

# Church in Regina Newsletter

Meeting Place: 3860 Buckingham Drive E, Regina, SK, Canada S4V 3A1

## THE VISION OF THE CHURCH

### 1. THE HEART DESIRE OF GOD

We must see that the church is the heart desire of God. God's desire in this age and in the whole universe is to have the church. His purpose in creation was to produce a church. His purpose in redemption was for the church. In fact, all that God does is for the church. The gospel preaching must not be for gospel preaching but for the church. The Bible teaching must not be just for Bible teaching but for the church. The edification of saints must not be merely for edification but for the church. All works and ministries in God's intention must serve the church. **We are not saved for our own salvation. We are saved for the building up of the church.** The church is God's heart desire.

### 2. THE PRACTICALITY OF THE CHURCH

Secondly, we must see that the church is very practical. It is not just a vision. It is not just a teaching or something in the heavens, but an intensely practical matter. We must have a practical church. We should not have a church in our thoughts, in teaching, or even in vision, but in practice. **We all need to pray that we will see the practicality of the church.** The New Testament does not give much doctrine concerning the church, but it does give us a full picture of the practice of the church. The church in Jerusalem in the early days was visible, real, and practical. The church in Antioch was visible, real, and practical. **The church in every city today must also be visible, real, and practical.**

### 3. THE LOCALITY OF THE CHURCH

Thirdly, we must see that the practical expression of the church must be local. Since it is practical, it must be local; it must be in the place where we are. If we would put the church into practice, if we would make it practical, we must have a local expression. There is no other way. Do not expect to have the church in a better place. The place where you live is the right place. **Wherever you go, wherever you are, is the right place to practice the church life.** Any place, however pleasant from an earthly standpoint, is hell without a church. And on the contrary, any place with a church is heaven... You remember, when Jacob dreamed and saw the ladder set up from earth to heaven and the angels of God ascending and descending upon it, he called the name of the place Bethel. Bethel, we know, means the house of God, and the house of God is the church today (1 Tim. 3:15). Jacob said about that, "This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Wherever the house of God is, that place is a gate of heaven. **The only place that is good for us is the place where there is a church.**

Can you find a verse in the New Testament telling us that the church is in the heavens? You cannot. But we do have the church in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1), the church in Antioch (Acts 13:1), the church at Cenchrea (Rom. 16:1), the church in Corinth (1 Cor. 1:2), and the church in so many other cities. They are the local churches. Eventually at the end of the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, we have a picture of seven churches in seven cities. It is so clear. The practical expression of the church must be local.

### 4. THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

In the Bible, we find the principle of **one church for each city**—no more, no less. In the entire New Testament this principle is never violated. Whenever a church in a certain city is mentioned, it is always in the singular number. Whenever reference is made to the churches, in the plural number, it is always in relation to an area or district which is larger than a city, such as a province. There is nothing in the Bible about street churches, school churches, churches in a home, or, on the other hand, national churches or world churches. There are only churches in cities. You may say that there are some instances of a church in a home recorded in the Bible. But if you read carefully, you will see that in every case these simply refer to the home in which the entire church in that city met. The boundary of the church is not limited to a home; neither is it expanded to a district or nation. In the Bible, it is always according to the size of the city. A church that encompasses the whole city meets the qualification of the unique unity.

This is God's sovereignty and wisdom. Suppose that today, for example, we are all living in Los Angeles. We could not have the home churches or the street churches; we could only have the city church. As long as we have the city church, all the saints in Los Angeles will be one. If we could have the street churches, we would be immediately divided. There could be a church on First Street, another on Second Street, and another on Third. If we could have home churches, it would be worse yet. The city keeps the unity that the saints may be one. If you move from Los Angeles to San Francisco, you need not be concerned as to which "church" you will go. It is so clear. You will go to the city church, the local church. You will not go to a church called by the name of some street, but to the local church in the city; not the church of some home or of some campus, but of the city. If you get into anything other than the local church of the city, you get into a division; if you get into the church of that city, you get into unity.

### Church Address:

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### Contact Numbers:

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### Meeting Schedule:

#### Lord's Table Meeting

Lord's Day  
10:00AM to 12:00PM

#### Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
Saints Homes  
8:00PM to 9:00PM

#### YP Meeting

Fridays  
7:00PM to 9:00PM  
Brother Hedrick's Place

#### Small/Home Meeting

Friday Evening  
Saint's Home

### Seven Annual Feasts

1. International Chinese-speaking Conference, Anaheim, CA February 12-14, 2016
2. International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (Spring) Anaheim, CA - April 8-10, 2016
3. Memorial Day Conference Washington, DC May 27-30, 2016
4. Summer Training Anaheim, CA - July 4-9, 2016
5. International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (Fall) Gold Coast, Australia - October 6-8, 2016
6. Thanksgiving Conference San Jose, CA - November 24-27, 2016
7. Winter Training Anaheim, CA - December 26-31, 2016

### Upcoming Activities

- ▶ April 10, 2016 - Love Feast
- ▶ April 17, 2016 - Churching in Saskatoon
- ▶ April 29 - May 01, 2016 - Conference in **Winnipeg** and **Edmonton**
- ▶ May 08, 2016 - Love Feast
- ▶ May 23, 2016 - Church Pursuit, Experience of Life Message 4

**PRAYER BURDEN**

1. Lord, we praise You for revealing Your heart desire to have a **church**. Lord, open us that we may see the present degraded situation and traditional practice of the so called churches and bring us back to Your original intention and **standard** as revealed in the Scriptures.
2. Lord, preserve and **cleanse** us to become Your **vessels unto honour** and be separated unto You. Lord, bring us back to Your ordained unique ground that we may fully experience and enjoy all You riches.
3. Lord, we praise You for choosing and predestinating us unto sonship, build us up to be Your **Body** having You as our **life** for Your full expression and **renew** us to be the one new man taking You as our **person**.
4. Lord, continue to **dispense** Yourself into us that You may have a **house**, a household which is the church, Your **Body** to express You, until You gain Your **Kingdom** to fulfill You eternal economy.
5. Please pray for the church in **Regina**:
  - a) For the gospel, shepherding and perfecting work in the church.
  - b) For the gaining of new ones and recovery of dormant saints, who can be infused with the vision of God's economy.
  - c) For the strengthening of the **church life** through **shepherding and cherishing, perfecting and nourishing, prophesying and building**.

*The kingdom of God as the living of the church is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

**“This Weeks’s Pursuit: The Crucial Points of the Major Items of the Lord's Recovery Today**

**The Recovery of the Church**

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:18; 18:17; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:9-11; 4:16; Rom. 14:17

**I. When we speak of the recovery of the church, we mean that something was there originally, that it became lost, damaged, or misunderstood, and that now there is the need to bring that thing back to its original state—Matt. 16:18:**

Because the church has become degraded through the many centuries of its history, it needs to be recovered according to God's original intention. Concerning the church, our vision should be governed not by the present situation nor by traditional practice but by God's original intention and standard as revealed in the Scriptures:

- The church is the heart's desire of God.
- The church is the church of God, chosen and predestinated by God the Father, redeemed by God the Son, and sealed by God the Spirit.
- The church is the house of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth, for is manifestation in the flesh.
- The church is the Body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all, for His expression.
- The church is the wife of Christ, His counterpart.
- The church is the new man.
- The church exists universally as the unique universal church, but it is expressed locally as many local churches.

**II. The recovery of the church is typified by the return of the children of Israel from their captivity—Ezra 1:3-11:**

As typified by the latter part of the history of the children of Israel, the recovery is from Babylon—the capturing and divisive ground; the recovery of the church involves a return from the capturing and divisive ground signified by Babylon. The recovery of the children of Israel was not only from Babylon but also back to Jerusalem, the God-ordained unique ground; Jerusalem was the place the Lord had chosen.

Those who went back to Jerusalem from Babylon **brought with them all the vessels** of the temple of God, which had been captured to Babylon; these vessels, which were of silver and gold, signify the experiences of Christ and the riches of Christ. The recovery of the church is typified also by the **rebuilding of the temple of God**, the house of God, in Jerusalem after the return of God's people from Babylon; thus, the recovery is a matter not only of going back to Jerusalem with the vessels of the temple of God but also of rebuilding the temple of God. The recovery of the church is typified by the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem.

**III. The recovery of the church is revealed in the New Testament even though the word recovery is not used:**

We need to be recovered from the factions—the sects and denominations. The recovery of the church requires that we cleanse ourselves from the vessels unto dishonor in the great house—the apostate Christendom.

**IV. We need to see what it means for the church to be recovered:**

For the recovery of the church, we need to be **recovered from** the divisive and apostate ground with its deviations from the truths concerning the person of the Triune God and the person and work of Christ. We **must reject** the heresies of modalism and tritheism and hold to the pure revelation of the Triune God according to the Word of God; the truth concerning the person of the Triune God is twofold—the aspect of the one and the aspect of the three—for the unique God is triune, three- one—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. We need to be **recovered from** all heretical teachings regarding the person of Christ and confess that Jesus Christ, God manifested in the flesh, is the complete God, the perfect man, and, as the all inclusive One, the reality of every positive thing. For the recovery of the church, we need to **be brought back** to the unique and pure ground of the oneness of the Body of Christ with its truths. We need to be brought back to the truth concerning the New Testament faith and God's economy. We need to **be brought back** to the truth concerning the person and work of Christ. The recovery of the church requires that we be recovered to the truth concerning the person and dispensing of the Triune God. The recovery of the church involves the recovery of the church as the Body of Christ, the corporate Christ. The Body of Christ is an organism constituted of all the believers, who have been regenerated and have God's life, for the expression of the Head. The Body of Christ is actually the corporate Christ. The truth concerning the universal and local aspects of the church also needs to be recovered. In the universal aspect the church is uniquely one. In its local aspect the church is expressed in many localities as many local churches.

In the recovery of the church, we are building up the Body of Christ, the temple of God, the house of God. This was typified by the rebuilding of the temple under the leadership of Ezra. Today we are rebuilding the church as God's temple. All the damage that the enemy does to the church gives the Lord the opportunity to enlarge His Body in resurrection.

The recovery of the church involves the establishing of the kingdom life; the reality of the church life is the kingdom. Romans 14:17 reveals that the kingdom of God is the living of the church; the kingdom is today's church life. The kingdom of God as the living of the church is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. To have such a living is to establish the kingdom life as typified in the book of Nehemiah by the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem. In the recovery of the church, we are building up the church as God's house and God's city.

WEEK	LORD'S TABLE MEETING	PRAYER MEETING	YP MEETING	HOME MEETING	OFFERING
Mar. 27 - April 02, 2016	22	11	11	5	\$265.00
April 03 - April 09, 2016	21	12	11	7	\$500.00