

# The Church in New York City

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 245 August 11, 2024

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2024 Church in NYC's Family Bible Camp (Aug. 15-17)**

This year the Family Bible Camp will be held in - person from August 15-17, Thur. to Sat, in KPCC, 288 Hickory Bush Rd, Kingston, NY 12401.

The Family Bible Camp is open to all families in the church in NYC who attend the gatherings in Halls 1-9 and Rosendale with at least one entering Kindergarten to 6th grade and their families.

For more details or questions, please contact the coordinators in your district.

- **Upcoming Church Events: details to follow**
  1. **Sept 6 to 8:** Spanish-speaking Conference (KPCC)
  2. **Sept 20 to 22:** Young Working Saints and Young Families' Conference (KPCC)
  3. **Sept 27 to 29:** HS Junior/Senior Retreat
- **Service Office Hours**

Due to the many activities this summer, Service Office Hours will be suspended until after Labor Day.

## PRAYER BURDENS

- The strengthening of the prayer of the saints: personally, by 2s & 3s, between the couples, in the families, in the brothers' houses and sisters' houses, in the small groups, in the sisters' prayer groups, in the service groups, and in the weekly church prayer meetings

**Ephesians 6:18** — *By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints.*

**1 Timothy 2:1** — *I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men.*

- The conclusion of the middle school section of the Northeast Summer School of Truth going on at Camp Penuel and ending on Thursday last week
- The Family Bible Camp which will be held August 15-17 at Camp Penuel
- That the Lord would exercise His sovereignty over the world situation for the building of the church as His Body all over the earth and for the bringing in of His kingdom

**Matthew 6:10** — Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.
- Gospel outreach and Bible distribution at the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris; please pray:
  - a. That those who are burdened and have applied to serve in France will receive their visas in a timely manner
  - b. That the existing churches in French-speaking Europe will be strengthened
  - c. That the Lord will gain local French speakers along with their families for the church life
  - d. That the Lord will raise up new lampstands in Marseilles, Toulouse, Montpellier, Caen, Nantes, Lille, Mertzig (Luxembourg), and Geneva (Switzerland)
- The various needs of the saints both locally and in other localities (e.g. physical and emotional, health-related, job-related, family-related, etc.)

## MORNING WATCH

**HWMR: 2024 INTERNATIONAL CHINESE-SPEAKING CONFERENCE: Fighting the Good Fight, Finishing the Course, Keeping the Faith, and Loving the Lord's Appearing in Order to Receive the Reward of Christ as the Crown of Righteousness**

**WEEK 4: Loving the Lord's Appearing by Maintaining Our Love for Him according to the Intrinsic Significance of Song of Songs**

## Portions from Days 1, 4 and 6:

Song of Songs is a history of love in an excellent marriage, a story of the love between the wise King Solomon, the writer of this book, and the Shulammitte (6:13), a girl of the countryside...Song of Songs stresses not the Body of Christ corporately but the believer in Christ individually, unveiling the progressive experience of an individual believer's loving fellowship with Christ in...stages...The stages of such a progression should be landmarks to us in the course of our pursuing of Christ for His and our mutual satisfaction. (Song of Songs 1:1, footnote 1)

The progress begins with the first stage of Christ's lovers' being drawn to pursue Him for satisfaction, continues through the following stages of (1) their being called to be delivered from the self through the oneness with the cross, (2) their being called to live in ascension as the new creation in resurrection, (3) their being called more strongly to live within the veil through the cross after resurrection, and (4) their sharing in the work of the Lord, and ends with the last stage of their hoping to be raptured. (Life-study of Song of Songs, p. 69)

To work together with the Lord we must be mature in life and we must teach the high truths...In Song of Songs we see that to work with the Lord we need the maturity in life, we need to be one with the Lord, and our work must be for His Body. Our Lord is Solomon and we must be the Shulammitte; that is, we must be one with the Lord.

The last point in this book is in the very last verse [S.S. 8:14]...This book is an extract of the entire Bible. It is a condensation of the Bible in eight short chapters. At the end of the Bible the Lord says, "I come quickly" (Rev. 22:20). To make haste means to come quickly. "Make haste, my beloved" means "Come quickly, Lord Jesus." The Lord is coming upon the mountains of spices...In the Song of Songs the spices are the different aspects of the Lord Jesus experienced by us and even grown out from us. Soon, all our experiences of the Lord will be piled up like mountains. Then the Lord Jesus will come to meet us there. This will bring in the kingdom, and the kingdom will be composed of mountains of spices. (CWWL, 1972, vol. 1, "Life and Building as Portrayed in the Song of Songs," p. 345)

**Corporate Reading:** *Life-study of Hebrews, msg. 45-46*

## MINISTRY READINGS

### Four Peripheral Matters in the Bible

The peripheral matters, the skin and feathers, in the Bible can be grouped into four categories.

#### The First Category—Consolation in Sufferings

The first category is related to sufferings, consolation in trials, and deliverance from difficulties. ...The human life is full of sufferings. God knows this and, therefore, is somewhat obliged to help man before He can be life to man. I believe that the Lord allows me to say "somewhat obliged," because this is not the main work of God. But man misunderstands God and thinks that God desires only to heal people and find jobs for them. It is as if God is a free doctor and a great employment agent. People think that God is only supposed to find jobs, schools, and homes for them. Many people begin their Christian lives by asking Him to do many things for them and thank and praise Him when their prayers are answered. However, when He no longer answers their prayers, they immediately question Him, saying, "What is wrong with Jesus? Why is God partial to some people? Maybe God is not a faithful God, or maybe He is not trustworthy." They become angry and stop going to meetings or praying at home, thinking that God is not faithful and not trustworthy. There are many examples of such Christians. Many among us may even be such Christians.

The Bible does show that God is compassionate and cares for man. He is ready to comfort the suffering and heal the sick. Although the Bible does mention many such precious promises, these things are not the central goal in God's heart. God's central goal is not to heal our sicknesses or to remove our sufferings. His central goal is to enter into us to be our life. Because we have sufferings, sicknesses, and needs, He comforts, heals, and abides by the promises in the Bible. However, promises such as these are peripheral matters in the Bible. They are not the central matters. They are not the root and the trunk; rather, they are the branches and the leaves. Unfortunately, we often find only these superficial and outward things in the Bible. We fail to see the central, foundational things.

*Excerpts from "How to Enjoy God and How to Practice the Enjoyment of God", Chapter 18: Identifying the Central and Peripheral Matters in the Bible (part 2)*