

Please Pray

- ✳ **Semi-Annual Training July 2023:** (1) May the speaking brothers be covered in the Lord and in the Body. May they be one with the Lord and filled with Him as they prepare to speak during this time. (2) May we be emptied and prepared so that we may receive a fresh speaking from the Lord in this training. (3) May we have ears to hear what the Spirit is speaking to the churches so that we may advance with Him.
- ✳ **Renovations of our Meeting Hall and Financial Offerings:** Our Meeting Hall will have many necessary renovations to be done during the coming months, such as replacing the roof, the air conditioning units, etc. These renovations are essential for the proper functioning of the Meeting Hall and will require a large amount of funds. The brothers will provide more details during the coming weeks. May each one of us consider our financial offerings before the Lord. May the Lord direct us in our giving for the needs of the church, of the saints and of 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." – Matt. 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." – Matt. 6:21.
- ✳ **Olympic Games 2024 in Paris (Torch Relay: April to the opening of the games; Games: Jul. 26 to Aug. 11):** The coworkers and the brothers in Europe are in coordination concerning the upcoming 2024 Olympic games in Paris, France. This is a unique opportunity where millions of people from all over the world will come and attend. The passing of the torch will start in Spring, will arrive in the city of Marseille, France, and will run through France. The brothers feel that we need to seize this opportunity to preach the gospel and distribute Bibles to gain people for the churches in France and all over the world both during the torch relay and during the games. (1) Pray for all the coordination and preparations amongst the leading brothers. May all the coordination and preparations be headed up in Christ. (2) Pray that many saints will participate by praying, by giving and by going. (3) May the Lord go before us and prepare all the avenues and brood over the hearts so that they may be ready to generate life. May the people's hearts be prepared and be ready for harvest when we meet them during the torch relay and the games. (4) May this worldly event in human history be for the advancement of God's Economy and the advancement of the divine history.
- ✳ **Church in Paris Meeting Hall Purchase:** The Church in Paris currently needs to purchase a meeting hall. However, because secularism is strong in France, it makes it very difficult to find a proper meeting hall. (1) May the meeting hall prepared by the Lord be released according to the Lord's timing. (2) We bind the enemy and his attacks concerning the release of this meeting hall. We take away anything he places before us. May his tactics be annulled and made void. (3) May the doors be opened for the finding of the meeting hall that no one can shut. May the Lord's will be done.
- ✳ **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 8.
- ✳ Life-Study of Matthew, Messages 31 and 32.

Announcements

- ✳ 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.
- ✳ Registration for the July 2023 Semi-Annual Training in Anaheim, CA is open until May 1. Live training: Mon-Jul-03 to Sat-Jul-08. Video training will be available. Registration is CAD\$275 for live training, and CAD\$175 for video training. Please contact the serving brothers if you are interested to attend in person or online.
- ✳ The North America College Training will be from July 16-22, 2023 in Champaign, IL. For information, visit collegetraining.org/. Please contact the serving brothers if you are interested to attend.
- ✳ The 2023 Summer School of Truth ("SST") will be in Kitchener, ON from August 6-11. Please contact the serving brothers **TODAY** if you are interested to attend.
- ✳ [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) released a series of talks by Brother Minoru Chen about the Life-Studies. Weekly subsequent talks will be released on Mondays. You can subscribe to the [LivingtoHim YouTube channel](#) to get updates. All outlines are available for [download](#).
- ✳ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and send your prayer requests by email 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 sent to us. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✳ May 26-29, Chicago, IL: **International Memorial Day Conference.**
 - ✳ July 3-8, Anaheim, CA: **July Semi-Annual Training.**
 - ✳ July 16-22, Champaign, IL: **North America College Training.**
 - ✳ August 6-11, Kitchener, ON: **Summer School of Truth ("SST")**
- Please refer to the church's website where more events are listed.*

This Week's Activities

Sun-April-30 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-May-01	♦
Tues-May-02	♦ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-May-03	♦
Thurs-May-04	♦
Fri-May-05	♦ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-May-06	♦
Sun-May-07 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

CHOOSING A MATE

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:18

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF CHOOSING A MATE

When God created man, He considered Adam to be one half and Eve to be another half. Man was not a complete man until the two halves were put together. Everyone needs to be married. The only exceptions are those who have received God's gift of keeping their virginity. Most Bible teachers agree that to God's children, mating means searching for the other half. God has created you as one half, and He has also created another half for you. You have to find that other half in order to become a whole. Mating means to make up the "whole." The two halves are useless if they remain halves. You must find the other half. If the two halves come together yet remain as two halves, something is wrong with that marriage. We believe that what God has put together should not be separated (Matt. 19:6). This is why we should find God's match.

Marriage among our young people has much to do with the church; therefore, the older brothers and sisters in the church should not ignore this matter. We must recognize the importance of this matter and help the young ones to make the right choice. If they do not make the right choice in their marriages and something happens later in life, the problems in their families will become the problems of the church. This will put a heavy burden upon the church.

We hope that the young brothers and sisters will open up their hearts before the Lord concerning the matter of marriage. They should drop all prejudices and consider the matter calmly. Do not look at it too subjectively, but consider it objectively. If one becomes too subjective, his heart and head will be too hot to see everything soberly or clearly. Learn to be calm and objective, and learn to bring everything to the Lord and consider everything properly. Do not be stirred up by your emotion, and do not leap hastily into anything. Please remember that a Christian can jump into a marriage, but he can never jump out of it. Worldly people can jump in and out of a marriage easily. But you cannot jump out of it. This is why you must consider it carefully before you jump in.

Let me mention some basic factors affecting marriage. I would like the young brothers and sisters to consider these factors calmly and deal with them one by one. Do not gloss over them lightly.

II. FACTORS AFFECTING THE CHOICE OF A MATE

A. Natural Attraction

It was easier for Jacob to marry Rachel than for him to marry Leah. We must never belittle natural attraction. I would never say that anyone would do for a spouse as long as he or she is a brother or a sister. The matter of attraction is not involved in being a brother or a sister in the Lord. But if two persons marry each other, they must consider all the factors that constitute a marriage. One of these basic factors is attraction.

Dr. Bevan of the American Christian and Missionary Alliance had a proper word for this. He said, "Mutual attraction is the highest expression of love." Such a great servant of the Lord also said, "When the Lord makes you a brother or a sister to all the believers, the question of attraction is not involved. But when He tells you to marry a person, the question of attraction comes in."

Even Paul himself did not forget this matter in 1 Corinthians 7. He said that if one thinks that he should marry and he wishes to do so, he should go ahead and do it. This shows us that marriage must be something that is produced out of one's own willingness. One must feel that he wants to do it. Natural attraction is a prerequisite to a successful marriage. Of course, no one needs to teach this, because the young brothers and sisters know this already. They are very much aware of the factor of natural attraction in a marriage. We mention this so that they will see that the older brothers in the Lord recognize this fact and acknowledge its legitimacy. All marriages that are void of natural attraction will not work well. Such marriages are reluctant matches.

If you want someone to be your marriage partner, you must want to be with him (or her) and must enjoy his (or her) presence. You must not endure his company but must like it. There are many people whose presence you endure; you cannot say that you enjoy their presence. But if you want to marry someone, you must cherish and treasure his company. You must be happy about being together with him. If you do not like his company, or if it is not something of an enjoyment to you, you should not marry him, because you are short of one basic factor of marriage. The delight and enjoyment of one's company must not be something that is temporary; it must be a permanent sentiment. You should have the assurance that thirty years or fifty years from now, you will still enjoy his company. This enjoyment should not be gone after three or five days. This attraction is one of the basic conditions of a good marriage.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 31, *CHOOSING A MATE*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.