



The Church in Richmond Weekly Newsletter

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I. Announcement:

1. Praise the Lord! Brother Jack Wu was baptized on 12/01; brother Shu Wen Zhu was baptized on 12/02; sister Xiao Rong Wu was baptized on 12/07. We rejoice with them as new members of the household of God. May they remain in the church life and be nourished and perfected for building up the Body of Christ.
2. On Saturday, December 15, 2012, starting at 6:00 p.m., we will have a gospel follow-up love feast meeting. Please bring ample dishes of food to supply all the attendees. Please invite new contacts, as well as those who came previously, for more fellowship and dispensing of life.
3. From December 1 through 21, 2012, a special three-week prayer time of the local churches in the Lord's recovery will take place. We urge as many saints as possible to deliberately separate themselves unto the ministry of prayer during that period of time. The Lord's recovery has come to a point where strong and effectual prayers before God's throne are required. The unprecedented hunger of sinners and Christians who are responding to the high gospel of God's salvation and the word of His truth, the rapidly declining situation of the world and of religion, the condition of lawlessness and apostasy on the earth, the fierce attack of the evil forces of Satan against the believers and the work of God, the desperate need of the local churches to be built up to have the reality of the Body of Christ, and the undeniable signs of the consummation of the age and of the Lord's imminent return to bring in the kingdom age all require particular prayer that is Satan-defeating, divine-will-fulfilling, and age-turning in power and impact.
4. To order or purchase the "Ministry of the Word" magazine for the 2012 Winter Training messages, please register with sister Viviane Wah.
5. Please pray for the financial situation regarding the meeting hall of the church in Toronto. The building used to be a warehouse on 1.87 acres of property. Rezoning took many months to be approved by the City. In August this year, renovation on 27,000 sq. ft. of floor area was completed, with another 10,000 sq. ft. available for future development. The total cost of the property and the renovation work was CAD\$6,000,000. Offerings from the saints have reached \$2,730,000. May the saints take this opportunity to offer for the material needs of the church through the fellowship in the Body to meet the deficit of \$3,270,000. (This amount includes a mortgage of \$2M, which has to be paid back within the shortest possible time.)
6. For the perfecting of the saints, all the saints are welcome to participate in the following classes during the week.

Week day	Time	Content	date
Tuesday	10:00 am ~ 12:00 pm	Bird's eye view for this week: Daniel chapters 6 ~ 12	12/11
	1:30 pm ~ 3:00 pm	Q & A session: Perfecting on the truth and practices of the Christian life and the church life	
Wednesday	1:30 pm ~ 3:00 pm	Hymn singing, choral singing, and hymn stories	12/12
Thursday	1:30 pm ~ 3:00 pm	Q & A session: Perfecting on the truth and practices of the Christian life and the church life	12/13
Saturday	1:30 pm ~ 3:00 pm	New Testament Greek and word studies for understanding and interpreting the Word of God	12/15

7. Saints who are interested in joining the Winter Video training can still register, but will not be able to get an original outline booklet.
Date: Dec. 24, 2012 ~ Jan. 4, 2013 Location: Brown Road meeting hall
Registration donation: Cdn \$80 Please register with brother Liu Wen

II. Prayer burden:

1. Please pray for the raising up of the Lord's testimony in these major cities in Europe including Lisbon, Portugal; Krakow, Poland; Budapest, Hungary; Vienna, Austria; Sofia, Bulgaria; Thessaloniki, Greece; Zagreb, Croatia; Belgrade, Serbia; Geneva, Switzerland; and Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Munich, Germany.
2. Please pray for brother Mark Mansfield, brother Manuel Guevara, brother Tong Hui Chen, sister Jane Chen, sister Helena Lee, sister May Zheng, sister Betty Anggat and brother William Wei. May they experience the Lord's grace in their health situations and be empowered by His healing touch.
3. Brother John Xin (in District 5) is now recovering at home after a second hospital stay last week. Results of tests have shown improvement in his kidney function. May the Lord strengthen our brother and heal him completely. May his family experience faith, love, joy, and peace and be a strong testimony to their gospel friends.

III. This week's pursuit:

1. HWMR – Prayer and the Lord's Move – Week 2
2. RSG (Recovery Study Group): Week 18: O.T. – 1 Samuel 16:1 ~ 2 Samuel 5:25 N.T. – John 17:25 ~ 21:25

IV. Offering for the meeting hall construction (as of Dec. 2, 2012):

Offering Goal	Current Accumulated Offerings (\$1.5 M Loan from LM churches)	Current Disbursement			Current Balance (\$1.5 M Loan from LM churches)
		Project Fund	Security Deposit	Total Expenditure	
\$4,500,000	\$3,985,253 / \$5,485,253	\$4,813,437	\$202,000	\$5,015,437	- \$1,030,184 / \$469,816
Percentage of our Goal Achieved at present		Current Deficit			
88.56%					\$514,747

V. Meeting attendance:

District / Meeting		1A	1B	2	3A	3B	4	5	6	English	Children Serving	Total
Lord's Day Meeting	12/02	Combined Lord's Day meeting of the whole church										340
Prayer Meeting	12/04	Combined church prayer meeting										82

VI. Special announcement of particular services:

1. Cleaning schedule for the week:

Service	Date	District
General cleaning	Dec. 9 ~ Dec. 15	District #6 & #2

Each district is in charge of cleaning its own room after every meeting.

2. For the month of September, the schedule of the culinary class is as follows:

Date	Dishes	Time	Place
12/16	3 different dishes with ground pork.	3:00 p.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.	Brown Road meeting hall

Please register with Teresa Lee (604-278-7109; yunghui.liu@gmail.com) or Lisa Lin (604-233-7016; charles.lisa@live.ca) to book new class schedules.

3. Our "Counting the Lord's Blessing" meeting will be held on January 5-6, 2012. We have arranged two love feasts, namely, dinner on Saturday and lunch on the Lord's Day. Saints participating in the kitchen service team, as well as those who wish to volunteer for food preparation, please register for the following schedule of service: Jan. 3 and 4, 2013: from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
 Jan. 5, 2013 (Saturday): from 1:00 to 7:30 pm
 Jan. 6, 2013 (Lord's Day): from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm.

As we expect a large number of people attending this event, we urge all the saints to bring their own containers, vessels, and utensils (bowls, cups, forks, spoons, etc.) to reduce the amount of garbage and disposable items.

4. Please remember to bring your small cups for the Lord's Table meeting.

VII. This week's meeting schedule and locations:

Date	Time	Content	Place
Tuesday (12/11)	7:30 p.m.	Church prayer meeting	Designated place of each district
Thursday (12/13)	7:30 p.m.	Home meeting	TBA
Friday (12/14)	7:30 p.m.	College saints' meeting	Brown Road meeting hall
Saturday (12/15)	7:00 p.m.	Young people's meeting	Brown Road meeting hall
Lord's Day (12/16)	9:30 a.m.	Lord's Table & prophesying meeting by district	Brown Road meeting hall

**** Note:** The prayer meeting locations for Dec. 11, 2012:

District 1A	@ Brother Shu Wang	District 3A	@ Brother Joseph Chen	District 5	@ Sister Rainbow Bai
District 1B		District 3 B	@ Brother Louis Chow	District 6	@ Brother Laurence Huen
District 2	@ Brother Eric Shi	District 4	@ Brother Caleb Pan	English District	@ Brown Road meeting hall

VIII. Truth and enlightenment: Lessons on Prayer, by Witness Lee, chapter 1

THE MEANING OF PRAYER

Now we may come to the first lesson of prayer—the meaning of prayer. May I ask you, brothers and sisters, what is prayer? What is prayer all about? What is the meaning of prayer? Many people, upon hearing the term prayer, immediately think that it means man coming before God to make supplication. Because man is in want and needs material supply, or is sick and needs healing, or has other problems and needs some solution, he goes before God asking Him to supply his needs, heal his sickness, and solve his problems. Men consider these as prayers. Apparently, there are examples of such prayers in the Bible. For example, the widow in Luke 18 continually went to the judge asking him to avenge her of her grievance. However, brothers and sisters, please remember that this is not the proper meaning of prayer as it is revealed in the Bible. We dare not say that such a definition is wrong, but it is too superficial and lacks both depth and accuracy. If we desire to know what real prayer is today, we must clearly realize that it is not man merely making supplications before God for his own needs.

We know that we should not judge any truth of the Bible merely on the basis of a single passage or aspect. In the same way, you cannot tell what a house looks like simply by one of its corners or rooms. You need to view it from various sides as a whole, and then you will be able to make an accurate judgment. In the same principle, if we collect all the Bible passages concerning prayer and view them as a whole, we will see that prayer is not just a matter of man making supplication to God because he has some needs. This may be partially the meaning of prayer but not entirely. If we have the time, we should gather all the specific examples of prayer in the Bible. For example, in the Old Testament there are the prayers of Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Nehemiah, Elijah, Isaiah, Daniel, and others, while in the New Testament there are the prayers of the Lord Jesus and of the disciples. If we study every one of these prayers and look at them as a composite, we will be able to see clearly what prayer is all about. It is not the intention of this writing to study them in such a detailed way; we will only use a simple word to speak concerning the meaning of prayer.

I. PRAYER IS THE MUTUAL CONTACT BETWEEN MAN AND GOD

Prayer is not just man contacting God; it is the mutual contact between man and God. This matter of the contact between God and man is a very great subject in the Bible. We have often said that the purpose of man's living is to be God's vessel. In the universe God is man's content, and man is God's container. Without man, God has no place to put Himself—He becomes a homeless God. I do not understand why this is so, but I know that it is a fact. In the universe God's greatest need is man. God as an entity in Himself is complete, but as far as His operation in the universe is concerned, He still needs man to fulfill that operation.

Please remember, a real prayer is the mutual contact between God and man. Prayer is not just man contacting God, but also God contacting man. If in prayer man does not touch or contact God, and God does not touch or contact man, that prayer is below the proper standard. Every prayer that is up to the standard is one which is a mutual flow and contact between God and man. God and man are just like electric currents flowing into one another. It is hard for you to say that prayer is solely God in man or solely man in God. According to the fact and experience, prayer is the flowing between God and man. Every prayer that is truly up to the standard surely will have a condition of mutual flowing between God and man so that man may actually touch God and God may actually touch man; thus, man is united with God, and God with man. Therefore, the highest and most accurate meaning of prayer is that it is the mutual contact between God and man.