

Please Pray

- ✳️ **Robert and Babylyn's Situation:** During brother Robert and sister Babylyn visit to the Philippines, brother Robert was admitted to the hospital's ICU on March 17 due to dehydration and kidney failure. He is now out of the hospital, but must go back twice a week for dialysis treatments, and is therefore not yet in a condition to come back to Montréal. Please pray that the Lord will recover our brother as soon as possible and take care of the whole situation. They do not have travel insurance and therefore are covering all medical expenses on their own, including the dialysis treatments. If the Lord leads you, you may make an offering to the church to cover their expenses and the church will transfer the offerings to their account. May the Lord cover this situation and meet the needs of Robert and Babylyn. May they be supplied by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
- ✳️ **Canada Saints' Short-Term Training and Blending Trip, Anaheim, CA, April 27 to May 6):** 28 saints from Eastern Canada and 34 saints from Western Canada will be participating in the short-term training in Anaheim and a blending trip from April 27 to May 6. May the Lord cover the entire trip. May each person gain the most benefit from the training and be enlarged during the blending time. May some take the decision after the short-term training to attend the FTTA in the coming term.
- ✳️ **Conferences in Paris, France, and Warsaw, Poland, May 3-5:** Please pray for the saints' attendance and the release of the Lord's burden and supply in these two conferences.
- ✳️ **2024 Summer Olympics Games, Paris, France:** We encourage all the saints to open to the Lord regarding this next milestone in the Lord's move in Europe, and are inviting the saints in the Lord's recovery to join us in this labour by praying and giving. Please pray for: (1) The fresh and detailed consecration of all saints who will go out. (2) The fire to be cast on French-speaking Europe, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Switzerland. (3) The logistics of all the Bibles going out to the various cities, that they would arrive on time and at the right destination. (4) Many divine appointments to take place for the Lord to gain local French-speakers along with their families. (5) The final approval for the distributions to be granted in a timely manner. (6) The Lord's blessing on the homes that will be open for the gospel for 50 consecutive days in key cities, for the raising up of lampstands. (7) The migration of the saints after the gospel trips.
- ✳️ **Earthquake in Hualien, Taiwan:** A major earthquake occurred in Hualien, Taiwan, on April 3. The meeting hall and some of the saints' homes were damaged. About 10 saints were injured and were discharged after being admitted to hospital. About 40 saints were placed in temporary residences. Please pray for the comfort, care, and safety of the saints in Hualien. If the Lord leads you, you may make an offering to cover the needs of the saints and for the rebuilding of the meeting hall.
- ✳️ **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. 28:1 – 31:17.
- ✳️ HWMR: Living and Serving According to God's Economy Concerning the Church, Week 3.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Romans, Messages 12 and 13.

Announcements

- ✳️ The registration is now open for the July 2024 Semi-Annual Training, which will be held July 1-6 in Anaheim. Please inform your districts responsible brothers if you would like to attend in person. The registration deadline is May 1 for both in person and video training. The cost per person is CAD\$280 for the live training and CAD\$180 for the video training.
- ✳️ The 2024 Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference will be held in Montréal on May 18-19. Registration is now open and there is a need of hospitality for the saints coming from out of town. Please sign up if you are available to accommodate some of the visiting saints.
- ✳️ The 2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference will be held in Bellevue, WA on May 24-27, 2024. The live meetings will be streamed at ismwebcast.com for those whose time zone allows them to watch the live meetings by webcast. Please contact the responsible brothers to get information about the registration and about joining the webcast meetings.
- ✳️ 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. Preparations are now being made for the gospel trips and all saints who signed up are preparing to go. Locally, there is a need of financial support to send some saints for this time. Please seek the Lord concerning this matter. 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, 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

- ✳️ April 27-May 6, Anaheim: **Canada Saints' Short-Term Training and Blending Trip.**
- ✳️ May 3-5, Paris, France, and Warsaw, Poland: **Conferences.**
- ✳️ May 10-12, Kitchener, ON: **Grade 6 Conference.**
- ✳️ May 18-19, Montréal: **Eastern Canada Victoria Day Conference.**
- ✳️ May 24-27, Bellevue, WA: **2024 International Memorial Day Blending Conference.**
- ✳️ July 1-6, Anaheim, CA: **July 2024 Semi-Annual Training.**

This Week's Activities

Sun-Apr-28 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Apr-29	♦
Tues-Apr-30	♦ 07:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts prayer meetings by conference calls.
Wed-May-01	♦
Thur-May-02	♦
Fri-May-03	♦ 06:30pm-09:00pm: English, French and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom.
Sat-May-04	♦
Sun-May-05 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:00pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

TERMINATING THE PAST

II. New Testament examples of dealing with the past (cont'd)

C. Repaying Debts (cont'd)

Please remember that in the course of giving your testimony, you may be affected by personal problems. But you cannot avoid dealing with these problems. You still must deal with the problems. You can have a testimony before men only after you have dealt with your problems.

Some have committed murder in the past. What should they do now? This is a part of their past. In the Bible there are two murderers who were saved. One was involved directly with the act of murder, while the other murdered indirectly. The first one was the robber on the cross. It is clear in the Greek language that the word robber does not just mean an ordinary robber; it means a criminal who engages in such acts as murder and arson. He was not just a thief but one who robbed and killed. After he believed in the Lord, his sins were forgiven. The Bible does not tell us how he terminated his past. The other person is Paul. He was not involved in any direct murder. However, he was an accomplice in the murder of Stephen, and he watched over the garments of those who killed Stephen. After Paul was saved, nothing was said about how he dealt with this matter.

In principle I believe that once a murderer has believed in the Lord, his sins are behind him. There is no sin which cannot be cleansed by the blood. The robber did not have to do anything to terminate his past. In fact, he had no opportunity to do anything. The Lord said to him, "Today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). Therefore, when we encounter such cases, we should not overly burden the conscience of others, unless of course God has first worked in that person's heart. This is because in the two New Testament cases that deal with murder—one directly and the other indirectly—God did not pay attention to the rectification of the past. However, I believe that some have no peace in their conscience, not because they are suffering from ordinary accusations, but because God is working in them. In such cases, we should not stop them from expressing their regrets to the victim's family.

D. The Termination of Unsettled Matters

When a person is saved, he surely has many unsettled secular matters at hand. These may easily hinder him from following the Lord. What should he do? "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead" (Matt. 8:22). This is another biblical case of terminating the past. Here, a man came to Jesus and said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father" (v. 21). The Lord said, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." The word their refers to the first use of the word dead,

whereas the second dead refers to the man's father. The first dead refers to those who are spiritually dead. In God's eyes those in the world are spiritually dead. The Lord was saying that the man should let the dead bury his father, while he should follow the Lord.

I am not exhorting new believers to not make funeral arrangements for their fathers. I am saying that the dead should bury their own dead. We must lay hold of this principle. We should let go of unfinished business. If we wait until we have finished settling them before we become Christians, we will never have the time. There are hundreds and thousands of items of unfinished business in our families, with our fathers, and in our lives. Who then could become a Christian? There is only one word to describe the principle behind all of these things—these are dead people. Let the dead bury their dead. Let the spiritually dead handle the matters of the dead! This is the principle. This is not to exhort new believers to neglect their family. It means that they should not wait until they have settled all their earthly matters before coming to the Lord. If they do, they will not be able to follow the Lord.

Many people want to settle all of their affairs before they believe in the Lord. If so, they will have no opportunity to believe in Him. We should not be bound by matters of the dead. Instead, we should just regard the unsettled matters as settled. If we want to settle them before following the Lord, we will never make it. Matters concerning idols, improper things, and debts must be dealt with thoroughly. As for other unsettled matters, we should just let them go!

With regard to the attitude of a new believer towards his past, I can only find the above four categories of things in the Word of God. As for many other unsettled affairs, we should regard them as settled. As to family duties, we should let the dead take care of the dead. We have no time to deal with them. We want to follow the Lord. Those things are not for us to settle; they are for the dead to take care of. Let the ones who are spiritually dead handle them.

A QUESTION

A brother asked: If I have offended a person and he is not aware of it, must I also confess to him?

Answer: It all depends on whether or not he has suffered material loss. If the other party is aware of this loss, you should deal with the matter by following Zaccheus's example. Even if he is unaware of this loss, you should still confess to him, especially when material loss is involved. It is best to bring the matter to the church and let the more experienced brothers help you solve it because they know what is most expedient.

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