

CHURCH IN REGINA

Local Announcements

1. Prayer Meeting—Jan.28
Grp 1 in person; Grp 2
by Zoom
2. Brothers' Mtg—Jan.26
3. Prairie College
Conference—Feb. 22.
Registration deadline
is on Feb. 9.

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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Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (1) - Week 2

Psalm 23—Christ in His Shepherding

..."Jehovah is my Shepherd." **Who is this One who is my Shepherd?** Christ in resurrection is my Shepherd. We should not forget the previous psalm, which tells how He suffered death to accomplish redemption for us, how He was resurrected, and how we were made His brothers by His resurrection. It is also by this that the whole earth, in a sense, turns to Him—even the dead bow before Him—and we, the lowly and flourishing ones, are all the day eating Him, being satisfied with Him, worshipping Him, serving Him, and preaching the gospel to the coming generation. Such a Christ, who has died, was resurrected, and brought forth such a result, is our Shepherd.

...[W]ithin His shepherding, there are **five stations** through which we must pass. The **first station** is so wonderful—the **green pastures with the waters of rest**. "He makes me lie down in green pastures; / He leads me beside waters of rest" (v. 2)... Christ in the local church is the green pastures, and in the local church we are beside the waters of rest. But this is just the first station, the beginning of His shepherding.

The **second station** is the **paths of righteousness**. "He restores my soul; / He guides me on the paths of righteousness / For His name's sake" (v. 3). It is not sufficient for us merely to enjoy Him; the purpose of the enjoyment is that we may go on and walk on the paths of righteousness. We need to walk not only on the paths of grace but also on the paths of righteousness. We all know what righteousness is. With grace there is love and happiness, and everything is rather easy. But with the matter of righteousness, it is not so easy; there is a certain kind of regulation and restriction...

Then we must proceed to the third... The **third station** is the **valley of the shadow of death**. I know that you like the green pastures; you do not like the valley of the shadow of death. The valley is not at the top but at the bottom; it is not the shining but the shadow; it is not the life but the death... But do not be frightened...; "Even though I walk / Through the valley of the shadow of death, / I do not fear evil, / For You are with me" (v. 4)... **When you are passing through the valley of the shadow of death, the Shepherd is nearer to you than ever before**... Moreover, His rod and His staff comfort you. The rod is for protection, to keep the wolves away, and the staff is for guidance in whatever way your need demands. In the valley you have the Shepherd with you; you have His rod, and you have His staff. **It is sufficient**.

After the valley you may think that everything should be so wonderful. But the **next station** is the **battlefield**. It is after the valley of the shadow of death that you are qualified and equipped for fighting... There is a great difference between vessels of clay which have been burnt and those which have not. **The valley of the shadow of death is the place for us to be burnt**. After this experience we are qualified and equipped to fight the battle... But on the battlefield, praise the Lord, **there is a table set before us**. "You spread a table before me / In the presence of my adversaries" (v. 5). The fighting on the battlefield is the feasting. While we are fighting, we are feasting. We may tell the enemy, "Send your armies; all your armies will be the courses of our feast." The Old Testament tells us that even the enemies are our food (Num. 14:9). For us Christians, the enemies are the best food. This is a table, a table spread with many courses, and this is not all. It is here **on the battlefield that we experience the anointing of our head with oil and our cup running over**. It is really so. In our experiences, the more we are on the battlefield fighting for the Lord, the more we sense that we are under the anointing, that we are feasting, and that our cup is running over. It is really good. But still this is not all.

Now we come to the **last station**. Hallelujah! "Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me / All the days of my life, / And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah / For the length of my days" (Psa. 23:6). What is this? It is at this point that we are **settled in the local church**... You may think today that you are settled in the house of the Lord, but you are not so settled. **You need time to pass the test, time to grow, time to let your roots be deeply implanted**. The shepherding of the resurrected Christ is to lead us into the local churches, to lead us into the house of the Lord forever. It is here that goodness and lovingkindness follow us all the days of our life... This is Psalm 23; it shows us how the resurrected Christ shepherds us, leading us into the house of God (Excerpts from Christ and the Church Revealed and Typified in the Psalms, ch.5).

PRAYER BURDENS

1. Praise You, Lord, for being the One with healing power in the beauty of Your human virtues. We contact You in prayer. May we all see You in Your heavenly-ruled deeds, be healed and be transformed in our character.
2. Lord, we love You as our Shepherd. Lead us to waters of rest and on the path of righteousness. Feed us and care for us that we may also do the same for the new ones. Guide our three-part man and cause our spirit take lead in everything we do.
3. Even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we do not fear evil for You are with us. Your presence shortens the valley, reduces the shadow and removes death. May we dwell in Your house all the days of our lives.
4. We take You as our rest not only from our toils and burdens, but also as our perfect peace and full satisfaction. Free us from heavy burdens that we take on ourselves and learn from You and take Your yoke as the Father wills.
5. Grant us the vision of the Sower, sowing Yourself as the seed of life into us. We allow You to live in us, grow in us, and be expressed from within us. Keep working in us until we are built together into one mutual abode.
6. Lord, make home in us. Come into us and do Your building work with You as the element and with us as the materials. Strengthen us into our inner man that we may be able to supply the seed the nutrients it needs to grow.

North America/Europe/Other Burdens

1. Please pray for gospel teams from FTTL and FTTA that will be sent to 19 countries in Europe from January 23 through February 9. Pray that the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom will be prevailing and reach all those the Lord desires to save.

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 recipients of the Bible distribution. May we be able to reach the new ones we have contacted and may they attend the Bible study this semester.
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 permanent resident immigration papers:
 - > Alforte Family (Radam and Rosalina)
 - > Orolfo Family (Wilson and Jenny and their three children)
 - > Jerome Family (Pravin and Abinaya and their two children)
 - > Argawanon Family (Charles and Janet and their son)
 - > Temonio Family (William and Melanie and their two children)

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