass them, but at least show them the way clearly.

Pure commerce is never a good thing. We hope that ten or twenty years from now, it will be a tradition among us that no one goes into pure commerce. Hopefully, in the future all the brothers and sisters among us will build up the habit of shunning pure commerce. As God's children, we would rather be teachers or manual laborers; we would not go into pure commerce. We would till the land and harvest wheat, barley, or rice and then sell the harvest. We would raise lambs from our sheep and then sell them. We would have our hen lay eggs and then sell them. We would have our cow produce milk and then sell it. We would make fabric and then sell it. We can do all these things. The more we work and produce, the more God will bless. The worst thing that can happen to us is that our brothers and sisters simply make a great deal of money. Nothing could be worse than this.

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>.