



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

Vol. 31 5/23/2020

churchinpiscataway.org
cipweeklynews@gmail.com

EXCERPT FROM MINISTRY READING (THE KINGDOM CHAPTER 11):

THE ROCKY PLACES

The Lord Jesus said that the rocky places are covered with soft soil that is apparently very good for growing something. In reality, however, the soil is shallow—perhaps only a half-inch deep. On the surface there is good, soft soil, but underneath are rocks. These rocks do not mainly represent the sinful things, but they represent our natural mind, emotions, and will. Our unrenewed mind, our untouched emotions, and our unsubdued will are three huge rocks in our heart.

The first rock is the natural mind. We may even call it the religious mind, the doctrinal mind, or the mind filled with Bible knowledge. You may feel that there is nothing wrong with such a mind, but for the sake of the kingdom it must be broken through. The book of Matthew reveals that it was the people with a religious mind who troubled the Lord Jesus most. Thus, if we are going to have Christ as the seed of the kingdom growing within us, we need to unload our mind, to empty our mind of the old concepts. We must realize that what prevents the Lord Jesus from taking deep root within us is the natural mind underneath the soft soil. Do not read this for others; read it for yourself. If you consider that you have heard this before and understand it already, this also is a rock. You need to pray, "Lord, unload my mind and understanding."

Another large rock is the untreated, undealt-with emotions. If your emotions are very raw and, in a sense, fragile, they have probably never been dealt with or trained by the Lord. If your emotions have been trained and treated by the Lord, you will not be easily offended by other people. You will be flexible but not fragile. Our emotions must be dealt with and treated by the Lord in a deep way. We need to pray that the Lord would deal with our emotions. Some of the problems in the churches are caused by the fragile emotions. Sisters, how about your emotions? If you want to convince a sister about something, it is not necessary to talk much. You simply need to shed two tears, one from each eye. By two tears the sister will be fully persuaded because her emotions are untreated. How we need the Lord to deal with our emotions!

Now we come to the will, a rock even harder than the mind and the emotions. This is perhaps a problem particularly among the brothers. I have seen several strong-willed brothers. Once they have made a decision, nothing can change them. Of course, some brothers are "wishy-washy," but most are very strong. Sometimes, the strong-willed brothers would not listen to what the ministry or the elders say. Brothers, your will needs to be broken, crushed, and ground into powder. I hope that eventually the strong-willed brothers will let the Lord deal with their will. Then the church will be rescued. You need to pray, "O Lord, have mercy upon me. Don't let my heart be hardened by the traffic of the world. Dig out the rocks of my natural mind, emotions, and will. Spread from my spirit into every part of my heart."

Announcement:

1. For International Memorial Day Blending Conference, the meeting schedule is:
Message 4: 10:00 a.m. Lord's Day, 24 May 2020
Message 5: 7:00 p.m. Lord's Day, 24 May 2020
Message 6: 10:00 a.m. Monday, 25 May 2020
There will be prophesying session following each message meeting.
2. 2020 SSOT Teacher Training is scheduled for Sat, 5/30.
Location: <https://pursuewiththose.org>
Topic: Lesson Book 1: God's Full Salvation. We encourage YP parents, serving ones, HS senior/college students to attend. An email regarding the registration was sent to all young people parents, serving ones, and high-school seniors. Please try your best to attend and register.
3. 2020 June semi annual training is scheduled 6/29-7/4 and it is open for registration. There is no on-site training at Anaheim, CA, instead it will be held online by video training. Registration due date is 6/15 and you may register through serving one of contact.
4. District prayer meeting on the coming Tuesday 5/26 is scheduled at district prayer meeting on-line locations starting from 8 PM. We encourage the saints to separate time to attend.
5. Corporate pursuing this week: "The Kingdom" messages 11 & 12.
6. New morning revival "The Will of God" is available for pick up. For those who have the standing order, please pick up your copy at the meeting hall, between storm door and main entrance.

Prayer Burdens:

COVID-19 Pandemic -

- A. Continuing Global Watchman's Prayer in The Month of May (Day 24~30). <https://unceasinglypray.org/>
- B. For the new model of church life, the first is to pray, to make a list of gospel friends and pray for them.

College students summer break

- A. Prayer and reading the word with companions.
- B. 3 levels of companionship (younger, peers, older)
- C. Graduating students' transition (jobs, higher education, full-time training)

Sixth graders' salvation and baptism

- A. Pray for the sixth graders' salvation and baptism.
- B. Pray for them to be further ushered into the church life

Meeting Attendance:

Small Groups (5/15~16): 157
Lord's Table (5/17): 137
Prayer Meeting (5/19): 56

Testimony: Ruthless Virus, Compassionate Jesus

We used to enjoy and sing such a hymn a lot, "O home in the church, Where we've ended our search ..." Since the coronavirus suddenly stroke us, we have had much more personal experience of this hymn. We are very thankful for the Church in Piscataway, a big, loving family we live in.

In mid-April, one of Brother Gaosheng's colleagues was diagnosed with COVID-19 positive. After four days, Gaosheng's body temperature started to rise. At that time, our heart was full of frustration and fear. Although we had taken protective measures with extra caution, the misfortune befell us suddenly. After another week, Sister Jian began to have high fever too. We had to accept the cruel fact that we were both infected.

As soon as the brothers and sisters were informed of Gaosheng's confirmed diagnosis, they came to our house that night, bringing in all kinds of necessities. When Sister Jian's blood oxygen saturation kept dropping, a sister drove her to the emergency room at the risk of infection. Another sister invoked online doctor's visit of traditional Chinese medicine in the first place, and fetched us the medicine from Pennsylvania in the early morning. Another sister sent the pictures of Sister Jian's tongue to a Chinese medicine doctor in Beijing every couple of days, and provided guidance and suggestions of medicine-diet combination. Moreover, since we had both become ill, the sisters coordinated to support us with meals. Eating the carefully prepared food, which abounded with nourishing love, while reading the words of encouragement and comfort written on the cards as well as the lids of the dishes, we were oftentimes moved to tears.

1 Cor. 12:26 And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. The Lord listened to our prayers and the prayers of brothers and sisters, He was moved with compassion for us, healed our sick and brought us back to the church life so quickly. This distress made us experience the Lord more, and know how fragile everything on earth is. Oh Lord, You are the safest, the most faithful one. You are our eternal hope.

It was not until we recovered that we dared to tell our son who was in the bay area of California about our illness. We told him how the brothers and sisters had accompanied us through this difficult time. He was also very touched and so thankful that we have the Lord, who arranged the brothers and sisters to surround us like a cloud.

Psa. 23:4

*Even though I walk / Through the valley of the shadow of death, / I do not fear evil, /
For You are with me; / Your rod and Your staff, / They comfort me.*

Gaosheng Chu & Jian Chu

RU Graduating Senior Student Testimony 1

During my college years, I really cherished my time with the saints and being built up in the church life in Piscataway. First off, I got to join Rutgers Christians on Campus. Being with other students who were also believers really encouraged me to continue going on in the Lord. I loved being able to sing, pray, and read the Bible with everyone during the Bible studies, home meeting, and college conferences.

During the home meetings, it was so nice to sing hymns and fellowship about the Bible. Those times were so enjoyable because we were able to get to know one another very well and I felt comfortable to share about whatever I was going through with them or anything I had gained from the past week.

Moreover, I also got to know some of the families in Piscataway better. When I was a young person, I had only experienced the church life as attending the weekly meetings. However, in college, the Lord showed me that He is looking for His people to come together in such a normal way and enjoy Him together.