

Weekly Announcements for the churches in McKinney, Plano & Richardson

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

January 24, 2016 570

• **The Holy Word for Morning Revival**

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

Message Four The Economy of God, the Temple of God, and the High Peak of the Divine Revelation

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

	Lord’s Day	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
O.T. One-year reading schedule	2Chron. 12: 1~ 15: 19	16: 1~ 19: 11	20: 1~ 22: 12	23: 1~ 26: 23	27: 1~ 29: 36	30: 1~ 32: 33	33: 1~ 36: 23
N.T. One-year reading schedule	Rom. 11: 1~ 36	12: 1~ 8	12: 9~ 13: 14	14: 1~ 23	15: 1~ 24	15: 25~ 16: 16	16: 17~ 27

• **Announcements**

- The monthly children’s service fellowship for Churches in Plano and Richardson will be held in small meeting hall next Lord’s Day (1/ 31) starting at 12:00 pm and lunch will be provided there.
- The 2016 International Chinese-Speaking Conference will be held from 2/12-14 in Anaheim, CA.
- The saints in Plano District Four are scheduled to clean up 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 1/17/2016
Richardson Meeting Hall	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,680,479.04

• **Prayer**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
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• **Home Meeting and Lord’s Day Attendance Record of Last Week**

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Senior	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	K1	Total	UTD	Wed. Prayer	LD Children	Lord’s Day			
Richardson	9	10	7	14							17	15	20					315	0	29		0			
Plano	11	7	18	4	15	12	10	9	3	12			25	13	46		8			74	62	321			
McKinney	FE1		A72	ME1		A72	ME2				MS1	A72	AE1				19					61			
LD Dist.	P1	P2	P3	P4	ME	61	RC	RE	NB		Pray Dist.	P1	18	P2	8	P3	18	P4	30	ME	19	RC	15	RE	14

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW YEAR

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:14, 16; Jer. 8:7, 20; Mal. 4:2; Col. 2:16-17; Rev. 21:5, 23; 22:2; Ezra 7:9; 8:21, 23

THE VISIBLE BODY SPEAKING FORTH THE INVISIBLE CONTENT

Although all the countries in the world use the Gregorian calendar, that is, the so-called solar calendar, those who study calendars acknowledge that the Chinese lunar calendar is more compatible with the seasons of the year. For example, spring begins during the first month of the lunar calendar; it can be said that the beginning of the lunar calendar marks the beginning of a year. This beginning, like all the visible and physical things created by God in the universe, has spiritual significance. Behind everything that is visible and physical, there is something that is invisible and spiritual. For example, every person has a body, but the purpose of our body is to contain the human life. The body is tangible and visible, but the life within the body is intangible and invisible. Although there are both visible and invisible aspects of man, the reality of a man is determined by what is invisible. When a person dies, his spirit and soul depart, but his visible body remains. Nevertheless, everyone knows that a person is no longer with us when he dies, even though his body remains. The reality of a man does not depend on what is visible and tangible but on what is invisible and intangible.

Similarly, all the systems in the universe have outward forms and inward contents; the forms are visible, whereas the contents are invisible. The outward, visible forms speak of the inward, invisible contents. In the universe some of the systems include the sun and the moon, and other systems relate to time. There are three hundred and sixty-five days in a year, thirty days in a month, and twenty-four hours in a day. Many people know that these systems of time are related to astronomy, and they even speak of how the times and seasons affect living things in creation. However, if we ask the ones who knew these things to speak of how the inward and invisible matters relate to these systems, they will be perplexed because they can see only the outward forms. They cannot comprehend the operation of the inward contents.

By studying the Word of God, in the first chapter of Genesis we can see that God created light-bearers, including the sun and the moon, for signs, for seasons, and for days and years (v. 14). At the end of the Bible, Revelation 21:23 says, "The city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb." Neither the sun nor the moon will be needed in the New Jerusalem, because God will be the light, and the Lamb will be the lamp. Hence, there will be no need for the shining of the sun or of the moon. This indicates that days, months, and years, as well as seasons, are depictions of things that pertain to God. The sun and the moon are mere symbols, outward forms, but the inner reality is Christ. Even before we come to the end of the Bible, there is a word of promise concerning Christ at the end of the Old Testament, which says, "Unto you...will the Sun of righteousness arise" (Mal. 4:2). Since there is a sun in the heavens, we need to ask why there would be a need for the appearing of another sun. Those who know God will be able to answer that the sun in the heavens is an outward form that serves as a symbol of the invisible Sun, which is Christ. Christ is the light of the people in the world (John 1:4). People can truly touch light only when they touch Christ. Therefore, days, months, years, and seasons are symbols that have a mysterious content, which is Christ Himself.

DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS BEING OPPORTUNITIES PREPARED BY GOD

Why did God order the universe according to days, months, and years? Scientists tell us that the existence and growth of living things, whether plants or animals, are regulated by the cycles of days, months, and years. God has ordained days, months, and years for the existence and growth of living things. Anyone who has ever lived in northern China is aware of the fact that the time for planting and sowing is in the spring of every year. If the planting and sowing of seed are not accomplished during the spring, a farmer will say, "Let us wait until next year to plant our seed." If the time span of the universe consisted of one long day, there would be only one opportunity for life to exist and grow. Thus, if there were existence and growth during this period of time, there would be existence and growth, but if there were a failure to exist and grow, there would not be another opportunity for life to exist and grow. Thankfully, God has prepared and ordained numerous opportunities in the universe, not just one opportunity. If we experience a failure during one year, there will be another year. If our work is not successful this year, we can start again next year.

This is true not only in matters related to living things; it is true even in matters related to business, education, and a career. If we have not done well in our business this year, we can start again in the coming year. If we fail an exam this year, we do not have to be discouraged, because we can study more and take another exam next year. If we experience some failure in our career this year, we should not worry, because a new year is coming. We would not have much hope if the time frame of the universe consisted of one long year. Then those who failed in business or failed a college exam would not have another chance. Thankfully, this is not our situation, because there is always an opportunity next year, and if we are not discouraged, we can take advantage of the coming opportunity. The opportunity for a new beginning is related to God's good pleasure.

In God's arrangement we have opportunities not only from one year to the next but also from one month to the next. Merchants must make both yearly and monthly statements. They reconcile their accounts at the end of each year and at the end of each month. If business has not been good, there is always the hope that next year it will be better. Furthermore, God gives us opportunities not only year after year and month after month but also day after day. It is truly wonderful that we have a new opportunity every twenty-four hours. If we do not do well today, we can start again tomorrow. If we fail today, we can rest for a night and have a new opportunity in the morning. Days, months, and years are truly meaningful. Most living things grow day by day, month by month, and year by year. Human beings are no exception to this rule.

All these outward matters speak of spiritual matters. God is our sun and our light-bearer. We depend on Him for our existence and for our growth in life. He is constantly presenting us with opportunities to grow. Being defeated in a certain matter does not mean that we will have no further opportunities to overcome. According to the changing of days, months, and years, God gives us new opportunities every day, every month, and every year.

(to be continued)