

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP December 15, 2013

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ☉ Follow-up with new ones in Lisbon
- ☉ Winter Training
- ☉ Irvine

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Colossians, Messages 29 & 30

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	205-206	988
Tuesday	207-208	989
Wednesday	209-210	990
Thursday	211-212	991
Friday	213-214	992
Saturday	215-216	993

Morning Revival

"Nourishing Words—The Unsearchable Riches of Christ," Week 4

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Follow-up of new ones after the conference in Lisbon, Portugal

On December 4-7 a Bible distribution was carried out in Lisbon to support the Iberian Peninsula conference that took place there on December 6-8 and to cooperate with the Lord to raise up a lampstand in Lisbon. During the four days of distribution, a total of 765 Bibles were given out. 415 (54%) of the recipients indicated that they were open to be contacted. Of this number, 32 were very open. In addition, 52 persons prayed to receive the Lord. Eight new ones attended the conference. The experience of the saints who carried out the distribution was overwhelmingly positive.

- ☉ Pray for the one couple in Lisbon to be supplied bountifully in their follow-up with the bible recipients and that the Lord would gather the seeking ones into small groups for mutual shepherding.
- ☉ Pray for the manifestation of the open and seeking ones among the bible recipients, and for these ones to be brought out of the fold of religion to enjoy Christ as the pasture with other seeking ones.
- ☉ Pray for the raising up of a lampstand in Lisbon.

Semi-Annual Winter Training in Anaheim - Dec. 23-28

- ☉ Pray for the release of the Lord's speaking in this training and the saints receiving of this word.
- ☉ Pray that the study times and hospitality will all be profitable for the receiving of the Lord's burden and the building up of the Body.

Local: Irvine

- ☉ Continue to pray for an increase in the spiritual appetite and hunger of all the saints that we will be the Lord's seekers in coming to Him in the Word and that taking Him in through the Word will be the personal and corporate enjoyment of all the saints.

UPDATE CONCERNING THE BOSTON TRAINING CENTER

Dear saints,

Thank the Lord for answering the prayer of the churches regarding the Boston training center. The final walk through by the Boston fire department occurred on November 26th. The only item that they required was the adding of one fire extinguisher. The occupancy and use permit was issued on December 2nd. The FTTA-XB moved in immediately thereafter, and the training was able to use the new building for about 10 days before the current semester ended. The church in Boston had its first Lord's table in the building on December 8th.

Praise the Lord for His overcoming of all the obstacles to finish the work that He began and carried out through His Body. He is truly the Alpha and the Omega.

Please pray that the Lord will continue to grant the training and the church favor with the city and its residents and will gain and perfect many young ones for His move in Europe and on the whole earth.

- The brothers who oversee the FTTA

MINISTRY PORTION

THE LIVING OF THE SAINTS
IN UNION WITH CHRIST:
RULED BY THE PEACE OF CHRIST
AND INHABITED BY THE WORD OF CHRIST

After giving an introductory word in 1:1-8, the book of Colossians unveils Christ as the preeminent and all-inclusive One, as the centrality and universality of God (1:9—3:11). In this section of Colossians, Christ is revealed in

a full way. Here Paul does not say that Christ is the Lamb of God, the manna, or the living water. Rather, he tells us that Christ is the portion of the saints, the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, the firstborn from among the dead, the mystery of God's economy, the indwelling hope of glory, the mystery of God, and the One in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

☉ 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

15TH ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Church-
Lord's Day wide Blending Meeting at
Hall 1

17TH ☉ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meet-
Tuesday ings by districts

18TH ☉ 7:30-9:00pm Ministry
Wednesday meeting at MCC Anaheim
and simulcast at Hall 3

19TH ☉ 10:00–11:00am Sisters
Thursday prayer meeting at Hall 3

20TH ☉ Evening Small groups in
Friday the homes

21ST ☉ 9:30am FTTA graduation
Saturday in Anaheim at MCC

22ND ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's
Lord's Day Table and prophesying
meetings by districts

MINISTRY PORTION (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

den. As we consider all these aspects of Christ, we shall realize that the revelation of Christ conveyed in Colossians is extraordinary, absolutely different from what is revealed elsewhere in the Scriptures.

In 3:12—4:6 Paul turns to the matter of the living of the saints in union with Christ. In 3:12-15 he speaks of the necessity of being ruled by the peace of Christ, and in verses 16 and 17, of the word of Christ dwelling in us richly. To live in union with Christ means that in our living we are not apart from Christ. In John 15 the Lord tells us to abide in Him, for apart from Him we can do nothing. In the eyes of God, whatever we do apart from Christ has no value. Therefore, if we are separated from the all-inclusive Christ revealed in Colossians, we cannot do anything. The living of the saints must be in union with Christ. This means that in our living we need to be one with Him.

In 3:10 and 11 we see that in the new man Christ is all and in all. Christ is all the members and in all the members. In the new man there is no room for any natural person. Rather, Christ is everyone and is in everyone. To say that Christ is all and in all in the new man indicates that we are one with Christ and that Christ is one with us. We may even say that Christ is we and that we are He. This points to our union with Christ. Therefore, the living of the saints must be a living that is in union with Christ, a living that is identified with Him. If we live in such a way, we and Christ, Christ and we, are one. We live, and Christ lives in our living.

We need to be one with the Lord Jesus just as He is one with the Father. In John 14:10 the Lord said, "The words which I speak to you, I do not speak from Myself; but the Father who abides in Me, He does His works." This indicates that the Father works in the Son's speaking. Although the Father and the Son are two Persons, They have just one life and one living. The life of the Father is the life of the Son, and the living of the Son is the living of the Father. On the one hand, the Fa-

ther's life is the Son's life. On the other hand, the Son's living is the Father's living. In this way the Father and the Son have one life and one living. The principle is the same with Christ and us. Today we and Christ have one life and one living. The Son's life becomes our life, and our living becomes His living. This is what it means to live in union with Christ.

In such a union we and Christ, Christ and we, are one. In a very practical sense, Christ is we and we are Christ, for we live as one. His life is our life, and our living is His living. Therefore, Christ lives in our living. This is the normal Christian living, the living that is up to God's standard and that fulfills the requirements of His economy.

Concerning our living in union with Christ, Paul tells us to let the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts and to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. Paul does not speak of these things elsewhere in his Epistles. Notice Paul's use of the word "let" in verses 15 and 16. This word indicates that both the peace of Christ and the word of Christ are already present. However, we need to allow them to operate within us. We need to let the peace of Christ arbitrate in us, and we must let the word of Christ dwell in us. There is no problem with either the peace of Christ or with the word of Christ. The problem is with us, in particular with our allowing these things to work in us.

—*Life-Study of Colossians*, Message 29

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☉ Hawaii Blending Conference

The saints in Hawaii have invited the churches to blend with them in a conference 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