

Please Pray

- ✱ **The Beginning of a New Semester of University Campuses:** We had Bible distributions at McGill, HEC, and UdeM until now. We will have another distribution at Concordia on Monday, January 15 from 11am to 2pm. We invite all the saints to join this distribution on January 15. May the Lord go before us to brood over Concordia to prepare the hearts of men to make them ready to be harvested. May many be open to receive a gospel tract, a Bible, and have some conversations with us. May the Lord add new students to the Bible studies on all the campuses. May our relationships with those whom we have been in contact with previously be strengthened. May we learn how to shepherd these previously contacted students in this new semester. May the Lord gain remaining fruit and materials for His building.
- ✱ **The Church in Montréal Meeting Hall Renovations:** We are currently in the process of renovating the basement and some areas on the main floor of the meeting hall. This project will cost approximately \$100,000. We also have the loan from another locality of \$75,000 that needs to be paid back within two years. May each one of us continually 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."
- ✱ **The 2024 Summer Olympics Games in Paris:** We encourage all the saints to open to the Lord regarding this next milestone in the Lord's move in Europe, and we would like to invite the saints in the Lord's recovery to join us in this labour next year by praying, giving, and going. Please pray for the following: 1. For the gospel of the kingdom to be preached all over France in 2024; 2. For Satan to be bound and for his kingdom to suffer loss; 3. That the gates of the New Jerusalem will be open in every direction in France-north, south, east, and west (Rev. 21:13); 4. For the French people to repent and to receive forgiveness of sins; 5. That during the Torch Relay, Christ's triumphal procession will move from city to city all over France (2 Cor. 2:14-15); 6. That we would be able to distribute Bibles freely in every city that we go to and that it would be carried out righteously before God and before men; 7. For the church to be raised up in at least ten key cities.
- ✱ **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: Gen 25:1 – 31:55.
- ✱ HWMR: Knowing, Experiencing, and Enjoying Christ as Revealed in Philippians, Week 5.
- ✱ Life-Study of John, Messages 31 and 32.

Announcements

- ✱ Gospel preaching and Bibles distributions remaining schedule (please contact the serving ones if you would like to join):
 - UdeM: Monday, January 8 (11am-2pm)
 - Concordia: Monday, January 15 (11am-2pm)
- ✱ The Summer Olympics Games will be returning to Europe in 2024 and will be hosted in Paris, France. We believe that this is a wonderful opportunity prepared by the Lord as the Lord of the harvest. We would encourage all the saints to open to the Lord regarding this next milestone in the Lord's move in Europe, and we would like to invite the saints in the Lord's recovery to join us in this labour next year. Please contact brother [Allan Yeow](#) for more information and for the link to the form to express your interest. May we join the Lord in this move by praying, giving, and going.
- ✱ Please consider your needs carefully before the Lord and email your prayer requests to Allan Yeow, allan.yeow81@gmail.com, no later than Wednesday evening of every week. Please also 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

- ✱ Jan. 8 and 15: Gospel preaching and Bibles distributions on university campuses.
- ✱ Feb. 10-11, 2024, Taipei, Taiwan: The 2024 International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference.

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

This Week's Activities

Sun-Jan-07 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jan-08	♦ 11am-2pm: Gospel preaching and Bibles distribution on the UdeM campus.
Tues-Jan-09	♦ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Jan-10	♦
Thur-Jan-11	♦
Fri-Jan-12	♦ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Jan-13	♦
Sun-Jan-14 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

FRIENDS

Scripture Reading: James 4:4; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Psalms 1; 1 Cor. 15:33

III. God's command being for us to terminate our worldly friendship

God, however, has ordained that we terminate our friendships after we have believed in the Lord Jesus.

A. Friendship of the world being enmity with God

James spoke of friendship of the world (James 4:4). The world here means "worldly people." "The friendship of the world is enmity with God." Please remember that the love for the Father is not in us if we love the world (1 John 2:15). To be a friend of worldly people is to be an enemy of God.

A new believer must be very clear that as soon as he becomes a Christian, he has to replace all of his friends. If you have just accepted the Lord, you must replace your friends. This is the same as changing one's attire and everything else when one believes in the Lord. Friends also need to be changed. One has to have an entirely different set of friends. I know what I am talking about. A new believer will live a poor and shallow spiritual life if he does not change his friends. A person should terminate all of his old friendships as soon as he believes in the Lord. It is wonderful to note that when God's love comes in, man's love departs. When the Lord's life comes into us, the world can no longer be a friend to us.

But our Lord did not say that we have to hate the world in order to love God. This does not mean that we have to ignore the world or that we can no longer greet our friends on the street. Rather, it means that whoever befriends the world is at enmity with God. We do not have to treat the world as our enemy, but our deep friendship and our devotion to fellowship with it must be terminated. We may still love our friends, but now our goal should be to save them. We may still treat them as friends, but our goal should be like that of Cornelius—to bring them the gospel. Cornelius invited two groups of people when Peter came to his house: his relatives and his intimate friends (Acts 10:24). He knew that God wanted him to invite Peter, and he invited his relatives and intimate friends as well to listen to the gospel. This is the goal of our continued acquaintance; it is not to maintain our former ties. A man cannot stop knowing a person whom he has known already. A friend is still a friend. One cannot cut off his relationship with those who have been acquainted with him for years. Dealing with our friendship means that we have a turn in the Lord. It means that all former relationships cease. From this point forward, we still talk to our friends when we see them. We still discuss things with them if we have problems. But we have a new life, while they do not have such a

life. Our relationship should not ignore this change in life. A person becomes a friend by first becoming acquainted with another, then by loving him, and finally by socializing with him. If we continue such a relationship with our friends after we are saved, we are at enmity with God, and spontaneously we will not be able to go on in a proper way.

In running a race, the lighter the weight one has on his body, the better it is. The more one deals with sins, the lighter his weight will be. The more recompenses one makes, the lighter his burdens will be. The more friends you leave behind, the less weight you will have. If you add a few friends to yourself, you will find yourself being pressed down. I have seen many brothers and sisters who have been held down by their friends. They cannot be absolute to God's way; it is hard for them to be good Christians. An unbeliever's standard of morality and conduct will always be that of an unbeliever. They may not drag you down, but they will surely not lift you up. unequally

B. Not being dissimilarly yoked with an unbeliever

Second Corinthians 6:14 says, "Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers." Many people think that this is a word for marriage. I agree that being dissimilarly yoked does imply marriage, but it also describes all other relationships between believers and unbelievers.

1. Being dissimilarly yoked with the world not being a blessing but a suffering

"Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers." This is a general statement. What does it mean? We have to go on to see the following questions: "For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? And what concord does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever? And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, even as God said, 'I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people.' Therefore 'come out from their midst and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you'; 'and I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty'" (2 Cor. 6:14-18). All of these questions issue from the first statement: "Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers." This is a positive statement. It is the basic premise. After this basic premise, five questions follow. These questions show us that believers and unbelievers are not compatible with one another and cannot be similarly yoked.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 34, *FRIENDS*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.