

Church in Regina Newsletter

Meeting Place: 3860 Buckingham Drive E, Regina, SK, Canada S4V 3A1

Psalms 86:5, "For You, O Lord, are good and ready to forgive And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You."

Church Address:

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Contact Numbers:

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Meeting Schedule:

Lord's Table Meeting

Lord's Day
10:00AM to 12:00PM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Saints Homes
8:00PM to 9:00PM

YP Meeting

Fridays
7:00PM to 9:00PM
Brother Hedrick's Place

Small/Home Meeting

Friday Evening
Saint's Home

Seven Annual Feasts

1. International Chinese-speaking Conference, Anaheim, CA: February 17-19, 2017
2. International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (Spring) Anaheim, CA, USA: Mar 31 to Apr. 2, 2017
3. Memorial Day Conference New York, NY: May 26-29, 2017
4. **Summer Training** Anaheim, CA: July 3-8, 2017
5. International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (Fall) Leipzig, Germany: October 5-7, 2017
6. Thanksgiving Conference Phoenix AZ: November 23-26, 2017

What is the Recovery Version?

The Recovery Version New Testament is a new translation of the ancient Greek text, executed according to the principles set by the major English versions of the last four centuries. The translation, for the most part based on the 26th edition of the **Nestle-Aland Greek** text, is a literal yet readable rendition of the original language of the New Testament. Accompanying the text are extensive **footnotes** written by Witness Lee. Unlike typical study notes that focus on the historical, geographical, and biographical background of the Bible, the footnotes in the Recovery Version New Testament stress the **spiritual content of God's Word**, opening up the revelation of the divine truth and pointing to the supply of life in the Scriptures.

At the beginning of each book there is an **outline** that provides an in-depth abstract of the book. These outlines emphasize the **spiritual meaning** of the New Testament books and provide a new, fresh, and living view of every book.

Throughout the text of the Recovery Version are **cross references** to other portions of the Bible that are similar not only in expression but also in the divine truth. These provide the reader a thorough examination of every major aspect of the truth and of every important experience of the proper Christian and church life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. We have a **love feast** today.
2. After the love feast, we have our **children's fun day**. The children will be swimming at Sandra Schmirler. We will be meeting at 2pm.
3. The registration for the **Edmonton Conference** will be due on July 9, 2017. The conference will be held at the Edmonton Mtg. Hall on July 21-23.
4. Today will be **Sister Susan's** last Lord's Day here in Regina. She will be going back to Italy and we are asking the brothers and sisters to pray for her permanent residence application to be approved as soon as possible.

Upcoming Activities:

- ▶ June 11, 2017 - Love Feast and Children's Fun Day
- ▶ June 25, 2017 - Brother's Meeting
- ▶ July 07, 2017 - Young People's Big Event
- ▶ July 09, 2017 - Love Feast

What is the Lord's Recovery?

... all the believers were called saints in the New Testament (Acts 9:41; 26:10; Rom. 15:26), but today few believers consider themselves as saints. Our position and standing before God is always that of sanctified ones—saints—who are being transformed to ultimately match Him in life and nature. How helpful this is to us and how uplifting to our daily Christian life if we know that we are the saints of God, who are being changed into His likeness.

Throughout the centuries the Lord has recovered many truths concerning His economy among men. Since Martin Luther's time particularly, this recovery has been steady and progressive. From justification by faith, recovered in Luther's day, to the truth and experience of the church as the Body of Christ, seen and enjoyed by many Christians today, this recovery has been the **"golden thread"** that **binds the church across time**. These recovered truths are the **heritage** of every believer and should be held and enjoyed by every believer today.

The Recovery Version New Testament brings together in one volume all these great matters of the Lord's recovery of the truth and experience of the Christian life. No genuine seeker and lover of the Lord should be without this compendium of His recovery of the truth.

This Weeks's Pursuit: THE CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF EZEKIEL (1) - Message 3

The Four Living Creatures

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 1:5-6, 10, 26

PRAYER BURDEN

“those who wait on Jehovah will renew their strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and will not faint; They will walk and will not become weary”

1. Lord, we praise You that You have made us **alive** through the blowing “wind”, the overshadowing “cloud”, the burning “fire”, producing electrum as Your manifestation and making us **living creatures**.

2. Lord, create in us a deep sense of **feeling**, an inner **sense of life**, that we may live a life that glorify You and that will please You; and make us very **active** and **vibrant** in our spiritual activities.

3. Lord, open our eyes to see how glorious and how marvelous it is that we are men that will express You, make us realize that Your glorious beauty is manifested through Your **humanity** with its **lowliness** and **tenderness**.

4. Lord, thank You for Your **redemption** and **salvation** bringing us back to the beginning and to recover us to being a **proper man**, to make us the means of Your **manifestation**, the means of Your **move**, and the means of Your **administration**.

5. Lord, as we bear the “**face of a man**” make us simply a man according to Your **humanity**; as we bear the “**face of a lion**” make us bold and **reigning** over anything sinful and worldly; having the “**face of an ox**” make us willing to **bear burden** to do work and **sacrifice** ourselves; we also need the “**face of an eagle**” causing us to have an expression of **buoyancy** and **transcendence**.

6. Please pray for the churches throughout **Canada** and for the **strengthening** of every locality for the spread of the church life and the **establishment** of golden lampstands in many potential cities.

7. Lord, build the us with Your divine life, a life that is indestructible, **unconquerable** that **cannot be held** by anything, nothing can suppress us and to depress us.

Lord, remember the church in **Regina**:

- to portray the life of Christ corporately
- the Life-Study readings
- Summer School of Truth
- Sister Berly going to the FTTA
- Sister Karen Bodemer and family

I. When we experience God as the blowing wind, the overshadowing cloud, the burning fire, and the glowing electrum, we become the four living creatures, a corporate entity expressing Christ (Ezek. 1:5-6):

In the Bible the number four is related to God’s creation and signifies man as God’s creature, it indicates that we are the people redeemed from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. They are regarded as a group; and counted as a single entity.

II. The more we experience the cycle of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, the more living we become (1:18; John 6:51; cf. Psa. 95:1-2):

Through the experience of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, we, who were dead, have been enlivened to become living creatures. If we continue to experience the cycle of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, we will become living and vibrant in our inner being.

There is a twofold proof by which we can know that we are living creatures: The **inward proof** is the sense of life in our regenerated spirit. The **outward proof** is that we engage in a number of spiritual activities: The first of these activities is prayer, reading the Bible, functioning in the meetings, serving God, and preaching the gospel. Every time we meet the Lord as the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum, our inner being will be made alive, and we will become vital believers—those who are living and active.

III. The four living creatures bear the appearance of a man and are the corporate expression of the man on the throne (Ezek. 1:5, 26):

The fact that the four living creatures bear the likeness of a man and that God on the throne also bears the appearance of a man indicates that God’s central thought and His arrangement are related to man. We need to have a proper appreciation of the Lord’s humanity, and we need to see how marvelous it is that we are men.

In the Bible there are actually only four men: the first man, the second man, the new man, and the man-child; we were the first man; Christ is called the second man; we have become the new man by regeneration; and now there is the prospect that we may become the man-child .

The Christ whom the church must express is the man on the throne. It is man who fulfills God’s plan, it is man who expresses God, it is man who defeats the enemy, and it is man who brings the kingdom of God into the human race; God needs a man.

In Ezekiel 1 there are three crucial matters concerning the four living creatures’ bearing the appearance of a man:

- ▶The living creatures are the means for God to **manifest** His glory; apart from their bearing the appearance of a man, God’s glory cannot be manifested.
- ▶The living creatures are the means for God to **move** on the earth; God’s move depends on them.
- ▶The living creatures are the means for God to **administrate** on the throne.

God’s throne, the center of His administration, dominates everything on earth and everything recorded in Ezekiel. Because the living creatures bear the appearance of a man, there is the administration of God’s throne. **Man is the means of God’s manifestation, man is the means of God’s move, and man is the means of God’s administration.**

IV. The four living creatures have four faces (Ezek. 1:6a, 10):

The face of a man indicates that the living creatures live in a proper humanity, the humanity of Jesus: The glorious beauty of the Lord Jesus is manifested in His humanity. The Lord’s salvation is to make us proper human beings. The more spiritual we become, the more normal, ordinary, and human we will be. We need to be human not by our natural humanity but by the humanity of Jesus; this is to be “Jesusly human.”

The face of a lion signifies boldness, vigor, strength, victory, and reigning. If toward sin, the world, and Satan we are bold like lions, God will be able to establish His reign through us.

The face of an ox signifies one who is willing to labor, to bear the burden, and to sacrifice himself. We all need to express the reality of serving others, of bearing responsibility, and of sacrificing our life.

WEEK	LORD’S TABLE MEETING	PRAYER MEETING	YP MEETING	HOME MEETING	OFFERING
May 28 - June 03, 2017	20	10	11	7	\$240.00
June 04 - June 10, 2017	23	13	8	12	\$470.00

The face of an eagle signifies the powerful, buoyant, transcendent God. As believers in Christ, we have God's life within us; this life is transcendent and causes us to have an expression of buoyancy and transcendence:

We have the divine and almighty capacity to express God in every human situation. We are indestructible, unconquerable, and invincible for the carrying out of God's economy. We need to be like an eagle, not allowing anything to hold us, to suppress us, or to depress us; this means that we should be able to overcome both persecution and praise.

V. The four living creatures are a corporate, fourfold expression of Christ, living out the life of Christ in a corporate way (Ezek. 1:10):

The four living creatures with their four faces signify a coordinated, corporate entity, the corporate Christ as the corporate expression of God among human beings. The four faces of the living creatures correspond to the four Gospels: Matthew—Christ as a lion, the King of God's kingdom; Mark—Christ as an ox, the Servant of God; Luke—Christ as a man, the Man-Savior; John—Christ as an eagle, the very God. They are a corporate entity expressing Christ in a complete way, exactly as He was in His living on earth.

“One Life-Study a Day Makes One Holy”

LIFE-STUDY OF MATTHEW

June 5, 2017, Monday

Message Eleven - **THE KING'S ANOINTING (4)**

In taking the way of the church, the first test we shall encounter is that of lowering our standard of living. This is the test in the realm of our physical living. Everyone who takes the way of the church will be tested in this matter of his daily living. We shall be tested to show to the whole universe that our concern is not for physical food, but for spiritual food. During those days in the wilderness, Jesus was not concerned for His physical food, but for His spiritual food. He was fasting physically, yet He was eating the Word of God. In the wilderness He did not live by bread alone; He lived on the Word of God.

How we need to overcome these three kinds of temptation: the temptation of our living, the temptation of so-called religious power, and the temptation of vain glory. If we conquer these things, we are truly the kingdom people following our heavenly King. Hallelujah, our heavenly King overcame the tempter and defeated him in these three temptations!

June 6, 2017, Tuesday

Message Twelve - **THE BEGINNING OF THE KING'S MINISTRY**

By considering the Lord's move after the imprisonment of John the Baptist, we must learn not to try to be supernaturally spiritual. Jesus was not spiritual in that way. We must also learn not to go according to past history or to human understanding. According to history and the human concept, the King of the Jews should be in Jerusalem sitting on the throne. However, Jesus did not move purely according to the spiritual leading, nor did He move according to past history or the natural concept. Rather, He moved according to the environment which corresponded to God's economy. By so doing, He spontaneously fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1 and 2. Although the Lord moved apparently according to the environment instead of following the Spirit, His move was a fulfillment of the prophecy in the Scriptures.

When the Lord came to us by our Sea of Galilee, there was something different about Him. In John chapter one, Christ's recommender declared, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" When John declared that Christ was the Lamb of God, two of his disciples, Andrew and the Apostle John, followed the Lord Jesus. Eventually, as we have seen, both Andrew's brother, Peter, and John's brother, James, were also brought to the Lord and saved. Although it was wonderful to be saved, they later forgot their experience. Many of us did the same thing. Perhaps you said, "What happened there by the riverside of the Jordan? That was silly! We were put into the water and we met a Nazarene who was called the Lamb of God. But now we need to make a living. Let's go back to our job. We have plenty of fishing and mending of nets to do." Nevertheless, the King has His goal, and He needs you, just as He needed Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Thus, suddenly, the Lamb of God appeared at the very place where these four men were working to make a living. But this time He did not come as the Lamb—He came as a great light.

Through shining as a great light, the Lord captured four young fishermen to be His disciples. These four disciples traveled with the King throughout Galilee as He taught, preached, and healed. The result was that "great crowds followed Him" (v. 25) for the kingdom of the heavens. This was the beginning of the founding of the kingdom of the heavens. It was absolutely different from the way of the world. The Lord did not start a political movement or form a political party. He did not carry on any kind of movement. In evangelism we must not follow the way of politics or the way of religion. We must follow the way of the Lord Jesus to shine upon others and to attract them by what we are. Then we must travel, teach, preach, and heal. This will attract a crowd.

June 7, 2017, Wednesday

Message Thirteen - **THE DECREE OF THE KINGDOM'S CONSTITUTION (1)**

One of the most difficult things for believers to understand is the kingdom of the heavens. The kingdom of the heavens does not correspond to any natural or religious concept. As we shall see, it refers to something very specific. To understand the kingdom of the heavens, we all must be unloaded of the traditional concepts we received from our background in Christianity. None of the teachings regarding the kingdom of the heavens received in our background was according to the pure Word. We have studied this matter of the kingdom of the heavens again and again for more than fifty years.

It is very meaningful that the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens was decreed upon a mountain. The sea signifies the Satan-corrupted world. When we were caught by the Lord, we were in the Satan-corrupted world endeavoring to make a living. But after the Lord caught us, He led us up to a high mountain signifying the kingdom of the heavens. This indicates that the kingdom of the heavens was not established on the seashore, but on the mountain. In the Bible a mountain sometimes signifies the kingdom. For example, according to Daniel 2:34-35, the stone cut without hands broke the image into pieces and became a great mountain that filled the whole earth. This mountain signifies the millennial kingdom. Hence, in the Bible a mountain signifies the kingdom, especially the kingdom of the heavens.

The spirit in verse 3 refers not to the Spirit of God, but to our human spirit, the deepest part of our being, the organ for us to contact God and realize spiritual things. To be poor in spirit does not mean to have a poor spirit. Our spirit should never be poor. To have a poor spirit would be pitiful. But if we are poor in our spirit, we are blessed. To be poor in spirit is not only to be humble, but also to be emptied in our spirit, in the depth of our being, not holding on to the old things of the old dispensation, but unloaded to receive the new things, the things of the kingdom of the heavens. We need to be poor, emptied, unloaded, in this part of our being so that we may realize and possess the kingdom of the heavens. This implies that the kingdom of the heavens is a spiritual matter, not a material one.

June 8, 2017, Thursday

Message Fourteen - THE DECREE OF THE KINGDOM'S CONSTITUTION (2)

The Lord Jesus came as the new King to start a new dispensation. With the coming of the new King, God began a new economy. God's new dispensation is involved with a wonderful Person. Speaking figuratively, this new economy is simply this Person. Do not consider the kingdom of the heavens as something apart from Christ. No, it is Christ Himself. Without the King, we could not have the kingdom. We cannot have the kingdom of the heavens without Christ. When the Pharisees asked the Lord Jesus when the kingdom of God would come, He replied, "Behold, the kingdom of God is among you" (Luke 17:21). The Lord's word to the Pharisees indicated that He Himself was the kingdom. Where Jesus is, there the kingdom is also. The kingdom is simply the Person of the King. Therefore, when we have the King, we also have the kingdom.

In Matthew 5:5 the Lord says that the meek will inherit the earth. Those who are poor in spirit in verse 3 and who mourn in verse 4 are now the meek in verse 5. Many Christians do not understand what it means to be meek. It does not mean simply to be gentle, humble, and submissive. To be meek means not to resist the world's opposition, but to suffer it willingly. To be meek means not to fight or to resist. If we are meek, willing to suffer the world's opposition in this age, we shall inherit the earth in the coming age, as revealed in Hebrews 2:5-8 and Luke 19:17, 19.

When we live a life for the kingdom of the heavens in its spiritual nature and according to its heavenly principles, we are reproached, persecuted, and evil spoken of, mostly by the religious people who hold onto their traditional religious concepts. The Jewish religionists did all these things to the Apostles in the early days of the kingdom of the heavens (Acts 5:41; 13:45, 50; 2 Cor. 6:8; Romans 3:8). This is also true today. If you are truly seeking Christ, many in the denominations will rise up against you. This is what we are suffering now. We are suffering reproach, persecution, and evil rumors circulated about us. Recently a reputable publishing firm published a book associating us with Hinduism. What an evil rumor! This reproach and persecution comes to us because we do not care for tradition, but for Christ and the pure word of the Bible.

June 9, 2017, Friday

Message Fifteen - THE DECREE OF THE KINGDOM'S CONSTITUTION (3)

In considering the nature of the kingdom people as revealed in these verses, we need to remember nine crucial words, one for each of the nine blessings: poor in spirit, mourning, meek, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, merciful, pure, peaceful, persecuted, and reproached. These words reveal what kind of people the kingdom people should be. They should always be poor in spirit, mournful over the present situation, meek in facing opposition, righteous toward themselves, merciful toward others, pure toward God, peaceful toward all men, persecuted for righteousness, and reproached for the sake of Christ. The totality of these nine words is the nature of the kingdom people.

We must be righteous and strict with ourselves, never making excuses for ourselves. But when others offend us, thereby exposing their shortage, we must be merciful toward them. All those who are self-righteous condemn others and never let them go. The word spoken by the Lord on the mount is completely different from this. To ourselves, we must be righteous and strict, serious and sober. But toward others we must be merciful. In Himself God is righteous. However, if He were righteous to the uttermost in dealing with us, we would all be killed. Although God is righteous in relation to Himself, He is full of mercy in dealing with us. As fallen sinners, we surely need God's mercy. We also must learn to be righteous with ourselves, and merciful toward others. This matter of being righteous toward ourselves and merciful toward others is not firstly a matter of outward behavior; it is firstly a matter of our inward attitude, of our inward being.

Each of the nine blessings has a reward. The reward of the first is the kingdom of the heavens; of the second, comfort; of the third, the earth; of the fourth, satisfaction; of the fifth, mercy; of the sixth, seeing God; of the seventh, being called the sons of God; of the eighth, the kingdom of the heavens; and of the ninth, Christ. If we have Christ, we have the kingdom of the heavens. But if we do not have Him, we do not have the kingdom of the heavens. Thus, the real blessing is Christ with His kingdom. In order to share this blessing, we need to be poor in spirit, mournful over the negative situation, meek in facing opposition, righteous with ourselves, merciful to others, pure in heart toward God, making peace with all, suffering persecution for righteousness, and suffering reproach for Christ. This is the nature of the kingdom people. Eventually, the kingdom people are the very reality of the kingdom. This is the kingdom, which is the church life today. The church today is the reality of the kingdom.

June 10, 2017, Saturday

Message Sixteen - THE DECREE OF THE KINGDOM'S CONSTITUTION (4)

After revealing the nature of the kingdom people, this decree goes on to cover their influence. The sequence here is significant. If the kingdom people did not have the nature described in 5:3-12, they could not have any influence on the world. The influence of the kingdom people comes out of their nature, out of what they are. If we, the kingdom people, the church people, are poor in our spirit, the kingdom of the heavens will have room within the depths of our being. Then we shall mourn, be meek, hunger and thirst for righteousness, be merciful, be pure in heart, be peacemakers, suffer persecution, and be reproached for Christ. If we are such people, we shall certainly exercise a great influence upon the worldly people around us. We shall spontaneously influence the corrupted earth and the darkened world.

When we say that we are salt, it means that we exercise our influence over the earth created by God to keep it in its original condition. The earth, which was created by God, has become fallen. In a sense, it has become rotten and corrupted. Salt kills the germs and eliminates this rottenness. Any medical doctor can tell you that salt kills germs, eliminates rottenness, and preserves things in their original condition. By nature, salt is an element that kills the germs of corruption and eliminates them. Thus, through its killing and preserving function, salt brings the earth back to its original condition or keeps it in its original condition. Hence, the function of salt is to preserve what God has created. The entire earth is becoming more and more rotten. Therefore, we must exercise our influence over this corrupted earth. To the corrupted earth, the people of the kingdom of the heavens are the element that keeps the earth from being fully corrupted.

We, the kingdom people, are the light of the world. As light we are like a city on a mountaintop and like a lamp shining in a house. From without and within, we shine to express God, to let God have the glory in the eyes of others. May we exercise such an influence upon those around us.