

## 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.
- ✳️ **The Local French-Speaking Young People and College Students' Conference (February 16-17):** May all the services and preparations of this conference be covered by the Lord; may the speaking brothers be one with the Lord in His burden and be covered by Him; may the Lord release what is on His heart to the French-speaking students in this time; may the students be prepared and ready to receive a fresh speaking from the Lord.
- ✳️ **The Montréal Responsible Brothers' Retreat Meeting (Feb. 24):** The Montréal responsible brothers will have a day together to pray, fellowship and consider the situation of the church and the saints. May the responsible brothers learn how to take the Lord as their head in this time; may the Lord give the brothers His feelings and His direction on how to bring the church in Montréal on; may the brothers be diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit and be attuned to be in harmony so that the Lord could pour out His blessing.
- ✳️ **The 2024 Eastern Canada College-Age Winter Conference, Toronto (March 1-3):** May the students be released to participate in this conference; may the students be prepared inwardly to receive a fresh speaking and dispensing from the Lord; may all the services and preparations be covered by the Lord; may the Lord anoint the speaking brothers to be one with Him and one with His burden; may the Lord release what is on His heart to the students in this conference.
- ✳️ **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 15:21 – 17:27.
- ✳️ HWMR: An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord's Recovery before His Appearing, Volume 1, Week 4.
- ✳️ Life-Study of John, Messages 41 and 42.

## Announcements

- ✳️ All saints are invited to join and watch the 2024 International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference ("ICSC") messages scheduled on zoom for the Eastern Canada saints. Simultaneous translation will be available in English, French, Chinese, Spanish, and Korean. The schedule is as follows:
  - ♦ Message 1: Saturday, February 10 – 09:00am to 10:30am.
  - ♦ Message 2: Saturday, February 10 – 11:00am to 12:30pm.
  - ♦ Message 3: Saturday, February 10 – 07:30pm to 09:00pm.
  - ♦ Message 4: Lord's Day, February 11 – 05:00pm to 06:30pm.
  - ♦ Message 5: Lord's Day, February 11 – 07:30pm to 09:00pm.

## Announcements (cont'd)

- ✳️ There will be a local French-Speaking Young People and College Students' Conference in Montréal on February 16-17 in our Meeting Hall. Please register using the online form provided by the Young People serving ones.
- ✳️ The 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 to be provided with 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](mailto:allan.yeow81@gmail.com), by 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

- ✳️ February 16-17, Montréal: **The French-Speaking Young People and College Students' Conference.**
- ✳️ February 24, Montréal: **The Montréal Responsible Brothers' Retreat Meeting.**
- ✳️ March 1-3, Toronto: **The 2024 Eastern Canada College-Age Winter Conference.**
- ✳️ April 12-14, Anaheim, California: **Spring International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones ("ITERO").**

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

## This Week's Activities

<b>Sun-Feb-11 LORD'S DAY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.</li> <li>♦ 05:00pm-06:30pm: ICSC Message 4.</li> <li>♦ 07:30pm-09:00pm: ICSC Message 5.</li> </ul>
<b>Mon-Feb-12</b>	♦
<b>Tues-Feb-13</b>	♦ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
<b>Wed-Feb-14</b>	♦
<b>Thur-Feb-15</b>	♦
<b>Fri-Feb-16</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.</li> <li>♦ French-Speaking Young People and College Students' Conference.</li> </ul>
<b>Sat-Feb-17</b>	♦ French-Speaking Young People and College Students' Conference.
<b>Sun-Feb-18 LORD'S DAY</b>	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

## FRIENDS

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

### V. The meaning of friendship in the church

#### A. Friendship being something that goes beyond normal relationships (cont'd)

I want to draw your attention to the fact that 3 John was written when John was very old. The letter was written about thirty years after Paul was martyred. At that time Peter also had passed away. Of the twelve apostles, John was the only one left. He wrote as "the elder to Gaius" (v. 1). He was indeed elderly. I like his third Epistle very much. Third John is different from the other Epistles. First John speaks of "fathers," "young men," and "young children." It seems that John was still conscious of clear distinctions there. But in the last verse of 3 John, he had come to a different place; he was standing in a very special position. He was very old by then and could call a seventy-year-old man his son. He was very old, perhaps in his nineties. At such an old age, when he had so much knowledge and had traveled so far in his spiritual journey, he did not address his brothers and sisters as brothers and sisters. He did not use such terms as children, young men, or fathers. He simply said, "The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name." Do you not sense a certain flavor here? In reading God's Word, we have to touch its flavor and its spirit before we can comprehend the meaning behind the word. If we do not touch the flavor and the spirit, our reading will be fruitless. Here was a man who was so old that he had practically lost all his friends. Peter was dead and so was Paul, but John could still say, "The friends greet you. Greet the friends." Here was a man with so much riches in him. We can say that he had arrived at the pinnacle of his riches. He had followed the Lord for many years and had touched many things. Now he was so old that he could pat the head of a sixty or seventy-year-old man and call him, "My child." But he did not say this. Instead he said, "My friends." I do not know whether you understand what I am trying

to say. This has nothing to do with position; John was not speaking in his normal capacity. This kind of speaking uplifts a person. Just as the Lord was a friend to sinners and just as God became a friend to Abraham, John also treated all of God's children, young and old, as his friends. This is altogether different from what we spoke about earlier in this chapter.

#### B. The emphasis in the church being the brother relationship

Some day some of our young ones may arrive at this stage, but today they must behave as brothers in the church. The matter of friendship occupies a very high place in the church. Some day, when we reach a high plane, we may become a friend to little children. We can be far above them, yet can honor them by calling them our friends. Before that day comes, the church must emphasize the relationship of brothers and sisters, not the relationship of friends.

It is interesting to note that the church pays attention to many things, but not friendship. This is because friendship is something that goes beyond the normal relationship. It is something that is beyond the ordinary, something that stands on special ground. Friendship is when a great man honors another man by being his friend. Such a man can be so great that he can call another person his friend. This is not something that any brother or sister can do. Those who are young in the Lord should learn to maintain their relationship as brothers and sisters in the Lord. I hope that you will separate yourself from your former friends and have communication and fellowship with the brothers and sisters in the church instead. If you do this, it will save you from many problems as you go on in your spiritual journey.

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>.