

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

January 18, 2015

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ❖ Winter Gospel Trips
- ❖ Lord's Move in Thessaloniki, Greece
- ❖ New Truth Pursuit

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

Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 3-4

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	817-818	205
Tuesday	819-820	206
Wednesday	821-822	207
Thursday	823-824	208
Friday	825-826	209
Saturday	827-828	210

Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Exodus,
Volume 1, Week 1

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Winter Gospel Trips

The winter 2015 gospel trips will begin on Friday, January 23, as part of the continuing burden to gospelize, truthize, and churchize North America. Gospel teams of full-time trainees and other saints will visit 18 cities in the United States and Canada to preach the gospel, shepherd new and young believers, and give away free BfA materials. The trips will conclude on Monday, February 9, after visits to each of the following cities:

Birmingham, Alabama; Columbia, South Carolina; Fargo, North Dakota; Fort Meyers, Florida; Huntsville, Alabama; Huntsville, Texas; Lafayette, Indiana; Merced, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Novato, California; Rancho Cucamonga, California; Salem, Oregon; Santa Rosa, California; Salt Lake City, Utah; Temecula, California; Virginia Beach, Virginia; Wickliffe, Ohio; Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Please pray:

- ❖ For the coordination and blending of the gospel teams and local saints in these cities.
- ❖ That the Lord would work in the environment outwardly and in people's hearts inwardly to connect His seekers to the saints during these gospel trips that the

Lord may increase and spread in North America!

The Lord's Move in Thessaloniki, Greece

Pray for:

- ❖ An increase in the appetite for the ministry among our contacts here in Thessaloniki, as well as their seeing the vision concerning God's purpose.
- ❖ The continued traffic between the nearby localities and the visits of overseas saints to Thessaloniki.
- ❖ The gaining of young, English-speaking Greeks.
- ❖ The release of the three-year residence permit.

Irvine: Truth Pursuit in the *Life-Study of Philippians*

- ❖ Continue to pray that a taste and appetite for the Word of God would be built up in the daily life and church life of the saints.
- ❖ Pray that a culture and atmosphere of pursuing Christ in the Word would pervade in the church that we would be re-constituted with Christ through the Word of God to become the testimony of Jesus in reality.

REPORT FROM THESSALONIKI, GREECE

We have been in Thessaloniki for five months now and are marveling at the Lord's operation in this city and even the entire Balkan Peninsula (which includes Greece). Since we have moved, we have had nearly daily meetings with our contacts. We have noticed that with the increased amount of time spent with these ones and their contact with visiting saints, their progress has been exponential. We have had two baptisms within the last month, and the saints are becoming more and more clear concerning the daily Christian life and God's economy. We feel that some of them are acquiring an appetite for the ministry and are close to seeing the need to leave the denominations and give themselves to the Lord for the fulfillment of His purpose. In addition, we have participated in conferences with our neighboring countries—Bulgaria and Cyprus. These conferences were a crucial source of supply to the saints in these small and isolated localities. The saints were encouraged and strengthened by the visits of the brothers and sisters from abroad and by being able to enter into a deeper, richer flow of life through the intensified fellowship and the enjoyment of a conference atmosphere.

We are in continual fellowship with saints in both countries and have had times of blending with some saints in a city in Bulgaria that is close to the border with Greece. We hope to have a small conference here on the last week-end of May.

Last November we submitted an application for a three-year residence permit. This is the first time that we have had the possibility to apply for such a permit. This week we will visit the office that issues these permits. We hope to have the approved permit in our possession before we leave for the United States next week. We believe that this is a necessary tool for the Lord's move here. This morning one of the saints remarked about how much and how quickly the Lord is moving here, and wondered how that could be. We came to the conclusion that it was due to the Lord's answering of prayers.

Saints, we cannot say enough about how important your prayers are to His move. The Lord honors your prayers! Thank you for standing with us! May the Lord re-establish His lampstand in Thessaloniki!

—The full-timers in Thessaloniki

Upcoming Events

- ☉ Friday, Jan 23 - Lord's Day, Jan 25 — UCI Winter Retreat
- ☉ Lord's Day, March 8 — Church-wide Blending Meeting

Church-related Websites

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

This Week

- 18TH** ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Day
Lord's Day Table and prophesying meetings by districts
- 20TH** ☉ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meeting by districts
Tuesday
- 22ND** ☉ 10:00–11:00am Sisters prayer meeting at Hall 3
Thursday
- 23RD** ☉ Evening Small groups in the homes
Friday
- 24TH** ☉ 7:00pm Young people's blending conference at MCC cafeteria in Anaheim
Saturday
- 25TH** ☉ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Day
Lord's Day Table and prophesying meetings by districts

This Week's Truth Pursuit—*Life-Study of Philipians*

Message #:	Message 3	Message 4
<i>Title:</i>	Paul's Suffering for the Gospel and His Enjoyment of Grace	The Different Preachings of Christ
<i>Scriptures:</i>	Phil. 1:7-8, 12-14, 16-17, 28-30	Phil. 1:15-21
<i>Verses to Pray-Read:</i>	Phil. 1:7: "...both in my bonds and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel you are all <u>fellow partakers with me of grace.</u> " Phil. 1:13: "...my bonds have become manifest as being in Christ..."	Phil. 1:19: "...this will turn out to salvation through...the <u>bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.</u> " Phil. 1:20 "...Christ will be magnified in my body." Phil. 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ..."
<i>Radio Msg:</i>	3	N/A

LSM Radio Broadcasts can be found at: www.lsmradio.com/audio/philippians.html

MINISTRY PORTION

PAUL'S SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL

In Bonds

When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he was suffering for the gospel. In 1:7, 13, 14 and 17 he refers to his bonds, that is, his imprisonment. This indicates clearly that the book of Philippians was written from prison. Although Paul was a prisoner, his prison became a house of wine, a banqueting house, for there Paul was enjoying the Lord. Verse 7, in which Paul speaks of partaking of grace, indicates this. Paul was in bonds, but he was enjoying grace. This verse indicates clearly and strongly that for Paul prison was a place of feasting and not merely of suffering.

Due to the Defense and Confirmation of the Gospel

In particular Paul's imprisonment was due to the defense and confirmation of the gospel (1:7).

Defending the Gospel on the Negative Side from Perverting and Distorting Heresies

The defense of the gospel is related, on the negative side, to the perverting and distorting heresies, like Judaism dealt with in Galatians and Gnosticism dealt with in Colossians. Judaism was perverting the gospel, whereas Gnosticism and Greek philosophy were distorting it. Paul defended the gospel against all heretical perversion and distortion. Consider his experience with Peter at Antioch. Although Peter had received the vision concerning the Gentiles in Acts 10, he withdrew from eating with the Gentile believers in Antioch. In this matter, Peter did not stand for the truth of the gospel. On the contrary, he perverted this truth. Therefore, Paul withstood Peter to his face and rebuked him.

In defending the gospel against perversion and distortion, Paul was unique. According to the record of the New Testament, he was the one who stood the strongest against anything

that perverted and distorted the gospel. This was the reason for much of his sufferings. However, the grace he enjoyed surpassed these sufferings.

Confirming the Gospel on the Positive Side with All the Revelation of God's Mysteries concerning Christ and the Church

The confirmation of the gospel is related, on the positive side, to all the revelations of God's mysteries concerning Christ and the church as unveiled in Paul's Epistles. In the writings of Paul, the two great mysteries—Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ—are unveiled. No other apostle unveiled these mysteries as adequately as Paul did. To be sure, his teaching and preaching were a confirmation of the gospel and of God's economy.

In contrast to Paul, who was absolute for the defense and confirmation of the gospel, many preachers of the gospel today are wishy-washy in this regard. They seem to have no backbone. Instead of dealing with the major points of God's economy, certain of these preachers simply deliver sugar-coated messages to make others happy. But we in the Lord's recovery must defend the gospel and confirm it. On the one hand, we must defend the gospel against teachings which are perverting and distorting it; on the other hand, we must confirm it by pointing out the goal of the gospel of God.

—*Life-Study of Philipians*, Message Three