

THE CHURCH IN HAMILTON NEWSLETTER

4 October 2020

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Morning Revival Schedule

Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah & Lamentations
Week beginning:

5 Oct – Wk 11: Shepherds According to God's Heart

12 Oct – Wk 12: Experiencing and Enjoying the Contents of the New Covenant According to.....

Bible Reading Schedule

Mon	Acts 18-19	Acts 26:19b I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,
Tue	Acts 20	
Wed	Acts 21	
Thu	Acts 22	
Fri	Acts 23	
Sat	Acts 24	
LD	Acts 25-26	

Ministry Digest Reading Schedule

Ministry Digest Vol. 2, No. 7

Week beginning:

5 Oct – The Constituents of the Vital Groups (1)

12 Oct – The Constituents of the Vital Groups (2)

Today's Radio Broadcast

Time of Broadcast: 2:30 pm on Free FM 89.0 MHz

Life-Study of Colossians 41: Having Died with Christ from the Elements of the World and Having Been Raised with Christ to Live with Him in God.

International Prayer Burden

Mon	USA	Please pray for the brothers in these countries who will participate in the Elders and Responsible Ones Online Training.
Tue	Russia	
Wed	Turkey	
Thu	Greece	
Fri	Iran	
Sat	Armenia	
LD	Azerbaijan	

Weekly Church Accounts, 19–25 Sep

Total general offerings	\$5,802.64
Average expenses	\$8,000.00
Deficit	\$2,197.36

Total building fund offerings	\$230.00
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Total loan of the church	760,333.22
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¹incl \$5,000.00 interest-free loan

- **For offerings** to the church, please use: **03-1318-0467748-00**; Automatic payment forms are available from the church office. For Online payments put your Personal Code number as the reference if making tax refund claims for your donations.

- **For other payments** for which you will not claim a tax refund (for instance, camp fees, book sales, video trainings etc.), please use: **03-1318-0467748-02**.

- **For offerings** to the needs in Vanuatu, please use: **03-0318-0041849-000**.

Upcoming Events, October–December

5-9 Oct	Highschoolers' Training, Hamilton
16-18 Oct	Intermediates Camp, Taupo
24-26 Oct	Brothers' Training, Hamilton / Zoom
18 Dec	Full-time Training Graduation
19-27 Dec	Summer Blending, Queenstown
26 Dec-2 Jan	Summer School of Truth

Combined Prayer Meeting

The English-speaking districts, E1 & E2 prayer meeting this Tuesday, 6 October will be combined at 22B Gordonton Rd.

Crystallization-Study of Jeremiah & Lamentations Video Training

Tonight's message: Shepherd's According to God's Heart

Saturday Church Practical Service at 22B Gordonton Rd

9:00 am – 10:00 am	Ministry of the Word	<i>The Christian service is something of the Body, in the Body, with the Body, and for the Body.</i>
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Morning tea	
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Practical service	

Intermediates Camp, 16–18 October

Venue: Mi Camp, Lake Taupo **Registration Deadline:** Today, 4 October

Cost: \$115 per intermediate and \$130 or \$140 per parent or serving one, depending on your accommodation selection

Online Registration: www.churchinhamilton.org.nz click the registration tab

This is a special opportunity for intermediates, parents, and serving ones from around New Zealand to blend together. There will be many enjoyable activities, singing, and meeting together with an emphasis on the gospel.

Summer Blending in Queenstown

There will be a wonderful time of blending in Queenstown from 19–27 December for any saints to attend. This will be exactly 50 years since the first camp in the Lord's recovery in New Zealand!

During this time saints will watch the LSM Semi-Annual Training messages, there will be a children's programme and a highschoolers programme and many outdoor activities.

For more information and to register, please visit: www.summer.blendingtrip.org



The Lord's first coming depended on the return of God's people from their captivity in Babylon to the Holy Land. According to Micah 5:2, Christ was to be born in Bethlehem, which was near Jerusalem. Therefore, in order for this prophecy to be fulfilled, God's people had to be in the Holy Land to enable Christ to come the first time. ... After seventy years of captivity in Babylon, God commanded His people to return to the Holy Land. The majority of the people remained in Assyria, Egypt, and Babylon, but a remnant of the people returned to the Holy Land. The Lord Jesus was born of this remnant of returned captives. ... / Likewise, **Christ's second coming** depends on the return of a remnant of His New Testament believers from their captivity in the religious Babylon, ... (Rev. 17), to the proper ground of oneness for the recovery of the building of the church, God's spiritual house (1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:5). We should ask ourselves where we are. Are we still in captivity in Babylon, or are we among those who have returned to Jerusalem, the unique ground of oneness? (CWWL, 1971, vol. 1, pp. 328-329)

THE PRACTICALITY OF THE BODY, AND THE LOSING THE SELF-LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF THE ONENESS

After you see the Body, spontaneously you will ask, "Where is the Body?" There are many Christian organizations and many Christian groups. But where is the Body? Many Christians are still wandering because they have not seen the Body. They may talk about the Body life, but they have not seen the Body. Once they have seen the Body, they will raise the question, "Where is the Body?"

The Ground of the Church

The question of where the Body is involves the matter of the ground of the church. *Further Talks on the Church Life* by Brother Watchman Nee covers the matter of the ground of the church in detail. I strongly recommend that you read and reread this book until you are very clear concerning the ground of the church. Then you will know where to find the Body. The matter of the **church ground** is very serious; it is something of life and death, not merely a matter of doctrine. I would even encourage you to read *Further Talks* over and over so that through it and through these messages you may be brought into the heavenly vision concerning the Body and the place where you can find the Body.

Our Body Presented, Our Soul Transformed, and Our Spirit Burning

Suppose that we have **seen the Body**, we have **found the Body**, and we are **in the reality of the Body**. At this point we need Romans 12. This chapter was written for the purpose of telling us what we should do at this point. The first two verses of Romans 12 say, "I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect." First, we need to **present our body**. Then we need to **have our soul transformed by the renewing of the mind**. Eventually, we need to **have our spirit burned and burning all the time** (v. 11). The body needs to be presented, the soul transformed, and the spirit burned and burning, on fire all the time. You may have presented your body already, but you may be short of the transformation of your soul by the renewing of the mind. In addition,

you need to be burning in spirit. Even so, there is something more.

LOSING THE SELF-LIFE FOR THE SAKE OF THE ONENESS

If your eyes have been opened and you see the Body, if you have found the Body and realized that you are in it, it will be necessary for you to **give up the self**, to **lose the self-life**. The self is a real problem. The self is the real division, the real sin, and the real sect. If you have seen the Body, this vision will require that you lose your self-life, that you give up the self. Christians are divided because they are so much in the self. The self divides, but the spirit unites. Therefore, if we would give up the self, lose the self, and turn to the spirit, right away we would be in the reality of the Body. When you are out of the self and in the spirit, you are in the reality of the Body. It is necessary for us to give up the self, to lose the self. It is not adequate merely to know the doctrine concerning losing the self; it is necessary to lose the self in a practical way, to **let go of the self-life**. On this point we **need more prayer**. We need to pray, "Lord, be merciful to me in Your Body, that I may lose the self, that I may let go of my self-life."

If you intend to argue with the church or with some of the saints about a certain point, you need to check yourself to find out whether your arguing has its source in the spirit or in the self. Your point may be right, but your motive may be wrong, and the instrument or means that you are using may also be wrong. The right thing must come out of the right source and be done by the right means. Merely for your point to be right is not adequate. It is necessary to have both the proper source and the proper means. **The spirit is the proper source**, and **the spirit is also the proper means**. If your arguing for a certain point has its source in the spirit and is done by means of the spirit, there is no problem with your arguing. Otherwise, you need to give it up. In the Body we all need to lose the self.

We may talk about oneness, but we all need to realize that the **genuine oneness is nothing less than Christ Himself as our life** in a practical way. Christ is the oneness, the unity. When I am living in Christ as my life and not in myself, I have the oneness, and I am in the oneness. When we all are living in Christ as our life, Christ is the oneness. If this is our situation, then we have the reality of the Body, and then we are also equipped for the service. Romans 12 stresses that

without the Body we cannot serve, because each of us is only one member.

Peter tells us that the Body is the building, the house, and that we are living stones. "You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 2:5). Without being built up, the living stones can do nothing, and they are useless. Stones that are not built up are useless. **The stones need to be built up into a house that will be useful to God. This usefulness is the service, and this house is the priesthood.**

Two different Greek words are translated into the English word priesthood. The Greek word translated "priesthood" in 1 Peter 2:5 and 9 means "a priestly body, a body of priests," but the word translated "priesthood" in Hebrews 7 means "priestly office, priestly function." The spiritual house mentioned in 1 Peter 2:5 is the priesthood, the priestly body, not the priestly office. Strong's Concordance gives the meaning of this Greek word as a "priestly fraternity." There is the need of a priestly body, a priestly group, to offer spiritual sacrifices. If we are not built up as such a priestly body, we are not qualified to offer anything to God. Therefore, if we are not built up, we are not qualified to serve. **For the service we need the Body.**

To Serve in the Human Spirit, Chapter 1

*If your eyes have been opened and you **see the Body**, if you have found the Body and realized that you are in it, it will be necessary for you to **give up the self**, to **lose the self-life**. The self is a real problem. The self is the real division, the real sin, and the real sect.*