

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

February 1, 2015

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ❖ Winter gospel trips
- ❖ Philippians truth pursuit

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

Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 7-8

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	841-842	217
Tuesday	843-844	218
Wednesday	845-846	219
Thursday	847-848	220
Friday	849-850	221
Saturday	851-852	222

Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Exodus,
Volume 1, Week 3

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: Winter Gospel Trips

Gospel trips are taking place in Brazil, Europe, India and specifically in the following cities in North America: 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.

- ❖ Pray that there would be remaining fruit from every gospel trip in North America, Brazil, Europe and India.
- ❖ Pray for the shepherding and care of those desiring further contact that they would be shepherded into the church life in their locality.

- ❖ Pray that in every place where the gospel teams have gone that the Lord's testimony would be raised up or strengthened and Satan's kingdom would suffer loss.

Local: Truth Pursuit in the Life-Study of Philippians

- ❖ Continue to pray that a habit and taste of pursuing the truth will be built up in the daily life and church life of all the saints.
- ❖ Pray that our experience and enjoyment of Christ will be uplifted through this pursuit and will issue in a vital living of living and magnifying Christ in our daily life, in proclaiming Christ and in ministering Him to others.

TESTIMONIES FROM THE COLLEGE STUDENTS' WINTER RETREAT

This past weekend we had a winter retreat on "God's Purpose for the Church." I really enjoyed seeing that we, the church, are God's masterpiece. Masterpiece means supreme achievement and the church is God's supreme achievement. His greatest workmanship is His working of Himself into man and the constitution of man into oneness with Him to produce the church. It is the mingling of God and man. I appreciated seeing how much God cares for and loves the church. Even though He created the world, the galaxies, the heavens and the earth, none of those were considered a masterpiece to Him. In God's eyes, it was only the church that was a masterpiece. I appreciated that we need to care for this masterpiece and if we care for it, we need to take care of the mingling and our spending time with Him. I also enjoyed that the Lord uses His members to subdue the enemy. Because of Satan and his damage to the world, the Lord can show His great wisdom; every damage from Satan is a good opportunity for God to display His wisdom. The more troubles there are, the more opportunities there are to display the Lord's wisdom. I also enjoyed that we need to stand on the facts—the word of God. The enemy has already been defeated. We need to speak this to ourselves and to the enemy. In the end, the Lord has already won the victory and Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Praise the Lord that no matter how defeated we may feel, the victory has already been won and we are all on the winning team!—TY

This weekend's local retreat focused on God's Purpose for the Church. What a sweet opportunity to be able to see God's purpose and how we can cooperate and participate with the Lord in attaining His eternal goal. I appreciated seeing three main items of God's purpose for the church: to have the divine sonship in full through sanctification, to subdue God's enemy by displaying His multifarious wisdom through the church, and to head up all things in Christ. This divine sonship is accomplished by our being mingled with God until we are fully sanctified. I was really struck by this, realizing that we need to take care of our mingling, asking the Lord to mingle Himself with us in all our situations and experiences. By this mingling, we allow the Lord to work more of Himself into us, allowing God to get His goal, His masterpiece, His church. Finally, I enjoyed seeing that ALL things, not just some things, or things that are convenient for us, but ALL things need be under the headship of Christ. Our life should be defined by being an open vessel under the dispensing. We were rescued from death and darkness to be headed up! So we need to let Him in and be willing to be headed up in everything. Christ is the head and we are His body. Hallelujah for Christ and the church!—SW

Upcoming Events

- ❖ Lord's Day, March 8 —
Church-wide Blending Meeting
- ❖ Sat, Mar 14 - Lord's Day, Mar 15 —
Southern California Blending Conf.

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

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| 1 ST
Lord's Day | ❖ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts |
| 3 RD
Tuesday | ❖ 7:30–8:30pm Prayer meeting by districts |
| 5 TH
Thursday | ❖ 10:00–11:00am Sisters prayer meeting at Hall 3 |
| 6 TH
Friday | ❖ Evening Small groups in the homes |
| 7 TH
Saturday | ❖ 6:00pm Young people's dinner and meeting |
| 8 TH
Lord's Day | ❖ 9:30am–12:00pm Lord's Table and prophesying meetings by districts |

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

Message #:	Message 7	Message 8
Title:	The Best Choice of Paul	Standing Firm in One Spirit, Striving Together with One Soul
Scriptures:	Phil. 1:19-26	Phil. 1:27-30
Verses to Pray-Read:	Phil. 1:26—"That your boast may abound in Christ Jesus in me through my coming again to you."	Phil. 1:27—"Only, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together along with the faith of the gospel."
Radio Msg:	7	8

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

MINISTRY PORTION

STANDING FIRM IN ONE SPIRIT, STRIVING TOGETHER WITH ONE SOUL

The basic concept of the book of Philippians is the experience of Christ. If we would have a proper understanding of Philippians 1 and the extraordinary expressions used in it, we need to see that the controlling concept, the governing factor, of the whole book is the experience of Christ. We should interpret Paul's expressions not according to our natural understanding, but according to Christ. Virtually every point in this book is related to Christ and the experience of Christ.

EXERCISING BOTH SPIRIT AND SOUL

In 1:27 Paul says, "Only conduct yourselves worthily of the gospel of Christ, that whether coming and seeing you or being absent I may hear the things concerning you, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving together in the faith of the gospel." We need not only to stand firm in one spirit for

the experience of Christ, but also to strive together with one soul in the faith of the gospel. To be with one soul for the gospel work is more difficult than to be in one spirit for the experience of Christ. This requires that, after being regenerated in our spirit, we be transformed in our soul, especially in our mind, which is the main part, the leading part, of our soul.

In 1:27 Paul charges the Philippians to stand firm in one spirit and to strive with one soul. Nowhere else in the Bible are the terms *spirit* and *soul* used together in this way. Concerning our standing, we need to be firm in one spirit; concerning striving together, we need to be with one soul. We need to exercise both our spirit and our soul. We exercise our spirit to stand firm, and we exercise our soul to strive together in the faith of the gospel. To strive here is to struggle, to work by fighting.

—*Life Study of Philippians*, Message 8

2015 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLENDING CONFERENCE

A blending conference for all the churches in Southern California will take place on the weekend of March 14-15, 2015. The churches in Southern California have not gathered together in this way since the 2009 Labor Day weekend (over 5 years ago) and a region-wide blending like this is long overdue. Concerning the matter of blending, Brother Lee said:

Even among us who are in the recovery, not many have the realization that we need the blending, and we need it desperately. The heavy burden in the ministry that is on my heart and in my spirit is the matter of blending. *The Practical Points Concerning Blending*

We look forward to the opportunity for all the saints in the churches in Southern California to be blended together at this special gathering.

Dates: Saturday, March 14 and Lord's Day, March 15, 2015

Place: Ministry Conference Center, Anaheim

Saturday (3/14)

Session 1: 4pm-5:45pm
 Break: 5:45pm-7pm
 Session 2: 7pm-8:45pm

Lord's Day (3/15)

Lord's Table: 10am-10:30am
 Session 3: 10:30am-12:30pm

We strongly urge all the saints in the churches to reserve this time to gather together for corporate blending and to enter into the Lord's present speaking to the local churches in Southern California. May the God of peace be with all the saints.