



# The Church in Regina Weekly Newsletter

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**“The Church is a Corporate Thornbush Burning with the Triune God of Resurrection”**

## Meeting Schedule

Lord's Table Meeting - Lord's Day  
 - YWCA 9:30 - 11:30 AM  
 Prayer Meeting, - Tuesday & Wednesday  
 - Saints Homes 8:30 - 9:30 PM  
 Small Group Meeting - Saturday evening  
 - Saints Homes  
 Young People's Meeting - Fridays  
 - Bro. Hendrick's House 7:00-9:00PM

## Upcoming Activities

June 2015 - YP conference, June 14  
 - Love Feast, June 14  
 July 2015 - Love Feast, July 12  
 - Children's Fun Day,  
 July 12 at Wascana Park

## Church Building

God's economy in faith is His household economy, His household administration, which is to dispense Himself in Christ into His chosen people that He may have a house to express Himself, which house is the church, the Body of Christ

## Seven Annual Feasts

1. International Chinese-speaking Conference - Taipei, Taiwan  
February 21-22, 2015
2. International Training for elders and Responsible Ones - Anaheim, CA  
March 27-29, 2015
3. Memorial Day Conference - St Louis, MO  
May 22-25, 2015
4. Summer Training - Anaheim, CA  
June 29 - July 4, 2015
5. ITERO - Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil  
October 1-3, 2015
6. Thanksgiving Conference  
Jacksonville, FL  
November 26-29, 2015
7. Winter Training - Anaheim, California  
Dec. 21-26, 2015

## THE STATUS OF THE CHURCH

### A. The Assembly

The Greek word translated “church” is ekklesia, composed of two words: ek, out, and kaleo, called. Put together, these two words mean a called out congregation or an assembly of the called ones. Hence, according to the literal sense of the word, the church is the assembly of **those called out of the world by God**. As the assembly, the church is separated entirely for God so that He may have a means to carry out His eternal purpose.

### B. The House of God

As God's dwelling place, the church is both God's house and His household, His family. This second characteristic is a matter not merely of separation but of a spiritual, divine birth. In order to be the **assembly**, **we need to be sanctified**, that is, separated from the world. But to be a component of the **house of God**, **we need to be born of God**. Anyone who has not been born of God cannot be part of His house, part of His family.

### C. The Kingdom of God

Ephesians 2:19 says, “You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God.” The term “fellow citizens” indicates the kingdom of God. All the believers, both Jewish and Gentile, are citizens of God's kingdom, which is a sphere wherein God exercises His authority. As long as anyone is a believer, he is a citizen of the kingdom of God. This citizenship involves rights and responsibilities, two things that always go together. **We enjoy the rights of the kingdom, and we bear the responsibilities of the kingdom.**

### D. The Body of Christ

Ephesians 1:22 and 23 reveal that the church is the Body of Christ. “He subjected all things under His feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.” The church is not an organization but **an organic Body constituted of all the believers, who have been regenerated and have God's life**, for the expression of the Head. The Body is the fullness of the Head, and the fullness is the expression of the Head. Christ, as the One who fills all in all, needs the Body to be His fullness. This Body is His church to be His expression.

### E. The Counterpart of Christ

In his exhortation in Ephesians 5:22-33, Paul presents the church as the counterpart of Christ. This reveals that the church is actually a part of Christ, for the church comes out of Christ and is unto Christ, just as Eve came out of Adam and was unto Adam (Gen. 2:21-23). The church as the counterpart of Christ implies satisfaction and rest in love. The church is not merely a gathering of God's called ones. The church, as Christ's counterpart, is a **satisfaction and rest to Christ in love.**

### F. The New Man

Ephesians 2:15 says, “Having abolished in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, making peace.” Ephesians 4:24 says, “And have put on the new man, which according to God was created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” The church is not just an assembly of believers, a kingdom of heavenly citizens, a household of God's children, nor even a Body for Christ. In an even higher aspect, the church is the new man to accomplish God's eternal purpose. The emphasis on the church being **the Body of Christ is on life**, whereas the emphasis on the church being **the new man is on the person**. As the Body of Christ, the church needs Christ as its life. As the new man, the church needs Christ as its person. Hence, in the new man we need to take Christ as our person. The new man as a corporate person should live a life as Jesus lived on earth, that is, a life of truth, expressing God and causing God to be realized as reality by man.

### G. The Golden Lampstands

One of the crucial symbols in the Bible is that of the lampstands. Revelation 1:12 says, “I turned to see the voice that spoke with me; and having turned I saw seven golden lampstands.” In the Bible the golden lampstand is revealed in three stages. The first is in Exodus 25, where the lampstand typifies Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God. The second is in Zechariah 4:2, where the lampstand represents the **children of Israel** who are in the position of receiving grace. The third is in Revelation 1, where the golden lampstand is **the church**. **The churches as golden lampstands will be consummated in the New Jerusalem.** The New Jerusalem, the holy city, is the aggregate of all the lampstands.

(The Conclusion of the New Testament (Msgs. 207-220))

**Prayer burden**

1. Lord, our heart is full of thanks to You. We know that we are a **thornbush**, related to the curse, nevertheless, You, the God of blessing is dwelling in us, dealing us, to undergo the process of transformation to become Your **dwelling place in eternity**.
2. Lord, we care for the genuine experience of **transformation**. Give us the consciousness that we are under Your divine burning, the burning that transforms us and makes us dispositionally different from the worldly people. Burn Your divine element into our nature until we **become a man of God**.
3. Lord, we boldly declare that we have seen the vision of the burning bush, and no one can change us and cannot turn away from the vision of the church in Your economy. Continue to dispense Yourself into us so that we may **become Your expression**.
4. Lord we praise for the church. We declare that **the church is lovely**, it is Your house, filled with Your glory.
5. We are also full of faith and declare that we are in resurrection because You are the great I Am, the **God of the living**, dwelling in us and we enjoy You.
6. Pray for the church in **Regina**. Pray for the **Bible distribution** in September at the University of Regina. Pray for the upcoming conferences - Camping in Saskatoon, Summer training, and College Training in Chicago.
7. Pray for Michael and Melissa Bearce a couple from **Williston, North Dakota, USA**. They are inviting believers to meet once a month to worship the Lord together outside denominations.

*The Church is Glorious: it is a Corporate Thornbush Indwelt by the Triune God! The Thornbush is Gradually Sanctified and Transformed to Become God's Dwelling Place. We are a Redeemed Thornbush with the Triune God of Resurrection Burning Within Us*

**This Week's Pursuit: Crystallization-Study of Exodus (1)**

**The Corporate Thornbush**

Scripture Reading: Deut. 33:1, 16; Exo. 3:2-6a; 1 Tim. 3:15-16; Luke 12:49- 50; Acts 2:2-4

**I. In the eyes of God, Moses was a thornbush burning with the Triune God (cf. Deut. 33:1, 16); as individuals, we all are today's Moses, but we are also a part of the church as the corporate thornbush (cf. 1 Tim. 3:15-16):**

When God called Moses, he saw the great sight of a burning thornbush; once we were thorns under the curse in Genesis 3, but in Exodus 3 we are a redeemed thornbush; this burning thornbush is both the children of Israel in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament.

**II. God's ultimate goal is to obtain a dwelling place; this means that God's eternal purpose is to build up His habitation:**

In Genesis we have the **revelation** of the house of God at Bethel, but we do not have the **actual building** of the house of God. At the beginning of Exodus God dwelt in the **thornbush**, but at the end of the book He dwelt in the **tabernacle**. The tabernacle with the Ark thus became the focal point of the history of the children of Israel; eventually, the tabernacle was enlarged into the **temple**.

The Lord Jesus came both as God's tabernacle and as God's temple; the church today is also the temple of God; ultimately, this temple will consummate in the New Jerusalem, which will be both God's tabernacle and God's temple in eternity.

Both the thornbush and the tabernacle are symbols; God's actual dwelling place was neither the physical thornbush nor the tabernacle; it was His people. After the children of Israel had been dealt with by God, they became acacia wood overlaid with gold and also linen embroidered with gold thread; the church today is the fulfillment of this type. At present, the church may be a redeemed thornbush; however, the day is coming when we shall be gold, pearl, and precious stone.

**III. Because of God's redemption, the excluding flame of Genesis 3 has become the visiting and indwelling flame of Exodus 3—Gen. 3:24; Exo. 3:2-3; Gal. 3:13-14; Rom. 12:11; 2 Tim. 1:6-7:**

The thorns in Genesis 3 indicate that fallen man is under a curse. Sin brought in the curse, and the curse brought in the excluding flame of fire. In Exodus 3 the cursed thorn becomes the vessel of God, and the flame of fire becomes one with the thornbush. Through redemption, signified by the lamb slain and offered to God for fallen man, the curse has been taken away, and the fire has become one with the thorn. Galatians 3:13 and 14 reveal that the redeeming Christ has taken away the curse and that the Spirit as the fire has been given to us. The very God Himself, the Holy One whose holiness excludes sinners from His presence, can come to visit us, stay with us, and even dwell in us through the redemption of Christ.

**IV. The church is a corporate thornbush burning with the God of resurrection:**

The children of Israel were a corporate thornbush; as such a thornbush, they were redeemed, sanctified, transformed, and built up; this is a type of the church as a corporate thornbush. Do not say that the church is poor, low, or dead; the more you say this, the more you put yourself under a curse, but if you praise the Lord for the church life and speak well concerning it, you will put yourself under God's blessing. From the time that Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem until now, every nation, people, race, or individual who has cursed the Jewish people has received a curse, and whoever has blessed the Jewish people has received a blessing, it is the same with our attitude toward the church—if we curse the church, we will be cursed, but **if we bless the church, we will be blessed**.

In spite of all the division, sin, confusion, abuse of gifts, and heretical teaching in the church in Corinth, the apostle still called it the church of God because the divine and spiritual essence which makes the assembled believers the church of God was actually there. Being a corporate thornbush as God's dwelling place today is a matter altogether in resurrection. **The church is Christly, resurrectionly, and heavenly**. Resurrection is the life pulse and lifeline of the divine economy. Our labor for the Lord in His resurrection life with His resurrection power will never be in vain, but will result in the fulfilling of God's eternal purpose through the preaching of Christ to sinners, the ministering of life to the saints, and the building up of the church with the experiences of the processed Triune God as gold, silver, and precious stones. Individually we are a thornbush, and together we are a corporate thornbush burning with the God of resurrection; this is a picture of the church life today.

WEEK	LORD'S TABLE ATTENDANCE	PRAYER MEETING	YP MEETING	GROUP / HOME MEETING	OFFERING
May 18 - May 23, 2015	22	11	11	17	\$140.00
May 24 - May 30, 2015	22	11	10		\$135.00