

Please Pray

- ✿ **Prayer for Increase and Shepherding:** During the past two years the Church in Montréal did not realize any increase in attendance. We may have gained some but lost some. May we all be burdened to pray that we abide in the living Christ as the vine and we be branches to bear remaining fruit. Also, may the Lord increase our burden for prayers in the church prayer meetings for the increase and multiplication through more gospel preaching as well as more shepherding of one another.
- ✿ **Church in Brampton:** In recent years the church in Brampton has faced many challenges that have affected the church and meeting life among the saints. Just recently, the church suffered the loss of a sister. Currently, the numbers meeting regularly on Lord's Day morning have decreased appreciably. We stand with the church in Brampton. May the Lord do a restoration work, as He did in Joel 2:25-27. "And I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the licking locust and the consuming locust and the cutting locust, [...] And you will eat to the full and be satisfied, And you will praise the name of Jehovah your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people will never be ashamed. And you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am Jehovah your God and there is none else. And My people will never be ashamed."
- ✿ **Church in Montréal Meeting Hall Renovations:** We are currently in the process of renovating the basement and some areas of 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 all of us continually consider our financial offerings before the Lord. May the Lord 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: Gen. 32:1 – 41:13.
- ✿ HWMR: An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord's Recovery before His Appearing, Week 1.
- ✿ Life-Study of John, Messages 35 and 36.

Announcements

- ✿ There will be a fellowship and information session on the Lord's Day, January 28 for all saints considering to join the gospel trip to the 2024 Summer Olympics Games in Paris, France. Please bring your food during the love feast and join us in Room 1.
- ✿ There will be a local French-Speaking Young People and College Conference in Montréal on February 16-17 in our Meeting Hall. Please register using the online form that will be provided by the Young People serving ones.
- ✿ 2024 Summer Olympics Games in Paris, France. We believe that this is a wonderful opportunity prepared by the Lord as the Lord of the harvest. 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. 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. 28, Salle 1: **Fellowship and Information Session concerning the 2024 Summer Olympics Games in Paris, France.**
- ✿ Feb. 10-11, 2024, Taipei, Taiwan: **The 2024 International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference.**
- ✿ Feb. 16-17, Montréal: **French-Speaking Young People and College Conference.**

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

This Week's Activities

Sun-Jan-21 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jan-22	♦
Tues-Jan-23	♦ 7:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Jan-24	♦
Thur-Jan-25	♦
Fri-Jan-26	♦ 6:30pm-9pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Jan-27	♦
Sun-Jan-28 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10am-12pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

FRIENDS

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

III. God's command being for us to terminate our worldly friendship (cont'd)

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

2. Five questions on not being dissimilarly yoked (cont'd)

Third, "And what concord does Christ have with Belial?" Belial refers to Satan and contemptible things. Satan is surely contemptible. We belong to the Lord, while unbelievers belong to Belial. We are honorable (1 Pet. 2:9), and they are cheap. We were bought with a high price, with the blood of the Son of God, not with corruptible gold and silver. We have our Christian standing, our dignity as believers. There are many things which we cannot do. I can bargain with a rickshaw-coolie within a reasonable limit. But it would be wrong for me to bargain beyond that limit. We are Christians, and we cannot go beyond certain limits. We cannot bargain too much with others. We must not lose our Christian dignity. We are worth more than the few cents that we bargain for. We cannot lower ourselves to the level of the street hawkers. We have to maintain our Christian standing and our Christian dignity.

Some people belong to Belial. They may do many things. They may take advantage of others or make gain for themselves. But we cannot do the same things. We have our Christian honor and status. How can these two kinds of people be in harmony with one another? One is pulling to one side, and the other is pulling to the opposite side. The two cannot be yoked together. Putting them under one yoke will not work. The yoke will surely break.

Please remember that many people are not that honorable. They are, in fact, rather ignoble. Christians, however, are noble people. The two are totally different; they cannot be yoked together. After one becomes a Christian, he cannot develop strong friendship with unbelievers, because he is incompatible with them.

Fourth, "Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?" This is a repetition of the question prior to it. This is another comparison. You have faith, and the other person does not have faith. You know God in faith, but the other person does not believe in God and does not know Him. You find faith in your life, but the other person does not have faith in his life. You trust in God, while he has no trust. You look to God, while he looks to himself. You say that everything is in God's hand, but he says that everything is in his own hand. The two are basically different. We

often cannot communicate even with nominal Christians; we cannot fellowship with them. They say that they are Christians, but they have no faith. There is a problem here. Not only is the conduct of the two persons different, but one has faith while the other does not. The conduct is different because the measure of faith is different. With this difference, it is hard to have any communication at all. A believer has nothing to do with an unbeliever. A believer spontaneously trusts in God in many things; it is as natural as breathing. But this is hard to an unbeliever. He would say that the believer is superstitious, backward, or foolish. There is no way for us to make friends with unbelievers. They will pull us down, and the pull will be very strong.

Fifth, "What agreement does the temple of God have with idols?" What is the temple of God? What is an idol? I think this refers to the sanctification of the body. Following this, it says that we are the temple of the living God. In the book of 1 Corinthians, the believers' bodies are considered the temple of God. One group of people were idol worshippers, while the other group of people said, "Our bodies are the temple of God. We cannot defile the temple of God." What we do with our friends is related very much to our body. Drinking, smoking, and other activities all affect the body; they touch the body. But the body is the temple of God. One should not destroy this temple or defile it. We must preserve our body as we preserve God's temple. The living God dwells in us, and we must not destroy this temple. We are the temple of God, while they are the temple of idols. They are related to idols, visible or invisible. They do not care for the holiness of the body, but we do. Do you see the difference here? How can the two be yoked together?

We can never be friends with unbelievers. There is only one result if we befriend them—we are dragged down with them. We should never think that we are strong and steadfast and that it is all right for us to make a few unbelieving friends. Let me say that we have been Christians for many years, but we are still fearful of making friends with unbelievers. A relationship with them invariably brings loss to us. We should contact them only for the sake of bringing them to a meeting or testifying to them. Apart from this, all other contact is dangerous. Once we are in their midst, we will have to sacrifice our standard. It will be hard for us to maintain our Christian standard when we are among them.

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>.