

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.
- ✳ **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.
- ✳ **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: 2 Tim. 3:14 – Titus 3:15.
- ✳ HWMR: Noah, Daniel, and Job—Patterns of Living an Overcoming Life on the Line of Life to Fulfill the Economy of God, Week 5.
- ✳ Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 58 and 59.

Announcements

- ✳ The Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Retreat 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 was 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 23-24, Bloomfield, ON: **Fall 2026 Eastern Canada College Retreat.**
- ✳ October 30 – November 1, Bloomfield, ON: **Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Retreat.**
- ✳ 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-18 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Oct-19	♦
Tues-Oct-20	♦ 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts prayer meetings in person and on Zoom.
Wed-Oct-21	♦
Thur-Oct-22	♦
Fri-Oct-23	♦ 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts home meetings in person. ♦ Fall 2026 Eastern Canada College Retreat, Bloomfield, ON.
Sat-Oct-24	♦ Fall 2026 Eastern Canada College Retreat, Bloomfield, ON.
Sun-Oct-25 LORD'S DAY	♦ 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.

29. OCCUPATION

Scripture reading: 2 Thes. 3:10-12

Occupation

II. The principle of occupations (cont'd)

B. Manufacturing — adding value

The same principle applies to Paul's tentmaking. He did not receive directly from nature. Fishing, raising livestock, and farming receive from nature directly. But Paul manufactured something by adding value to his raw material. This increases the value of goods. A piece of fabric may cost one dollar. When I cut it, sew it, and make a tent out of it, it costs two dollars. Its value has increased, and my wage is the increased value of the good. I do not make anyone poorer by receiving money from the increased value. No one became poorer or suffered loss through Paul's tentmaking. When I increase the value of a piece of fabric, it is only proper that I receive my wages because I have put in time and skill. Therefore, another principle of a God-approved occupation is that it increases the value of goods.

C. Working for wages

Another principle can be found in hired laborers, craftsmen, and medical doctors. In such cases one earns his money and wages through his own labor. This neither takes from nature nor adds value to raw materials, but one puts in his labor, pays a price, and provides a service to receive his income. The reward that comes as a result of one's labor is also acceptable to God.

D. What the Bible disapproves of — trading

There is one occupation of which the Bible particularly disapproves. Please pay special attention to this matter. If a new believer has the ability to choose his profession, I hope that he will not take trading as his occupation. Why? We should consider this matter from a broader perspective. Perhaps that will give us a clearer picture. Suppose there are one hundred persons here and each one has a million dollars. If we put them all together, we will have a hundred million dollars. Suppose I begin to trade as one of them. Naturally, I would want to make money. I would like my one million dollars to become two million dollars. Forget for a moment how I handle my business, whether it is done righteously or unrighteously. After a month I have two million dollars. This means that someone must have less money. This must be the case because there are only one hundred persons, each of whom had only one million dollars. Even if I conducted my business in the most righteous way, I would still have caused someone to lose money when I increased my money to two million.

I am a Christian, and let us say that you are a Christian also. You are my brother. Does it look good for me to make money and become richer by making you poorer? Certainly not. Even if you are a Gentile and a heathen, I am a Christian. I am a child of God, and I have my standing and status as a child of God. God's children should not cause an unbeliever to become poorer by increasing their own money. I would feel bad even if I employed righteous means to gain other believers' money. I would feel equally bad if I used righteous means to gain an unbeliever's money. This is what it is like to engage in trade. You cannot take money from another's pocket and put it into your own pocket. It does not matter how you do it. As long as you turn the money in another's pocket into your money, you are causing a loss to others. This is a fact.

Of course, the basic God-approved occupations in the Bible pose no such problem. Suppose I am a tiller of the ground, and I have harvested a hundred loads

of rice. This will not cause another brother's possession to be reduced from ten loads down to nine loads. I cannot cause him to have any reduction. My hundred loads of rice will not reduce anything from anyone or cause anyone to become poorer. This is not making money; this is increasing the abundance of the land. We must completely differentiate between the two: Making money and increasing the abundance are two different things altogether. God does not want His children to make money just for the sake of making money. God wants our occupation to increase the abundance. This basic principle is quite clear. A new believer should not have his mind occupied with money day and night. Do not try to constantly consider how you can make money. Please remember that as long as you have made some money, others have lost money. The principle of trade is that when one's money increases, the money of others decreases.

III. Choosing from three different kinds of occupations

Here we see three different kinds of occupations. One is to trade, another is to work, and the third is to produce. The highest occupation God has ordained in the Bible is the one that produces. Since Adam, God's eyes have been on occupations that produce, because production increases the abundance of the earth rather than imposing poverty on others. If I raise a hundred sheep and after a certain number of years they have become four hundred, I have increased by three hundred sheep. This increase does not decrease a single dollar from any brother's or sister's pocket. How much money you have at home will not change. You will not have less just because my sheep has brought forth lambs. This is the basic scriptural principle of occupation. I should always be increasing and should always be adding to riches. I may sell my sheep and receive money. But in so doing, I have not made anyone poorer.

If a new believer has the chance to choose his own occupation, I hope he will choose one that will increase goods rather than increase his money. To increase money but not goods is very selfish. We need to learn to increase the things of the earth, not to increase our personal wealth. There is a great difference between the two.

Paul's tentmaking shows us another principle. He did not increase the amount of cotton, silk, or fabric. But because of his cutting, sewing, effort, and energy, he increased the value of the raw material. According to Bible scholars, tents at that time had to be dyed. Dean Alford told us that when Paul said, "These hands," in Acts 20:34, he was referring to the unavoidable stain of the dye of the tents on his hands. Paul's tentmaking was something that increased the value of goods.

It is good to increase the riches of the earth. It is also good to increase the value of goods. Suppose I make a chair from a piece of wood. This is good, because by doing so, I have increased the value of the wood. Although I have not increased the abundance in nature, the world has one more chair through me. The world had one more tent when Paul made a tent. This does not benefit oneself at the expense of others. One can make a tent; he can turn a cheap fabric into a valuable tent. Turning fabric into a tent increases the goods of this world. This is also an occupation that is acceptable to God.

A new believer must see that there are two criteria to a proper occupation. One must either increase the abundance of the earth or increase the value of goods. Actually, when one makes a tent, he is also increasing the abundance of the world. Because of the work of one's hands, the number of tents in this world has increased. Therefore, it is also right to say that this increases the abundance of the world. This is the basic principle of God's ordained occupations for men.

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