

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

August 21, 2016

The Weekly Newsletter of the Church in Irvine

Prayer Items

- ☉ The Lord's move in Germany
- ☉ UK blending Conference
- ☉ Increase of Christ in Irvine

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

Truth Pursuit

Life-Study of 1 Corinthians, Messages 61 & 62

Bible Reading

	OT Pages	NT Page
Monday	1693-1694	643
Tuesday	1695-1696	644
Wednesday	1697-1698	645
Thursday	1699-1700	646
Friday	1701-1702	647
Saturday	1703-1704	648

Morning Revival

The Increase of Christ for the Building Up of the Church, Week 6
(2016 Memorial Day Conference)

Oak Glen Project

Due Date	Goal	%
6/30/2016	\$512,500	62.5%
12/31/2016	\$615,000	75.0%
6/30/2017	\$717,500	87.5%
12/31/2017	\$820,000	100%
Actual Contributions		
As Of	Amount	
8/20/2016	\$471,140.27	

DETAILED PRAYER BURDENS

International: The Lord's Move in Germany

- ☉ Pray for the shepherding care of the Farsi and Arabic speaking refugees and the local Germans who are being contacted.
- ☉ Pray for the serving ones who are laboring there and their learning of the German language.

UK blending conference in Nottingham, UK
(August 27-28)

Irvine: The Increase of Christ

- ☉ Please pray for the increase of Christ both as life within and in number without in all the districts of the church in Irvine.

MINISTRY PORTION

PROPHESYING BUILDING UP

THE CHURCH MORE

In 14:1 Paul says, "Pursue love, and desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but rather that you may prophesy." This charge is based upon the revelation in 12:31 through 13:13. To pursue love is to seek after the growth in life for the development of the gifts in life. Hence, it must be matched with an earnest desire for the most profitable gift, the gift of prophecy.

Paul was very wise, and he composed verse 1 in a wise manner. In this verse he was not actually encouraging the Corinthians to seek such gifts as healing, miracles, and tongue-speaking. Instead, Paul's intention was that they would seek the gift of prophecy. However, Paul did not tell the Corinthians to forget all the spiritual gifts except the gift of prophecy. He told them to desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but rather, or especially, that they would prophesy. He wanted them to pursue what was best, what was most valuable. He knew that there was turmoil among the Corinthians and that they needed to be calmed down. For this reason, he exercised wisdom, telling them that love is the best way to exercise the gifts and then charging them to pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that they may prophesy.

Since to prophesy is to speak for the Lord and speak forth the Lord, that is, to minister Christ to others, which is the main thing in the church meeting, prophesying requires the divine life to fill it as its content. Love is the excellent way to experience the divine life and make it the content of the gift of prophecy for the building up of the church. Hence, we must pursue love and desire earnestly these greater gifts.

THE COMPARISON BETWEEN SPEAKING IN TONGUES AND PROPHESYING

In verses 2 and 3 Paul says, "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one hears, but in spirit he

speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks to men for building up and encouragement and consolation." The apostle's word in verses 2 through 6 gives a clear and definite view that speaking in tongues is much less important than prophesying. He strongly belittles the gift of tongues and exalts the gift of prophecy because his main concern is the church, not the individual believers. Speaking in tongues, even if it is genuine and proper, only edifies the speaker himself, but prophesying builds up the church. To prophesy in revelation or to teach in knowledge with clear, understandable words is more profitable to the church than to speak in tongues with unknown words. Since to prophesy, to speak forth the Lord, ministers Christ to others, it builds them up and gives them encouragement and consolation.

I would like to emphasize the fact that in the New Testament to prophesy is not mainly to predict, but mainly to speak for the Lord and to speak forth the Lord. Even in the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesying is not mainly a matter of prediction, but of speaking for God and of speaking God forth. Of course, the element of prediction is included. Throughout the Bible, to prophesy means to speak for God and to speak forth God and, in a secondary way, to predict. To prophesy is to tell for, to tell forth, and also to foretell. This is a proper understanding of prophecy in the Bible.

To prophesy in the sense of telling for and telling forth requires much growth in life. For this, we need to know God and we need to experience Christ. If we do not have the adequate knowledge of God and experience of Christ, we do not have anything to say for Him, and we cannot speak Him forth. To prophesy in the sense of foretelling, of predicting something before it happens, is miraculous and does not require the growth in life.

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

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

21ST Lord's Day	☪ 9:30am-12:00pm Lord's table and prophesying meetings by districts
23RD Tuesday	☪ 7:30-8:30pm Prayer meeting by districts
24TH Wednesday	☪ 10:00-11:00am Sisters prayer meeting at Hall 3 ☪ 7:30-9:00pm Ministry meeting at MCC and simulcast at Hall 3
25TH Thursday	☪ 10:00-11:00am Sisters prayer meeting at Hall 3
26TH Friday	☪ Evening Small groups in the homes
28TH Lord's Day	☪ 9:30am-12:00pm Lord's table and prophesying meetings by districts

This Week's Truth Pursuit—*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians*

Message #:	Message 61	Message 62
Title:	Dealing with the Gifts (5)	Dealing with the Gifts (6)
Scriptures:	1 Cor. 14:1-25	1 Cor. 12:4-31; 14:1-25
Verses to Pray-read:	1 Cor. 14:15—"What then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray also with the mind; I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing also with the mind."	1 Cor. 14:4—"He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church."
Radio Msg:	49	50

LSM Radio Broadcasts can be found at: <http://www.lsmradio.com/audio/1corinthians.html>

MINISTRY PORTION (CONT'D)

(continued from page 1)

To repeat, in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 the noun prophecy and the verb prophesy do not mainly refer to prediction; they mainly denote speaking for God and speaking forth God. Nevertheless, many of those in today's Pentecostalism or charismatic movement place great emphasis on the element of prediction and neglect the more important matters of speaking for God and speaking God forth.

In verse 4 Paul continues, "He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church." To prophesy, to speak for the Lord and speak forth the Lord, not only builds up the individual saints, but also builds up the church. Tongue-speaking, on the contrary, does not build up the church.

In verse 5 Paul goes on to say, "Now I desire that you all speak in tongues, but rather that you may prophesy; now greater is he who prophesies than he who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, that the church may receive building up." What was on Paul's heart was not that the Corinthians would seek the gift of tongue-speaking; it was to encourage them to prophesy so that the church might be built. Paul's burden was the building up of the church. This was the concern deep in his heart.
 —Message 61, *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

☪ Wednesday Night Ministry Meeting

The Ministry Meeting for the Fall Term of the FTTA will begin this Wednesday, August 24. The saints are encouraged to attend the live meetings at the Ministry Conference Center in Anaheim or the simulcast at Hall 3, Wednesday nights, 7:30 PM.