

## 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.
- ☛ **The 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: "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... 26: 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. 27: 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."
- ☛ **Spring European University Conference in De Hoof, Someren, the Netherlands (March 22-24):** Please pray that: (1) The Lord will speak a timely word to the university students in Europe and will gain them for His final move to prepare for His coming. (2) Each attendee will see a vision of the crucified and resurrected Christ and will be constrained by the Lord's love to "waste themselves" on Him. (3) The enemy will be bound and utterly shamed, both in the outward environment of all the aspects of the conference and in the minds of all the conference attendees. (4) The Lord will bless all the service before and during the conference, cover all the travel to and from the conference, and release the very best weather for the conference weekend.
- ☛ **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) That the Lord will release the number of saints needed for the remainder of the gospel trips in August and September and the brothers required to lead these trips. (2) For the formation of all the gospel trip teams. (3) For the clear and timely communication between us and the civil authorities and favorable views from them. (4) That the Lord will encourage the saints in France, add to them, and raise up more lampstands through this special move in His recovery.
- ☛ **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: Exo. 11:1 – 15:27.
- ☛ HWMR: An Overview of the Central Burden and Present Truth of the Lord's Recovery before His Appearing, Volume 2, Week 9.
- ☛ Life-Study of John, Message 51.

## 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 TODAY, March 17**. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/3QFujGfd2YAFryZ7>.
- ☛ The Church in Montréal Annual General Meeting will be held on the Lord's Day, March 24, 2024 at 12:00pm in the Meeting Hall.
- ☛ 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](mailto:allan.yeow@gmail.com) 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. 22-24, Someren, Netherlands: **Spring European University Conference**.
- ☛ 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

<b>Sun-Mar-17 LORD'S DAY</b>	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
<b>Mon-Mar-18</b>	♦
<b>Tues-Mar-19</b>	♦ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
<b>Wed-Mar-20</b>	♦
<b>Thur-Mar-21</b>	♦
<b>Fri-Mar-22</b>	♦ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
<b>Sat-Mar-23</b>	♦
<b>Sun-Mar-24 LORD'S DAY</b>	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ♦ 12:00pm: The Church in Montréal Annual General Meeting.

## 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 (cont'd)

#### E. Baptism freeing us from the world

The above four portions of the Scripture clearly show us what baptism is. Once we are baptized, we are freed from the world. We do not need years to be freed from the world. The first thing for a new believer to do is to be baptized. You must see the position of the world before God. You have renounced your former position in the world. This is salvation. You must put off the world completely. From now on, you are no longer a part of the world; you are on the other side.

Once we believe in the Lord, we should realize that we are no longer a part of the world. Our baptism is a sign that we are freed from the world. Through baptism we assume a different role. Henceforth, we abide in the ark and are persons on the other side. We can tell others that we do not do certain things because we have believed in Jesus. But, even more, we can tell others that we do not do them because we are baptized. We have crossed the bridge; we are on the other side.

Today we must recover the place of baptism before God. What is the meaning of baptism? Baptism means to come out of the world. It is a step which we take to free ourselves from the world. Our baptism is a declaration to others that we are out. This is like the words of a hymn which say, "Then the grave, with dear ones weeping,/Knowing that all life has fled" (Hymns, #628). Our dear ones know that we are finished and that we have come to the end of our road. We are through. Only this kind of baptism is effective. If this is not our realization, our baptism is too light and insubstantial. We must realize that we have been freed from the old circle and have come out of it. Eternal life is something that our spirit gains before God, but salvation is an act of our separation from the world.

### II. The significance of baptism

Everyone who is already baptized needs to look back and consider the meaning of baptism. Even if you were baptized ten or twenty years ago, you still need to review this matter. We should always remember the verse which says, "Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?" (Rom. 6:3). This verse is spoken in retrospect, not as a forethought.

The verses in Mark 16, Acts 2, Acts 22, and 1 Peter 3 are for those who have not yet been baptized, whereas the verses in Romans 6 and Colossians 2 are for those who have been baptized. They address those who have been baptized already. God is telling them, "Do you not know that when you were baptized, you died together with Christ and were buried and resurrected together with Him?"

Romans 6 emphasizes death and burial even though it also speaks of resurrection. Colossians 2 is more advanced; it emphasizes burial and resurrection, with resurrection as the focus. The emphasis of Romans 6 is death: "Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ

Jesus have been baptized into His death?" The main point here is death. We should die together with Christ. Romans 6 is on death and burial, whereas Colossians 2 is on burial and resurrection.

The water of baptism typifies the tomb. Today, when we put a person into the water, it is as if we are burying him in the ground. When we raise him up from the water, it is equivalent to raising him up from the tomb. Before one can be buried, he must first be dead. You cannot bury a living person. If a person rises up again after he is buried, this is surely resurrection. The first part of this truth is found in Romans, and the second part of this truth is found in Colossians.

#### A. A great gospel – I am dead

When the Lord Jesus was crucified, He carried us along with Him to the cross; we were crucified there as well. In the eyes of God, He has terminated us. What do you think of yourself? You may say, "I am a terrible person to deal with!" Those who do not know themselves do not realize how impossible they are. A person who knows God and who knows himself will say, "I am an impossible person."

When we were heavy-laden with sin, we heard of the death of the Lord Jesus. This is the gospel. Then we saw that we were beyond all hope and that we were dead. This is also the gospel. Thank God, this is the gospel! The Lord's death has included all of us. We are dead in Christ. This is a great gospel! Just as the Lord's death is a great gospel, our own death is also a great gospel. Just as the Lord's death is a joyful matter, our own death is also a joyful matter. What should be the first thought that comes to our mind when we hear that our Lord has died? We should be like Joseph of Arimathea; we should bury Him. Similarly, when we hear that we are dead, the first thing that we should do is to bury ourselves, because burial is the first thing that follows death. Death is not the end. We are already dead in Christ; therefore, the first thing we need to do is bury ourselves.

#### B. Having died and risen

Brothers, when we step into the water of baptism or when we look back after being believers for many years, we must remember that we are already dead. We allowed others to bury us because we believed that we were already dead. If our heart is still beating and we are still breathing, we cannot be buried. In order to be buried, we must be dead.

When the Lord was crucified, we were crucified too. We allowed others to put us into the water because we believed that we had died. The Lord Jesus has resurrected; He has put His resurrection power within us. Now we are regenerated through this power. This resurrection power operates within us and causes us to be resurrected. This is why we rose from the water. We are no longer our former self; we are now resurrected persons. Today, we must always remind ourselves of this matter. When we went into the water, we believed that we died and needed to be buried. When we came up from the water, we believed that we had newness of life. Now we are on the side of resurrection. Death is on the other side, but resurrection is on this side.

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