

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

August 16, 2015

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ☉ The Lord's Move in India
- ☉ BfA Midwest Tour
- ☉ IVC

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

Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of Philippians, Messages 59 & 60

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	1153-1154	373
Tuesday	1155-1156	374
Wednesday	1157-1158	375
Thursday	1159-1160	376
Friday	1161-1162	377
Saturday	1163-1164	378

Morning Revival

Crystallization-Study of Exodus (2),
Volume 3, Week 16

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: The Lord's Move in India

- ☉ Pray for the current translation work going on in India in 8 different languages.
- ☉ Pray that this work would be expedited in having sufficient and adequate translators and that it would result in the divine light shining out in India through the word and through the ministry of the age to bring many into God's full salvation and His eternal purpose.

National: Bibles for America Midwest Tour

This week BfA staff members will begin a three-week distribution tour in the Midwest. They will visit cities in South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, giving away Bibles and books on college campuses and at local venues.

- ☉ Please pray that the Lord would go before the brothers and sisters on this tour, preparing His hungry ones to meet the saints, receive the Word, and taste the riches of this wonderful ministry.

Local: Irvine Valley College (IVC)—Fall semester begins

- ☉ As classes begin at IVC pray that our Savior God's desire for all men to be saved and come to the full knowledge of the truth would be carried out on this campus.
- ☉ Pray for a living, Spirit-filled coordination among the students, full-time serving ones and local saints that many students would be gained for the Lord's purpose.

MINISTRY PORTION

LIVING CHRIST

In Galatians 2:20 Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." Years ago, I began to read books on this verse. However, I could not understand what it meant for Christ to live in me. The explanation of Galatians 2:20 is found not in Galatians, but in Philippians. In Philippians Paul says not only that Christ lives in us; he goes on to reveal that to live is Christ. To live Christ surpasses simply having Christ live in us. Living Christ means that we have a life full of forbearance but without anxiety.

Any amount of anxiety decreases the measure of Christ in our experience. Even a little anxiety causes the measure of Christ to diminish. The extent to which Christ is present in our daily life is determined by the amount of forbearance and anxiety. If we have forbearance, we have Christ. But if we have anxiety, we are short of Christ. In your living day by day, how much forbearance do you have and how much anxiety? Which is greater—the degree of forbearance or of anxiety? Probably most of us would have to admit that in our daily life we have more anxiety than forbearance.

I wish to emphasize the fact that to live Christ is to have forbearance but no anxiety. If we have forbearance we shall not have anxiety. But if we have anxiety, we shall not have forbearance. Forbearance and anxiety cannot coexist.

CONTENTMENT AND FORBEARANCE

We have seen that anxiety is opposed to forbearance. Anxiety is like a worm which

devours our ability to forbear. If we have no forbearance, it will be easy for us to be upset or to lose our temper. Anger often comes out of anxiety. If I am worried about my future, my circumstances, or my family, I will not be happy with others. This worry will cause me to be upset with everyone. Only when we are happy and contented do we have forbearance.

In a previous message we pointed out that happiness and contentment are two elements which produce forbearance. Only a happy, satisfied person can forbear. One who is sorrowful and discontented, on the contrary, is easily irritated or offended. Because Paul was full of happiness and contentment, with him there was no anxiety, but an abundance of forbearance.

We know from Paul's word in 4:10-12 that, at least for a period of time, he was short of supply. But he could testify, "I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content." He could say, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to be in want." Because Paul had learned the secret, he could be content and, as a result, have an abundance of forbearance.

Many have pointed out that Philippians is a book of joy. Again and again Paul exhorts us to rejoice in the Lord. Paul's environment would have made it difficult for anyone to be joyful. We do not usually think of a prison as a place for rejoicing. But because Paul had no anxiety, no worry about his circumstances or future, he could rejoice in the Lord and be forbearing.

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Upcoming Events

- ⊗ **Saturday, August 22—**
Special Meeting for the Churches in Southern California, Anaheim

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

- 16TH** Lord's Day ⊗ **9:30am-12:00pm** Lord's table and prophesying meetings by districts
- 18TH** Tuesday ⊗ **7:30-8:30pm** Prayer meeting by districts
- 20TH** Thursday ⊗ **10:00-11:00am** Sisters' prayer meeting at Hall 3
- 21ST** Friday ⊗ **Evening** Small groups in the homes
- 22ND** Saturday ⊗ **7:00-9:00pm** Special meeting for the churches in Southern California in Anaheim
- 23RD** 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 59	Message 60
<i>Title:</i>	A Life Full of Forbearance but Without Anxiety (4)	A Life Full of Forbearance but Without Anxiety (5)
<i>Scriptures:</i>	Phil. 4:4-7, 10-13	Phil. 4:4-7; 1:18-21; 4:10-13
<i>Verses to Pray-Read:</i>	Phil. 4:11—"Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content."	Phil. 4:12—"I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack."
<i>Radio Mgs:</i>	N/A	57

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

MINISTRY PORTION (CONT'D)

(continued from page 1)

GOD'S ASSIGNMENT

If we would have a life free of anxiety, we need to realize that all our circumstances, good or bad, have been assigned to us by God. We need to have this realization with a full assurance. Suppose a brother is in business as a merchant. His business may prosper, and he may earn a good deal of money. Later his business may fail and he may lose much more than he earned. Both earning money and losing it are God's assignment to him. If this brother has the full assurance that his circumstances come from God's assignment, he will be able to worship the Lord for His arrangement. Perhaps losing money will benefit him more than earning money, for through such a loss he may be perfected and built up.

Likewise, both illness and good health come from God as His assignment. We should all aspire to be healthy. But sometimes good health does not perfect us as much as a period of illness. Furthermore, when our health fails, we may be more inclined to pray than when we are in good health.

The first prerequisite to having no anxiety is to have the full assurance that all the sufferings we experience are God's assignment. What need is there to worry about things? God has assigned them to us. He knows what we need.

When I was very young, I read a story about a conversation between two sparrows who were talking about the sorrows and the worries common among human beings. One sparrow asked the other why people worry so much. The other sparrow answered, "I don't think they have a Father who cares for them like we do. We don't need to worry about anything because our Father takes care of us." Yes, our Father does care for us. But sometimes He sends us hardships and sufferings to serve in fulfilling our destiny to magnify Christ. We can be freed from worry not because God has promised us a life without suffering, but because we know that all our circumstances come to us as God's assignment. Paul did not care about life or death. He cared only that Christ would be magnified in him. He realized that every circumstance was for his good. This is the way to have no anxiety.

—Message 60, *Life Study of Philippians*

IMPORTANT MEETING FOR ALL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHURCHES

There will be an important meeting **this Saturday, August 22**, for all the churches in Southern California. The main burden of this meeting is to present the plan to acquire Oak Glen to the saints. The time and location of the meeting are as follows:

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Location: MCC

Translation into Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese will be provided.

There will be no childcare provided during the meeting. Room NW-2 located in the Middle-age Training area will be available as an overflow room with video and English audio for parents with young children.

All the saints are strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting. May the Lord richly bless this time of fellowship and His move in Southern California.