

Please Pray

- ✳️ **The Church in Kitchener's Meeting Hall Expansion:** We thank and praise the Lord for providing the Church in Kitchener with the current property and meeting facility 10 years ago. By His mercy and grace it has been very useful, not only to us locally, but also to the churches in Eastern Canada and beyond. The current facility though is quite limited: there is not adequate space for all of our own children's and young people's groups, too few washrooms, and is lacking a full-service kitchen. We expect the Lord to continue to add His hungry ones, and use the property for larger regional gatherings such as the Summer School of Truth, Children's Bible Camp, and church conferences, to name a few. To adequately accommodate all these needs we simply need more space, so we are renovating the whole building – the two units we currently occupy, plus the three units that were previously rented out, to make the entire space available and functional for church use. The current projection of the complete cost of this project is approximately CAD\$1.5 million. Our existing savings and pledges from the saints in Kitchener total \$880,000. While we have access to borrowing for the remaining amount, we would like to open this matter to the churches for your participation and prayer. Please pray that the necessary funds for the project would be released, and for the interactions between the brothers, the architect and engineer, the tradesmen, and the municipal government, that the project would proceed without further delay and be completed by Summer 2027.
- ✳️ **Meeting to Establish the Church in Bremen, Germany (October 18):** Please pray for this new beginning. May the Lord gain a strong and bright testimony through the raising up of a golden lampstand in Bremen, one that serves His satisfaction.
- ✳️ **Fall 2026 Eastern Canada College Retreat (Oct. 23-24):** May the Lord prepare the college students for this time so that they may be ready to receive a fresh and personal speaking from the Lord. May the Lord release what is on His heart for the students. May the serving ones be strengthened to serve during this time. May the college students be gained by the Lord for His purpose.
- ✳️ **Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Retreat (Oct. 30-Nov. 01):** May the Lord release the young people to register before the October 11 deadline. May the young people be prepared to receive the speaking from the Lord. May the Lord gain the young people more for Himself during this retreat.
- ✳️ **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: Isa. 26:1 – 33.24.
- ✳️ HWMR: Noah, Daniel, and Job—Patterns of Living an Overcoming Life on the Line of Life to Fulfill the Economy of God, Week 4.
- ✳️ Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 56 and 57.

Announcements

- ✳️ The Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Conference will be held from October 30 to November 1 at Wesley Acres Retreat Centre, Bloomfield, ON. Please register using the link that was sent out. The **registration deadline** is **TODAY, October 11** and the registration fee is \$150 plus \$50 for gas.
- ✳️ The upcoming Fall 2026 Canada Brothers' Conference will be held at the Meeting Hall of the Church in Toronto on November 6 and 7, 2026, followed by the Lord's Day blending meeting at the Meeting Hall of the Church in Toronto on November 8, 2026. Please contact the serving brothers to get the registration link.

Announcements (cont'd)

- ✳️ This year's International Thanksgiving Blending Conference will be held from Thursday, November 26, through Lord's Day, November 29, 2026, at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center, Colorado Ballroom, 6700 N. Gaylord Rockies Blvd., Aurora, CO 80019, and will be open to the public. There will be translation into Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese. Live and archived messages will be available at ismwebcast.com, and free for a period of 30 days after the conference.
- ✳️ Registration for the December 2026 Semi-Annual Training is now open. The training will take place from December 21 to 26 in Anaheim, CA. Registration is required and the deadline is November 1. The registration fee is CAD\$290 for the live training (in person), and CAD\$185 for the online/video training. Please contact your respective district serving leader to register and 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

- ✳️ October 23-34, Bloomfield, ON: **Fall 2026 Eastern Canada College Retreat.**
- ✳️ October 30 – November 1, Bloomfield, ON: **Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Conference.**
- ✳️ November 6-7-8, Toronto, ON: **Fall 2026 Canada Brothers' Conference.**
- ✳️ November 26-29, Denver, CO: **International Thanksgiving Blending Conference.**
- ✳️ December 21-26, Anaheim, CA: **December 2026 Semi-Annual Training.**
- ✳️ February 20-21, 2027, Taipei, Taiwan: **International Chinese-Speaking Blending Conference.**

This Week's Activities

Sun-Oct-11 LORD'S DAY	✳️ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Oct-12	✳️
Tues-Oct-13	✳️ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts prayer meetings in person and on Zoom.
Wed-Oct-14	✳️
Thur-Oct-15	✳️
Fri-Oct-16	✳️ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts home meetings in person.
Sat-Oct-17	✳️
Sun-Oct-18 LORD'S DAY	✳️ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

29. OCCUPATION

Scripture reading: 2 Thes. 3:10-12

Occupation

Occupation is very important to a Christian. If one chooses a wrong occupation, he will not be able to go on in a positive way. A Christian must pay attention to the matter of choosing an occupation.

I. The God-ordained occupations according to the Scripture

A. In the Old Testament age

After God created man, He prepared an occupation for him. God assigned Adam and Eve the job of guarding and keeping the garden. The matter of occupation existed before man sinned. Adam and Eve's occupation in the beginning was that of a gardener; they guarded and kept the garden of Eden which God had created.

After Adam and Eve sinned, the earth no longer rendered service to them. They had to eat in the sweat of their face and till the ground so they could eat (Gen. 3:17-19). This shows us clearly that after man's fall, his God-ordained occupation was to be a farmer and to till the ground. Man has to till the ground in the sweat of his face in order for the earth to yield food to him. To this day farmers are still the most honest kind of people. In the beginning God ordained man to till the ground.

In Genesis 4 Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel was a keeper of sheep. Here sheep farming came in. This shows us that shepherding is also an occupation that is acceptable to God.

After this, when men began to multiply on the earth, there arose all kinds of craftsmen. There were blacksmiths, coppersmiths, makers of musical instruments, and artificers in brass and iron (4:21-22). By the time of the tower of Babel, there were bricklayers and carpenters (11:3-4). (Although building the tower of Babel was wrong, men were nevertheless learning to build. Hence the coppersmith, blacksmith, maker of musical instruments, and craftsman are all proper occupations.)

In Genesis 12 God chose Abraham. He was a herdsman. He had many cattle and sheep. Jacob also had flocks of cattle and sheep. This shows that their main occupation was animal husbandry.

When the Israelites were in Egypt, they worked as craftsmen, burning bricks for Pharaoh. But after they came out of Egypt, God promised them a land flowing with milk and honey. Clearly, we see two occupations: raising livestock and farming. The grapes of the land required two people to carry them. This proves that there was farming. God said that if the Israelites disobeyed Him and worshipped idols, He would cause the heavens to be as brass and the earth to be as iron; the heavens and the earth would not work for the Israelites. This shows clearly that the occupations in the promised land of Canaan consisted of tilling the earth and raising livestock. These were the occupations in the Old Testament.

B. In the New Testament age

The Lord Jesus' parables in the Gospel of Matthew show us that farming is a basic occupation in the New Testament age. For example, in chapter thirteen we have the parable of the sower, and in chapter twenty we have the parable of the vineyard. Luke 17 speaks of a slave coming back from plowing

or tending sheep in the field. In John 10 the Lord said that the good Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep. Therefore, raising livestock and farming are the basic God-ordained occupations for men.

The Lord called twelve apostles, most of whom were fishermen. The one who was a tax collector was told by the Lord to drop his occupation. But it was as if He said to the fishermen, "Once you were fishermen. But from now on, I will make you fishers of men." This shows that fishing is also an acceptable occupation.

Luke was a physician, and Paul was a tentmaker. Tentmaking is different from fishing. With tentmaking, labor is added to basic raw material. Tilling the ground produces material directly. Making fabrics, tailoring, or making tents add labor to raw material to manufacture finished goods.

I can only say that from the Old Testament to the New Testament, God has arranged certain occupations. The Lord's disciples were either farmers, shepherds, craftsmen, fishermen, or manufacturers. If there were any other occupations at all, the most we can include is "workmen" (not the workers who do spiritual work), because the New Testament says, "The workman is worthy of his pay" (1 Tim 5:18). A workman is one who labors manually or who sells his labor. Obtaining wages by manual labor is also an acceptable occupation in the Bible.

II. The principle of occupations

From these God-approved occupations in the Bible, we can see a basic principle: Man must receive or take from nature, or he must earn his wages in exchange for his time and labor. These are the principles of occupation outlined in the Bible.

A. Receiving from nature — increasing abundance

The sower sows a grain of wheat into the ground. After some time it bears many grains, a hundredfold, sixtyfold, or thirtyfold (Matt. 13:3, 8). One grain becomes a hundred, sixty, or thirty grains. One seed is sown into the ground, but it grows and bears many grains. This is to receive from nature. Nature is rich in its supply, and anyone can extract from it. God causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust (5:45). This clearly hints that God sends these things for the purpose of farming. God intends for man to obtain his supply from nature. The same principle applies to livestock farming. One raises sheep which give milk or bear many lambs. This is an increase of production. It is something supplied by nature, not something acquired by other means.

In the New Testament we see fishing as an occupation. Fishing takes something from the rivers and seas. This again is to receive from nature. We do not make anyone poorer by fishing from the rivers and the seas. We can become rich by taking something from the rivers, and these riches will not make anyone poor. When my sheep bears six lambs or my cow bears two calves, no family becomes poorer because of this. When I till the ground, no one is hungry or suffers loss because my field has brought forth grain a hundredfold. The basic principle of a God-approved occupation is to gain without incurring loss to anyone. This is the kind of noble occupation that God ordains.

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