

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

August 24, 2014

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ☉ Meeting hall in Düsseldorf
- ☉ Irvine
- ☉ IVC

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Galatians, Messages 23 & 24

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	601-602	97
Tuesday	603-604	98
Wednesday	605-606	99
Thursday	607-608	100
Friday	609-610	101
Saturday	611-612	102

Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Genesis, Volume 5, Week 29

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Meeting Hall in Düsseldorf, Germany (see report below)

- ☉ Pray that the need for a meeting hall in this locality would be met and that the hall would be useful for the advance and going on of the church there to be built up as God's house for His corporate expression in Düsseldorf.

Local: Irvine

- ☉ Pray for the operation of the Lord's grace that there would be a genuine advance in every saint from the individual experience of God to the corporate experience of God that we would be the church people filled with God and living a church life that is a corporate life of experiencing the

God of the house of God for His expression.

- ☉ Continue to pray that the meetings of the church will be brought out of every kind of formality and ritual and brought into the freshness and newness of the resurrected and ascended Christ for the mutual satisfaction of God and man and the building up of the church.

Irvine Valley College

- ☉ Saints will be contacting the freshman at IVC next week. Pray for the Lord to bring us to the open and seeking freshman from this campus.

REPORT FROM DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY

A property has recently become available for purchase in Düsseldorf, Germany, which could serve as a meeting hall for the church as well as a location for the blending of the saints in the region. The property consists of the ground floor of a two-story building with a total footprint of 161 m² (1732 sq ft), containing one large room of 54 m² (581 sq ft) (which could potentially be enlarged by removing a partition wall) plus five other rooms, a kitchen, and two WCs. The building is structurally in fairly good condition; the interior needs repainting, some new flooring, and possibly new lighting and ventilation.

We feel very good about the purchase of this property and that the Lord has been leading us along the way. The attendance in the Lord's Day meeting now reaches up to 40 and the church has outgrown its current meeting facilities in rented rooms. The church life began in Düsseldorf in 2008 with around 12 saints through a migration. Since then the church has grown under the Lord's blessing through both increase and migration.

The purchase cost of the property is 147,500€ (\$197,500) which will be required at the latest by September 15, 2014. Additional renovation costs increase the total need to about 170,000€ (\$232,000). Of this total amount, around 100,000€ (\$133,000) is still needed. We would like to open this need to the churches for your fellowship and participation.

Those who wish to contribute in US dollars through LME can send their gifts by following the instructions at: www.lordsmove.org/offerings.html. Please designate all gifts for "Düsseldorf Meeting Hall."

Yours in His recovery,

On behalf of the church in Düsseldorf,

Tim Titchener, Klaus Grundey, Alec Porter

NOTE: Saints in Irvine can also give directly to the church in Irvine by designating their gift as "Düsseldorf Meeting Hall."

LOCAL PERFECTING CONFERENCE—SEPT. 6-7

The leading brothers of the church in Irvine would like to invite all the saints to a local perfecting conference with the subject of "Meeting in the Spirit Outside of Religion" on the weekend of Sept. 6-7. The training will consist of three sessions according to the following schedule:

- Session 1: Sat., 9/6, 10am-12pm @ Hall 1
- Session 2: Sat., 9/6, 7:30pm-9pm @ Hall 1
- Session 3: LD, 9/7, 10:15am-12:00pm @ Hall 1

The third session will take place immediately after the church-wide Lord's Table @ Hall 1, which will start at the usual time of 9:30am. Due to the anticipated parking limitations, please carpool as much as possible. Cars bringing children, elderly saints, or 3 or more people will be the only vehicles permitted to park in the meeting hall parking lot. Trainees and students should try their best to park in the Venado Middle School parking lot

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Upcoming Events

☉ Saturday, Sept. 6 - Lord's Day, Sept. 7
Local Perfecting Conference, Irvine

Church-related Websites

General: churchinirvine.org

Blog: members.churchinirvine.org

Calendar: calendar.churchinirvine.org

Offerings: offerings.churchinirvine.org

YP: youngpeople.churchinirvine.org

This Week

24TH ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day Table and prophesying
meetings by districts

26TH ☉ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meet-
Tuesday ings by districts

27TH ☉ 7:30–9:00pm Ministry
Wednesday meeting at MCC Anaheim
and simulcast at Hall 3

28TH ☉ 10:00–11:00am Sisters
Thursday prayer meeting at Hall 3

29TH ☉ Evening Small groups in
Friday the homes

30TH ☉ 7:30–9:30pm Young peo-
Saturday ple's blending meeting in
Arcadia

31ST ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day Table and prophesying
meetings by districts

LOCAL PERFECTING CONFERENCE—SEPT. 6-7 (CONT'D)

(continued from page 1)

across Deerfield Park. The remaining saints should try to park in the neighborhood streets immediately behind the meeting hall. Please be considerate of the neighbors and walk only on paved walkways as you make your way to the meeting hall.

Children's service will be provided in the same manner as in previous church-wide blending gatherings.

Please do your best to attend these sessions as the Lord seems burdened to lead the church into a real renewal of its meeting life and refresh the saints' view concerning our function in the meetings of the church.

MINISTRY PORTION

THE NEED FOR CHRIST TO BE FORMED IN THE HEIRS OF THE PROMISE

In this message we shall consider 4:8-20. These verses indicate that the Apostle Paul was in a difficult situation with respect to the believers in Galatia. They had been brought to the Lord through Paul's preaching of the gospel, and he had a heart to care for them. Paul's burden was not to carry on a Christian work, but was to minister Christ to the believers, to labor that Christ might be formed in them (v. 19). It is possible to work for the Lord and to help the saints, without having the burden to minister Christ to them. We may earnestly work for Christ without having any burden to see Christ formed in the saints. Hence, it is important for us to see that Paul's burden as expressed in these verses was altogether different from that of most Christian workers. We may be burdened for the raising up of local churches and for the strengthening of the churches. However, we may not have the burden to minister Christ into the saints. To preach the gospel and raise up churches is one thing; to bear the burden to minister Christ into the saints is another. Paul's burden was not for a work; it was for ministering Christ into the believers. This is the reason that in 4:8-20 Paul uses certain intimate expressions, expressions which show the closeness of his relationship to the Galatian believers and his affection for them. Let us now consider 4:8-20 verse by verse.

ENSLAVED AND DECEIVED

Verse 8 says, "But then indeed, not knowing God, you were slaves to the gods which by nature do not exist." The gods, or the idols, do not have the divine nature. They were considered gods by their superstitious worshippers, but by nature they do not exist as gods.

In verse 9 Paul says, "But now, knowing God, but rather being known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and poor elements, to which you desire to be again enslaved?" The "elements" here are not substances. They are the elementary principles of the law, its rudimentary teachings. Here Paul points out that by turning again to the weak and poor elements of the law, the Galatian believers would once again become enslaved. Paul's use of the word enslaved indicates how serious the Judaizers were in working on the Galatian believers. The Judaizers bewitched

them, deceived them, to such a degree that they were brought into slavery. To the Judaizers, the law was a matter of life and death. Therefore, they were desperate in their attempt to mislead the Galatians. Paul realized that once the Galatian believers had been deceived, they would be enslaved. To say that the Galatians were enslaved means that they had been deceived to the uttermost.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

In verse 10 Paul continues, "You observe days and months and seasons and years." The observances here were Jewish religious observances. The days mentioned were the Sabbaths and new moons (Isa. 66:23). The months were the sacred months like the first, Abib, the ear-month (Exo. 13:4); the second, Zif, the flower-month (1 Kings 6:1, 37); the seventh, Ethanim, the month of streaming rivers (1 Kings 8:2); and the eighth, Bul, the month of rain (1 Kings 6:38). The seasons were festal seasons such as the Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles (2 Chron. 8:13). The years perhaps denoted sabbatical years (Lev. 25:4).

In verse 11 Paul tells the Galatians, "I fear for you, lest I have labored upon you in vain." Paul labored upon the Galatians to bring them into Christ under grace. Their turning to the Jewish religious observances might cause Paul's labor upon them to be in vain. It seems Paul was telling the believers in Galatia, "I labored on you and ministered Christ into you. Why, after receiving what I ministered to you, would you go back to the ordinances of the law?" Paul was puzzled. He simply could not believe that those who had received his preaching could be bewitched to such a degree that they would return to the observances of the law and become enslaved to them.

—*Life Study of Galatians*, Message 23