

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

October 6, 2013

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ☉ Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria
- ☉ Freshers Fayer on UK campuses
- ☉ Irvine—Local Conference

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Colossians, Messages 9 & 10

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	85-86	928
Tuesday	87-88	929
Wednesday	89-90	930
Thursday	91-92	931
Friday	93-94	932
Saturday	95-96	933

Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Genesis (Vol. 1), Week 6

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria (Oct. 11-13)

- ☉ Please pray for the gathering of the seeking ones, the release of the Lord's rich word, and the raising up of the Lord's testimony in Sofia.

Freshers Fayer in the universities of the UK

- ☉ Pray for all those contacted through the Freshers Fayers event on university campuses in the UK that they would be shepherded into a vision of God's economy and be gained for the Lord's expression and kingdom on earth.

Local: Irvine—Local Conference (Oct. 12-13)

- ☉ Pray for the Lord's speaking to the church during this time and that this speaking would result in our appetite being intensified for the words of the faith and in our being those who closely follow the healthy teaching of God's New Testament economy to be constituted as ministers of Christ.
- ☉ Pray for the gospel living and shepherding labor in all the districts among the college students and neighborhoods of Irvine.

LOCAL PERFECTING CONFERENCE—OCTOBER 12-13, 2013

The Church in Irvine will have a local perfecting conference from Sat., Oct. 12 to Lord's Day, Oct. 13 with the subject matter of "Being Nourished with the Words of the Faith and Closely Following the Healthy Teaching to be a Good Minister of Christ Jesus in the Church of God."

Schedule:

Saturday, October 12

10:00am-12:00pm: Session 1

7:30pm-9:00pm: Session 2 (including YP)

Location: Hall 1

Lord's Day, October 13

9:30am-10:30am: Lord's Table

10:30am-12:00pm: Session 3

Locations: Hall 1 & Hall 3 (via simulcast)

Childcare: Basic childcare for K-6 will be provided as follows:

- ☉ Session 1—Districts 1-8 will coordinate childcare for K-6
- ☉ Session 2—Districts 10-16 will coordinate childcare for K-6
- ☉ Session 3—Children's service will be carried out as usual at Halls 1 & 3.

More details regarding the children's service will be forthcoming.

Parking: Due to the increased number of saints for session 3 (Lord's Day), please try to carpool as much as possible.

May the Lord bless the church's gathering together for the ministry of the word for the building up of the Body of Christ!

MINISTRY PORTION FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

Colossians 1:15 says that Christ is the "image of the invisible God." Then, in the very same verse, Paul says that Christ is the "firstborn of all creation." Why does he put these two matters together, the image of the invisible God and the firstborn of all creation? God is invisible. But the Son of His love, "the effulgence of His glory and the express image of His substance" (Heb. 1:3), is His image, expressing what He is. The image here does not mean a physical form, but an expression of God's being in all His attributes and virtues. This interpretation is confirmed by Colossians 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 3:18.

To say that Christ, the all-inclusive One, is the image of God implies that He is the very God, the Creator. When we see Christ, we see

the expression of the invisible God, for He Himself is God. If I had written the Epistle to the Colossians, I would have said simply that Christ is God the Creator. Paul, however, did not write in such a simple way. He said that Christ is the image of the invisible God, God Himself expressed.

FIRST AMONG ALL CREATURES

In 1:15 Paul goes on to say that Christ is the firstborn of all creation. This means that in creation Christ is the first. Christ as God is the Creator. However, as man, sharing the created blood and flesh (Heb. 2:14), He is part of the creation. "Firstborn of all creation" refers to Christ's preeminence in all creation, since from this verse through verse 18 the apostle stresses the first place of Christ in all things.

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Saturday, Oct. 12 - Lord's Day, Oct. 13, Local Perfecting Conference, Irvine
- ❖ Thursday, Oct 17., Special Fellowship for sisters (during Sisters' prayer time), Hall 3 @ 10am
- ❖ Thursday, Nov. 28 - Lord's Day, Dec. 1, International Thanksgiving Conference, Schaumburg, Illinois

Church-related Websites

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

This Week

6 TH Lord's Day	❖ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts
8 TH Tuesday	❖ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meetings by districts
9 TH Wednesday	❖ 7:30-9:00pm Ministry meeting at MCC Anaheim and simulcast at Hall 3
10 TH Thursday	❖ 10:00–11:00am Sisters' prayer meeting at Hall 3
11 TH Friday	❖ Evening Small groups in the homes
12 TH Saturday	❖ 10:00am-12:00pm Local Perfecting conference at Hall 1 ❖ 7:30-9:00pm Local Perfecting conference at Hall 1
13 TH Lord's Day	❖ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table followed by Local Perfecting conference at Halls 1 & 3 (via simulcast)

MINISTRY PORTION FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF COLOSSIANS (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

This verse reveals that Christ is not only the Creator, but also the first among all created things, the first among all creatures.

Some insist that Christ is only the Creator, not a creature. But the Bible reveals that Christ is both the Creator and a creature, for He is both God and man. As God, Christ is the Creator, but as man, He is a creature. How could He have flesh, blood, and bones if He were not a creature? Did not Christ become a man? Did He not take on a body with flesh, blood, and bones? Certainly He did. Those who oppose this teaching are short of knowledge. Actually, they are heretical, because they do not believe that Christ truly became a man. Rather, they believe only that He is God, and such a belief is heresy. Our Christ is God, has always been God, and always will be God. But through incarnation He became a man. Otherwise He could not have been arrested, tried, and crucified; and He could not have shed His blood on the cross for our sins.

Praise the Lord for the truth that our Christ is both God and man!

As God, Christ is eternal and did not need to be born. But in 1:15 He is called the firstborn of all creation. Anything that requires birth must be a creature, part of creation. If Christ were only God and not man, He could not have been born, for God is infinite and eternal, without beginning or ending. But as a man, Christ had to be born. Hallelujah, Christ was born as a man! Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and His name shall be called The mighty God, the everlasting Father...." As the child born to us, Christ is called the mighty God. As the Son given to us, His name is called the eternal Father. As the mighty God and the eternal Father, Christ is eternal. But as the child and a son, He had to be born. Some argue that Christ was born, but not created. According to the Bible, birth is the carrying out of creation. Therefore, to be born is to be created. (*Life Study of Colossians*—Message 8)

2013 WINTER TRAINING REGISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Place: Ministry Conference Center, 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA

Dates: Monday, December 23, 2013, 4:00pm-Saturday, December 28, 2013, 9:30pm

Donation Amounts: \$160 per trainee for the live training. \$85 per trainee for the webcast/video training. The cost of the outline is included.

Last day to register: October 27, 2013

For late registrations, a \$50 late charge for the Live Training and a \$25 late charge for the Video Training may apply.

Registration: The preferred method of registration is online at login.churchinirvine.org/training. One login ID is required per registration. You may also register by paper. See the responsible brothers in your district for any help.

Donations: Donations may be made online via credit card or in person via check or cash. You may donate for others, but please note that paying for another person does NOT equal registering that person for the training. Each person must go through the registration process to be properly registered.

Confirmation: You will receive email confirmations for: (1) registration; (2) donations; and (3) a separate receipt if the donation was made via Google or Paypal using your credit card. If you do not receive these email confirmations, you may not be properly registered.

Please note the following:

- ❖ No part-time shared seats are allowed. Only full-time shared seats are allowed.
- ❖ It is easier to cancel a registration than to add a registration with a late fee past the due date.
- ❖ Substitutes are allowed after the due date.

Young People

- ❖ **Attendance by young people under the age of 17 is discouraged.** Trainees under the age of 17 are required to participate in at least one video training before attending the live training. Trainees who are 15 years old and under will no longer be accepted to the live training, without exception. All underage trainees must be registered for the training full-time.

For any problems or questions please email training_registration@churchinirvine.org or go to login.churchinirvine.org/training.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ **The Need of Hospitality for the High School Brothers' Conference**

The church in Irvine will host the upcoming High School Brothers' Conference from October 25 to 27. We will need 40 homes to provide hospitality to the young people and serving ones attending the conference. This will include providing breakfast on Saturday and Lord's Day morning and a snack on

Friday and Saturday evening. If you can host between 2 to 5 brothers, please contact Sam Lee (slee17@gmail.com) or Isaac Acosta (isaac.acosta@gmail.com). You may also sign up at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tM69Gq3LwS5KT2ZQ2ZEwWb0twJNDHTU275llh4ZZMU/edit#>