

## Please Pray

- ☛ **Spring 2024 Eastern Canada Young People's Conference in Montréal (March 29-31):** In fellowship with the leading brothers in Eastern Canada, we felt that it would be a good opportunity for the young people in Eastern Canada to visit the Church in Montréal for the sake of the blending in the Body. May the Lord cover and head up all the preparations and services. May this be a wonderful time of blending in the Body. May the young people be released to attend this time. May they be prepared to be ready to receive a fresh and personal touch of the Lord. May the Lord gain the young people in a deeper way during this time. May the Lord's heart's desire concerning the young people be released in this conference.
- ☛ **Full-Time Training in Anaheim – New Term (FTTA: February 18; FTTA-MA: March 18):** May the Lord gain the trainees more in this new term. May the trainees cooperate with the Lord's training and working in them in this term. May each one receive the training that the Lord has prepared for them.
- ☛ **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 by praying and giving. 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.
- ☛ **Update: Annual Conference in Cairo Held February 22-24, 2024:** We had a glorious conference with about 70 attending – about two thirds from the Middle East, and one third from elsewhere. Almost 20 were able to come from Lebanon! A number of good new ones from Egypt attended, and have expressed a desire to stay in contact with us, so we are working on a plan and schedule to contact them one by one to set up regular weekly meetings with them. Please pray that: **1.** The Lord will grant us to be in regular touch with the seeking ones, and will give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation to see His economy; **2.** The Lord will continue to strengthen the churches in Cairo and Beirut and will add definite remaining fruit this year; **3.** The Lord especially could add some pillar and pillar-builder new ones.
- ☛ **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. 21:1 – 22:46.
- ☛ HWMR: An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord's Recovery before His Appearing, Volume 2, Week 8.
- ☛ Life-Study of John, Messages 49 and 50.

## Announcements

- ☛ The Spring 2024 Eastern Canada Young People's Conference will be held in our meeting hall from March 29 to March 31. The cost is \$75 per person and **the registration deadline is the Lord's Day, March 17.** Registration link: <https://forms.gle/3QFuJGfd2YAFRyYZ7>.

## Announcements (cont'd)

- ☛ The 2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Bellevue, WA from May 24-27, 2024. The in-person meetings of the 2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be streamed live at [ismwebcast.com](http://ismwebcast.com) for those whose time zone permits them to watch the live meetings by webcast. Please check with responsible brothers for more information regarding the registration.
- ☛ 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. 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

- ☛ Mar. 29-31, Montréal: **Spring 2024 Eastern Canada Young People's Conference.**
- ☛ April 12-14, Anaheim, California: **Spring International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones ("ITERO").**
- ☛ May 10-12, Kitchener, ON: **Grade 6 Conference.**
- ☛ May 24-27, Bellevue, WA: **2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference.**

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

## This Week's Activities

Sun-Mar-10 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Mar-11	♦
Tues-Mar-12	♦ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-Mar-13	♦
Thur-Mar-14	♦
Fri-Mar-15	♦ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-Mar-16	♦
Sun-Mar-17 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

**BAPTISM**

*Scripture Reading: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12*

**I. WHAT BAPTISM DOES FOR A PERSON**

**C. Baptism being for the washing away of sins**

Let us consider the case of Paul. Ananias came to Paul and said to him, “Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name” (Acts 22:16).

Paul was the foremost and greatest teacher, prophet, and apostle of Christianity. Was there a little error in his experience? Sometimes we preach the right doctrines but have the wrong experience. What would happen when we gave our testimony? What would happen if others did the same thing we do? The testimony of a teacher is very important because it may mislead others. Could it be that the experience of the foremost teacher of Christianity was wrong?

“And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” Please take note of this verse. It says that baptism can wash away one’s sins. The Catholics quote this verse and regard it as a personal matter before God. The error of Catholicism lies in saying, “If you are baptized, your sins will be washed away.” Therefore, they claim that a death-bed baptism can wash away sins. They do not realize that the significance of this matter is not before God but before the world.

Formerly, Paul was a man in the world. After he had believed in the Lord Jesus and had seen Him, he needed to rise up and be baptized. The moment he was baptized, his sins were washed away. The moment he severed his relationship with the world, his sins were gone. If you are a Christian secretly and are not baptized, the world may still consider you as one of them. You may say that you are saved, but the world will not admit it. You may say that you have believed in the Lord Jesus, but they will say that they have not seen it. Once you get into the water, they will see it; they will know that you have believed in Jesus. Otherwise, why should a person be so foolish as to get into the water? The moment you are baptized, you are freed from the world. Water baptism is a severance of one’s relationship with the world.

If a person believes in his heart but does not have any outward gesture, the world will still consider him to be part of it. For instance, in Kuling of Fukien there is a strong tradition of idol worship every fall; everyone is required to donate some money. If a person merely says that he has believed in the Lord, others will not believe him. But the moment he is baptized, they will know that he is no longer one of them. Therefore, baptism is the best way to free oneself from the world. If you want to be freed from the world, you must be baptized. You must tell the world, “My relationship with you is over.” By doing this, you come out of the world.

Baptism is an open testimony, and we should not be afraid to let others witness it. Unbelievers can also be present during our baptism. Recently, when we baptized some people in Foochow, a brother said, “We do not like to conduct the baptism meeting in such a messy way. There were too many

spectators.” If this is the case, John the Baptist would have to learn from this brother because John conducted baptisms that were not that orderly. Even the baptisms of the three thousand on the day of Pentecost were not that orderly. The issue is not whether a meeting is orderly. Of course, it is not good to be disorderly. But all the brothers and sisters should know what we are doing. When we baptize someone, we should let the whole world witness what we are doing.

**D. Baptism leading to salvation through water**

The Scripture is consistent in its principles. First Peter 3:20 says, “In the days of Noah...a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through by water.” This verse shows us again that baptism leads to salvation. The Lord Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.” On the day of Pentecost, Peter said, “Be baptized...for the forgiveness of your sins.” Paul’s action shows us that when a person is baptized, his sins are washed away. They are not just forgiven, but washed away. This is because our sins are washed away when we sever our relationship with the world. Here, the word in 1 Peter also shows us that we are saved through water. Therefore, baptism leads to salvation through water.

Those who cannot pass the test of water are not saved. A person who cannot pass through water drowns. During Noah’s time, everyone was baptized, but only eight souls came out. All the people were baptized and immersed in the water, but only eight souls emerged from it. In other words, the water became the water of death to some, but to others it was the water of salvation. Others go into the water and remain there, but we pass through the water and emerge from it. There is something positive in Peter’s word. When the flood came, everyone drowned. Only the eight souls in the ark, whom the water could not overcome, emerged from it. While the rest perished, these eight souls were saved. Today the whole world is under the wrath of God. For one to be baptized today means that he goes through God’s wrath. But he does not only go through it; he comes out of it. His emergence from it shows that he is one who has come out. This is baptism.

Baptism is being immersed on one side and emerging out of water on the other side. Baptism means passing through and emerging from the water. You must emphasize the aspect of “emergence.” Everyone went into the water, but only the eight souls came out. Today we are saved through baptism. What does this mean? When I am baptized, I do not go into the water and remain there. Rather, I enter into the water and emerge from it. If you have never believed in the Lord Jesus, your baptism will not result in an emergence. Today my going into the water and coming out of it means that I am different from you. I can come out from the world through the water. I testify to others that I am different from the world.

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 48, Messages for Building Up New Believers (1), Chapter 2, *BAPTISM*, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.