

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

May 11, 2014

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ❖ FTTA-XB Gospel Trips to Europe
- ❖ Semi-annual International Conference in Israel
- ❖ FTTA Relocation Project

For additional details regarding the above prayer items, please refer to Detailed Prayer Burdens.

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Truth Pursuit will resume after Memorial Day.

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	433-434	13
Tuesday	435-436	14
Wednesday	437-438	15
Thursday	439-440	16
Friday	441-442	17
Saturday	443-444	18

Morning Revival

The Mending Ministry of John, Week 3

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: FTTA-Extension in Boston Trainee Gospel Trips to Europe—May 6-19

27 saints from the FTTA Extension in Boston (FTTA-XB) will travel to London to blend with the FTTL trainees and go with them to various places in Europe. They will also participate in the church life in London, the one week training, and the upcoming radio seminar.

- ❖ Please pray for the gathering and blending of the saints from different localities and countries.
- ❖ Please pray that the coming of the trainees from Boston will be a blessing to the churches in Europe and that the Lord will use this gospel trip to impart a vision and burden that will cause a number of the FTTA-XB trainees to consecrate themselves to the Lord for His move in Europe.

Semi-Annual International Conference in Israel—May 15-17

- ❖ Pray for the Lord's blessing of His presence and speaking in this time.
- ❖ Pray for the blending together of all the saints in the one Spirit and for much fellowship in the divine life among them that this time would be a supply to all those attending and a strengthening of the Lord's move in Israel for His testimony there.

Local: FTTA Relocation Project

- ❖ Pray for the completion of the FTTA Relocation project by the Fall term of the FTTA.
- ❖ Pray that the financial need of this project will be met by all the saints going to the Lord and giving according to Lord's leading and His grace.

COLLEGE STUDENTS YEAR-END CELEBRATION

The students at UCI and IVC are pleased to invite all the saints to join a year-end celebration meeting. This gathering, according to Hebrews 10:24, is for inciting one another to love and good works. May the sharing of each part of the "three-fold cord"—the saints, the students, and the serving ones—bring mutual encouragement to us all. May the Lord continue building up a day by day and house to house church life in Irvine.

The celebration will take place at Hall 1 on Friday, May 30. Dinner will be a small group provided love feast from 6-7pm, and following dinner will be singing and fellowship

from 7-8:30pm. Please join us for this time. Your attendance will be a real encouragement to us. Childcare will be available during the meeting.

Food Preparation: Because we want to promptly start the dinner at 6pm, we ask that each small group prepare a full meal as normal, including a main dish, bread/rice, a salad, and dessert and bring it to Hall 1 by 5:30pm. Every group should fill out a form to indicate how many saints will be able to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Pedro M. at pedro.m.r.g.morais@gmail.com.

MINISTRY PORTION

A VOW CONCERNING OUR PRAYER LIFE

In light of the fact that there is great resistance to praying, let us now consider in a very practical way how to persevere in prayer. Before you try to persevere in prayer, you should first make a deal with the Lord concerning your prayer life. Pray to Him in a definite way and say, "Lord, I mean business with You about this matter of prayer. I call heaven and earth to witness that from this time forth I will have a life of prayer. I will not be a prayerless person. Rather, I will be a praying person." If you do not have such a prayer to the Lord, you will not be able to persevere in prayer. We need to say to Him, "Lord, I am desperate about this. I offer myself to You so that I may have a prayer life. Lord, keep me in the spirit of prayer. If I forget this or neglect this, I know

that You will not forget it. Remind me again and again about prayer." This kind of prayer may be regarded as a vow made to the Lord. We all need to make a vow to Him concerning our prayer life. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, I know that if I forget this vow, You will not forget it. From the very beginning, Lord, I want to clearly hand the responsibility over to You. Lord, don't let me go. Remind me to pray."

SETTING ASIDE DEFINITE TIMES

After we make such a deal with the Lord concerning prayer, we should set aside definite times for prayer. For instance, you may reserve ten minutes every morning. During this time, prayer must be the top priority. Our attitude should be that prayer is our most important

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Upcoming Events

☉ Friday, May 23 - Monday, May 26, International Memorial Day Conference, Philadelphia, PA

Church-related Websites

General: churchinirvine.org
 Blog: members.churchinirvine.org
 Calendar: calendar.churchinirvine.org
 Offerings: offerings.churchinirvine.org
 YP: youngpeople.churchinirvine.org

This Week

11 TH Lord's Day	☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Church-wide Lord's Table meeting, special fellowship and 6th grade baptisms at Hall 1
13 TH Tuesday	☉ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meetings by districts
14 TH Wednesday	☉ 7:30-9:00pm Ministry meeting at MCC Anaheim and simulcast at Hall 3
15 TH Thursday	☉ 10:00–11:00am Sisters prayer meeting at Hall 3
16 TH Friday	☉ Evening Small groups in the homes
17 TH Saturday	☉ 6:00pm Young people's dinner and meeting
18 TH Lord's Day	☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts

MINISTRY PORTION (CONT'D)

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business and that nothing should be allowed to interfere with it. If we do not have this attitude, we shall not be able to have a successful prayer life. No matter how many things we have to do each day, we can reserve at least a few minutes here and there for prayer. We may pray a little in the morning. Then again at noon, after work, and in the evening we may have other times for prayer. By setting aside definite times during the day, we may be able to have a half hour reserved for prayer.

When you are observing a set time for prayer at home, take the telephone off the hook. This will help eliminate distractions. Prayer time is not the time for telephone calls. Furthermore, you should not pay attention to those knocking at your door. The time you have dedicated to the Lord for prayer should be used only for prayer, not for anything else. Regarding this, you need to be strong and persevering.

In order to have more time for prayer, we should try to save time during the day. For example, perhaps we can reduce the time spent in personal grooming or in conversation with others. Unnecessary talk weakens our praying spirit, damages the praying atmosphere, and occupies time that can be used for prayer. The battle over prayer is continual. Probably it will last until eternity.

What I have been sharing about prayer is not mere doctrine. It comes from years of experience. As far as prayer is concerned, I must admit that I have had much failure. I do not boast of great success in my prayer life. Rather, I have suffered many failures because of the opposition of the enemy, the distractions around me, and even the hindrances within me. I have surely learned that prayer is a battle. Because it is a battle, a fight, we must persevere in it.

THE BENEFITS OF PRAYER

Persevering in prayer has many benefits. By prayer we set our mind on the things above. In fact, prayer is the only way to have our mind set on the things in heaven. When we set our mind on things above by praying, we shall not pray for trivial matters. Instead, our prayer will be occupied with Christ's heavenly intercession, ministry, and administra-

tion. Because Christ is interceding for the churches around the world, we also pray for the churches. Let the Lord take care of all the small matters in our living. Our responsibility is to seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness. Since the Father knows our need, He will take care of us and meet our need.

When we set our mind on the things above during our times of prayer, we become a reflection of Christ's ministry in the heavens. Through our prayer, Christ, the Head, is given a way to carry out His administration through His Body. When we pray, we are a heavenly ambassador on earth with the extension of God's kingdom. However, when we are gossiping, we are not a heavenly ambassador at all. Only when we pray do we become an ambassador of the heavenly kingdom on earth in a practical way.

When we pray, we enter into the Holy of Holies and approach the throne of grace. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace for timely help." Prayer is the way to come forward to the throne of grace. Coming forward to the throne of grace, we receive mercy and grace to meet our timely need. When we pray, approaching the throne of grace, mercy and grace will become a river flowing in us and supplying us. How rewarding this is! Receiving the flow of grace in prayer is actually more important than having our prayers answered. Whether or not our prayer is answered is secondary. The primary thing is that grace flows like a river from the throne and into our being.

To receive this river of grace is to have our spiritual battery charged with heavenly current. The heavenly current, the divine electricity, is the Triune God as grace flowing out of the throne and into us. The supply and enjoyment this brings is unspeakable.

Christians today are weak because their spiritual batteries are not charged. Because they are short of prayer, they are short of the heavenly transmission. Again and again during the day, we need to be charged with the divine electrical current. This surely is a reward for persevering in prayer.

—*Life Study of Colossians*, Message 65

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☉ Summer Bible Camp—July 28-August 2

This year's Summer Bible Camp will take place from 7/28-8/2/14. We need many to serve as well as many to pray for the SBC. We need much participation to carry out this special week and encourage all parents and burdened saints to join our coordination times at Hall 1. We will be meeting the following times:

TODAY from 2:30-3:30pm
 June 1 from 3:30-4:30pm
 June 22 from 2:30-3:30pm
 July 13 from 3:30-4:30pm
 July 27 from 3:30-4:30pm

☉ One-Day Retreat for Young Families and Working Saints—June 7

To all young families and working saints from roughly the age of 23 to early 40s: please save the date for a one-day retreat on Saturday, June 7, 2014. Location, schedule, and cost TBD. Full children's service will be provided. Please be on the lookout for more information in the near future.