

CHURCH IN REGINA

Local Announcements

1. Prayer Meeting—Jan. 14
Grp 1 in person; Grp 2
by Zoom
2. Bible Distribution/
Gospel Preaching and
Welcome Dinner—
Jan. 17 at the UofR
3. Brothers' Mtg—Jan. 26

Conferences & Training

1. Chinese-Speaking
Blending Conference—
Feb. 14-16, Anaheim,
CA
2. International Training
for Elders &
Responsible Ones—
Apr. 4-6, Anaheim, CA
3. Memorial Day Blending
Conference—May 23-
26, Phoenix, AZ
4. Summer Training—June
30-July 5, Anaheim, CA
5. International Training
for Elders &
Responsible Ones—TBD
6. Thanksgiving Blending
Conference—Nov. 27-
30, Indianapolis, IN
7. Winter Training—
Dec. 22-27, Anaheim,
CA

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Material Offering—Week 5

The Character of the Lord's Worker—Towards Money

Let us [finally see]...Paul's attitude...in relation to **funds that the church passed through his hands and which others wanted him to manage**. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 he wrote, "Furthermore we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in much proving of affliction the abundance of their joy and the depth of their poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality; that according to their power, I testify, and beyond their power, of their own accord, with much entreaty they besought of us the grace and the fellowship of the ministry to the saints." God's children must be strict in this matter. When a worker goes to a place to work for the Lord, this must be his attitude whenever he touches money. The brothers in Macedonia offered financial assistance to the brothers suffering from famine in Jerusalem. First, Paul informed them of the calamity. After they heard it, they went **beyond their ability** in the depth of their poverty and affliction to care for the brothers in Jerusalem. What did they do? Paul said that with much entreaty they sought the grace and the fellowship of the ministry to the saints. This was **the attitude of the Macedonians** in offering financial aid for the care of the saints' needs. **They wanted to have a share in this grace. They did not care if they were in poverty and affliction themselves; they still wanted to have a share in this work**. Because of this, they entreated Paul again and again. In other words, Paul did not allow them to give the first time. This shows a proper attitude. **A worker of the Lord should not accept just any money that comes his way, even when it is not for his own use**. It was true that the brothers in Jerusalem were in need, but it was not simply a matter of getting money and forwarding it to the saints. The Macedonian brothers were in dire need themselves, and Paul told them to take back their offering. **But they came again and again; they pleaded with Paul again and again**, with much entreaty, to be allowed to share in the grace of ministering to the saints. Both sides acted beautifully. This is the proper Christian way.

In 2 Corinthians 8:16-22 Paul said, "But thanks be to God who puts the same earnestness on your behalf in the heart of Titus, because he not only received the entreaty, but being more earnest, he also went forth of his own accord to you. And we sent together with him the brother whose praise in the gospel is throughout all the churches, and not only this, but who has also been selected by the churches as our fellow traveler in this grace which is being ministered by us, to the glory of the Lord Himself and to demonstrate our eagerness; avoiding this, that anyone should find fault with us in this abundance which is being ministered by us. For we exercise foresight for what is honorable not only in the sight of the Lord but also in the sight of men. And we sent with them our brother..." Here we see Paul's arrangement. In forwarding others' money to Jerusalem, he was **very upright in his procedure**. **No servant of God can ever be careless in the matter of money**. What did Paul say? He said, "Avoiding this, that anyone should find fault with us in this abundance which is being ministered by us." Paul asked one, two, even three brothers to manage the money; he did not manage it himself. What did the three brothers do? He said, "For we exercise foresight for what is honorable not only in the sight of the Lord but also in the sight of men." **In the administration of funds, the only way to avoid a problem is to let two or three persons be in charge**.

Because money is such a serious matter, Paul, writing both to Timothy and Titus, declared that **no covetous person should be allowed to hold the position of an elder** (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7). In 1 Timothy 3:8 the same stipulation was made regarding the office of a deacon. No man is qualified to be an elder or a deacon who has not overcome money... Peter wrote in the same strain as Paul. He said, "Shepherd the flock of God among you...not by seeking gain through base means but eagerly" (1 Pet. 5:2). No one who is covetous can shepherd the flock of God...May the Lord be gracious to us so that we would deal thoroughly with the matter of money. **Unless we settle the issue of covetousness, we will find ourselves in difficulties sooner or later. In fact, we will become useless in the way. If we do not settle this issue, we cannot deal with other issues, and we will surely face problems and troubles down the road**. We must not be influenced by money in any way. Whenever we hear anyone criticizing us, we have to learn to reject their gift. At the same time, we have to learn to bear others' burdens. We should not only take care of our own needs and the needs of our co-workers, but we should take care of the needs of all the brothers and sisters as well. If we can handle the matter of money in a proper way, we will have done a great thing (Excerpts from The Character of the Lord's Worker, CWWN, vol. 52).

PRAYER BURDENS

1. Lord, cause us to understand Your heart in the way of balancing and supplying us. Save us from our greediness and teach us the divine way of "he who gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little had no lack".
2. Lord, cause us to give by sowing sparingly, holding back nothing for ourselves. May we be under Your mercy that we would reap what we sow.
3. Cause us to practice giving – not for the purpose of gaining riches for ourselves but to have abounding thanksgiving to You. May Your recovery never lack in anything.
4. Lord, have mercy on us that we would not be anxious for our living. Instead, we would work faithfully and store up treasure not on the earth, but in the heavens.
5. Lord, we set our hopes on You. May we learn not to be high-minded but to be rich in good works, ready to distribute, and lay hold on that which is really life.
6. Lord Jesus, may Your resurrection life be lived out among us...that we would lead a life not trusting in ourselves nor the treasures of material possessions. Lead us to live a life not for today but for the future, not for this age but for the coming age.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for the French-speaking work in Europe. Please pray:
 - > That a number of saints will receive the Lord's burden to serve in French-speaking Europe for one to three months to meet the urgent need for continued shepherding of the new ones the Lord has put into our hand;
 - > That by summer 2025 there will be a team of 20 full-time serving ones in Paris to take care of the Lord's needs throughout France and French-speaking Europe. Please pray for the release of long stay visas for these saints;
 - > That many students, families, and mature saints will migrate to France within the next several years for the Lord's interest.

Church in Regina

1. Pray for the propagation work in Saskatchewan. Strengthen the saints in Foam Lake, Yorkton and Stenen. Encourage them and supply them that there would be a lampstand in Yorkton for Your testimony. Remember Bro. Isaac, Bro. Charles, and Bro. William.
2. Pray for the upcoming Bible distribution, gospel preaching and welcome dinner. Whosoever will come. May they come open. Give them a taste and see how good You are. Gain new ones in the University of Regina and reach many more young seekers for Your testimony.
3. Pray for the continuing of the Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading. Remember Bro. Nathan, Sis. Cassie and our new ones: Doris Di, Julie Cao, Wendy Wang, and Tina Huang.
4. Pray for positive and immediate approval of all the immigration papers:
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina) - PR Application
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children) - PR Application
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children) - PR Application

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

- Lord's Table & Prophesying—Lord's Day 10:00-12:00PM
- Prayer Meeting—Tuesdays 7:00-8:00PM
- Home Meeting—Wednesdays 6:00-7:00PM
- Chinese-Speaking Bible Reading—Wednesdays 8:00-9:00PM
- College Meetings—Fridays 7:30-8:30PM
- YP Meetings—Sundays 3:30-4:30 PM
- Children's Meeting—Saturdays 10:00-11:00AM
- Small Group Meetings—Fridays/Saturdays 7:00-9:00PM