

# Weekly Announcements for the churches in McKinney, Plano & Richardson

<http://www.churchinplano.org/weeklynews>

**January 31, 2016 571**

• **The Holy Word for Morning Revival**

**THE CHURCH AS THE TEMPLE OF GOD — THE GOAL OF GOD’S ETERNAL ECONOMY**

Message Five    The Way Christ Builds the Church as the Temple of God

• **Bible One-Year Reading Schedule:**

	Lord’s Day	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
O.T. One-year reading schedule	Ezra 1: 1~ 2: 70	3: 1~ 6: 22	7: 1~ 8: 36	9: 1~ 10: 44	Neh.1: 1~ 2: 20	3: 1~ 4: 23	5: 1~ 6: 14
N.T. One-year reading schedule	1Cor. 1: 1~ 9	1: 10~ 31	2: 1~ 16	3: 1~ 13	3: 14~ 4: 9	4: 10~ 5: 13	6: 1~ 16

• **Announcements**

- The monthly children’s service fellowship for Churches in Plano and Richardson will be held in small meeting hall today (1/ 31) starting at 12:00 pm and lunch will be provided there.
- The Plano Chinese-speaking sisters' monthly meeting will be held on 2/6 (Saturday) at 10:00am in room 215 of the Plano meeting hall. Please encourage each other to attend.
- The 2016 International Chinese-Speaking Conference will be held from 2/12-14 in Anaheim, CA. Those who are going need to register regardless hospitality is needed or not.
- Due to the International Chinese-Speaking Conference, the Richardson Chinese-speaking sisters' meeting for February will be postponed to 2/20.
- Saints from the Richardson Chinese-speaking District are scheduled to clean up the Plano meeting hall after lunch today.

• **Regular Meetings**

Date	Time	Meeting	Place
Lord's Day	04:00PM	McKinney English Speaking PSRP	McKinney meeting hall
	04:00PM	Chinese Speaking PSRP Preview	Plano meeting hall
Wednesday	10:00AM	Chinese Speaking Sisters	Plano meeting hall
	11:30AM	McKinney Sisters' Prayer Meeting	McKinney meeting hall
	07:30PM	Prayer and Service (McKinney)	McKinney meeting hall
	07:30PM	Prayer and Service	Plano meeting hall
	07:30PM	Prayer and Service (Richardson)	Plano meeting hall
Thursday	10:00AM	English Speaking Sisters	Plano meeting hall
	10:00AM	Chinese Speaking Sisters (Richardson)	Sister Shu-Fen Liao’s house
Saturday	09:30AM	English Speaking PSRP	Plano meeting hall
	06:30PM	Young People	Plano meeting hall

• **Upcoming Events**

Date	Meeting	Location
02/12 – 02/14	2016 International Chinese-Speaking Conference	Anaheim, CA
04/08 – 04/10	2016 Spring International Elders and Responsible Ones Training	Anaheim, CA
05/27 – 05/30	2016 Memorial Day Conference	Washington, D.C.
07/04 – 07/09	2016 Summer Training	Anaheim, CA

• **Offerings Received for Richardson Meeting Hall (RMH):**

	Estimated Cost	Received as of 1/24/2016
Richardson Meeting Hall	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,687,959.04

• **Prayer**

- Pray for the UTD and CC campus work and RSG with the new students at UTD.
- Pray for saints to enter into and enjoy of the word of God and to function at the Lord’s Day meeting.
- Pray for the need of the YP serving saints.
- Pray for more saints (particularly working saints) to be released to attend the prayer meeting.
- Pray for saints to be formed into prayer, Bible study, and gospel vital groups.
- Pray for the specific needs for individual, group or district saints.
- Pray that the Lord would supply the saints and the full-timers to carry out the overwhelming task of following-up the Recovery Version recipients through phone calls, seminars, and personal visits.
- Pray for financial needs of building Richardson meeting hall.

• **Home Meeting and Lord’s Day Attendance Record of Last Week**

Group	1	2	4	5	6	7	8	3	9	10	Senior	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	K1	Total	UTD	Wed. Prayer	LD Children	Lord’s Day									
Richardson	12	17	15					7			21		36					270	0	35		107									
Plano	12	7	7	9	7	5	11	23	7				20	19	18		6			72	49	198									
McKinney	FE1				ME1			ME2			MS1		11		AE1					14		46									
LD Dist.	P1	34	P2	25	P3	35	P4	84	ME	46	RC	52	RE	45	NB		Pray Dist.	P1	12	P2	8	P3	21	P4	31	ME	14	RC	20	RE	15

## **THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW YEAR (continue)**

### **EVERY DAY, MONTH, AND YEAR BEING A NEW BEGINNING**

In our spiritual life we have spiritual days, months, and years. In the Old Testament God charged the children of Israel to keep the passover before leaving Egypt. This was a great beginning. He wanted them to consider the month of Abib, the first month, to be the beginning of months, the first of the months of the year (Exo. 12:1-2; 34:18). The Israelites kept the passover as a new beginning; it was not a small beginning but a great beginning. Because of this beginning, they were able to serve God according to an order of worship in the tabernacle. The book of Numbers also speaks of “the beginnings of your months,” which refers to times set according to new moons (10:10; 28:11). A new moon is a lesser beginning. The beginning of a year is a great beginning, whereas the beginning of a month is a lesser beginning. God also required the Israelites to worship daily in the morning and at night (Lev. 6:9, 12). The beginning of a day is a small beginning. The days, months, and years of the Israelites were full of spiritual significance. When we are saved, we experience the reality of the passover, which is a great and new beginning. Thereafter, God desires that we have a new beginning every month and even a new beginning every day.

When I was saved by the Lord’s grace, I truly experienced the Feast of the Passover. At that time I had an earnest desire to pursue the Lord, read the Word, preach the gospel, and offer material things. However, as men, we are weak, and even though I had such a desire, I was not successful in practice. Instead, I failed frequently. As I look back at my life during those years, I feel as though I was short in reading the Word, poor in prayer, loose in preaching the gospel, and unfaithful in material offerings. Many times it seemed as if I had reached the end of a month marked by a waning and even a disappearing moon. Yet, amazingly, at these very moments a new spiritual moon would arrive. I was able to let the previous experiences pass and begin again as if it were the first day of a new month. From the first day of this new moon, my reading of the Word was fresh, my prayer was enjoyable, and my zeal for preaching the gospel was stirred up again. I was in the enjoyment of the shining of a new spiritual moon. This shining would last for several weeks, as if my experience, like the moon, were rising to the full. However, a full moon does not last very long; it was not uncommon to lose this sense of fullness in my spiritual pursuit. Consequently, at a certain point and often for no apparent reason, I would not feel like getting out of bed. I also would lose my desire to read the Bible, my strength for prayer, and my interest in preaching the gospel. This was the waning of my spiritual moon. After eight or ten days in this condition, it would seem as if the moon had disappeared completely. Rather than light, I had a sense only of darkness. Even in the midst of this discouragement, however, there would be the coming of a new moon. Then, once again, I would feel like getting up in the morning, reading the Bible, praying, and preaching the gospel. I believe that we all have had such experiences related to a spiritual new moon.

In addition to the experience of a new month, we also have experiences of a new day. For example, we may hear a message on the Lord’s Day encouraging us to rise up early in the morning to draw near to the Lord, to read His Word, and to fellowship with Him. After hearing such a message, we may be touched throughout the day and look forward to the coming of the next morning. Consequently, we will rise up early the next day in order to have morning watch and to draw near to the Lord. As a result of this morning watch, we enjoy an overcoming life the whole day without a failure. With such an encouraging experience, we again rise up early the next morning to have fresh prayer and sweet fellowship with the Lord. Even though we may experience no failure in the morning, a little carelessness may cause us to lose our temper in a small way in the afternoon. Because of this little failure, we will be somewhat depressed and discouraged when we return home. Nevertheless, after resting at night we can have a new beginning when we rise up in the morning. We can pray to the Lord and fellowship with Him so that the brightness of His shining may rise up in us once again. This is the experience of a new day.

In spiritual matters we all experience new days, new months, and new years. The beginning of the approaching lunar year should not point us only toward a new day or a new month but to the beginning of a new spiritual year. We should have more than a new day or a new month; we should also have the experience of a new year. Regrettably, many Christians celebrate a new calendar year every year, but they never enter into a new spiritual year. Many Christians have been saved five, ten, or even twenty years, and at the end of a year they buy food and new clothes, put their houses in order, and close their business in preparation for the new year. While they celebrate the new year, they do not prepare themselves for a new year spiritually. Thus, there is no proper ending, no new preparation, and hence, no new beginning.

### **KEEPING A SPIRITUAL NEW YEAR BEFORE GOD**

At the end of the year, some saints not only enter into a new calendar year but also into a new spiritual beginning. At the end of the year and at the beginning of a new year, they go before God to review and settle their condition before God from the passing year. Just as a businessman settles his account at the end of the year, we should review our spiritual account before God. If we balance only our outward account but not our inward account, we will enter into a new calendar year but not into a new spiritual year.

I hope that from this year forward every saint will have a proper spiritual conclusion to a passing year and a proper beginning of a new spiritual year. Not only should we have a conclusion related to outward matters, such as our career, our education, and our domestic affairs, but even more, we should have a conclusion in regard to spiritual matters. At the end of a year, we need to go before God and settle the accounts related to our spiritual condition. We need to consider before the Lord how we have spent our time and the things in which we failed and in which we overcame. We need to consider the areas in which we responded to the Lord’s demands and in which we rejected the Lord’s will. We need to bring our spiritual condition before the Lord in order to settle accounts and have a proper clearance so that we can have a new beginning. (to be continued)