

## Please Pray

- ✿ **Renovations for the meeting hall and financial offerings:** The meeting hall will have many necessary renovations to be done in the coming months such as replacing the whole roof, replacing all the air conditioning units, etc. These renovations will be necessary for the proper functioning of the meeting hall and will require a large amount of funds. The brothers will provide more details in the coming weeks. May each one of us consider before the Lord concerning our financial offerings. May He direct us in our giving to the needs of the church, the saints and the needy ones. May we store up for ourselves “treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not dig through nor steal” – Mat. 6:20. May our hearts be on the things of heaven and not on the things on the earth. “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” – Mat. 6:21.
- ✿ **2023 Grade 6 Conference in Kitchener, Ontario (April 28-30):** (1) May many grade 6 children in the Eastern Canada region be released to attend this conference. (2) May the grade six children be prepared by the Lord to be an empty vessel to receive a personal speaking from Him. May they receive the Lord as their personal Saviour and consecrate themselves to the Lord. (3) Pray that all the preparations be headed up by the Lord and may each serving one be strengthened in their services. (4) Pray that the Lord will pour out His blessing upon this conference and everyone who will be there.
- ✿ **Bible distribution at metro Université de Montréal (May 6):** (1) May the Lord go before us and brood over the surface of the ground to make it a fertile land. May the hearts of men be prepared and be ready for harvesting. (2) May the Lord bring to us seekers and those who are hungry and thirsty for the truth. May they be open to meet with us again for Bible studies or personal appointments. (3) May many become remaining fruit and good materials for God’s building.
- ✿ **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: 1 John 2:12 – 3:10.
- ✿ HWMR, Loving the Lord and Loving One Another for the Organic Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ, Week 5.
- ✿ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 25 and 26.

## Announcements

- ✿ The registration is for the July 2023 Semi-Annual Training in Anaheim, CA is now open. The live training will be held from Monday, July 3, 2023 till Saturday, July 8, 2023. Video training will also be available. The registration cost is CAD\$275 for the live training and CAD\$175 for the video training. If you would like to attend either the live or video training, please let the serving brothers know. Registration deadline is May 1.

## Announcements (cont’d)

- ✿ 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 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](#).
- ✿ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and send your prayer requests by email 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 sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

## Upcoming Events

- ✿ 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-April-09 LORD’S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord’s Table and prophesying meetings. ♦ Eastern Canada Young People’s Conference.
Mon-Apr-10	♦
Tues-Apr-11	♦ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Apr-12	♦
Thurs-Apr-13	♦
Fri-Apr-14	♦ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-April-015	♦
Sun-April-16 LORD’S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord’s Table and prophesying meetings.

## MARRIAGE

### VIII. WHAT TO DO WITH ONE'S CONCUBINE (cont'd)

#### C. Such a One Not to Be an Elder

There is only one portion of the Word that addresses the matter of concubines in the New Testament. In reading the Bible, we love to see a certain matter that is mentioned only once. If a certain matter is mentioned twice, we have to make a comparison. If it is mentioned three or more times, we need to integrate the different portions before we can arrive at a conclusion about God's teaching. This is why every Bible student loves single-incident injunctions, because one needs to refer to only one case in order to know God's will. There is only one portion in the New Testament—1 Timothy—that only indirectly refers to the matter of concubines. There it says that an overseer must be the husband of one wife. This means that all who have concubines cannot be elders in the church. However, the New Testament does not say that such a one should send his concubine away or abstain from fulfilling her duty of marriage.

#### D. The Best Arrangement—the Concubine Being Saved and Deciding to Separate Voluntarily

If a concubine is saved and has no compulsion for continued sexual relationships, it is good if she is willing to separate from the husband. But this is something voluntary; it is not a commandment of the Lord nor a commandment of the church. The church should not demand anything concerning this matter.

God has put only two together, and this principle should be maintained. It is quite obvious that a person who takes a concubine will suffer more affliction in the body than one who upholds monogamy. This one will naturally experience more discipline from the Lord.

### IX. DIVORCE

The Bible speaks of divorce, but divorce is sanctioned by the Scripture under only one condition. There are many ordinances regarding divorce among the nations of the world. Some countries have more than twenty ordinances on the subject. The Chinese also have many ordinances. For example, if either party is mentally unsound or if there is incompatibility of any

kind, the couple can divorce each other. But the Bible gives only one condition for divorce—adultery. Factors such as mental instability or prolonged separation do not constitute legitimate reasons for divorce. The only reason for a divorce is extramarital sexual conduct. In Matthew 19 and Luke 16 the Lord Jesus shows us clearly that divorce is permitted only if adultery is involved.

#### A. What God Has Joined Together, Man Should Not Separate

Divorce is allowed in the case of adultery because man should not separate what God has joined together. In other words, the husband and wife are one in the sight of God. All divorces violate this oneness. What is adultery? It is the destruction of that oneness. If you commit sexual acts with someone other than your wife or your husband, you have committed adultery and have violated that oneness. A wife or a husband may be missing for years or may be mentally sick. There may be psychological harassment or other factors involved, but if one party turns away and marries someone else, he is breaking the oneness and has committed adultery in reality.

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