

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – February 5, 2012

Announcements

- This afternoon there will be a blending meeting in Bellingham for the Puget Sound area churches. The meeting will be from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm at Northwood Hall, 3240 Northwest Ave., Bellingham 98225. Food will be served after the meeting, but no child care will be available. A bus will be provided for \$15 per person or \$25 per family and will leave the Bellevue meeting hall at 1:00 pm. Those who signed up to ride on the bus should pay (cash if possible) when entering the bus.
- This Tuesday the prayer meeting in English will be at the meeting hall at 7:30 pm. The prayer meeting in Chinese will be at the regular time and location.
- Next Lord's Day will be the annual business meeting for the Church in Bellevue corporation.
- On Saturday, February 25th, at 9:30 am there will be a fellowship time for all the brothers bearing responsibility for a home group. This will be a time of mutual prayer and fellowship to advance our practice of the vital groups.

Suggestions for Prayer

(see *beseeching.org*)

- Lord's move in Europe
- Lord's move in Japan
- Robertsons in Sao Paulo
- Gospel in Middle East
- Violence in Mexico
- The training in Boston
- DCP: Internet Defense
- Campus work: freshmen
- Bellingham, Vancouver, Richland, Olympia, and Yakima, WA
- 2012 Memorial Day Conference in Bellevue
- Increase in Bellevue & Renton
- The Philippines
- Gospel Trips

This Week: February 6 - 12

Morning Revival: *The Focus of the Lord's Recovery*, week 2

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – Team 6 (Wildes, Vernons)
Upstairs – Kirkland

Tuesday	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Sisters' Prayer in Multi-Purpose Rm Prayer at the Hall
Wednesday	7:00 pm	No ministry webcast
Saturday	8:30 am	Breakfast & fellowship
Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lord's Table

February

12 Business meeting

25 Home group fellowship

March

9-11 High School Retreat, Lakeside Bible Camp,
Whidbey Island

Ministry Reading Portion

WITHOUT TEARING DOWN THERE BEING NO BUILDING OF GOD

Another brother who frequently quarrels with his wife may attend a meeting in which the relationship between husbands and wives in Ephesians 5 may be thoroughly presented. After hearing this message, he may sense that he has been edified. Such examples are beyond enumeration. There are also countless books promoting this kind of edification among Christians; almost everyone who reads them is touched and “edified.” However, we need God to open our eyes and to show us that His work in us is not to edify us in this way but rather to build Himself into us and to build us into Him. Therefore, He must first tear us down. Our love for our wife, our slow temperament, or our loving our neighbor as ourselves must be torn down. Even if we are as perfect and as good as the incarnated Lord Jesus, we still need to be torn down. Anything that is of our natural being, whether good or bad, must be put to death, for without tearing down there is no building of God.

This is a very serious matter. According to our human, religious concept, we think that after we are saved, we need to be edified so that those who are short of love will have love and those who are not meek will be meek. We believe that this is God’s perfecting work, His edification work; little do we know that this is not God’s work. God’s work is to tear us down. He tears down not only our fretfulness but also our meekness, not only our quickness but also our slowness, and not only our jealousy but also our love. This is the difference between edification and building; building requires tearing down. Without tearing down, God cannot be built into us, and without tearing down, we cannot be built into God. The work of mixing concrete is to mix fine sand, cement, and gravel all together, to blend these individual elements together, so that the building can be completed. Although this is not a perfect example, it does give us a rough picture.

All messages that exhort people merely to love others, to be meek, to be spiritual, and to pursue the growth in life but do not show that after redeeming man God is doing a work of building in which He tears man

down in order to build Himself into man and to build man into Him, are empty messages which bear no weight. They are not the central revelation of the Bible. The Bible shows that after God saves us, He proceeds to do the work of tearing down. Whether we are good people or bad people, He must do a work of tearing down in us. God cannot build Himself into a person who is not torn down. God also cannot build into Himself a person who is not torn down. For this reason, in His Word God repeatedly mentions the matter of building.

In every Scripture passage that speaks of building, we can see from the context or the text itself the matter of tearing down. In Matthew 16:18, when the Lord mentioned building for the first time, He said to Peter, "Upon this rock I will build My church." Then immediately, in verse 21, the Lord said that He needed to go to Jerusalem and be killed. Going to Jerusalem to be put to death is a matter of tearing down. Peter then rebuked Him, saying, "God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!" (v. 22). But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan!" (v. 23). Whatever frustrates, rejects, and denies God's tearing down is the work of Satan. The Lord also said, "If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me" (v. 24). What is this? This is the tearing down. Denying the self and taking up the cross is the tearing down.

If we look up all the verses on building, we will discover that in each instance the Lord also speaks of tearing down. Suppose a brother is sick and needs to receive an injection. How can the medicine be injected into him? There must be a puncture in his body so that the needle can be inserted. If his body is not punctured, medicine cannot be injected into him. Another example is the vaccination of smallpox that requires at least two cuts. This illustrates that without tearing down there is no building.

The cross is the needle, and Christ is the medicine in the needle. If we do not have the cross to tear us down, Christ as the medicine cannot be injected into us. The function of the ministry of the word is neither to convince a husband who does not love his wife to love his wife nor to convince someone who does not have love to love. The ministry of the word is a needle to give people a "shot," whether they love their wives, are meek, or are short tempered. We are not interested in what people are; we care only to inject Christ into them. This is building. This is the work God is doing today. Whether we are in our family, our career, or our situations, God is working in many ways, not to accommodate or to "edify" us but to break us so that He can build us up.

The Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes

Lord's Day, Feb. 5 th	Matt. 20:17 – 21:11
Monday, Feb. 6 th	Matt. 21:12-46
Tuesday, Feb. 7 th	Matt. 22:1-22
Wednesday, Feb. 8 th	Matt. 22:23 – 23:12
Thursday, Feb. 9 th	Matt. 23:13-39
Friday, Feb. 10 th	Matt. 24:1-26
Saturday, Feb. 11 th	Matt. 24:27-51

Home Group Meetings

Group	Day	Time	Contact	Phone
Chinese Speaking				
Bothell	Sat	6:30 PM	Frank Cao	425-488-2556
Downtown	Sat	7:30 PM	James Chen	425- 637-6515
Eastgate	Sat	7:30 PM	Patrick Yu	425-502-7527
Hall	Fri	8:00 PM	Gary Wu	425-398-5467
Kirkland	Fri	8:00 PM	Ching Wang	425-895-0442
Overlake	Sat	7:00 PM	Peng Li	425-654-4638
Redmond	Fri	12:30 PM	Chong Hui Wang	425-827-0593
Somerset	Sat	7:00 PM	Mathew Maa	425-378-7775
English/Chinese Speaking				
Redmond	Fri	7:30 PM	Elliot Morris & Ray Chen	425-898-9186
English Speaking				
Wise	Mon	6:30 PM	Willie Wise	425-502-7939
Cape & Liaw	Fri	7:00 PM	Gordon Cape	425-885-3883
Central	Fri	7:00 PM	Atsuo Miyake	425-451-7294
Crossroads	Fri	6:30 PM	Mark Raabe	425-869-5818
Issaquah	Sat	6:00 PM	Pat Scott	425-657-0928
Kelsey Creek	Fri	6:30 PM	Anthony Motley	425-591-7130
Kenmore	Fri	7:00 PM	Larry Wilde	425-481-4580
Shih	Fri	6:30 PM	Tim Shih	425-881-3065
Smith	Fri	6:30 PM	Dexter Smith	425-702-0699
Washington	Fri	6:30 PM	Tim Washington	425-462-6076
Korean Speaking				
Overlake	Sat	6:00 PM	Jason Chang	425-373-5287