

## Prayer Items

- ✿ Pray for the Lord's speaking and leading to carry the church in Montreal to go on further.
- ✿ Pray for the coming **mini-conference** in Montreal on **April 26th and 27th**.
- ✿ Pray for families or saints to migrate to Montreal in the near future to strengthen the church life here.
- ✿ Pray for the health of the saints: Huilin Sun, Madge Fagan, Jun Song, Wei-Yu Chen, Song Shi and Ghislaine Baron.

## Weekly Readings

- ✿ New Testament Recovery Version with footnotes:  
**Week 24: Luke 12:49-14:24**
- ✿ HWMR: Crystallization-Study of **1 and 2 Peter and Jude, Week 4**

## Announcements

- ✿ There will be a **weekend mini-conference** held on next **Saturday (26th) and Sunday (27th)**. Brother Lin Tien De will come to give the messages.
- ✿ **From May 2 to 6**, there will be **40 young saints (mainly in college age) from Vancouver** to visit Montreal and blend with us. The serving ones in each district will contact the saints for hospitality and various services.
- ✿ We are now practicing that all sharing in English will be translated to Chinese through FM radio transmitter. The church has prepared 7 Digital FM Radios. Please also bring your own Digital FM Radio if you need the Chinese translation.
- ✿ The topic of this week's Video Training is "**The Full Salvation Of The Triune God And The Salvation Of Our Soul**". The training will be held at the meeting hall on Lord's Day afternoon starting at **2:00 pm**. All saints are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- ✿ It is needed that more saints participate in cleaning the meeting hall from **1:30 pm to 2:00pm** after Lord's Day lunch love feast.

## Upcoming Events

- ✿ **April 25 to 27, 2008, Madison, Wisconsin:**  
Weekend Conference
- ✿ **May 1 to 3, 2008, Bet Alfa, Israel:**

Spring Conference (After the conference, there will be a 4-day tour which covers both biblical and historical sites. For details, please check [www.lastadam.com](http://www.lastadam.com))

- ✿ **May 10 to 12, 2008, Neckarzimmern, Germany:**  
Germany International Conference  
(Registration: [www.amanatrust.org.uk](http://www.amanatrust.org.uk)  
Info & Questions: [Tklimmek@coworkers.net](mailto:Tklimmek@coworkers.net))
- ✿ **May 23 to 26, 2008, Dallas, TX:**  
International Memorial Day Conference
- ✿ **May 31 to June 1, 2008, Milan, Italy:**  
International Conference in Milan  
(Registration: [www.amanatrust.org.uk](http://www.amanatrust.org.uk))

## This Week's Activities

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| <b>April 20</b><br>Lord's Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✿ 10:00am to 12:15pm, Meeting hall: Lord's Table and Propheying meetings, with love feast afterwards</li> <li>✿ 2:00pm to 3:30pm, Meeting hall: Video Training of 2007 Winter Training</li> </ul>  |
| <b>21</b><br>Monday           |   |
| <b>22</b><br>Tuesday          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✿ Evening: Prayer meetings by district</li> </ul>  |
| <b>23</b><br>Wednesday        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✿ 1:00pm to 3:00pm: Sisters' meeting (Lily Chao, 450-465-2833)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>24</b><br>Thursday         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✿ Evening: Home meeting (English, West Island)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>25</b><br>Friday           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✿ Evening: Various home meetings (English/ Chinese/ Spanish)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>26</b><br>Saturday         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✿ Morning: Home meeting (Chinese, East district)</li> <li>✿ <b>Weekend Mini-Conference:</b> Meeting Hall<br/><b>4:00pm to 6:00pm:</b> Message 1<br/><b>6:00pm to 7:30pm:</b> Love Feast<br/><b>7:30pm to 9:30pm:</b> Message 2</li> </ul>  |
| <b>27</b><br>Lord's Day       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✿ 10:00am to 10:45am, Meeting hall: Lord's Table meeting</li> <li>✿ <b>Weekend Mini-Conference:</b> Meeting hall<br/><b>10:45am to 12:15pm,</b> Message 3, with love feast afterwards</li> <li>✿ 2:00pm to 3:30pm, Meeting hall: Video Training of 2007 Winter Training</li> </ul> |

## Relevant Messages

### SALVATION OF THE SOUL

Matthew 38: **"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."** This verse sums up what has been said before—this is a cross! What is it to take the cross? The Lord did not say, "He who does not take up his burden and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." He said, "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." A burden is not a cross. Burdens are unavoidable; taking the cross is optional.

How the first cross was, so will the hundreds and thousands of crosses thereafter be. Just as the first cross was the Lord's choosing, the crosses should be something that we choose.

Some people think that when they are in difficulties or in want, they are bearing the cross. Actually, this is not so because even if they were not believers, situations like these may naturally happen to them. Every cross must be of our own choosing. However, we must be careful that we do not create a cross for ourselves. We ought to take the cross, not make a cross.

It is a fallacy to regard everything which befalls us as a cross. It is just as wrong to create a cross by producing our own suffering. None of these are bearing the cross in reality.

**What then is the cross?** It must correspond to what the Lord Jesus said, "My Father,...Your will be done" (Matt. 26:42). The Lord asked the Father to not do according to what the Son wills but according to what the Father wills; this is the cross. **To take the cross is to choose the Father's will.** Let me say an honest word: if we do not choose the cross daily, there will be no cross for us to take. If the Lord were to wait for the cross to come to Him before He would bear it, how could a cross go to Him in heaven? The Lord chose the cross! He "emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross." The Lord said, "No one takes it away from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it again" (John 10:18). Accordingly, **our cross must also be out of our own choice.**

**Concerning the necessities of life, we also have a choice.** We can choose what to wear, what to eat, and how to dwell. However, we should seek these things only to the extent of meeting our physical needs. If our emotion expects to derive pleasure and

satisfaction from these necessities, we are not taking the cross. We cannot impose on others what sort of dress to wear, what kind of food to eat, or what type of house to live in. Nevertheless, whoever intends to be satisfied through these things is not bearing the cross. No one dares to say what one should or should not have, but everyone should ask himself whether or not his clothing, food, and shelter are, in fact, affording him soul pleasure and satisfaction.

Anything is for the supply of our needs, God sanctions. Clothing, food, and shelter are all necessary. Even the Old Testament shows us how God provided for the children of Israel. He was mindful of their needs, yet He never intended that His children should indulge in those things. If we indulge ourselves in the matters of clothing, food and shelter, we are not taking the cross. Too often people dress and eat not to protect their body, or to fill their hunger, but for sheer pleasure. Indeed, our physical needs must be met. But we should not gratify our emotion and its demands in the least.

**Does God really interfere with man's clothing, eating, dwelling, and all his dealings?** Yes, He does. And this constitutes the cross. Let us cite an example. When Adam was in the garden of Eden, whatever he needed was supplied to him. He could freely eat of every tree, but he was not to eat of one tree, that is, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If one were to eat of that tree, not because he wanted to satisfy his need, but because the fruits were pleasant to the sight, good for food, and enabled one to know good and evil, that would be a lust. God allows whatever is within the bounds of the necessities of our human living and nothing more. Clothing, food, shelter, and all such things of the world must be for the purpose of supplying our needs, not for gratifying our lust! Regarding these matters, we should live absolutely according to God's will. If we do not, we may ill-treat our own bodies according to the self-will of our flesh and may esteem ourselves holier than others when, in fact, we are practicing the doctrine of asceticism mentioned in Colossians 2, which is "not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh" (v. 23). At the same time, we should remember that God has not allowed us to indulge in the things of this world.

*Note: this section is from The Collection Works of Watchman Nee, Vol.17, Mag 5 : Salvation of the Soul (2)*