

Please Pray

- ✳ **Churches in Canada:** Through the wedding meeting of a couple in Toronto, many saints and responsible brothers in Canada were blended together in the Church in Toronto's Meeting Hall on the weekend of Mar. 11-12. The brothers from various localities across Canada shared reports on how the Lord is moving and blessing the saints abundantly. We thank the Lord for the feeling of "one church in Canada." (1) Please pray that the Lord will bless this oneness among the churches and among the full-time teams in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montréal. (2) Please pray especially for the strengthening of the team and saints in Calgary. (3) May the saints be encouraged to go out and blend with other localities. (4) May the Lord continue to dispense in all the saints in Canada for the building up of the Body.
- ✳ **2023 Spring ITERO Training in person (Mar. 24-26) and online (Mar. 31 – Apr. 2):** Please pray that the Lord will speak a timely word to His whole Body, especially the elders and responsible ones, for the advancement of His economy on the whole earth.
- ✳ **Eastern Canada Young People's Conference in Montréal (Apr. 7-9):** (1) Please pray that many young people will be released to attend this conference. (2) Pray for all the preparations and that the saints may be encouraged to serve according to their capacity. (3) Pray that we may be willing to open our homes to receive these dear ones into our homes for hospitality. (4) Pray that the Lord will pour out His blessing upon this conference and on everyone who will be there.
- ✳ **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: Ezek 1:1 – 11:25.
- ✳ HWMR, Loving the Lord and Loving One Another for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ, Week 2.
- ✳ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 19 and 20.

Announcements

- ✳ The Church in Montréal Annual General Meeting ("AGM") will be held on April 2, 2023, at 12pm at the Meeting Hall.
- ✳ The 2023 Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference will be held on April 7-9 in Montréal. Registration is through the online form. Early registration on the Lord's Day, March 19 at \$50 per person. \$60 per person after March 19. Deadline: April 2.
- ✳ Registration has opened for the upcoming Young Working Saints and Young Families Conference for the churches in the Northeast, to be held at Camp Penuel on April 21-23, 2023. The registration deadline is April 2. The saints who will stay overnight should register as soon as possible to secure accommodation at the camp, as onsite housing capacity is limited. To register and see other conference details, please visit: tinyurl.com/2023youngworkingsaints.

Announcements (cont'd)

- ✳ This year's International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Chicago, IL, from Friday, May 26 to Monday, May 29, 2023. All meetings will be held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Hotel. There is a special discount group hotel rate available until Friday May 5. Please see the details on the bulletin board.
- ✳ [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 by clicking [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

- ✳ March 24-26, Anaheim, CA: International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.
- ✳ April 2, Montréal: Church in Montréal Annual General Meeting ("AGM").
- ✳ April 7-9, Montréal: The 2023 Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference.
- ✳ April 21-23, Paris, France: French-Speaking Conference.
- ✳ April 21-23, Camp Penuel: Northeast Young Working Saints and Young Families Conference.
- ✳ May 26-29, Chicago, IL: International Memorial Day Conference.

Please refer to the church's website where more events are listed.

This Week's Activities

Sun-Mar-19 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Mar-20	♦
Tues-Mar-21	♦ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Mar-22	♦
Thurs-Mar-23	♦
Fri-Mar-24	♦ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Mar-25	♦
Sun-Mar-26 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

MARRIAGE

IV. MARRIAGE PARTNERS (cont'd)

B. If He Does Not Care, the Lord Will Save Him

Paul said that there is no need to separate if the other party does not care. How do you know that the Lord will not save him through you? If he does not care and wants to continue living with you, Paul said that you should be at peace with him and should not leave. He said that an unbeliever can be sanctified through a believer. He said also, "For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?" (v. 16). If the other party wants to leave, that is his concern, not yours. But if he does not want to leave, you have to believe that the Lord will save him. Paul said that it would be easy for him to be saved. It may not be that easy for the Lord to save others, but it would surely be easy for the Lord to save one who is already yours. We need to deal with this matter by taking such a stand.

VI. WHAT TO DO IF ENGAGED TO AN UNBELIEVER

Some brothers and sisters have another problem: They are engaged to unbelievers. What should they do?

A. It Being Best for the Unbelieving Side to Take the Initiative in Breaking the Engagement

It is clear that the Lord does not want us to marry unbelievers. If someone is already engaged to an unbeliever, the best thing would be for the unbelieving fiancé or fiancée to voluntarily break the engagement. The two are not yet married; they only have an agreement to marry. If the Lord opens the way for the unbelieving side to voluntarily break the agreement because the other one has believed in the Lord, that is the best solution.

B. Not Annuling Any Agreement Arbitrarily

However, it is often impossible to have such a solution. Because a marriage agreement exists, the other party may not easily let go just because you have believed in the Lord. At such times, you need to realize that an engagement to a person is a covenant with that person. Such a covenant is a promise you have made before God. A Christian cannot arbitrarily annul a covenant just because he has believed in the Lord. Any covenant is holy in the eyes of God. You can suggest a dissolution to the other party. The other party can initiate such a dissolution, or you can initiate it. The proposal need not be initiated by the other party. This is different from the earlier case. In the case of a marriage, the other party must initiate it. In the case of an engagement, you can initiate the dissolution of the engagement. If the other party insists that you fulfill the marriage agreement, you have to fulfill it. Once something comes out of the mouth of a Christian, he has to honor it; he cannot annul it arbitrarily. We receive salvation because God honors His word. If God did not honor His word, there would not be any salvation at all. Therefore, you have to negotiate with the other party. If the other party is unwilling to dissolve the relationship, you have to marry him or her.

Psalms 15:4 says, "Should he swear to his harm, / He does not change." After the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, the Gibeonites deceived them with dry, moldy bread, old patched shoes, and worn garments. They said that they came from a far country, and Joshua promised not to kill them. Later, he found out that they were actually from a near country. Because a covenant had been made with them, God would not allow the Israelites to kill them. At the most, they were made woodcutters and drawers of water (Josh. 9:3-27). Honoring one's covenant is a serious matter in the Bible. It is all right for you to annul an engagement only if the other party is willing to annul it. But if the other party is not willing to annul it, you cannot annul it. The covenant with the Gibeonites produced serious consequences. Rain was withheld from heaven because Saul slaughtered the Gibeonites. David was forced to ask the Gibeonites what he should do for them. The Gibeonites demanded that seven of the sons of Saul be hung, and David had to comply (2 Sam. 21:1-6). God will not allow us to breach a covenant arbitrarily. We must learn to honor any covenant we make. We cannot do anything that is unrighteous.

C. Negotiating the Terms Beforehand

You have been engaged to someone, and now you have become a Christian. What should you do if the other party insists on marrying you? Here is something that you can do: Negotiate the terms with him ahead of time. You can say, "I will definitely marry you, but I would like to settle a few matters with you before marriage." What are the few matters? First, the other party must allow you to serve the Lord. You should not move into the other party's house with a false disguise; you should move in with an open banner. You are now a Christian. Even though you are marrying the other person, he must give you the liberty to serve the Lord. He must not interfere with your service to the Lord. Second, when you have children, they must be brought up according to the teaching of the Lord. Whether or not the other party becomes a Christian is up to him or her, but the children must be brought up according to the teaching of the Lord. You must settle this from the very beginning. Put this on the table first and have an agreement ahead of time. If you have an agreement, you will not face difficulties later. But if you do not make an agreement beforehand, you will face difficulties down the road. Marrying an unbeliever is always a loss. But you can minimize the loss and the headaches by coming to an agreement first. The other party must agree to give you the freedom to lead your children to the Lord. You have become a Christian. You will not go to the world. You will always be on the Lord's side. If the other party is agreeable to this, you can proceed with the marriage. If the other party does not like it, he can annul the agreement. We need to inform the other party about our future commitment. This will tend to reduce the problems that will eventually come.

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>.