

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP November 24, 2013

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ☉ The Philippines
- ☉ Int'l Thanksgiving Conference
- ☉ Irvine

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Colossians, Messages 23 & 24

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	169-170	970
Tuesday	171-172	971
Wednesday	173-174	972
Thursday	175-176	973
Friday	177-178	974
Saturday	179-180	975

Morning Revival

"Nourishing Words—The Unsearchable Riches of Christ"

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: The Urgent Need of Saints and Churches in the Central Philippines affected by Typhoon Yolanda

- ☉ Pray for the affected saints to be preserved and strengthened by the Lord.
- ☉ Pray for the Philippine government to operate efficiently so that relief goods can be delivered to the affected areas in a timely manner.
- ☉ Pray for the recovery of the electricity and communication systems. As of now there is still no water or power.
- ☉ Pray for the brothers to quickly find out about each of the affected saints so that proper assistance can be rendered.
- ☉ Pray for the co-workers, elders and saints in the Central Philippines that they would grasp the opportunity to preach the gospel in the mingled spirit.

International Thanksgiving Conference in Schaumburg, IL (Nov. 28 - Dec. 1)

- ☉ Pray for spiritual appetite in the saints in the churches for the Lord's visitation and speaking in this time.

- ☉ Pray for the release of the Spirit's speaking to the churches and that the word released will find room in the hearts of the saints that there would be an increase of Christ within the saints for the enlargement of the corporate Christ in all the churches.

Irvine:

- ☉ Pray that the saints in Irvine will all become genuine seekers of God and lovers of Christ to enter a deeper and more intimate fellowship with the Lord.
- ☉ Pray that every saint will have an uplifted and renewed time with the Lord in the morning by seeking Him and coming to Him in His Word that the God breathed-out Word would become our daily joy and enjoyment.
- ☉ Pray that a culture of tasting the Lord and daily masticating Him through the words of the Bible would be built up in Irvine to become the testimony of Jesus.

LETTER FROM STEPHANIE CHOU

Dear precious saints,

There is a throne over this universe. In Full Ministry of Christ class, I was impressed to see that Christ is enthroned as the Heavenly Administrator in God's universal government. I'm learning to be under this throne and love this One on the throne. It's comforting to see that situations don't happen out of random chance. He is administrating everything, sovereignly arranging everything in this universe in order to carry out His economy. This One on the throne is the gentle Lamb, the One slain for our sins. With His seven lovely, burning and searching eyes, He carries out God's administration.

Fourth term finally hit me, I think. I had one of the deepest experiences with the Lord, just allowing Him to look at me with His seven burning and infusing eyes (from our Spirit class). It was hard and painful, yet at the same time, so supplying, tender, and comforting. The Lord doesn't leave us burned out, exposed, and empty; He fills us and supplies with Himself as the river of water of life. This is to produce us as the golden lampstands for His testimony. My prayer this week was: "**Lord, look at me with Your seven lovely eyes. I don't want to hide from Your gaze. Burn away all**

that doesn't match You to produce what You're after."

Of course the Lord would answer those kinds of prayers. I can say from the little experiences I had this past week that there is a throne. He's working in the heavens to see that God's chosen people are saved, called, and brought in. He's ordering events and circumstances so that we all may grow in life. He's arranging things so that the Body may be built up.

Don't worry. I'm still enjoying! This has been the best term. The Lord has been very sweet in supplying me with the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ in and with the Body! Thank You, Lord Jesus.

I also cordially invite you all to come to our class' graduation! It's December 21, Saturday at 9:30am at the MCC :)

Stephanie Chou

Upcoming Events

- ☉ Thursday, Nov. 28 - Lord's Day, Dec. 1, International Thanksgiving Conference, Schaumburg, Illinois
- ☉ Monday, Dec. 23 - Saturday, Dec. 28, Winter Training, Anaheim, CA

Church-related Websites

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

This Week

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| 24 TH
Lord's Day | ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts |
| 26 TH
Tuesday | ☉ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meetings by districts |
| 29 TH
Friday | ☉ 10:00am Thanksgiving Conference Webcast Session 1 at Halls 1 & 3
☉ 7:30pm Thanksgiving Conference Webcast Session 2 at Halls 1 & 3 |
| 30 TH
Saturday | ☉ 10:00am Thanksgiving Conference Webcast Session 3 at Halls 1 & 3
☉ 7:30pm Thanksgiving Conference Webcast Session 4 at Halls 1 & 3 |
| 31 ST
Lord's Day | ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and Thanksgiving Conference Webcast Session 5 by district arrangement
☉ 4:00pm Thanksgiving Conference Webcast Session 6 at Halls 1 & 3 |

THANKSGIVING CONFERENCE WEBCAST SCHEDULE

The Thanksgiving Conference this year will be held in Schaumburg, IL. As one of the seven annual feasts of the Lord's recovery, all the saints are encouraged to attend either the conference or participate in the local webcast.

The Lord's speaking in the yearly conferences and trainings is critical for the advance of the churches. To be those who closely follow the ministry (2 Tim 3:10), we need a seeking and aggressive spirit. We pray the saints will acquire a habitual appetite for the word of the ministry and become beneficiaries of the truth and life that are dispensed by it. Remaining under the speaking of the ministry will keep the church healthy, supplied, constituted, up-to-date, and in the way of God's New Testament economy. Those saints who attend the conferences never regret doing so and become a big blessing to the church.

Webcast Schedule:

- Session 1: Friday, Nov. 29—10:00am
- Session 2: Friday, Nov. 29—7:30pm
- Session 3: Saturday, Nov. 30—10:00am
- Session 4: Saturday, Nov. 30—7:30pm
- Session 5: Lord's Day, Dec. 1—following Lord's Table at 9:30am
- Session 6: Lord's Day, Dec. 1—4:00pm

Webcast Locations:

- Hall 3: English and Chinese
- Hall 1: Korean

Please note: On Lord's Day morning, December 1, Session 5 will follow the Lord's Table arrangement for each district.

MINISTRY PORTION

THE ECONOMY OF GOD'S SALVATION

In this message we shall consider the economy of God's salvation as it is revealed in 2:13-15. As we shall see, this economy involves three things: making us alive with Christ, abolishing the ritual law, and stripping off the evil angelic powers.

THE THREE ASPECTS

Colossians 2:13 says, "And you, being dead in the offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all offenses." The word dead here refers to the deadness in spirit because of sin. We who once were dead in offenses and in the uncircumcision of the flesh have been made alive together with Christ. This means that God has enlivened us in Christ's resurrection with the divine life. What was accomplished in Christ's resurrection (1 Pet. 1:3) is experienced through our faith. The first aspect in the economy of God's salvation is that He has made us alive together with the resurrected Christ.

In verse 14 Paul goes on to say, "Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross." The Greek word rendered "wiping out" can also be translated blotting out, obliterating, erasing, or annulling (a decree of law). The Greek word rendered "handwriting" denotes a legal document, a bond. Here it refers to the written law. The ordinances, or decrees,

refer to the ceremonial law with its rituals, the forms or ways of living and worship. These ordinances God has taken out of the way by nailing them to the cross. This is to abolish the law of the commandments in ordinances (Eph. 2:15). This kills the heresy of keeping the Judaistic rituals.

In verse 15 Paul continues, "Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it." The Greek for "stripping off" can also be rendered "putting off," as in 3:9. The rulers and authorities spoken of in this verse are the angelic rulers and authorities. Because of the heretical teaching of angel-worship at Colosse, the passage here refers to the evil angels. The law was given through angels (Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19). Based upon this, the heretical teachers at Colosse advocated the worship of angels (Col. 2:18) as mediators between God and man. Hence, the apostle dealt with this heresy by unveiling the fact that the law, consisting of ordinances, was nailed to the cross (v. 14), and the leading evil angels were stripped off from God. This left Christ as the sole Mediator, who is the Head of all rule and authority (v. 10). This kills the heresy of angel worship....

It is not God's intention that we keep the law, and He certainly does not want us to worship angels. God's desire is to enliven human beings who are dead in offenses. In order to enliven us, He must put His very life into us. When His life comes into us, we are enlivened, made alive.

—*Life-Study of Colossians*, Message 23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☉ Hawaii Blending Conference

The saints in Hawaii have invited the churches to blend with them in a conference with brother Minoru Chen on Jan. 24-26. The churches in Hawaii endeavor to remain in the up-to-date ministry and in the blending life of

the Body of Christ. They look forward to being blended together with saints from many different localities under the speaking of the ministry of the age. For additional information, please contact: office@churchinirvine.org