

Thursday



Reluctant to Divorce

"I have been married for 16 years. We both are Christians, serving in the church choir, and with a son who is at Junior Two. I distrust my wife and get furious and anxious when she talks with other men. We have been quarreling since the beginning of our marriage. And since the birth of our son, I would go to prostitutes every after our quarrel. I have sinned and have pleaded guilty before God! My wife said that our marriage was set by people, not by God. She wants to divorce me because she doesn't love me at all. But I don't want to. My wife rears our kid in our hometown, but I am working outside. We could just talk for a few minutes over the phone. She doesn't love me and wants to charge me a commitment of fornication for a divorce."

(Brother Zhang)

✚ May the Lord keep brother Zhang's marriage and let him realize he should confess his sins and repentance with God and his wife. May our Lord move his wife to forgive her husband, to reconcile and re-build a good relationship again.

Guarding the Forest

Triplet brothers have guarded a forest for 38 years! A NASA satellite has observed that a total of more than two million square miles of vegetation has been added to the surface of the earth over the past 20 years. It is specially mentioned that the action of China and India has dominated the greening of the earth. The forest guards of Guizhou Province, the Zhang's brothers, are "companions" of the woods. They have guarded 10,000 acres of forest with their hard work and sweat. The story of their forest protection is widely circulated in the local area. Their father, Zhang Shide, is one of the founders. The three brothers have started the forest work under their father's influence. They have also earnestly implemented ecological strategic actions. The forest coverage rate has reached 57 per cent last year.

("China News Network", March 15, 2019)

✚ Thanks to the Zhang's family. The family has inherited the tradition of loving and protecting the forest from one generation of another. They spend their whole lives in this forest. They hope that many people will participate in the establishment of ecological civilization.

Friday



Parents' Objection

"My parents object to our relationship. My boyfriend and I are both Christians. We go to the same church and we discuss about our belief always. Parents oppose me to believe in Jesus and hate me going to church. They dislike my boyfriend and believe that I deserve a better one. My boyfriend is not young and his mother, who is also a Christian, has patiently awaited my reply. My parents' objection is the hitch, that I cannot ignore their feeling on the one hand despite my disagreement to their opinion on the other hand. I wished so much for their blessings and goodwill on my marriage. My boyfriend asked me not to contact him anymore..., we have both prayed for this, but I am now feeble and lack of confidence!"

(Sister Ye)

✚ Pray for sister Ye's marriage. May the Lord guide her and lead her. Move her parents to know the true God and let them learn to respect her daughter's will. May there be the love of the Lord in the Ye's.

Kham Family

Talking with a young Kham believer, it is learned that his tribe's conception of marriage and family is different from the general. Many families and couples have unstable relationship. Kham people's tribal character is rough and unconstrained. When they break up, they leave the families regardless of their children and leave them to their grandparents. They just go out to pursue their own lives. Young people do not have a normal family concept. They continue with this vulnerable family concept when they grow up.

✚ Kham people need healthy marriage and family concepts so that their children can grow up healthily in the most harmonious families. Please pray for the young Kham generation. Pray that young students can adapt to the metropolitan life and also have the opportunities to hear the good news of the gospel when they go to study in a big city. Thus their long-lasting family tragedies can be changed so that their changes will bring blessings to their family members. Please pray for the gospel broadcasting ministry. Now it is necessary to pray that new programs can be produced for caring the Kham families.

Saturday



The Valley of Darkness

"I got serious fungal infection and had therapy at home for one month. It relapsed after I stopped the treatment though. The doctor asked me to pray when he knew that I believed in Jesus. The third day, I got deep vein thrombosis (DVT). Nurses couldn't draw any blood from my legs, doctors and nurses were restless and worried. On the fifth day, I insisted leaving the hospital to spend the afternoon with my family. Just before noon, my left armpit was hardened, and my heart twitched for three times, apart from a numbness in my lower leg. Doctor suggested me not leaving the hospital. In the afternoon, when my husband and daughter took me to the general ward, miraculously all the pain disappeared. In fact, my husband has changed a lot and my daughter took care of me thoughtfully during that period. The doctor also said that I was lucky to be alive. I then made some reflection about sufferings caused by our sins, Satan's attack, and also reflected on my family, work and ministry. These stressed my body so much and I really need a break."

(Sister An, Heilongjiang Province)

✚ Grateful for sister An. Having been through such a severe illness, Sister doesn't mind how longer she will live now. May the Lord bless sister An and her family.

Gospel Broadcasting

1 **70 Years' Broadcasting:** It is the 70th anniversary of Radio Liangyou in 2019. Believers we have served have experienced how much difficulties, and have gone through ups and downs for these past years. Social situation has also undergone great changes. People have faced different challenges. It is hoped that our program can be close to the audience's voice, speak their words, and seriously lead them to the Lord.

2 **Holistic Growth:** In response to the current needs, we have launched the "Joyful Tree Holistic Growth Ministry" since the end of March to bring together the strengths of multiple ministry partners for producing the courses of three levels (kindergarten, lower primary and upper primary) and of the parent -teacher version. In addition, discipleship training courses will be launched at the end of the year to enable believers to study and grow up on their own. Please pray for our program production.

China News and Prayer

Apr/May 2019



Dear Warriors in Christ,

Healthy living has become the trend in the modern society these days. People who have caught on the train are seeing the need to eat healthier and exercise harder, in order not just to keep their bodies looking better, but also be charged with energy and vitality. This mentality attracts the younger generation, and to an equal extend the older.

But while we be very choosy in what we eat, many neglect to do the same on what we read. More and more of our precious time is spent in updating on what is happening with our friends, with celebrities, and perhaps with unproven news and casual gossips. No wonder many need all their time to read them, even when walking and eating.

The Bible has this to say, "A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash." (Prov. 15:14, nlt) This may sound a bit harsh, but intriguing to the mind. We are reminded to "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Col. 3:2-3, esv)

On these pages, we have gathered for you what is happening with our listeners, why and how they are struggling while pursuing the Truth, right in their families and churches. These are the things they urgently need our encouragements and, more importantly, our prayers. These are situations where they need support from the Christian family in order to stand firm. May we be faithful before the throne of grace, and stand closely by each one of them.

In May, we will start our 70-day countdown to the 70th anniversary of gospel broadcasting on July 29. God has been faithful to us in this ministry, and you too are definitely a faithful partner of us. Together, we give Him thanks and praises!

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Sunday



Split Unwanted

"I strongly disagree on hanging flags. There are several co-workers who disagree, but we have no choice. I do not want the church to split. It is very sad. Split does not comply with the biblical teaching. Church is a place for worshipping God. But other co-workers say that the Bible does not clearly indicate this. I think Christians should have a position. We should not 'bend with the wind'. I believe that there are still many who insist on not hanging flags. Daniel and his friends were people who had their positions. Wang Mingdao was arrested for not succumbing to the regime. He would rather go to jail. They were the models. Regarding church, I do not want to see there is split. It will be better for the co-workers to face problems with a united mind together. But it is very difficult with different views now. Do I have to go to another church to attend services and give sermons?"

(Audience "Emanuel")

⌘ Please pray for pastors, elders, and believers in the Mainland. Ask the Lord to give them strength and courage to face the churches under pressure, and give them wisdom to know how to face conflicts.

Fears of Having Kids

How can young people's "fears about having kids" be alleviated? Are you worried that you can't afford to have children if you married in a big city? If you are a woman, will you be afraid of losing your job because of childbirth? During the National People's Congress, Youth Net has produced a video program on the fertility issue of our youth. In addition to the challenges of child-rearing, there are other worries that come along. Mothers would think that "being a mother, I always want to give my children the best, but I am yet good enough for them." Therefore, some people reckon that an all-round support and recognition to child-rearing might greatly offset women's fear of having kids. Besides, the media could strengthen their propaganda for instance while the government could regulate related policies to boost a higher birth rate.

("China Youth Daily", March 15, 2019)

⌘ Pray for the child-bearing anxiety of the youth. Pray that the community, government as well as the youth themselves are well prepared for their next generation.

Monday



Being Hateful to Sins

"I attend church and listen to sermons every week. I think that people's achievement appear before one's eyes making one feel one's value low. It is said that people should believe in Jesus Christ. At first, I have found the meaning and value of life. But I do not find it anymore now. I still pray every day but I do not have a sense of security. I have lost faith! I have been troubled and confused, but I have not felt this before. I am a bit hateful to such a sinful heart. The evils of human hearts in the world and my own sins are unacceptable. I am even unable to live normally. This is my problem psychologically! Having believed in Jesus, am I supposed to live a joyful and peaceful life? Ask the Lord to help me!"

(Brother Ye)

⌘ Please pray for brother Ye's sensitivity to sins. Pray that his inner disturbance by sins will be healed so that he will be released. Also pray that he will regain the freedom and peace that his faith can bring to him.

Pension Problem

The youth who were born after 1985 most worried about their parents' pension while those after 1990 care more on the pension of their own. 89.3% of the young people surveyed showed concern on the issue of elderly support. In fact, pension has always been an important issue for the government. As the population is aging, more people become serious to the needs of old-age care. The 18 to 35-year-old youth survey showed that 78.8% of the 90s were worried about their own pension problems, and 86.1% of the 85s worried about their parents' pension. Only under centralized management, the elderly in underdeveloped area can enjoy secured old-age life. "Building communities with care and support for the elderly" might be an effective solution to take down the issue. "Only a solid, sustainable supervisory mechanism is most needed while 'formalism' or 'empty shell' will be helpless to the problem."

("China Youth Daily", March 14, 2019)

⌘ The issue of old-age care is imminent. Pray that the topic will be solemnly handled on the highest level, and practical and feasible proposals will be adopted to allow the elderly to spend their later years with dignity and happiness.

Tuesday



I Feel Inferior

"I cannot communicate with others. Anyone's expression in eyes, words and gestures are bad for me. When I have pressure, I cannot stand and control myself. The feelings of inferiority and self-pity often make me closed. When I am sick or have difficulties, and I cannot solve problems by myself, I will close myself off. When I have recovered or my difficulties have passed, I will go out to get along with people and show them my bright side. I have brought up my children alone. I still feel very inferior and have no joy. It is not easy to open my heart to people. I cannot have physical contact with my mother either. Whenever I see her hands, I am afraid that she will hurt me. I do not know what the matter with me is."

(Sister Wang)

⌘ Ask the Lord to help sister Wang remove her negative emotions and rely on the Lord to become strong. Please pray that she can courageously accept her own situation and seek the help of doctors so that her emotions will be improved.

Scientific Anxiety

If you don't understand programming, you are a new illiterate; and if you don't code, you will lose your ability to survive. With the rapid development of information technology, parents' "scientific anxiety" is increasing. Series of children's programming classes is sought-after, trodden on the heels of mathematical Olympiad training courses. So, this is another new training strategy that parents can use to brush up their children's thinking ability. For teenagers, being skilled in programming may be advantageous to entering a prestigious school. Parents just can't tolerate seeing others' children, but not theirs, learning this and that. Anxiety therefore continues to spread. When parents of junior high school students apply for classes, their first question is how soon the course will complete. Parents shouldn't apply classes for their children out of their worries, but the interest of their kids instead.

("China Youth Daily", March 14, 2019)

⌘ Pray for the parents. Despite the rapid development of technology, parents should recognize the personality of their children and cultivate them according to their strengths and interests.

Wednesday



Against Christianity

"I have been home for a month but still cannot sleep very well. Once I wake up in the middle of the night I cannot get back to sleep anymore. My husband terribly opposes me to believe in God. I am prohibited to pray, to listen or to read any Christianity related stuff at home. Topics related to God are forbidden from mentioning at home. What I can do now is praying every night before bed for God's mercy and grace upon my husband. I feel that he is indifferent to me and we don't communicate much. He keeps on checking on his smartphone till very late every night. I am unhappy and becoming very quiet. I doubt, just a wild guess by the instinct of a woman, that he might have another woman outside!"

(Sister "Little Grass", Anhui Province)

⌘ May the Lord help sister "Little Grass" find a way out of her unhappy marriage. Pray that she can live a victorious life by relying on the Lord; bravely bring her children to God and let them grow with His words. Pray that her husband will repent and accept the Lord.

Tax and Fee Cuts

This year, the government is determined to implement deeper tax and fee cuts by nearly two trillion RMB. A drop in both the VAT and social insurance contribution rate is said to be a crucial measure in view of the downside pressure on the economic outlook. By such, enterprises in general can, in accordance with the rules, benefit from the tax reduction. The impact of the policy is high and positive, reaching all market players directly. The plan is to cut VAT rates starting from April 1, and the social insurance contribution rate from May 1. To this end, the government must live on a tight budget and trim its own revenue stock, but let companies benefit more even if this involves offending some previous beneficiaries. This is helpful for keeping the public finance sustainable.

("China News Network", March 15, 2019)

⌘ Pray for a successful implementation of this new economic policy at all levels of the government. There should be no IOUs to write nor any tricky charges to levy lest the impact of tax reduction subsidies. Pray that enterprises and citizens can truly be beneficial from this substantial tax reduction and fee reduction.