

Please Pray

- ✳ **Prayer for the Next Generation (children, young people, college students and working saints):** We thank the Lord for the next generation in the church life. May each one be preserved and be built into the church. May the Lord teach us how to shepherd each one according to their age group and need. May the children's character and humanity be molded and shaped to be proper vessels useful to the Lord. May the children come to know the Lord as their personal God and Saviour. May the young people and college students be saved and experience the Lord in their studies and daily life. May they be preserved from this crooked and perverted generation. May the working saints become the backbone of the church by their living, service and shepherding. May each serving saint rise up to take more responsibility in the church life. May each age group be gained by the Lord to be overcomers to bring the Lord back.
- ✳ **Year 2024:** May this year be a year of seeking the Lord's face day by day to be in His constant presence. May we have a thirst to drink, eat and enjoy Him every moment of the day. May this year be a year of much growth in life. May we all take time each day to be rooted in Christ as the good land to absorb and enjoy the unsearchable rich Christ. May this year be a year of propagation. May we cooperate with the Lord this year to preach the gospel and propagate. May we live a life of gospel. May we learn how to shepherd the saints and the new ones among us. May the Lord's shepherding heart be reproduced in us. May this year be a year of hastening the Lord's return by preparing ourselves to be His bride.
- ✳ **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."
- ✳ **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: Matt 11:1 – 13:12.
- ✳ HWMR: Knowing, Experiencing, and Enjoying Christ as Revealed in Philipians, Week 6.
- ✳ Life-Study of John, Messages 33 and 34.

Announcements

- ✳ Gospel preaching and Bibles distributions remaining schedule (please contact the serving ones if you would like to join):
 - 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. 15: Gospel preaching and Bibles distribution on the campus of Concordia University.
- ✳ 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-14 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jan-15	♦ 11am-2pm: Gospel preaching and Bibles distribution on the campus of Concordia University.
Tues-Jan-16	♦ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Jan-17	♦
Thur-Jan-18	♦
Fri-Jan-19	♦ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Jan-20	♦
Sun-Jan-21 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

B. Not being dissimilarly yoked with an unbeliever (cont'd)

1. Being dissimilarly yoked with the world not being a blessing but a suffering (cont'd)

I wish all new believers would realize that when believers and unbelievers are put together, the believers always suffer. We should never think that we can pull the unbelievers in our direction. If we want to pull them in our direction, we do not have to do it by making friends with them. I can tell you that I have tried to pull my old friends in my direction, but I did not try to maintain my old friendship with them. We can win our old friends over to our side without trying to maintain our old friendships with them. If we try to maintain our friendships, they will probably win us over to their side.

C. H. Spurgeon once gave a good illustration. A young lady came to him and told him that she wanted to make friends with an unbeliever. She said that she wanted to bring him to the Lord and then become engaged to him. Mr. Spurgeon asked the young lady to climb up on a high table. She did as he asked. By then Mr. Spurgeon was already quite an old man. He told the young lady to hold his hand and try her best to pull him up. She tried very hard but could not do it. Mr. Spurgeon then said, "Now let me pull you down," and with one jerk, she was down on the ground. He said, "It is easy to be pulled down but hard to pull someone up." This answered the girl's question. Please remember that pulling someone up is always hard. It is very difficult to pull an unbeliever up, but it is easy for him to pull you down. Many people have been pulled down by unbelievers. Many brothers and sisters are pulled down by their friends because they have not dealt with the problem of friendships.

New believers should tell all their friends that they have believed in the Lord Jesus. They must open their mouth to testify and confess that they have received the Lord. Whenever they see their friends again, they must bring the Lord to them. I had many friends when I was in school. After believing in the Lord, I would take out my Bible, sit down with them, and talk about the Lord whenever I saw them. My conduct before I was a Christian was very poor. At the least I had learned to gamble and I enjoyed going to the theater. I was easily dragged into these things by my friends. But after I believed in the Lord, I would take out my Bible whenever I sat down with them. After I became known for doing this, my friends began to leave me alone. This was good for me because they stopped including me in their activities. Had I not done that, it would have been unavoidable for me

to be dragged away. We would rather not be welcomed by our friends than be pulled away by them. It is best to keep a mild friendship with them, but do not pursue intimate friendship. Be polite and courteous. Do not lose your friends, but do not become deeply involved with them. We belong to the Lord, and we should always bring the Lord to them.

If you serve the Lord faithfully and bring the Lord to your friends in this way, sooner or later they will either turn to the Lord or forsake you. These are the only two possibilities. There is hardly a third possible outcome. They will either follow you and take the same way, or they no longer will bother you. This will work to a new believer's advantage; it will save him much trouble. A person will be dragged away by an unbeliever if the two bear the same yoke, because he has to disobey the Lord in order to maintain his close friendship with the world.

2. Five questions on not being dissimilarly yoked

First, "For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have?" You have believed in the Lord and you know what righteousness is. You must deal with your former unrighteousnesses. You must deal with whatever you owe to others. But unbelievers, even the most moral ones, do not know what righteousness means. The two are diametrically the opposite of each other. Righteousness and unrighteousness have no partnership with each other. We cannot take advantage of others in even the smallest way. Perhaps some people like to take advantage of others. In the past you might have thought that this was smart, but now you realize that this is unrighteousness. How can righteousness have partnership with unrighteousness? Your views are basically different now. Thus, righteousness can have no partnership with unrighteousness.

Second, "What fellowship does light have with darkness?" You have been enlightened, and now you see. The other person is in darkness and cannot see. A child of God, who has made some progress on his spiritual journey already and who has some depth in the Lord, will find it difficult even to fellowship with a fleshly Christian who lives in darkness. How much more difficult would it be for him to commune with one who is totally in darkness and sees nothing? At least you have been enlightened by God. Here is a basic contradiction: Light has no fellowship with darkness. Unbelievers can do many things. Their philosophies, ethical standards, and outlook on life are different from those of believers. Believers are in the light, while unbelievers are in darkness. How can they fellowship and commune with one another? They are basically different in nature.

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>.