

Please Pray

- ✿ **North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast – July 22-26, West Coast: July 29 to August 2 – Subject: Building the House of God:** Pray that the saints who registered for the training be prepared to be ready to be trained by the Lord. May each one be emptied and unloaded to receive a fresh vision and dispensing from the Lord. May the Lord gain what He is after in this perfecting training.
- ✿ **Bible distribution at the start of the school year:** We will go out to preach the gospel and distribute Bibles at McGill, Concordia and University of Montréal on August 25, 26, 27, and on September 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9. The sign-up form will be sent out soon. May we cooperate with the Lord and sanctify some days to go out. May the Lord go before us and prepare the hearts of men. May the ones prepared by the Lord be brought to the saints. May we be channels of life to dispense life to all those in need. May we gain some useful materials for the Lord's building.
- ✿ **Meeting Hall in Dublin, Ireland:** After considerable searching, we have reached an agreement for the purchase of a property for a meeting hall of the Church in Dublin. The Lord has sovereignly led us to this building after a prior opportunity did not work out. The building is in Dublin 8, a prime city centre area, and is within 15 minutes walking distance to Trinity College. The interior space was recently refurbished and does not require renovation. The need is urgent, since a closing of escrow has been set at the end of July. Please pray concerning this burden and give for this property as the Lord leads and supplies.
- ✿ **Bearing fruit for His testimony in Montréal:** "As branches we must bear fruit. If anyone has not borne fruit for several years, I am very concerned for him. There is the danger that such a one may be cut off from the life supply. We must endeavor and be desperate. We must say, "Lord, I am one of Your branches. Why do I not bear fruit? I must bear some. I cannot go on like this anymore. Lord, have mercy on me that by Your grace I may bear at least one fruit." If we will bear even one fruit, the life supply will flood in. The life-juice will stream in, and we will bear more fruit. To bear the first fruit is a breakthrough. We must have such a breakthrough. We need to go to the Lord to have a thorough dealing with Him." (CWWL, 1973–1974, Vol. 2, Chap. 3) – May the prayer in this ministry excerpt be our prayer. May we all endeavor to be normal fruit bearing branches and be desperate before the Lord to bear at least one fruit a year. May we go to the Lord to have a thorough dealing with Him.
- ✿ **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: Prov. 30:1 – Eccl. 9:18.
- ✿ HWMR: Crucial Aspects of Matthew 5 through 7, Week 1.
- ✿ Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 32 and 33.

Announcements

- ✿ The Summer School of Truth this year will be held at the Meeting Hall of the Church in Kitchener, ON, from the Lord's Day afternoon, August 2, until Friday afternoon, August 7. The cost per person is \$220. Please contact the Young People serving ones to get more information.
- ✿ 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. May the Lord teach us how to pray for the advancement of His Economy.

Upcoming Events

- ✿ July 22-26, Penuel Camp, NY: **North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast.**
- ✿ July 29–August 2, Fremont, CA: **North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: West Coast.**
- ✿ August 2-7, Kitchener, ON: **Summer School of Truth in Eastern Canada.**
- ✿ September 24-26, Amsterdam, NL: **September International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones.**

This Week's Activities

Sun-Jul-19 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Jul-20	♦
Tues-Jul-21	♦ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese prayer meetings by ♦ conference calls.
Wed-Jul-22	♦ North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast, Penuel Camp, NY.
Thur-Jul-23	♦ North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast, Penuel Camp, NY.
Fri-Jul-24	♦ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, and Chinese Districts home meetings in person and on Zoom. ♦ North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast, Penuel Camp, NY.
Sat-Jul-25	♦ North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast, Penuel Camp, NY.
Sun-Jul-26 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. ♦ North America Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training: East Coast, Penuel Camp, NY.

26. OUR LIFE

Scripture reading: Col. 3:4; Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20

Our Life

III. I have been crucified with Christ (cont'd)

Our inner eyes have to be opened. When Christ was crucified on the cross, God put our sins on Christ and crucified them on the cross. This is God's side of the work. Christ died for us and took our sins away. This occurred more than nineteen hundred years ago, and we believe it. Similarly, when Christ was crucified, God put us into Christ. Just as our sins were settled more than nineteen hundred years ago, our person was also dealt with at the same time. When God laid our sins on Christ, He also put our person in Christ. On the cross our sins were removed. On the cross our person was also dealt with. We must remember Romans 6:6: "Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him." We do not have to hope to be crucified with Christ. We have been crucified with Him, forever and unchangeably crucified with Him. God has put us into Christ. When Christ died on the cross, we died on the cross as well.

If you take a piece of paper, write a few letters on it, and then tear the paper apart, you tear the letters apart as well. You are tearing the paper, but as the paper is torn, the letters are torn. The Bible tells us that the veil of the temple was embroidered with cherubim (Exo. 26:1). When the Lord died, the veil was split (Matt. 27:51), and therefore the cherubim were split as well. The veil refers to the body of Christ (Heb. 10:20). The cherubim had the face of a man, the face of a lion, the face of an ox, and the face of an eagle (Ezek. 1:10; 10:20). This signifies all created beings. When the body of the Lord Jesus was split, all the creation in Him was split as well. He died that He might "taste death on behalf of everything" (Heb. 2:9). The whole old creation passed away with Him. You have been trying in vain to do good and to be a successful Christian for years. Now God has crucified you with Christ. When Christ was crucified, the whole old creation was split, and you were split as well.

You have to believe in this truth. Your eyes need to be open to see that your sins were upon Christ and your person was also upon Christ. Your sins were on the cross, and your person was also on the cross. Your sins were taken away, and your person was also crucified. All this has been accomplished by Christ. Many people fail because they keep looking at themselves. Those who have faith should look at the cross and see what Christ has accomplished. God placed me in Christ. When Christ died, I also died!

But why is this "person" still living today? Since you have been crucified, why are you still living? To solve this problem you must believe and exercise your will to identify yourself with God. If you are looking at your own "self" every day, hoping that it will improve, this self will become more alive; it will not die by itself. What is death? When a person is so weak that he cannot be weakened any further, he has died. Many people do not admit their own weakness. They are still demanding so much from themselves. This means that they are not yet dead.

Romans 6 says that God has crucified us with Christ. But Romans 7 tells us of one person who is still trying to will. Even though God has crucified him, he still wills to do good. He cannot die, yet he cannot do good either. If he would say, "Lord, I cannot make it, and I do not believe I will make it. I cannot do good, and I will not will to do good," everything would be fine. But Romans 7 tells us that man is not willing to die. God has already crucified our old man, but we are unwilling to die; we still exercise our will to do good. Today many Christians are still trying when they know very well that they cannot make it. Nothing can be done about these Christians. Suppose there is a person who cannot be patient. What can he do? He may try his best to be patient by himself. Whenever he prays he asks for patience. Even while he is working he thinks about patience. But the more he tries to be patient, the less patient he becomes. Instead of trying to be patient, he should say, "Lord, You have already crucified this impatient person. I am impatient. I do not want to be patient and do not intend to be patient." This is the way to victory.

The Lord has crucified you. You should say simply, "Amen." He has crucified you, and it is futile for you to try to be patient by yourself. God knows you cannot make it. This is why He crucified you. Even though you still try to be patient, God considers you hopeless. He has even crucified you. It is a great mistake to think you can make it. It is also a great mistake to try to live the Christian life. God already knows that you cannot make it; the only way He has for you is crucifixion. Even though you think that you can make it, God says that you cannot make it and that you should die. How foolish it is to still make resolutions and to struggle! God knows that you cannot make it, and it would be well with you if you agreed with Him. God knows that you deserve to die. If you would say, "Amen, I will die," everything would be well. The cross is God's assessment of us. In God's view we cannot make it. If we could make it, God would not have crucified us. He knows that the only way for us is death. This is why He crucified us. If we saw things the same way God sees them, everything would be settled. Brothers and sisters, God must bring us to the point where we accept His verdict.

Here we see two aspects: First, Christ died, and we were crucified. This is something God has done. Second, we have to acknowledge this fact; we need to say, "Amen." These two sides must work together before God's work can take effect on us. If we constantly frustrate Him by trying to do good and be patient and humble, the work of Christ will have no effect on us. Our resolution to be humble or to be patient only makes things worse. Instead, we should bow down our head and say, "Lord, You have said that I am crucified, and I will say the same thing; You have said that I am useless, and I will say the same thing; You have said that I cannot be patient, and I will no longer try to be patient; You have said that I cannot be humble, and I will no longer try to be humble. This is what I am. It is useless for me to try to make any further resolutions. I am only fit to remain on the cross." If we did this, Christ would live Himself out of us!

Note: This content is extracted from CWWN, Vol. 49, Messages for Building Up New Believers (2), Chapter 26, OUR LIFE, by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry, available at <http://www.ministrybooks.org>.