

# WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

February 20, 2011

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

## Prayer Items

- ☉ FTTA
- ☉ GTCA Follow-up
- ☉ UCI and IVC
- ☉ Lily Egan and her 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 84 & 85*

### Recovery Version Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	424-425	160
Tuesday	426-427	161
Wednesday	428-429	162
Thursday	430-431	163
Friday	432-433	164
Saturday	434-435	165

## Morning Revival

*The Need for a Fresh Vision of the Lord's Recovery, Week 3*

## Lord's Table Meeting

Hall	Last Week's Attendance
Hall 1	163
Hall 2	78
Hall 3	80
TOTAL	321

## DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

### National: FTTA Spring Term

- ☉ Pray for the Lord's continued blessing on the training in constituting the trainees with the growth in life and the knowledge of the truth for their perfecting for the carrying out of the work of the ministry to build up the Lord's Body in these days.
- ☉ Pray for the trainers and all those involved in the practical carrying out of the training that they would be richly supplied by the Head to minister the word of life to all the trainees.

### GTCA Follow-Up

- ☉ Pray for the long-term care of the new contacts in the 30 cities, for their being established in the faith and for the raising up of the Lord's testimony in each city.
- ☉ Pray for all the people who requested Bibles and fellowship that they would re-

ceive the adequate follow-up to be nourished and enlightened through the Word.

- ☉ Pray for the saints bearing the burden to shepherd the contacts in these cities that they would be supplied with the love and grace of Christ to care for the new ones.
- ☉ Pray for the increase and building up of the Lord's testimony in San Marcos, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Stockton and Flagstaff.

### Local: UCI and IVC

- ☉ Pray for the many contacts at UCI and IVC that they would be shepherded and brought into a group life in the homes.
- ☉ Pray that those being contacted would see a vision of the church and be captured for God's eternal purpose.

## DIGESTION MEETING ON LORD'S DAY, MARCH 27

On Lord's Day, March 27, one week after the Chinese-speaking International Conference, the church in Irvine will hold digestion meetings to review all five messages given at this annual feast of the Lord's recovery.

The digestion meetings will be held in all three meetings halls, in the different languages, and in lieu of the weekly prophesying meeting. Certain pre-designated saints will be assigned to give a review of the messages with hopefully

some time left remaining for a good amount of overflow and sharing from saints who attended some or all of the live conference in Anaheim.

May the Lord bless the rich digestion of these messages so that the church could be "nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which [we] have closely followed" (1 Tim. 4:6)!

## MINISTRY PORTION

### The First Item of the Furniture of the Tabernacle

The ark of the testimony was the first item of the furniture of the tabernacle. The tabernacle had a number of important furnishings: the altar and the laver in the outer court; the showbread table, the lampstand, and the incense altar in the Holy Place; and the ark in the Holy of Holies, the inmost chamber of the tabernacle. The first of these furnishings was the ark. As the first item, it occupied the place of preeminence. We know from 40:2 and 3 that it was in the tabernacle, and from 40:20 and 21, that it was in the Holy of Holies.

To have a proper understanding of the tabernacle with its furnishings, we should have clearly in mind a diagram of the tabernacle including the altar and laver in the outer court, the showbread table, the lampstand, and the incense altar in the Holy Place, and the ark in the Holy of Holies. We need to have a clear understanding of the location of each item in relation to the tabernacle.

### Typifying Christ

#### *As the Embodiment of God's Testimony*

The ark, the incense altar, the showbread table, and the lampstand are all types of Christ. Christ has many aspects, and these four items show forth different aspects of Him. As a type of Christ, the ark typifies Christ as the embodiment of God's testimony. Christ is the embodiment of God. The ark as the embodiment of God's testimony typifies Christ as the embodiment of God. All that God is, is embodied in Christ. Colossians 2:9 says that the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily. Our use of the word embodiment is based on this verse. Because God is embodied in Christ, He is portrayed, defined, and explained by Christ. Christ is God's definition, His explanation. As God's testimony, Christ is typified by the ark of the testimony.

In Colossians 2:9 we have a clear statement saying that the fullness of the Godhead dwells

*(continued on page 2)*

**Upcoming Events**

- ☉ **Lord's Day, Feb. 27** – Digestion Meeting of ICSC @ all halls
- ☉ **Saturday, Mar. 5** – Young People Serving Ones' Training @ Hall 1
- ☉ **Friday, Mar. 25 - Lord's Day, Mar. 27** High School Conferences, Engedi and Alpine Camps
- ☉ **Friday, Apr. 1 – Lord's Day, Apr. 3** ITERO, Anaheim, CA

**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**

- 20<sup>TH</sup>** ☉ *9:30am – 12:00pm* Lord's Table and prophesying meetings at Halls 1, 2 and 3  
Lord's Day
- 22<sup>ND</sup>** ☉ *7:30-8:30pm* Church-wide corporate prayer meeting at Hall 1 (by languages)  
Tuesday
- 24<sup>TH</sup>** ☉ *10:00am* All-language sisters' prayer meeting at Hall 2  
Thursday
- 25<sup>TH</sup>** ☉ *Evening* Small group meetings in the homes  
Friday
- 26<sup>TH</sup>** ☉ *8:00am* All-language brothers' prayer meeting at Hall 3  
Saturday  
 ☉ *6:00pm* Young people's meeting
- 27<sup>TH</sup>** ☉ *9:30am-12:00pm* Lord's Table and digestion meetings at Halls 1, 2 and 3  
Lord's Day

*(continued from page 1)*

In Christ bodily. With the ark of the testimony we have a picture, a type, which corresponds to this direct statement. In teaching children to read, a teacher often shows a picture of an object with the word identifying it underneath. For example, there may be a picture of an airplane, and underneath the picture the word "airplane." In the Bible we have both pictures and words. Concerning Christ as the embodiment of God's testimony, we have the word in Colossians 2:9 and the picture of the ark in the book of Exodus.

*For God's Redeemed People to Contact Him and Enjoy Him*

God is in Christ. Apart from Christ we cannot meet God. Not only is God in Christ, but Christ Himself actually is God. John 1:1 says that the Word, which is Christ, was with God and was God. In Romans 9:5 Paul says that Christ is God blessed forever. Jesus, a carpenter from Nazareth, was the very God over all and blessed forever. The only way for us to contact God and enjoy Him is through Christ and in Christ. The ark as a type of Christ indicates that God's redeemed people can contact God and enjoy God in Christ and through Christ.

Because the Jews do not contact God in Christ, they do not have genuine contact with God, and they certainly do not enjoy God, even though they may worship Him. It is doubtful that today's Jews even have the concept of enjoying God. Instead, they emphasize fearing God, worshipping God, exalting God, and adoring God. They may wonder how we can speak of contacting God and enjoying Him. But the New Testament reveals that God has come in Christ that we may contact Him, receive Him, and enjoy Him. As the ark of the testimony, Christ is for us to contact God and enjoy God.

**The Center of the Tabernacle of Testimony**

*Signifying the Center of God's Dwelling Place*

If we look at a diagram of the tabernacle, we may wonder how it is possible to say that the ark of the testimony is the center of the

tabernacle of testimony (38:21). But in the Bible it is the inmost part of something which is regarded as the center. For example, although our heart is not located at the exact center of our body, we nonetheless regard it as being in the center. Likewise, because the Holy of Holies is in the inmost part of the tabernacle, it is the center of the tabernacle. It is the focus of the tabernacle and signifies the center of God's dwelling place. God dwelt in the tabernacle, but not in the outer court or in the Holy Place. He dwelt in the Holy of Holies. The ark in the Holy of Holies signifies the center of God's dwelling place, the church (Eph. 2:21-22).

The cover of the ark is equal to the throne of grace in Hebrews 4:16. It was upon the cover of the ark, the throne of grace, that God dwelt. This was the exact place where God was. In the Old Testament this place was in the tabernacle of the testimony. But in the New Testament this place is in the church. The church today is God's tabernacle, His dwelling place.

*Signifying the Contents of the House of God*

The ark also signifies the contents of the church as the house of God (1 Tim. 3:15-16). Just as the ark as the embodiment of God's testimony was the content of the tabernacle, so Christ as the embodiment of God is the content of the church.

Inwardly the church must have Christ as the content in reality and not merely in terminology. Outwardly the church must be on the proper ground, the ground of oneness. This ground is also the ground of locality. Any ground other than the ground of locality is not the ground of oneness. The church in Jerusalem was built on the ground of the locality of Jerusalem. Hence, it was established on the ground of oneness.

If we would be the church, we must comply with both the outward prerequisite and the inward prerequisite.

*Life Study of Exodus—Message 84*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

☉ **Annual Business Meeting**

On Lord's Day, Mar. 6, the church will hold its annual business meeting immediately after the Lord's Table at 10:20am. The business meeting will include all three church meeting halls, which will be connected via internet video conferencing.

The annual business meeting is held once a year to conduct a few formal matters of the church (such as the election of directors) as required by California law. While seemingly unrelated to spiritual affairs (the realm in which the church mostly exists and func-

tions), the Bible nevertheless charges every person to "be subject to the authorities over him, for there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are ordained by God" (Rom. 13:1). While the church holds fast to Christ as its unique Head, for it to subject itself to the state in which it is legally incorporated is actually to recognize God's authority and to respect His government over man. The apostle Paul recognized even those officials appointed by Caesar as rulers ordained by God to be God's deputy authorities. See note 3 to Rom. 13:1. May the Lord gain our full submission to Him in every way!