



The Church in 皮斯卡特维 *Piscataway* 召会周讯 Weekly News

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Excerpt from Ministry Reading (The LS of Deuteronomy chapter 15):

The Servants Who Would Not Go Forth from Their Masters Because They Loved Their Masters and Their Households Having Their Ears Run Through with an Awl and Being Servants Forever

"If he says to you, I will not go forth from you, because he loves you and your household, for it goes well with him to be with you; you shall take an awl and run it through his ear and into the door, and he shall be your servant forever; and thus also shall you do to your female servant" (vv. 16-17). This is an excellent type of us as slaves of the Lord Jesus. We love Him, we love His family, and, not wanting to leave Him, we tell Him that we want to remain in His service forever. Whenever we make such a free-will offering to the Lord Jesus, He will never reject it but will always accept it. Then He will run an "awl" through our "ear," representing us, and into the "door," representing God. The ear thus becomes one with the door, and there is much traffic between the ear and the door. From that time onward, our relationship with the Lord is one in which we have a listening ear. We are at the door, waiting to hear the voice of the Master and to serve Him.

All the full-timers have had their ears "awled" by the Lord. We may say that they have had their ears "nailed" to the doorpost. Now there is a hole in their ear. This hole is not for an earring (something for beautification) but for service, which requires a hearing ear. If we have a hearing ear, nothing will keep us away from our Master.

As the Slave of God, the Lord Jesus had His ear run through with an awl (Isa. 50:5). On His ear there was a hole, so between Him and God the Father, whom He served, there was a thorough traffic. The situation with us should be the same.

For a Hebrew servant to be his master's servant forever meant that he gave up his liberty and no longer had any freedom. At the end of six years, the servant was free to go, but once he decided to stay and had his ear run through with an awl, he would never again have the freedom to leave. I can testify that, as a servant of the Lord, I consider myself as having no freedom and no future. In a very real sense, I am "finished," for my ear has been nailed to the doorpost of my God. I hope that the young ones will have this kind of feeling about themselves and that they will say, "I belong to the Lord Jesus forever. My ear has been nailed to His doorpost, and I have given up my freedom."

Announcement:

1. Brother Water Gil de Rubio and sister Carole Hubler were baptized on Tuesday 2/18 at Piscataway meeting hall. May the Lord cover them and bless their Christian life. May we continue to have the burden of gospel preaching.
2. There is a churchwide Chinese-speaking gospel meeting from 6:00-8:30 PM on Saturday March 7 at the meeting hall. Please pray for the gospel meeting, invite friends and attend.
3. Sister Lan's memorial meeting will be held at Franklin meeting hall this afternoon at 2:30. Saints can attend to support the family.
4. Northeast Spanish-speaking Conference will be held on 3/13-3/15 at KPCC. The registration deadline is March 1st. Please fellowship with serving brothers if you would like to register.
5. District prayer meeting on the coming Tuesday 2/25 is scheduled at district pray meeting locations starting from 8 PM. We encourage the saints to separate time to attend.
6. Corporate book pursuit this week:
Life Study of Deuteronomy (Chapter 15~16).
7. Please continue to pray for the coronavirus epidemic globally. We also want to remind all the saints that during this period of time for gatherings in the meeting hall please refrain from handshaking and hugging (including kids). Please wash hands and use hand sanitizer frequently. Masks and gloves are still required for food serving saints.
8. Service schedule:

	2 / 23	3 / 1
Food	P4/5, BW	P7, HP
Cleaning	P2, P10	P4/5, BW

Prayer Burdens:

- 1. Churchwide Chinese-speaking Gospel Meeting 3/7-**
Pray that the Lord will burden all of us for the gospel. May we cooperate with the Lord by praying for our gospel friends and inviting them to the gospel meeting.
- 2. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) -**
 - A. Pray that the epidemic can be subdued soon globally and that the gospel can reach to more.
 - B. Pray that the Lord will protect all the saints and local churches from the virus and strength our faith in Him.
 - C. Pray that the Lord will preserve the normal church life here in Piscataway from any distraction from the disease.
- 3. 2/29 Sisters Blending Conference-**
 - A. Pray for the releasing and the receiving of the timely word to all the attending sisters.
 - B. Pray for the blending among the sisters, that through this gathering each one would be refreshed, encouraged, and strengthened to continue steadfastly in the church life.
 - C. Pray for the sufficient grace for husbands in watching over the children for the day, so that the wives can be released to join the blending.

Meeting Attendance:

Small Groups (2/14~15): 136
Lord's Table (2/16): 159
Prayer Meeting (2/18): 43

Testimonies on Godman Family Life

Testimony 1: Visiting The Saint's Homes



What does the church life mean to me? This was the question that I struggled to answer at the end of spring semester in 2019. 1 Peter 2:5 says: "You yourselves also, like living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house into a holy priesthood...". So the church is a type of house. But practically, how are we being built up? Even if we go to the Lord's Table meeting, the home meeting, and even the prayer meeting, week after week, is it enough to be built up as a house? Ephesians 4:16 says: "Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit

together through every joint of the rich supply, and through the operation of the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love." There are many saints we see at the Lord's Table meeting, but we don't really do much besides seeing them. We usually cluster ourselves with people in our small group, our district, and maybe once in a while, we talk to someone we do not know as well. I felt that there must be more joining and knitting than this.

Invite yourself over to the saints' homes. For dinner. Sunday night! I had heard this and knew there were many open homes, but for some reason, never did it. Maybe everyone else has had this same feeling. Maybe it's because in Chinese culture, we are held back by a formality that you don't invite yourself over to other people's house. If we hold rigorously to this formality in the church life, we will never get to know the saints.

I wanted to figure out for myself what the saints see that is so precious in the church life. I wanted to experience the church as my home, my family, and the Body of Christ, not just know about it. I wanted the saints to know how I was doing and how they were doing- not just "How was your week?", but "Tell me how you got to this point". I did not want to go through my college years not knowing the saints around my campus and have to wait for a big conference or the Full-Time Training to see something! I didn't want opportunities to slip away.

For my peers, the first time asking is always awkward, but if your will and desire to see more of the church life is more than your feelings of awkwardness, then you will be able to ask. Ask now as a college student because it only gets more awkward the older you get. Until you sit down and talk with the saints in a family dinner setting, you will only know the church as your family, that the Lord can heal your heart, that the doubts you have are the same doubts as the saints who have gone before you. I hope that none of my peers at the end of this spring semester will feel so lonely when surrounded by so many saints as I did last year. But even if you do, then it might just be that the Lord wants you to try something new

Testimony 2: Married Couple Praying Together

When getting married, I prayed my spouse would be my best spiritual companion. I remember an older brother once shared that he and his wife could live a Jesusly human life eating dinner at one moment, then at another be able to sense a need and immediately stop to pray warfare prayers together. As a couple, I sometimes felt it was difficult to pray with my spouse due to some unresolved offenses, mild discontent, or simply lack of desire to turn to the Lord. Recently, my husband and I have been practicing to pray together more frequently, often spontaneously in the middle of a car ride, conversation, or just before bedtime, both for ourselves and for other saints. Our praying together has become quite enjoyable, normal, and often a salvation even to ourselves. Praise the Lord! May we continue to learn how to live and pray in the Lord together as a couple/family all the days of our lives for His glorious economy. (PL)