

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

August 5, 2012

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ⊗ Bible and literature distribution during Olympic Games
- ⊗ The Lord's move in Italy
- ⊗ Burden of gaining typical Americans
- ⊗ Saints struggling with health conditions, unemployment, loss of family, and other personal matters.

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

Weekly Truth Pursuit

Ministry reading: *Life-study of Ephesians, Messages 31 & 32*

Bible reading

| | OT Pages | NT Page |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Monday | 1264-1265 | 580 |
| Tuesday | 1266-1267 | 581 |
| Wednesday | 1268-1269 | 582 |
| Thursday | 1270-1271 | 583 |
| Friday | 1272-1273 | 584 |
| Saturday | 1274-1275 | 585 |

Morning Revival

Taking the Lead as Elders and Responsible Ones, Week 8

Word of the Week

Offer

The full post is available here:
<http://churchinirvine.org/Members/index.php?p=3631>

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Summer Olympics Bible Distribution London

Saints from around the world have come together with Bibles for Europe to distribute the New Testament Recovery Version and Basic Elements of the Christian Life, vol. 1 at the Summer Olympic Games in London. One hundred thousand Bibles have been printed for distribution, some of which were given away in cities throughout the UK during the Olympic Torch Relay. Now that the Games have started, saints are distributing Bibles in and around Olympic event zones in London.

People from all over the earth, including many Hindus and Muslims, are receiving Bibles and calling on the name of the Lord. Many contacts want to know how to get a New Testament Recovery Version in their own language and how to be contacted by saints in their home countries. On opening day alone, more than sixty percent of the approximately 1,300 recipients requested further contact.

Many Christians have also been very open. One couple, who meets with a group of forty that reads the books of both Watchman Nee and Witness Lee, requested Bibles to be sent to Mexico and Germany. Another group passing out tracts near the distributing saints received Bibles for its thirty members and began directing contacts to the free Recovery Version. A number of pastors both from the UK and abroad have requested several hundred Bibles for their congregations.

However, the saints are also beginning to encounter the enemy's opposition. The most notable incidents have been with aggressive Islamic groups seeking to begin loud argu-

ments with the saints, usurping the saints' time and preventing others from receiving the Word.

- ⊗ Please pray to bind the enemy and his attacks on the saints, that the Word of the Lord would go out unhindered.
- ⊗ Please pray to release those who have been damaged by religion, that they would be open to the Lord and to His Word.
- ⊗ Please pray that the Lord would cover the saints throughout all of the distributions and that He would grant them a special portion of grace during this time.

To read more about the London Bible distributions, including updates and reports, please visit distribute.biblesforeurope.org.

The Lord's Move in Italy

- ⊗ Please pray that the Lord will strengthen His testimony in Rome and in other localities through the gaining of local Italians and the migration of saints from outside Italy.
- ⊗ Please pray that the Lord will raise up a strong literature work to translate the ministry into Italian.

National:

- ⊗ Pray for the burden of gaining typical Americans that in the churches there would be the prayer and labor to gain typical Americans for the Lord's testimony and spread in this country.

WORD OF THE WEEK: "OFFER"

Pray Over These Key Verses...

Psa. 50:14: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, / And repay your vows to the Most High.

Psa. 54:6: I will offer a freewill offering to You; / I will praise Your name, O Jehovah, for it is good.

Psa. 110:3: Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration. / Your young men will be to You / Like the dew from the womb of the dawn.

Rom. 12:1: I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your

reasonable service.

Heb. 13:15: Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confessing His name.

Read Some Helpful Footnotes...

Psa 110:3²: In the eyes of the Lord our willing consecration, our offering ourselves to Him, is a matter of splendor. Although the church has become degraded, throughout the centuries there has been a line of those who have offered themselves willingly to the Lord in the splendor, the beauty, of their

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- ☛ Thursday, Oct 4 - Saturday, Oct 6, ITERO, Yokohama, Japan
- ☛ Thursday, Nov 22 - Lord's Day, Nov 25, Thanksgiving Day Conference, Oklahoma City, OK

Church-related Websites

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

This Week

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| 5 TH Lord's Day | ☛ 9:30am –12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts |
| 7 TH Tuesday | ☛ 7:30-8:30pm Prayer meetings by districts |
| 8 TH Thursday | ☛ 10:00am Sisters' prayer meeting at Hall 2 |
| 9 TH Friday | ☛ Evening Small groups in the homes |
| 11 TH Saturday | ☛ 8:30am Brothers' prayer and coordination by districts |
| 12 TH Lord's Day | ☛ 9:30am –12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts |

(Continued from page 1)

consecration.

The word may also be translated adornment. The splendor of consecration is an adornment. If we offer ourselves willingly to the Lord, we will be beautified with a divine, heavenly splendor.

Psa 110:3³: Here Christ likens Himself to a plant that needs the watering of the mild, soft, gentle dew. As Christ is on His way to carry out God's economy, He needs to be watered. Christ is watered by those who offer themselves willingly to Him. Whoever volunteers himself to Christ as an offering is a young man likened to the dew conceived in the womb of the dawn for watering Christ.

Rom. 12:1⁴: For the church life, the life of the Body of Christ, to be realized, our entire being is needed. Thus, this chapter speaks concerning our body (v. 1), our soul (v. 2), and our spirit (v. 11). Our body must be presented to God for the Body of Christ.

1 Cor. 6:15¹: Because we are organically united with Christ (v. 17), and because Christ dwells in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22) and makes His home in our heart (Eph. 3:17), our entire being, including our purified body, becomes a member of Him. Hence, to practice such membership we need to offer our body to Him (Rom. 12:1, 4-5).

Read Some Helpful Ministry...

In [Psalm 110:] 3 we are told that in the day of His forces, or army, Christ's people will offer themselves willingly "in the splendor of their consecration." Do you realize that in the eyes of the Lord our willing consecration, our offering ourselves to Him, is a kind of splendor? Although the church has become degraded, throughout the centuries there has been a line of those who have offered themselves willingly to the Lord in the splendor, the beauty, of their consecration. Giving up everything on earth, thousands have offered themselves freely to Christ, and with this offering there was the splendor of consecration. John Nelson Darby was such a person. Darby lived to be eighty-four years of age and, because of his love for Christ, he never married. One day, in his old age, he was staying alone in a hotel and he said, "Lord Jesus, I still love You." No doubt, Darby was a freewill offering to the Lord in the splendor of consecration.

While Christ is fighting, He will be thirsty. Needing some water to drink, He will drink from "the brook by the way." This brook is the overcomers. Those who

offer themselves in the splendor of consecration are the dew of the morning to water Christ, and the overcomers are the brook to quench His thirst. As Christ is taking the lead to fight through to the end, He will need water to drink, and this water will be the overcomers. (*Life-Study of Psalms*, Chapter 38)

We need to realize that the power to offer oneself to God comes through His appearance; it comes from His revelation. Those who talk about consecration are not necessarily consecrated themselves. Not everyone who preaches consecration or understands the doctrine of consecration is a consecrated person. Only those who have seen God are consecrated persons. (*The Life of the Altar and the Tent*, Chapter 1)

Consecration is not how much we can give to God. It is being accepted by God and being granted the honor of serving Him. Consecration is reserved for Christians alone; it is not for everyone. Only the saved ones, those who belong to the Lord, can consecrate themselves. Consecration means that we say, "Lord, You have given me the opportunity and the right to come before You and to serve You." It is saying, "Lord, I am Yours. My ears were purchased by the blood; they belong to You. My hands were purchased by the blood; they belong to You. My feet were purchased by the blood; they belong to You. From now on I can no longer use them for myself." (*Separated Unto the Lord*, Chapter 1)

We have to consecrate ourselves before we can be His slaves. This consecration is a matter of our own voluntary choice. God does not force us, nor does Paul force us. He exhorted us and beseeched us. God will not force us at all. He wants us to willingly consecrate ourselves to Him. (*Collected Works of Watchman Nee, The (Set 2) Vol. 24: The Overcoming Life*, Chapter 12)

The offering for thanksgiving is emotional and superficial, but the offering for a vow is determined and deeper. Thanksgiving is mostly related to the emotion, but a vow is related to the will. Some saints' consecrations are out of thanksgiving, whereas others' consecrations are out of a vow. In order to follow the Lord, we need a vow. Marriage involves a vow with no change, no variation, no alteration. The Lord treasures our vow to Him. (*Basic Lessons on Service*, Chapter 8)

To view the Word of the Week post in its entirety, go to:
<http://churchinirvine.org/Members/index.php?p=3631>