Please Pray

- **Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Retreat (Oct. 30-Nov. 01):** 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.
- **Fall 2026 Canada Brothers' Conference in Toronto (November 6-8):** Please pray that our Lord, in His heavenly ministry, will continue to shepherd His churches in Canada for His increase, and spread to express His glory in a fuller and richer way.
- **First Lord's Table in Turin, Italy (November 7-8):** We give all the glory to the Lord Jesus and joyfully announce the raising up of a new lampstand in Turin, the fourth largest city in Italy. We will have the first table meeting and take the ground on the Lord's Day November 8, 2026. Please pray that the Lord will gain a strong and bright testimony through the raising up of a golden lampstand in Turin. May the Lord continue to move throughout Italy and raise up many more golden lampstands for His kingdom and glory. May the Lord continue to perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground the saints in all the churches in Italy.
- **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 it is lacking a full-service kitchen. We expect the Lord to continue to add His hungry ones, and to 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 the summer of 2027.
- **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: Isa. 34:1 – 41:29.
- HWMR: The Great Need for a New Revival, Week 1.
- Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 60 and 61.

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 contact one of the Young People's responsible ones if you need information.

Announcements (cont'd)

- 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.
- 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 lsmwebcast.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 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-25 LORD'S DAY	• 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings.
Mon-Oct-26	•
Tues-Oct-27	• 7:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts prayer meetings in person and on Zoom.
Wed-Oct-28	•
Thur-Oct-29	•
Fri-Oct-30	• 6:30pm-9:00pm: English, French, Chinese, and Spanish Districts home meetings in person. • Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Retreat, Bloomfield, ON.
Sat-Oct-31	• Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Retreat, Bloomfield, ON.
Sun-Nov-01 LORD'S DAY	• 10:00am-12:30pm: Lord's Table and prophesying meetings. • Fall 2026 Eastern Canada Young People's Retreat, Bloomfield, ON.

29. OCCUPATION

Scripture reading: 2 Thes. 3:10-12

Occupation

IV. Avoiding pure commerce

I have studied economics a little. I know that there is the need for commerce. But I am a Christian; I am not an economist. While the Lord Jesus did say that we needed to do business until He comes (Luke 19:13), that verse means that we should give ourselves to our work like a businessman giving himself to his business. We know that a businessman has to devote himself to his business. He will get into any situation as long as there is money in it for him. The Lord meant that we should grasp every opportunity. We must give ourselves to our work in such a way.

Commerce began with Tyre, and it ends up in Babylon. We find this from Ezekiel 28 to Revelation 18. The one who invented commerce is the prince of Tyre. Ezekiel 28 shows us that the prince of Tyre represents Satan. "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned" (v. 16). Bear in mind that commerce always makes money for oneself at the expense of others and at the expense of decreasing the riches of the world. This is not the kind of occupation that God wants. This is the occupation which belongs to Satan. The principle behind such an occupation is wrong.

The principle of commerce is to increase the money in one's pocket by decreasing the money in another's pocket. Once the idea of making money comes into a person's mind, the result is very simple — one will get more money while another will have less. Once someone's money increases, there must be others whose money decreases. Suppose there are only twenty-one billion dollars in the whole world. Whether you are rich or poor, the total amount of money remains the same. The total amount of money in the world is limited. For my money to increase, I have to take it from others. This is pure commerce. I am not saying that after catching some fish, one cannot sell it. Neither am I saying that after harvesting a crop, producing a lamb, or making a tent, one cannot sell it. I am saying that making tents, raising lambs, harvesting crops, and catching fish are not pure commerce. Those occupations exchange production for money. I derive my benefit from nature. The abundance I receive comes from nature. It is nature that gives me the abundance; I do not become richer by making others poorer.

Christians must not try to make money from other people. Never harbor any thought of taking advantage of others. As God's children, we have a high standard. It does not look good for us to try to rack up the lowly money of the world. Suppose the president of a foreign nation comes to Kuling and finds a local native infected with malaria. Suppose he tries to sell him some quinine pills, saying, "I bought them for five dollars per pill. Now I am selling them to you for six dollars per pill." What kind of story would that be? It does not match the status of a nation's president to earn a dollar from a coolie. For a Christian to earn someone else's money is even worse than a president taking money from a coolie. Our status is different. We cannot make money from anyone.

Christians are noble people; we have our dignity, our standing, and our principles. It is a shame for us to make money from anyone. We cannot increase our wealth this way. I would rather be a farmer who tills and plants. This is more glorious than making money from others. God has prepared nature to work for us, and we will be more noble if we do not try to make money from others. Christians must have the thought that they will not earn money at the expense of other human beings.

Any occupation that increases the quantity and value of goods is acceptable to God. But pure commerce is not acceptable to God. Please pay special attention to Ezekiel 28. The principle of aggrandizement through trade began with the prince of Tyre. God rebuked him, saying, "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence." In Revelation 18 the world has come to an end and the kingdom is about to begin. There we see Babylon being judged. Commerce continues throughout history until the end of Babylon. All the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for Babylon. There we also see all the goods of the earth. The first is gold and the last are the souls of men. Everything is open for purchase and for sale, from gold to the souls of men. Man always thinks of making money and becoming rich. But brothers and sisters, we must flee from this low occupation.

V. Pure commerce being different from production

I hope you can differentiate between pure commerce and production. Wheat, cows, sheep, tents, and fish can be sold. This is not the commerce we are talking about. The so-called commerce in the world means that today I buy one hundred sacks of flour from another person. I store them until the price goes up and then I sell them. Or I buy fifty tins of oil and put them away until the price goes up and then sell them. The wheat or oil has not increased its volume because of me. The oil has not increased, neither has the wheat. But my money has increased. I have not increased the goods of the world, yet my wealth has increased. This is a shameful thing. This is one thing that believers should try to avoid at all cost.

It is all right to buy and sell for the sake of taking care of our production. But it is wrong to buy and sell for the sake of buying and selling. It is right for a brother to sell products from his farm. But it is wrong for the same brother to buy rice and then sell it again. Although both are selling, the principles are altogether different. If a brother buys ten tents and resells them, he does not have the same occupation as Paul's. If I make tents at night and then sell them in the morning, I have the same occupation as Paul's. The two are absolutely different. If you labor on something and then sell what you have labored on, this is something that can be blessed by God. But if you buy something and then sell it, hoping in your heart that you will make money in the process, you are engaging in the lowest occupation, not only from a Christian's point of view, but also from a Gentile's as well.

No brother engaging in pure commerce can be a responsible brother, for such a person can never be fully delivered from money. Our way is becoming clearer and clearer. God's children must be fully delivered from the power of mammon. This is the only way for them to serve God and for the church to have a way to go on.

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