

## Please Pray

- ✳ **Eastern Canada College Conference in Montréal (February 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.
- ✳ **2023 Spring ITERO Training online and in person (Mar. 31 - Apr. 2):**  
(1) Pray that many brothers will be released to attend this training. (2) May the brothers be released outwardly and inwardly to receive the Lord's speaking. May the Lord release what is on His heart to the brothers. (3) May the Lord gain what He is after in this training.
- ✳ **The Annual Conference in Cairo, Egypt (February 23-25):** We are expecting 70 attendees, including many promising new ones. Please pray that the Lord covers all the practical aspects of this gathering, including the smooth travel and entrance into Egypt of over 30 foreign guests from the Middle East, Africa, Europe and elsewhere, so that the Lord can use this time to both strengthen the lampstand in Cairo, and bring some sons of peace who can become remaining fruit, and even pillars and pillar-builders for His testimony in the Middle East!
- ✳ **A Report on the 2023 Cairo International Book Fair:** The 54th Annual Cairo International Book Fair ("CIBF") was held in Cairo, Egypt from Jan. 24 to Feb. 6, 2023, and for the fifth year in a row, the Arabic literature work in Egypt was able to present LSM ministry publications in Arabic openly to the public. The interactions with the public and the reception of the Arabic ministry materials were, by far, the best we've had since we began participating in CIBF in 2018. We encourage you to read the rest of this very encouraging report in visiting the website: <https://newsletters.lsm.org/having-this-ministry/issues/Feb2023-017/2023-cairo-book-fair.html>. (1) Pray that the seven persons expected to go to the Annual Conference in Cairo will be there, and that nothing will hinder their going. (2) Pray that many more who were invited to the Annual Conference in Cairo will take the decision to go. (3) Pray for all those who received the literature, that the Lord will be able to gain these ones even more through the reading of the ministry literature. (5) Pray for all those who have left their contact info to be connected with the saints. (6) Pray for the team labouring on the translation work of the Arabic New Testament Recovery Version.
- ✳ **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 48:17 – 51:64.
- ✳ HWMR, Crystallization-Study of 1 and 2 Kings, Vol. 2, Week 10.
- ✳ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 11 and 12.

## 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](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 24-26, 2023, Montréal, QC: **Eastern Canada College Conference.**
- ✳ March 10-12, 2023, Kingston, NY: **Northeast Spanish-Speaking 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-Feb-19</b> <b>LORD'S DAY</b>	✳ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
<b>Mon-Feb-20</b>	✳
<b>Tues-Feb-21</b>	✳ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
<b>Wed-Feb-22</b>	✳
<b>Thurs-Feb-23</b>	✳
<b>Fri-Feb-24</b>	✳ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom. ✳ 7pm-9pm: Eastern Canada College Conference, Message 1.
<b>Sat-Feb-25</b>	✳ 10am-12pm: Eastern Canada College Conference, Message 2. ✳ 7pm-9pm: Eastern Canada College Conference, Message 3.
<b>Sun-Feb-26</b> <b>LORD'S DAY</b>	✳ 10am-10:45am: Lord's Table meeting. ✳ 11am-12:15pm: Eastern Canada College Conference, Message 4.

## MARRIAGE

### II. BASIC ELEMENTS OF A MARRIAGE

#### B. Preventing Sin

In the Old Testament God instituted marriage before sin came into the world. In the New Testament, Paul said that marriage not only is allowed but also is a necessity because of the presence of sin (1 Cor. 7).

Marriage can prevent sin. This is why Paul said that men should have their own wives and women should have their own husbands. This is to prevent the sin of fornication (v. 2). Paul did not condemn the consciousness of sex as sin. On the contrary, he showed us that both the male and the female should marry in order to prevent sin.

Paul said that we should make no provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14). If a man constantly committed the sin of pride, Paul could not have said, "Since you always commit the sin of pride, you can be proud at home so that you will not be proud elsewhere! If you exercise your pride in one place, perhaps you will not exercise it elsewhere." Saying this would have been to make "provision for the flesh." God would never agree with his pride or my making some arrangement for him to exercise his pride. Consider a man who loves to steal. You should not say, "Since you like to steal, I will allow you to steal the things which belong to Brother So-and-so so that you will not steal from others." You should not say this; instead, you need to say, "You cannot steal at all." Stealing is definitely a sin, and we should not make any provision for it. Pride is definitely a sin as well, and we cannot make provision for it either. But sex is not a sin in an absolute sense. This is why men should have their own wives, and women should have their own husbands. If we do not understand this, we may think that Paul's word was making provision for the flesh. But we know that the apostle did not make provision for the flesh. Therefore, we cannot consider marriage to be a sin. Marriage is not God's provision for the flesh. We want to hold marriage on a high plane. It is something holy and ordained by God Himself.

Marriage is necessary because sin has entered. Marriage can prevent sin. This is not to make provision for the flesh. There is a clear difference.

In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul spoke about marriage. He began by saying that a wife does not have authority over her own body, and a husband does not have authority over his own body (v. 4). Paul's teaching is quite clear. Except for the purpose of devoting themselves to the service of the Lord, the husband and the wife should not be separated. This prevents fornication (v. 5). In order to prevent fornication, God ordains that male and female should marry and not be separated.

Paul used strong words to speak of those who have a compelling desire for sex. He said that they should marry in order to avoid burning with desire (v. 9). He did not reprimand such persons. Paul did not say, "You are wrong to have such a strong desire. You have sinned in having such a strong desire. Therefore, you have to make some provision for your flesh." Instead, he said, "If you have a strong desire, you should marry. It is better to marry than to live with such a strong desire." The Word of God is very clear concerning this. The consciousness of sex is not a sin. Even a strong sex urge is not a sin. But God has ordained that those who have a strong consciousness of sex should marry. They should not abstain from marriage on the one hand and fall into sin on the other hand. This is what the Lord has shown us.

The institution of marriage has a New Testament aspect and an Old Testament aspect. The Old Testament shows us that marriage provides help that is meet. The New Testament says that it is instituted to prevent sin. One aspect of the Christian marriage today is mutual help, and the other aspect is the prevention of sin.

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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>.