

Please Pray

- ✳ **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 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.
- ✳ **Eastern Canada College Conference at Montréal (Feb. 24-26):** (1) Pray for all the preparations and serving ones. May the Lord head up every detail of this conference and strengthen all the serving ones for the preparation of this conference. (2) May the community saints be opened to serve and to provide hospitality in their capacity. (3) May the students whom the Lord has already released in the heavenlies for this conference be released to attend. May they have a soft and good heart to receive what the Lord has in store for them.
- ✳ **Montréal French Campuses:** (1) Praise the Lord for opening the way for a Bible study every Thursday night at HEC Montréal this semester. May the Lord preserve and add to this Bible study for His purpose on this campus. (2) May the Lord brood over all the French campuses in Montréal to cause a hunger for Him and the truth. May we have a burden to cooperate with the Lord to go to the French campuses to reap the harvest and gather the materials for His building.
- ✳ **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 come to the Lord to be loved, cared, shepherded, and fed by Him first 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.
- ✳ **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 37:1 – 48:16.
- ✳ HWMR, Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Kings, Vol. 2, Week 8.
- ✳ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 7 and 8.

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-Feb-05 LORD'S DAY	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Feb-06	✳
Tues-Feb-07	✳ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Feb-08	✳
Thurs-Feb-09	✳
Fri-Feb-10	✳ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Feb-11	✳
Sun-Feb-12 LORD'S DAY	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

MARRIAGE

In order to be a good Christian, one needs to deal with all the basic issues in a thorough way. If there is one basic issue that is not settled, whether it be the family or one's occupation, problems will eventually come back. As long as there is one unresolved issue, a Christian will not be able to take a straight path before the Lord.

Today we will cover the subject of marriage. A new believer should know what God's Word has to say about marriage. We need to consider this subject from various angles.

I. MARRIAGE BEING HOLY

The first question to address with regard to marriage is the matter of sex. We need to be clear that human beings have an awareness of sex in the same way that they have an awareness of hunger. Just as the consciousness of hunger is a natural demand of the body, the consciousness of sex is also a natural demand of the body. To feel hungry is natural; it is not a sin. But to steal food is sin; that is not natural. Likewise, having a consciousness of sex is natural and is not a sin. But if a person uses improper means to satisfy his demand, he falls into sin.

Marriage was ordained and initiated by God. Hence, the consciousness of sex also was given by God. Marriage is not something that was instituted after man's fall; it was there before man sinned. It was not instituted after Genesis 3; rather, God ordained marriage in Genesis 2. Hence, the consciousness of sex existed before, not after, sin entered the world. It is definitely not a sin for a person to have the consciousness of sex. There is no element of sin in this consciousness. Rather, it is a consciousness created by God Himself.

New believers must be clear concerning this point. I have contacted many young brothers and sisters in the course of my Christian life and service during the past thirty years. Many of them were troubled by the matter of marriage. They were unnecessarily condemned in their conscience because they were ignorant of God's ordination as well as God's Word. They had the consciousness and need of marriage, yet they thought that this was sin. Some brothers have fallen into serious doubts about God's work only because of their consciousness of sex. It is a heathen thought to treat sex as something sinful. We need to be clear about God's Word. Just as it is not sin for a man to feel hungry, the need for sex is not sinful; it is a natural consciousness.

Hebrews 13:4 tells us, "Let marriage be held in honor among all." Marriage is not only honorable but even holy. God considers sex not only natural but even holy.

Dr. Meyer, a co-worker of D. L. Moody, wrote many good books on edification. He once said, "Only the most filthy mind would consider sex as something filthy." I think this was well said. Man injects filthy thoughts into sex because he himself is filthy. To the clean everything is clean. To the defiled everything is defiled. Because man's mind is defiled, his thoughts also become defiled. We need to realize that marriage is clean. A God-ordained sex relationship is holy, clean, and undefiled.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 30, *MARRIAGE*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.