Thursday

By the Grace of the Lord

"A cyst was found at my three-and-a-half-year old child six months ago. The doctor suggested doing regular checkup whereas operation was not necessary as long as the cyst was not growing. He encouraged me and asked me to return six months later. I was struck by the news and couldn't stop worrying about this. Please pray for me! I once had a poor relation with my husband and I dared not imagine that I could take to him anymore. This is truly by the grace of God: after listening to your radio programs I tried to communicate with my husband. I was overjoyed to find him willing to face and fix our problem too. I realized that I had always been too soon to jump to conclusions." (Sister Gao, Zhejiang Province)

ℜ Pray for the son of sister Gao. May the Lord heal him and let the cyst subside speedily. Pray also for a comforting and supportive relationship between the couple especially in times of difficulties. Humble oneself and care for the spiritual needs of another half and together, build up a loving and joyful family for their child to grow up with.

Wedding of Leukemia Children

On March 26th, a special wedding was held for two two-year-old toddlers with leukemia. They are both from Henan province and are now receiving treatment at the same Beijing hospital. The boy was first diagnosed with leukemia in July 2017. Despite hospital transfers for 5 times in 8 months, which had used up RMB 300,000 of the family's savings, there shows no alleviation of the boy's severe condition. In fact, the boy's family still needed to borrow about RMB 500,000 to heal his son. He also shared his wish that he could see his child walk the wedding aisle twenty years later. With the help of students from Beijing Film Academy and some enthusiastic netizens, this wedding was finally completed. Through this event, the relevant organization hoped to arouse the community's concern for leukemia children.

("The Beijing News", March 27, 2018)

ℜ May the Lord have mercy on the families of these sick children: let the poor get financially supported and the children get cured and to grow up healthily and happily.

Friday

Getting Rid of Temptation

"I have been married for six years. Recently I have encountered temptation; a male colleague gives me good impression. I know that God hates such sin and that it is Satan's temptation. However, God's grace is wonderful. I have entrusted my troubles to the Lord and asked God to help me get rid of this temptation. God has allowed an allergy to happen on my face in recent months. God has also let me lose face when I chat with my colleagues in a WeChat group. The good impression of the male colleague has disappeared after these events. Therefore I am very grateful to God. My heart has returned to cleanliness. Thank God so much indeed! I hope that I will come closer to Him in future so that I will not go astray!"

(Sister Fei)

ℋ When sister Fei encountered the temptation, she could entrust her weakness to the Lord immediately and let Him govern her life. Please pray that she can continue to rely on the Lord in order to keep her heart clean and that she will not be tempted to fall into sin.

Kham Believers

Many missionaries, who were concerned about Tibetans, had entered their region to preach the gospel since the end of the 19th century. However, the evangelical ministry for Tibetan people is still full of challenges under the deep-rooted influence of Tibetan Buddhism. The hearts of Tibetan people are still hardened and they cannot accept gospel. According to some groups serving Tibetans, there are some Mainland Chinese believers who are serving Tibetans silently in Sichuan. They estimate that no more than 200 Christian brothers and sisters really attend church in Tibetan region. There is a Mainland co-worker who has been serving in 12 Christians' meeting places separately and has contacted about 150 Tibetan believers. These believers also witness the Lord actively.

ℋ We are grateful to the Lord as members of Mainland churches show concern actively to the gospel ministry for Tibetan people! Thank the Lord for leading more Tibetan Kham people to the name of the Lord. Please pray that the Lord will enable these Tibetan believers to have good witnesses in their life so that more compatriots will be attracted to return to Christ.

Saturday

A Dominating Mother

"My mother was a dominating and patriarchal woman. I was expected to follow whatever she asked me to, without adding any of my own preferences. At times, I was so pressurized that I hardly breathe. Despite the fondness of my father to me, he had no say at home. I therefore became indifferent to external matters, whether of my family, other people or the society etc. I didn't play with other children. I rarely spoke or expressed myself. No one bothered to listen to me, I guessed. I focused on my school studies in which I mostly passed with flying colors. I later left home to enter to the Inner Mongolia Institute of Technology in 1981. The 4-year college life was wonderful. Then graduation, socialization, work, marriage, divorce, single parent... life was getting tough; I got depression in the end... Now, I am a Christian and there is inner peace with me."

(Sister Wang, Hebei Province)

ℜ Grateful that sister Wang has received comfort from the Lord in times of her difficulties. May sister keep on growing spiritually and learn to be empathetic and lenient with others. Pray that she can reconcile with her family members and obtain a good relationship thereafter.

Gospel Broadcasting

- Short-wave broadcasting: The broadcast frequency of the *"i-Radio Channel"* of our shortwave Radio Liangyou has changed from 31 km 9,430 kHz to 31 km 9,380 kHz since the end of March this year. Ask God to help the audience adapt to the new frequency. Also pray that God will ensure the clearness of the broadcast signal which will enable listeners to hear the Words of God.
- 2 New media ministry: Subscribers of the Radio Liangyou's WeChat account "Liangyouzhiyin" has accumulated more than 170,000 after more than two years of our efforts. The subscribers' text reading, and their listening are very frequent. Our activities, which have been promoted via the WeChat account, are obviously more popular. Ask God to help our staff in the development of the new media ministry so that more people will return to God. Glory to God!

China News and Prayer

May/Jun 2018

Dear Warriors in Christ,

Liangyou Theological Seminary (LTS) has been working hard persistently and has adhered to its position for the past 36 years. It has broadcast biblical truth to the vast territory of China through SW and MW. Entering the era of Internet and new media, we have paid efforts to develop the official WeChat account in recent years. At the beginning of this year, we have also added the mobile App "Liangyou Seminary" to attract more people of the new generations to be equipped.

It is convenient for listeners to use the "Liangyou Seminary" App to study with their mobile phones anytime and anywhere. They can listen to the courses of LTS Navigation Program, Diploma Program, Advanced Diploma Program, special series and "LTS Student Centre". A download feature and well-selected video subjects will be added in May.

The new Navigation Program consists of 16 subjects. It is targeted at young people born after 80's and 90's, new believers or believers who have not received basic theological training. We hope to open up chances for more young people to actively study in order to equip them to participate in ministries. We will have multiple choice questions to each of the navigation courses so that listeners can assess their study achievements. Those who can pass in eight subjects will be given a certificate of appreciation.

The third phase of "The Ways of the Pastors" training program will be finished in October this year. The fourth phase training will start this month even we are under heavy pressure. Our teachers have grasped rare face-to-face opportunities to share with them. We have used life witnesses to inspire and encourage students. Please pray that each of the students will have strong confidence and overcome all difficulties in order to complete four training sessions in two years. Also pray that they will become Christian servants who can adhere to the Lord's words in this new and challenging era.

Be strong and take courage!

Jenny Yuen Officer-in-Charge, Training Centre

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Sunday

Feeling Nervous

"No one listens to me and I can confide in nobody at the most difficult time of my life. Thank the Lord for showing mercy to me and renewing my life now. Ask the Lord to enable me to realize my own problems and make changes! My participation in church services has become normal. I also have a commitment to the Sunday school ministry. But I have not been determined to do it for the sake of the Lord. Actually I feel nervous in my heart. There may be some inner struggles and fear that I don't know myself. Please pray for my service in the Sunday school. I hope that I can let go of my own thoughts, and that I will do it bravely for the sake of the Lord!"

(Sister Liu)

ℜ Ask the Lord to remove sister Liu's inner fear. Please pray that she can rely on the Lord to overcome her psychological inner fear and cowardice. Also pray that she will learn how to equip herself so that she can gain the foundation and confidence required in her devotion to the Sunday school ministry.

Big Data of Divorce

The Supreme People's Court issued the judicial big data of divorce disputes on March 22. A report stated that plaintiffs were female in 73.4% of all divorce disputes in the whole country. In these cases, most of the couples had their age differences ranging from 0-3 years. High incidence of marriage breakdown happened in the period of 2-7 years after marriage. Regarding the couples' attitude towards divorce, 91.09% of all cases were with one spouse disagreed. Regarding the reasons of divorces, 77.51% were due to inharmonious relationship while 14.86% of the cases due to family violence. Abuse cases were mostly found in Guangdong, Guizhou, and Guangxi. Some other reasons for divorces included spouses missing or not returning home, and spouses who had bad habits or extra-marital affairs etc.

("Interface News", March 23, 2018)

ℜ Ask the Lord to show mercy to the couples in Mainland China; and let them know the importance of marriage engagement and the respect to their spouses. Please pray that the Lord will enable them to know His love and to learn how to love each other.

Monday

Hope for a Restored Marriage

"I met my husband when I did my college in his city a decade ago. Shortly prior to his overseas studies, we got married and baptized into Jesus. Have no time to hold a wedding party though. While he was away, I got thyroid cancer and had to return to my hometown for surgery. A lot of tough breaks afterwards. My husband, who is a working man now, aligns with his family to treat me with scorn. He asked me to live and sleep separately. And he forced me to leave his home. I sought help from the church as I wanted to save our marriage. But he only wanted a divorce! He said he would sue me if I don't comply. I am lost and there is no inner peace in me."

(Sister Wang)

ℜ Pray that the Lord would open a way for the marriage of sister Wang. In Him, she is strengthened and her heart and mind be guarded. May the Lord move her husband and change his mind for reconciliation.

Manipulation over the Disabled

A pair of father and son in Anhui was suspected of manipulating seven men aged 17 to 55 who were with moderate or severe disabilities. When the gang arrived in Dave, some eager people reported their doings to the police. These citizens claimed that the gang, with their camels, knelt down on Guanshan Road and kowtowed to the passersby who were held up and were allowed to leave only when they dropped these beggars some coins. The police of Daye tracked the gang down and successfully rescued the disabled and captured the father and son. From 2017 to 2018, Zhao and his son formed the coercion of the seven disabled and forced them to kowtow to passersby for money in several provinces. These men were slaved and beaten with a stick if they did not collect enough money. The two suspects initially denied enslaving the men, telling police they were part of a performing troupe.

("Chutian Metropolis Daily", April 5, 2018)

✤ Cases about manipulation over the physically and/or mentally disabled recur in the Mainland from time to time. May the Lord have mercy on people with disabilities; protect them from abuse and exploitation and bring the law-breakers to justice.

Tuesday 🔏 🖑

Extra-marital Affair

"My husband has had an extra-marital affair for several years. Recently he has sued for a divorce, but I do not agree. The court has let him withdraw his case. But he has not given up and wants to sue again after six months. Or else, we will be divorced automatically after two years. Please pray for me. Please ask God to lead me and give me wisdom. Also ask God to lead my husband to repent and know God so that he will change his mind and will not divorce me. Also pray that he will re-establish our family." (Sister Yang)

ℜ Please pray for sister Yang's family. Pray that God will show His mercy to her husband, and let him repent and believe in God. Also pray that he will change his mind, and value his marriage and family. Also ask God to help the sister learn to review herself to see if there is any need for her changes. Please pray that she can re-build a harmonious family.

Exemption Program for HKDSE Graduates

China Education Exchange (HK) Centre revealed on April 11 that the number of Hong Kong students enrolled in universities in the Mainland through the Admission Scheme has increased by 20%. In 2011, Ministry of Education of PRC announced that 63 mainland universities have exempted Hong Kong students from the mainland joint entrance examination. Schools can select students based on the merits of their results in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE). The number of mainland universities participating in the program this year has increased to 102. A total of 9,272 Hong Kong high school graduates have enrolled this year. Among them, 3.216 are admitted through the exemption program. The top three most popular universities in the exemption-based enrollment program are Sun Yat-sen University, Jinan University, and Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine.

("Xinhua News Agency", April 11, 2018)

ℜ Pray that the pressures on Hong Kong secondary school graduates could be released through different academic pathways. May there be good opportunity for them to receive good university education.

Concession

Wednesday

"In the first 17 years of my marriage, our relationship was extremely poor, and eventually we divorced in 2006. Since then I listened to your programs and was greatly helped. I gradually read more of the Bible and getting more lightened up by the Holy Spirit. There had been changes inside me as I saw many of my shortcomings: being aggressive and fierce, bossy and headstrong; refusing help from my husband; and see him with all the wrongs but myself all the rights. After four months from divorce, we got remarried again. My husband also believed in the Lord and got changed thereafter. With the peace and love of God, there found no more guarrels but empathy and tolerance in my family. My daughter, who is admitted to university, is happy for us too. I hope that my testimony will encourage those who are experiencing crisis in their marriage. We have to humble ourselves to let in some good and genuine communications."

(Sister Tang, Jiangsu Province)

H Thankful to the Lord for sister Tang who humbled herself in view of her own shortcomings. By the grace of the Lord she experienced His repair on her marriage and family. May the Lord use her testimony to help those with relationship crisis.

A Well-cared-for Senectitude

Six elderly Chinese men aged 61 to 81 were sharing a "coffin home" at size of 161-square-foot in downtown Chongqing. Made by 6 wood planks, the three bunks bedded the six men, one next to the other, filling all the gaps. The youngest of them was 61 years old while the oldest was 81 years old who sold ice-sugar gourds for living. The ages add up to almost 400 years old. Most of them have no children and they came here as the rent was low - a bed was only 150 yuan per month, water and electricity all-inclusive. For most tenants, this simple "home" is their only home and some of them have even lived with the landlord couple for more than a decade.

("China Youth Daily", April 4, 2018)

Hay the Lord have mercy on the disadvantaged and let the needs of the elderly be under great social concerns. Pray that the poor and helpless be care for and these old men a dignified senectitude to live on.