

THE CHURCH IN HAMILTON NEWSLETTER

23 June 2024

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District 2 (North) Ph: 852 5275
22B Gordonton Rd, Chartwell, Hamilton 3281

Morning Revival Schedule

The Enjoyment of Christ and Our Growth in Life unto Maturity

Week beginning 24 Jun – Week 3: Dealing with Our Heart for the Growth of the Divine Seed of Life within Us unto Our Maturity in Life for God's Building in Life

Reading Schedule for the Recovery

Version of the New Testament (with Footnotes)

Mon	Matt. 1:1-2	Matt. 1:5 footnote 1 'Rahab' ...Regardless of our background, if we turn to God and His people and are joined to the proper person among God's people, we will bring forth proper fruit and participate in the enjoyment of the birthright of Christ.
Tue	Matt. 1:3-7	
Wed	Matt. 1:8-17	
Thu	Matt. 1:18-25	
Fri	Matt. 2:1-23	
Sat	Matt. 3:1-6	
Ld	Matt. 3:7-17	

Ministry Reading Schedule

Week beginning 24 Jun – The Exercise and Practice of the God Ordained Way—A Concluding Word (cwwl 1989, vol. 3, chp.31)

International Prayer Burden

Mon	South Africa	Please pray for all the graduating and graduated trainees from the FTT in these countries.
Tue	Ethiopia	
Wed	Philippines	
Thu	New Zealand	
Fri	Myanmar	
Sat	Taiwan	
Ld	South Korea	

Weekly Church Accounts, 8–14 June

Total general offerings	\$6,219.50
Average expenses	\$10,000.00
Deficit	\$3,780.50
Total building fund offerings	\$450.00

■ **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 for the identification of the donors.

■ **For other payments** including fees (for camp, book sales, video trainings etc.) and the offerings to other entities such as (NZTC, BFNZ, etc.), please use: **03-1318-0467748-02**. If it is tax refundable, please use your Personal Code number as the identification of the donors.

Saturday Practical Service (22B Gordonton Rd)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Ministry of the Word
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Morning tea
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Practical service

Weekly Stars Club Online Programme

Every Thursday, 5–6 pm (trainees' term time only, and none during the STARS Holiday Programme)

ID: 847 1159 2369 Code: Stars

Go to: www.starsprogrammes.co.nz/

Upcoming Events

Local, Regional & National (June - October)

24-28 Jun	National Young People's Training, Hamilton (Registration is closed)
28-30 Jun	Matariki Weekend Chinese-Speaking Conference, Auckland
8-12 Jul	Stars Holiday Program
13 Jul	FTTH Graduation
19-21 Jul	Semiannual Video Training (Messages 1-6)
26-28 Jul	Regional Highschoolers' Camp, Taupo
2-4 Aug	Semiannual Video Training (Messages 7-12)
16-18 Aug	Parents' & Serving Ones' Training, Taupo
30 Aug	Teachers Training, Sydney Australia
31 Aug–1 Sep	Parents' and Serving Ones' Training, Sydney Australia
6-8 Sep	National Spring Sisters Training
28 Sep–2 Oct	National Highschoolers' Camp, Queenstown
6-8 Dec	Thanksgiving Webcast Conference

Living Stream Ministry Conferences and Trainings (July – December)

1-6 July	July Semi-Annual Training (Registration is closed)
4-6 Oct	October International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones
28 Nov–1 Dec	International Thanksgiving Blending Conference
23-28 Dec	December Semi-Annual Training

Stars Holiday Programme, 8–12 July

Enrolment for the programme is now open. Registration & more information at: <https://www.starsprogrammes.co.nz/enrol/>

Regional Highschoolers' Camp in Taupo, 26–28 July

We would like to extend a warm invitation to serving ones, highschoolers and their families to attend the camp and for highschoolers to bring a gospel friend.

Location: Mi Camp Taupo, 100 Rawhira Rd, Taupo 3382

Registration & more information at: <http://tinyurl.com/taupo-camp-2024>

Registration due date: Wednesday 10 July

Uncollected Donation Receipts

Please collect your donation receipts from the church office, 22B Gordonton Rd, if you have not already done so.

A Christian should be a Joyful Person

— joyful in the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

1. *The Lord is our joy when we are in Him – Rom. 14:17.*
2. *When we are abiding in the Lord, no matter what problem we have, we are joyful, and any difficulty deepens our joy in the Lord – John 15:4.*
3. *The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of joy – Rom. 14:17:*
 - *If we are joyful, this indicates that the Holy Spirit in us is also joyful—Gal. 5:22.*
 - *There may be nothing in the outward environment to make us joyful, but the Lord who lives in us is our joy—Col. 1:27.*

(Memorial Day Conference 2024, Msg. 2, II.E)

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither [can] you unless you abide in Me.

Colossians 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

ENGLISH-SPEAKING DISTRICTS PRAYER MEETING

The prayer meeting this *Tuesday 25 June* will be combined at the E2 Hall, church complex.

THE PATTERNS OF PROPHESYING

Luke 1:39-45 and **46 through 55** portray two patterns of prophesying—the prophesying of Elizabeth and that of Mary. They were two very good patterns of prophesying; they prophesied according to a high standard.

THE PATTERN OF ELIZABETH'S PROPHESYING

Living in the Presence of God and in the Fellowship with the Lord

The pattern of Elizabeth's prophesying is seen in **Luke 1:39-45**. The contents of these seven verses imply that Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, lived in the presence of God and in the fellowship with the Lord, in a constant, continual communication with the Lord. Without living in the presence of God and in the fellowship with the Lord, no one could utter such a praise, such a blessing, with a prophecy of foretelling. Elizabeth was a person who was ready to speak for the Lord. When Mary came and greeted her, Elizabeth's baby leaped within her womb, and she began to prophesy. If she had not been ready to speak for the Lord, she would have turned instead to natural talk.

Because Elizabeth lived in fellowship with the Lord, it is doubtful that she was able to speak in a loose or gossiping way. Many of us need to make a decision to present our tongue and lips to the Lord, with a vow to speak Him. If our gossiping is stopped in such a way, not only we but also the whole church will be revived. If the gossip could be stopped in all the churches, all the churches would be revived.

Possessing the Spiritual Knowledge and Concern for the Move of the Lord

Elizabeth's prophesying also shows clearly that she possessed much spiritual knowledge. All her words and expressions were very spiritual. She also possessed a genuine concern for the Lord's move. She was so concerned for the Lord's move on the earth at her time that she did not care for her own well-being. When the baby leaped in her womb (**Luke 1:44**), she had no concern about her health or her pregnancy. Rather, she was fully concerned for the Lord's interest.

If we are going to prophesy in the church meetings, we must gain much

spiritual knowledge and pick up many spiritual terms, and we must have an adequate concern for the Lord's move today. When we come to the Lord's Day morning meeting, we must come with a care for the Lord's move, His interests, and His kingdom. If we do this, we will surely have something to say.

Being Stirred Up in Her Spirit with Mary's Greeting

When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary and the baby leaped within her, she was stirred up in her spirit (**vv. 41, 44**). It is evident from her utterance and expressions that she was in her spirit, not in her mind. If she had not been in her spirit, she would have spoken something from her mind or exercised her emotions. Instead, she said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (**v. 42**). Such an expression of blessing shows that Elizabeth was fully in her spirit, not caring for the things of the mind.

Receiving the Instant Inspiration of the Holy Spirit and Having the Utterance by Exercising Her Spirit

Being stirred up in her spirit, Elizabeth immediately received the instant inspiration of the Holy Spirit (**v. 41b**), and she had the utterance by exercising her spirit (**v. 42a**). **Verse 42** says, "She lifted up her voice with a loud cry." To speak loudly in such a way is to exercise the spirit. Speaking without exercising our spirit brings death to ourselves and to those who listen to us. In speaking for the Lord, we need to put ourselves aside and speak loudly with the exercise of our spirit.

To Bless Mary

In Elizabeth's prophecy she blessed Mary, the one who had come to her. **Verse 42** says, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" The fruit of Mary's womb was Christ. The Bible tells us that Christ is the seed (**Gen. 3:15; 17:8; Gal. 3:16**), the root (**Isa. 11:10; 53:2; Rev. 5:5; 22:16**), the tree (**John 15:1; Rev. 2:7; 22:2**), and the branch (**Isa. 4:2; Jer. 23:5**), but without Elizabeth's blessing we would not know that Christ is also the fruit; we would lack one of the figures that describe what Christ is; [this] completes the figures concerning Christ. He is the seed, the root, the tree, the branch, and the fruit. The seed, the root, the tree, and the branch are all for the fruit.

Elizabeth realized that Mary was with child and that the fruit of her womb was Christ. This was Elizabeth's foreknowledge. Thus, her speaking concerning Christ as the fruit of Mary's womb was a prophecy of foretelling.

Elizabeth also blessed Mary by saying, "Blessed is she who has believed" (**v. 45a**). This was Elizabeth's realization of Mary's faith in the Lord. Blessing Mary in this way indicates that Elizabeth had the sight under the divine enlightenment concerning Mary's situation.

To Recognize the Lord's Doing

By exercising her spirit, Elizabeth was able to recognize the Lord's doing. [**v.43**] she said, "How has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Elizabeth realized that the baby in Mary's womb was her Lord, Christ, the unique fruit for feeding mankind. This must have been by a spiritual revelation or vision. To compose a proper prophecy, we must have the sight under the divine enlightenment to know the situation and environment in which we are. Without such a sight under the divine enlightenment, Elizabeth would not have been able to recognize that the baby in Mary's womb was Christ as the Lord and as the unique fruit for feeding mankind. In order to prophesy, we need this kind of spiritual unveiling. Through such an unveiling, we will know our own situation, the situation of the saints and the church, the situation of the people around us, and even the situation of the world and the country in which we live. We need to be those who have this kind of insight concerning the environment around us. This will help us to prophesy.

To Foretell the Completion of the Things Spoken by the Angel to Mary, to Confirm Them

In **verse 45** Elizabeth said concerning Mary, "There will be a completion of the things spoken to her from the Lord." By exercising her spirit Elizabeth had the utterance to foretell the completion of the things spoken by the angel to Mary in **verses 30 through 37**, to confirm them. Elizabeth's insight helped her to confirm, by foretelling their completion, the things that the Lord had spoken to Mary through the angel.

By reading Elizabeth's prophecy we can see what kind of person she was. Her prophesying comprised all the elements of a proper prophecy.

THE CHRIST BY WHOM WE FIGHT BEING THE ASCENDED CHRIST, THE CHRIST IN THE HEAVENS

Exo. 30:13 "This they shall give, each one who was enrolled among their numbering, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a heave offering to Jehovah."

Eph. 2:6 "And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus."

6:10 "Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength."

Let us suppose that you are mature enough to be in God's army. Because your spiritual age is at least twenty years, you are qualified to be numbered among those who are able to go to war. But does this mean that you should enter directly into the fight? It certainly does not mean this. According to Exodus 30:12 if you try to fight directly, you will suffer a plague. In order to avoid any plague, we should never go to war in ourselves. We should say, "In myself I shall never go to fight in God's army. Only in Christ and by Christ shall I go. I have Christ as my half-shekel, as my ransom silver. He is precious and valuable." If we would fight in God's army, we must fight only by this precious Christ.

(Abridged from *Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 1654-1655)

The Christ typified by the ransom silver is not the crucified Christ, the Christ who died on the cross as the sin offering and the trespass offering. On the contrary, the propitiation silver is a heave offering, and the heave offering signifies the resurrected and ascended Christ, the Christ in the heavens. According to the type of the propitiation silver, the Christ by whom we fight is not the crucified One—He

is the ascended One. Perhaps you have never considered this matter before, but this is the picture presented by the type.

All those who have engaged in spiritual warfare know that this warfare is not fought on earth. The battles of spiritual warfare are waged in the air. In order to fight this kind of battle, we need to be in the heavenlies with the ascended Christ. We need to be in the heavens with Christ as our heave offering. Elsewhere we have pointed out that the wave offering signifies the resurrected Christ and that the heave offering signifies the ascended Christ. Therefore, the heave offering is an advancement beyond the wave offering; that is, the ascended Christ is an advancement over the resurrected Christ. In ascension Christ defeats His enemy.

In some countries the young people may be afraid of being drafted and wish that they could stay under draft age. Because they are afraid of the military draft, they do not want to grow up. In the spiritual life many believers have their growth stunted. Although they may be rather old, it seems that they are dwarfs. They have not grown in life. We hope that among us in the Lord's recovery there will not be any dwarfs. I hope that more and more of us will be able to say when we are asked how old we are, spiritually speaking, that we have reached the age of twenty and are qualified to pay the half-shekel. Eventually, we all should be able to say, "Praise the Lord that in the spiritual life I am no longer a teenager! I am past the age of twenty, and I am qualified to pay the half-shekel and be drafted into God's army."

In order for us to pay the half-shekel, our experience of Christ must reach the highest point, the point where we are sitting with Him in the heavenlies. This is the highest experience of Christ. We need to experience such a Christ in order to have Him as the half-shekel. In other words, the half-shekel of silver signifies the ascended Christ experienced by us and paid by us as the poll tax.

The half-shekel of silver signifies our experience of Christ as the

ascended One. When we are in the meetings, we need to be in the heavens. Otherwise, we shall not be able to function. Whenever we are not with Christ in the heavens, we cannot function in the meetings. When we function properly, we are truly in the ascended Christ.

(Abridged from the *Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 1655, 1661)

The Christ typified by the ransom silver is not the crucified Christ, the Christ who died on the cross as the sin offering and the trespass offering. On the contrary, the propitiation silver is a heave offering, and the heave offering signifies the resurrected and ascended Christ, the Christ in the heavens.

Matariki Weekend Chinese-Speaking Conference

28-30 June

Hall 1, 71 Morningside Drive, Mount Albert, Auckland

There will be radio translation into English for all the meetings. Dinners will be freely provided by the church. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, 28 June

4:00 p.m. Message 1

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Message 2

Saturday 29 June

4:00 p.m. Message 3

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Message 4

Lord's Day 30 June

10:00 a.m. Whole Church Lord's Table Meeting and Message 5

Please contact 09-815-1322 or email aucklandch@xtra.co.nz if you need hospitality or any information.

Open translation for Message 5

Teachers' Training and Parents & Serving Ones' Conference, Sydney Australia with Brother Ricky Acosta

• Teachers Training – Friday, 30 Aug

• Parents' and Serving Ones'

Conference – 31 Aug to 1 Sep

Location: Blending Centre, 169 Foxall Road, North Kellyville, NSW 2155

Online: via Zoom

Registration Deadline: Monday, 12 Aug

Further information & registration:

www.churchinsydney.org/psoc

In order for us to be faithful, normal, and proper Christians, the primary matter that we need to take care of is enjoying the Lord; this needs to be a vision to us

Prov. 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; / But happy is he who keeps the law.

Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Luke 1:46-47 And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has exulted in God my Savior.

Our spirit needs to take the lead in enjoying the Lord. Luke 1:46-47 is describing the enjoyment of the Lord, and in the enjoyment of the Lord, our spirit has to take the lead. First, Mary's spirit exulted in God; then her soul magnified the Lord. Her praise to God issued from her spirit and was expressed through her soul. But today we mostly use our soul first. We must learn to directly use our spirit and let the soul be a follower of the spirit. Our spirit must take the lead aggressively in enjoying the Lord. Our spirit should subdue our soul to make the soul its follower.

(Abridged from CWWL, 1979, vol. 1, pp. 593-594)

Colossians 1:12 says, "Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light." The allotted portion of the saints refers to Christ. Just as the good land of Canaan was the portion allotted to the children of Israel in the Old Testament, Christ is the allotted portion of the New Testament believers. Thus, we need to possess Him and partake of Him as our heavenly allotment, our heavenly portion.

We need a revelation to see the matter of the enjoyment of Christ, because it is not according to our natural concept. Our natural concept is that after we receive the Lord, we need to do something for Him and learn many doctrines concerning Him in the Bible. It is difficult for a new believer to have the thought that after he has received the Lord, he needs to continue his Christian life by enjoying the Lord. In order for us to be faithful, normal, and proper Christians, the primary matter that we need to take care of is not learning doctrines but enjoying the Lord. This needs to be a vision to us. When the sisters are raising their children, although they need to teach them many things, teaching is not their primary concern. After a sister has given birth to a child, her main focus is to feed her child. Although the education of the child is necessary, feeding is the child's basic need. However, in traditional Christianity today more attention is paid to teaching than to feeding.

I believe that in His recovery the Lord will recover the believers' enjoyment of Christ. The reason many believers are weak today is not that they are short of teaching but that they are malnourished, short of nourishment. Many Christians are full of knowledge, yet they have little growth in life. Hence, they are full of criticism toward other believers.

Today we have many problems because we are short of Christ. We are short of the nourishment that comes from enjoying Christ. If we enjoy Christ day by day, we will not have any problems. The reason spouses have arguments with each other is that they are short of Christ. If a husband does not enjoy Christ, sooner or later he will run into problems with his wife. It is the same in the church life. As brothers and sisters in the church life, we need to adequately enjoy Christ; otherwise, we will have problems in the church life. **The unique solution to all our problems is to enjoy Christ.**

When we enjoy Christ, all the negative elements and "germs" in our being are swallowed up, and our lack of all the positive elements and spiritual vitamins is filled up. In this way, all our problems are solved. However, if we stop enjoying Christ, after a week we will have many kinds of spiritual diseases.

Christ is our daily nourishment, and we need to taste, eat, and partake of Him in a DAILY WAY.

(Abridged from CWWL, 1969, vol. 2, pp. 188-190)

2024 JULY SEMIANNUAL VIDEO TRAINING

Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (1)

Dear saints, the next training will be on the *Experiencing, Enjoying, and Expressing Christ (1)*. We would strongly encourage you to attend the upcoming video training. These trainings are a precious heritage to us in the Lord's recovery that we should treasure as a continuation of the Lord's rich ministry among us. May the Lord grant us mercy to highly value the release of the divine truths in this training and to seize the opportunity to attend it.

Venues: Church Complex
22A Gordonton Rd (*Chinese-speaking*)
22B Gordonton Rd (*English-speaking; Korean-speaking*)

Schedule:

#	Day	Date	Time
1*	Friday	19-Jul	7:00 pm
2	Saturday	20-Jul	9:00 am
3	Saturday	20-Jul	11:00 am
4	Saturday	20-Jul	4:00 pm
5	Lord's Day	21-Jul	4:00 pm
6	Lord's Day	21-Jul	7:00 pm
7*	Friday	2-Aug	7:00 pm
8	Saturday	3-Aug	9:00 am
9	Saturday	3-Aug	11:00 am
10	Saturday	3-Aug	4:00 pm
11	Lord's Day	4-Aug	4:00 pm
12	Lord's Day	4-Aug	7:00 pm

Registration fee: \$46 (plus outlines)

Ministry of the Word: \$17 (will be available only at a later time)

Registration & more details:

<https://tinyurl.com/lsm2024-07vt>

Registration deadline: Friday, 12 July 2024 (a late fee of \$20 applies)

Notes:

1. The two open sessions, Messages 1 and 7 marked as * may be attended by any saints who did not register for the training.
2. Please pay training fee at <https://transact.polipay.co.nz/paynow/hhl1254121lsun> or pay by eftpos at the Church Office.