

Please Pray

- ✳️ **Eastern Canada Young People's Conference in Montréal (Apr. 7-9):** (1) Pray that the young people will be prepared, emptied and unloaded so that the Lord could load them with fresh goods during the conference. May their hearts be good ground for the Lord to sow. (2) Pray for all the preparations and that the saints may be encouraged and strengthened to serve according to their capacity. (3) Pray for all the homes who will be receiving young people and serving ones from out of town, that their time together will be full of joy, love and building up. (4) Pray that the Lord will pour out His blessing upon this conference and everyone who will be there.
- ✳️ **Meeting Hall purchase and renovations in Malaga, Spain:** An opportunity has come up to complete a purchase that will acquire the entire mezzanine floor of a building in Malaga, Spain, for the use of the church and the work. An estimate of 500,000 euros is needed to complete the purchase and carry out the needed renovations. Please pray for this matter and give as the Lord leads. Details can be found in a report located at lordsmove.org/reports.html.
- ✳️ **Meeting the Lord's present need:** May the Lord burden all of us to meet the Lord's present need. "In order to meet the Lord's present need, we must first recall our past experiences and vision. I believe that all of you have had some experiences and some vision in the past. Now we have to recall them. Second, we have to respond to the Lord's attraction and calling...In this attraction there is a calling that calls us to meet the need of the Lord...today. Third, we have to renew our past commitment and consecration. In the past many of us have had a heart for the Lord and have consecrated ourselves to the Lord. Now we need to have these renewed. Fourth, we need to set aside some time and specifically budget our lives. We have to set down some guidelines for our lives. In our daily lives we should set aside some time for the service of the Lord. Fifth, we have to meet the different needs of the saints. There are the following four needs: (1) We must...preach the gospel and gain new ones. (2) We must regularly and consistently help (visit) the new ones. (3) We must diligently learn to help the small group meetings. (4) We must pursue seriously functioning and prophesying in the meetings. Our life is to live Christ. Our goal is the building up of the Body of Christ. The result is the reward in the kingdom. This is the glorious life and the glorious goal for those saints who practice the new way." (Excerpt from "Messages Given to the Working Saints," chap. 6, sec. 2-3).
- ✳️ **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 12:1 – 21:32.
- ✳️ HWMR, Loving the Lord and Loving One Another for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ, Week 4.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 23 and 24.

Announcements

- ✳️ The 2023 Spring Eastern Canada Young People's Conference will be held on April 7-9 in Montréal. Cost is \$60 per person and registration is through the online form. Registration deadline: April 2.

Announcements (cont'd)

- ✳️ Registration is open 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 to find out more details about this conference, please visit: tinyurl.com/2023youngworkingsaints.
- ✳️ The Eastern Canada Grade 6 Conference will be held on April 29 in Kitchener, Ontario. We would need all Grade 6 children, parents, and serving ones from Montréal to register as soon as possible so that we can plan and organize the transportation logistics. The online registration form is available at: <https://forms.gle/EqbmFMfWzqXDPjrw7>.
- ✳️ 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](#).

Upcoming Events

- ✳️ 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.
- ✳️ April 29, Kitchener, ON: Eastern Canada Grade 6 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-Apr-02 LORD'S DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ◆ 12pm: Church in Montréal Annual General Meeting
Mon-Apr-03	◆
Tues-Apr-04	◆ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Apr-05	◆
Thurs-Apr-06	◆
Fri-Apr-07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom. ◆ Eastern Canada Young People's Conference.
Sat-April-08	◆ Eastern Canada Young People's Conference.
Sun-April-09 LORD'S DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ◆ Eastern Canada Young People's Conference.

MARRIAGE

VIII. WHAT TO DO WITH ONE'S CONCUBINE

In the Bible there is no command telling man to separate himself from his concubine. Nowhere in the Bible does God ask man to send his concubine away. I am talking about concubines whom one took before he believed in the Lord. In the Bible I think there is sufficient indication of how God wants man to take care of concubines.

Perhaps we should look first at man's demand before considering the Bible's demand. Man's immediate thought is to send away all his concubines. If the concubine cannot be sent away, man's thought is for the husband to discontinue sexual relationships with her. This is a human concept, and unfortunately many brothers and sisters hold this concept. But this is not God's revelation; it is in fact a heathen thought.

A. The Bible Never Demanding That Concubines Be Sent Away

In the Bible no one took a concubine in a worse way than David. He not only took a concubine but even committed murder in taking that concubine. Uriah died because of his wife. David sacrificed Uriah to gain Bath-sheba. Solomon was born of Bath-sheba, and so was the Lord Jesus Himself. The Lord acknowledges this fact in the New Testament. Matthew 1 tells us about four women. Bath-sheba is included and is spoken of as the wife of Uriah. We must be clear about this fact: Those who have taken concubines should submit to God's disciplining hand; they should never chase their concubines away.

Why does the Bible not demand that the concubine be sent away? Please bear in mind that the sin of fornication and that of taking a concubine are two completely different things. If I steal a Bible today, I can return another Bible tomorrow. If I steal one thousand dollars today, I can return one thousand dollars tomorrow. But if I take a concubine today, I have no way to return her.

Some brothers think that all concubines should be sent away. This is a consideration from the male's point of view. All males should know that in God's eyes taking a concubine is equal to committing adultery. However, on the side of the concubine, when she marries a male, she is not married to two husbands. The male is married to two women, but the concubine is not married to two husbands. We have to see that the Lord never asks the man to send his concubine away.

I think the principle behind Solomon's mother is very clear. The Lord sent Nathan the prophet purposely to David after David married Bath-sheba. Everything the Lord needs to say concerning this subject has already been said through Nathan; there is no need for you to add anything to his word. Even if Nathan had missed anything, there would still be no need for you or me to add a footnote to the subject three thousand years later. Nathan told David that his son would surely die, and judgment would come to him. Others would commit fornication with his wives in the sight of the sun, and the sword would never depart from his house (2 Sam. 12:7-14). Nathan did not ask David to send Bath-sheba away. If he were to send her away, what would she do? Uriah was already dead. Some are without their Uriah today, while the Uriah of others is dead. What should they do? When God sent Nathan to David, He did not ask David to chase Bath-sheba away. In fact, God later caused her to give birth to Solomon (v. 24). God did not cause any of the wives of David to give birth to Solomon. He caused David's concubine, Bath-sheba, to give birth to Solomon. Moreover, the first page of the New Testament says, "And David begot Solomon of her who had been the wife of Uriah" (Matt. 1:6). The New Testament does not say that one can take a concubine. But it does not say that one needs to chase his concubine away either.

B. Her Duty of Marriage Not Being Diminished

Exodus 21:9-11 specifies that if a master betroths a maid to his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters. If the son properly marries another later, the maid will become a concubine. God's ordination is clear: Her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage shall he not diminish. If he does not do these three things to her, she shall go out free and be a slave no more. Thus, if anyone thinks that he cannot have intercourse with his concubine, he is not keeping the law of God. I hope that you can be clear about this matter.

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>.