

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

January 16, 2011

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ☉ National Young People's Conference in Brazil
- ☉ GTCA Sowing Trips in February
- ☉ The Prayer Ministry of the Church
- ☉ Lily Egan and Family

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Ministry reading: *Life-Study of Exodus, messages 74 & 75*

Recovery Version Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	364-365	130
Tuesday	366-367	131
Wednesday	368-369	132
Thursday	370-371	133
Friday	372-373	134
Saturday	374-375	135

Morning Revival

HWMR: *Living under the Unique Headship of Christ and in the Unique Divine Fellowship, Week 8*

Lord's Table Meeting

Hall	Last Week's Attendance
Hall 1	165
Hall 2	121
Hall 3	65
TOTAL	351

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: South America

- ☉ National young people's conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on January 22-25.

National: GTCA Sowing Trips in February

- ☉ Pray for the "tilling" of the ground in the hearts of the people through the various means of mass media in all the targeted cities.
- ☉ Pray specifically for the cities in California (San Marcos, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Stockton) and Arizona (Flagstaff) and that the mass media being used will be effective in reaching key people in these 5 cities.

- ☉ Pray for the preparation, training and coordination of the saints participating in the "sowing" trips to these cities.

Local:

- ☉ Pray that the ministry of prayer would be built up in the church among all the saints - personally, in small groups and corporately as the church.
- ☉ Pray that through prayer the church would become one with the Lord's heart and become one with Him in His heavenly interest and intercession to give Him the way to carry out His economy in these days for the consummation of the age.

A MONTH OF PRAYER

Given the imminent step the Lord is seeking to take in this country in the preaching of the gospel and the spread of His testimony, the leading brothers of the church in Irvine would like to exhort all the saints to set aside the next 4 weeks (or 30 days) to pray in an intensified manner in four ways:

1. Personal Prayer: The saints are encouraged to go before the Lord in private, every day, 10-15 minutes, at a specific time to pray specifically for the Lord's interest—Matt. 6:6.
2. Companion/Group Prayer: The saints are also encouraged to pray in groups of 2-3 at least 2-3 times a week for at least 20-30 minutes—Matt. 18:20.
3. Brothers/Sisters Weekly Prayer: The saints are also encouraged to attend the weekly brothers and sisters prayer meetings. The

brothers' prayer will take place on Saturdays at Hall 3, starting at 8am (this is a new time/location). The sisters' prayer will continue as before, but on Thursday, 1/20, some of the leading brothers will join the gathering at its regular time of 10am at Hall 2 for some special fellowship of perfecting and exhortation—Acts 13:1-2.

4. Corporate Church Prayer: The saints are also encouraged to attend the church prayer meetings on Tuesday evenings and for the next four weeks, these meetings will be corporate at Hall 1, starting at 7:00pm. The earlier start time is intended to encourage fasting among saints led by the Spirit to do so—Acts 12:12.

May the Lord gain the prayers He needs, indeed the prayers of the age, so that He can spread His testimony all over North America in a prevailing way!

MINISTRY PORTION

THE ANGEL OF JEHOVAH FOR HIS PEOPLE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE PROMISED LAND

(2)

In the foregoing message we began to consider from 23:20-33 the matter of the Angel of Jehovah for His people to take possession of the promised land. We saw that the Angel of Jehovah was sent by Jehovah (v. 20), that Jehovah's name is in Him (v. 21), and that He is actually Jehovah Himself (3:2, 4, 6, 14, 16). Furthermore, we pointed out that His voice was Jehovah's speaking and that He went before the children of Israel to guard them in the way and to bring them into the good land (23:20, 23). We also considered the boundaries of the promised land: from the Red Sea to the

Sea of the Philistines, the Mediterranean, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates. We also saw that there were frustraters in the land, the pagan tribes with their idols. Finally, in a very general way we shared a word about how to take possession of the land. In this message and in the message following, we need to pay attention to the details concerning the way to take possession of the land. No matter how much we may know about the Angel of Jehovah and about the good land, this knowledge may be vain if we do not see the way to take possession of the land.

Taking possession of the good land is the terminology found in the typology in the Old Testament. In the New Testament Paul speaks of gaining Christ, obtaining Christ, laying hold

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Thursday, Jan. 20, Sisters' Prayer Fellowship @ Hall 2, 10:00am**
- ❖ **Friday, Jan. 29 - Tuesday, Feb. 15, GTCA 2011 Sowing Trips**

Church-related Websites

General: churchinirvine.org
Audio: recentaudio.churchinirvine.org
Calendar: calendar.churchinirvine.org
Gospel: gospel.churchinirvine.org
Offerings: offerings.churchinirvine.org
YA: youngadults.churchinirvine.org
YP: youngpeople.churchinirvine.org

Online Forms

Record baptisms:
baptisms.churchinirvine.org
Register for user account:
churchinirvine.org/register
Register for truth pursuit emails:
truthpursuit.churchinirvine.org
Register for services:
servicesignup.churchinirvine.org

This Week

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| 16TH
Lord's Day | ❖ 9:30am -12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings at Halls 1, 2 and 3 |
| 18TH
Tuesday | ❖ 7:00-8:30pm Church-wide corporate prayer meeting at Hall 1 (by languages) |
| 20TH
Thursday | ❖ 10:00am All-language sisters' prayer fellowship at Hall 2 |
| 21ST
Friday | ❖ Evening Small group meetings in the homes |
| 22ND
Saturday | ❖ 8:00am All-language brothers' prayer meeting at Hall 3
❖ 6:00pm Young people's meeting |
| 23RD
Lord's Day | ❖ 9:30am-12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings at Halls 1, 2 and 3 |

MINISTRY PORTION (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 1)

of Christ (Phil. 3:8). These expressions from Philippians 3 are the fulfillment of the type of possessing the promised land in the Old Testament. Today we need to experience the all-inclusive Christ typified by the good land. My burden in this message is related to the way to take possession of Christ, the way to experience Christ, win Christ, gain Christ, obtain Christ, take hold of Christ, and grasp Christ. As a help in this matter, we need to patiently consider Exodus 23:20-33 in detail, digging into these verses in order to see the riches they contain.

At this point I wish to say that we do not intend to allegorize the Old Testament according to a certain interpretation. On the contrary, what we are doing is fitting various portions of the Word together in order to see a complete picture. This is not to allegorize or to guess at the meaning of things. This is to fit different parts of the Word together in order to see a picture of spiritual things, which are otherwise invisible. The matters related to spiritual experience are real, but they are mysterious and invisible. For this reason, God has given us both the types in the Old Testament and statements of fact in the New Testament. The Old Testament types are pictures of the spiritual realities revealed in the New Testament. Just as children put together the pieces of a puzzle, so we need to fit together various parts of the Bible in order to see a picture.

It takes time and patience to assemble a puzzle of hundreds of pieces. First you need to try one piece and then another. Eventually, little by little a picture comes into view. Do you want to see a portrait of the wonderful, heavenly, spiritual, and divine things in the Word of God? If you do, then patiently and diligently you need to put the pieces of the "puzzle" of the Bible together. I repeat, to allegorize the Old Testament in a certain way is not my way. Rather, my way is to fit the pieces together until a picture comes into view. In this message I shall present another picture which I have seen through patient study of the Word and prayer over the Word.

We have seen that the ordinances in Exodus 21 through 23 are very rich in their implications, indications, and significances. It is indeed significant that these three chapters conclude with a word concerning the Angel of Jehovah bringing God's people into the promised land. Christ as God's sent One guards us in the way and brings us into Himself as the all-inclusive good land. Furthermore, 23:20-33 tells us in a detailed way not only how to enter into the land, but also how to take possession of this land for our enjoy-

ment. Actually in these verses not a great deal is said either concerning the Angel of Jehovah or concerning the good land itself. But a good deal of attention is given to the frustraters, the pagan tribes that would keep God's people from possessing the promised land. Yet the description of the way to take possession of the land is even more detailed than that of the frustraters. This indicates that if we would experience Christ we must, on the one hand, know the frustraters and, on the other hand, know the detailed way to take possession of Christ and gain Him experientially. Just as we need a detailed map to find our way around a city, so we need the details in 23:20-33 in order to know the way to possess the good land for our enjoyment. A general sketch is helpful, but it is not adequate. The driver of an automobile needs not only a bird's eye view of the city, but also a detailed understanding of the streets. Then he will be able to find his way. In these fourteen verses we have a detailed "map" for our spiritual "driving" into the promised land, the all-inclusive Christ.

By Obeying the Angel of Jehovah

If we would take possession of the promised land, we must learn to obey the Angel of Jehovah, the One sent to us from God. This Angel, this sent One, is Jesus Christ. God sent Christ to us in a way that involves many steps: incarnation, human living, crucifixion, burial, resurrection, ascension, glorification, and enthronement. By means of all these steps, God has sent Christ, His Angel, to us. Now that He is with us, we must obey Him.

In order to take possession of Christ, we need to realize that we have Him with us, even within us, as a living Person. This means that we have the living Christ Himself, not a system of doctrines. This living Person is now in us (Col. 1:27). Romans 8:9 says, "If anyone has not the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him." If we do not have Christ in us, we do not belong to Him. Instead, we belong to the Devil, the demons, and the world. Praise the Lord that Jesus Christ is in us! We have Him as the sent One, the Angel of Jehovah, who has come to us through the wonderful process of incarnation, human living, crucifixion, burial, resurrection, ascension, glorification, and enthronement. How marvelous that such a One has been sent to be with us!

Life-Study of Exodus—Message 74