

BE AGENTS OF CHANGE

NECF 40 DAYS FAST AND PRAYER

7TH AUGUST TO 15TH SEPTEMBER 2011

Hellooooo again! Welcome to the Fast & Prayer of 2011!!!

If you were fasting and praying last year, great to see you again!! If this is your FIRST time joining in the Prayer & Fast, a BIG WELCOMEEEE to you!!!

This is a *very meaningful* time of fasting and prayer in Malaysia because many Christians ALL OVER THE COUNTRY are taking this time to pray & seek God for Malaysia.

God will move when we genuinely pray and seek Him – nothing can be more exciting than that!

I am very, very glad that you have decided to be a part of this Fast & Prayer. As Christians, we must make *every effort* to know what God's will is and to go where He goes! I promise you that this will be a good, meaningful and exciting journey in your walk with God... even better because we are all doing this together!! ☺

Fasting and prayer is an exciting time with God. It is also a serious time that we give to Him.

Before we move on any further, I would like you to take a few minutes and think about the next section carefully.

Ok, are you ready?

I think that most of you are Christians and have asked Jesus to come into your heart... most of you also love Jesus and say that He is your Lord and Saviour.

I would like to ask you to think about this question... it's a question that I have also asked myself:

In your life, are you following Jesus, or is Jesus following you?

Why do I ask such a question?

Well, because it is difficult to follow Jesus. Many times, we know what Jesus wants... for us to love others, to obey our parents, to tell the truth... but we want to do what we like... to only love those who are good to us, to obey our parents only when we feel like it, to tell the truth only when it is easy.

Also, we want Jesus to do what we ask Him to do, we pray to Him only when we have some time for Him, we do good to others only when we think they deserve it, not because He says so.

Who is really following who?

Is Jesus your leader, or are you the leader?

This is a difficult question to ask yourself, but you must answer it because this is what it means to be a Christian. Jesus says that we must take up our cross and follow Him. Taking up the cross means doing what is difficult in order to follow Him.

In Luke 6:46, Jesus says: "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

***Are you calling Jesus 'Lord, Lord' but not doing what He says?
IS Jesus your Lord?***

Let us pray this prayer together before we all move on...

Dear Lord Jesus,
I thank You for saving me and for coming
into my life.
I thank You for accepting me for who I am, and for loving
me so much that You were willing
to die on the cross for me.
I pray that I would also be willing to take up
my own cross to follow You.
You are my Saviour and my Lord.
Help me not to call You 'Lord' but not do
what You say.
Help me to follow You, Lord Jesus,
for YOU are my Lord, not myself.
In Your powerful name I pray, AMEN!

What a powerful prayer...

Ok, are you ready for this Great journey together??

SO, what are we fasting & praying about this year??

This year, we are praying for Christians to be Super Agents!

Ah?!?

Haha, no, not really!

No, this year, we'll be praying that Christians will be *Agents of Change*!

... meaning??

Well, it simply means that **Christians will make a difference for God wherever they are.**

Yes, and that includes both you and me!

NATO – do you know what this stands for??

...“No Action, Talk Only” ☹☹☹

Many, many Christians are like that... they say they are Christians, they say they want to do big things for God, they say they will give their lives to Him... but then, nothing! They don't do anything... at all!

It's like what we talked about earlier... and Jesus rebuked it... “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

Many times, Christians are like that... maybe because they have a lot of things to do... maybe because they find it troublesome, maybe because they forget... but whatever it is, there's only one thing God sees: They are a NATO Christian.

Let's not be NATO Christians.

In Matthew 25:35-36, Jesus says to the righteous Christians:

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Many people in Malaysia are the people that Jesus mentioned – hungry, thirsty, lonely, scared, needy, sick and in prison.

Jesus is asking us to love these people and to take care of them. Jesus is asking us to make His love and presence felt in this country. **This year**, we will be praying that God will help Christians to be **Agents of Change** – to make a *difference* for HIM wherever they are.

In the next 40 days together, we will be praying for these six important parts of Malaysia:

- ⊗ CHURCH
- ⊗ FAMILY
- ⊗ EDUCATION
- ⊗ GOVERNMENT
- ⊗ WORKPLACE
- ⊗ MEDIA/ARTS

Every week, as we pray for one area, we will ask God to give Christians the opportunity, the wisdom, and the courage to make a *difference* for HIM in Malaysia... **Ok, are you ready??**



Be agents of change

GEARING UP!

#1 Heart Check

Are you thankful to God? Many times, if we look at our own hearts, we find that there are a lot of unwanted things in there... worry, fear, pride, anger... it's so easy to feel this way, especially when something bad has just happened, or there's a problem that you can't make go away.

But what if you looked into your heart when things are bad and you found thankfulness? Wow, that would be a pleasant surprise!



Look at what the Bible has to say about thankfulness in this verse:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with *thanksgiving*, present your requests to God. – Philippians 4:6

Be thankful when we pray!

You may be asking, be thankful when there's a problem? What is there to be thankful about??

Actually there *is*. I think one of the reasons God wants us to be thankful when we take our problems to Him is because He wants us to remember that HE's around... if He's around, then really, how bad can the problem be?? That's something to be thankful for!

In these 40 days, instead of being worried, let us be thankful.

Every week, we will start out with thanksgiving – thank Him for everything and anything that the Holy Spirit brings into your heart. The rest of the week, when we present our problems to God, let us keep on thanking Him for all that He will do... hey, if God is for us, who can be against us?? We're ALREADY on the winning side! AMEN!!

P/s. Oh ya, the verse comes with a promise, "... and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

We gain supernatural peace too when we are thankful!

#2 Stomach Check!

When you think of your stomach, what do you think of? ... Hungry, good food, I need! I want!

Well, these 40 days, we are going to cut down on our meals to *train* our physical body to be obedient to God.

It's tough, but it's A REALLY GOOD way to remind ourselves of what Jesus said:
"... It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4b

As much as we need our rice, our laksa, our French fries (☺) to keep our body *alive*, we also need God's Word!



How am I going to fast??

- ❖ You can **start small**. If you have never fasted before, you can skip one meal... breakfast, lunch or dinner... or maybe skip eating during recess. It's okay to start small, as long as it is a sacrifice for you and what you want to give God.
- ❖ You can also decide to **fast during the day**.... Just like how the Jews or Moslems fast... when the sun comes up, they stop eating, and when the sun sets, they eat a simple meal.
- ❖ You can choose to do a '**Daniel fast**' – not eat any meat and any favourite food – just have vegetables, fruits and juices.

Drink Milo or a filling drink.

When you get really hungry and want to avoid a stomachache, you can also drink some Milo or a filling drink. This is good, especially if you have gastric problems, ok!



The thief is coming – TONIGHT!

The thief is coming tonight, I can feel it!
 I can feel it right here in my GUT,
 Yes, I'm sure – he's coming tonight!
 I've got to have my dinner early,
 Tell my neighbours to go get ready,
 Take out the bat, let out the dog,
 Make sure the alarm's ready to BLAST AND GO OFF;
 Yes, I'll make sure I get that thief tonight,
 I'll be ready, I tell you,
 I'll be ready for him tonight!

Luke 12: 39–40

"But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Will you know when a thief is coming to your house?

I think if you did, you would be like the person in the poem... very, very ready to make sure the thief can't break in!

Jesus says that He will come back again like a thief, at an hour when you do not expect Him.

Have you thought about the day you would finally meet Jesus?

What would you say? What do you think He'll say?

The Bible tells us that Jesus would either say, 'Good and faithful servant!' or 'Wicked and lazy servant!'

Let us *make sure* that our master will say to us, '**Good and faithful servant!**'

SO... how do I be a good and faithful servant??

As a good servant, you will need to do what your Lord Jesus says!

He has asked us to serve others, love others, and let others see how God's love has changed us.

Are you different inside because of what God has taught you? Do you feel loved because Jesus has held nothing back by dying for you? Do you know right from wrong because the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart?

If you do, then **let others see that in you**.... Love others the way God has loved you – *unconditionally* – want the best for them, don't think you're better than them, and completely forgive them when they wrong you.

When people ask you why you are different, that you don't do what they would normally do... **let them know** that God has taught you to be like that... that you CAN be like that because He has loved you, forgiven you, and given you His Holy Spirit to live in you.

This week, let's pray for the churches in Malaysia. Let's pray that Christians everywhere ***will be prepared***, and be good and faithful servants of God who do what He asks them to do – love and serve others, and allow those who do not know Him see how God has changed them!

WEEK 1: THE CHURCH

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." **1 John 3:18**

Thanksgiving

Spiritual Food – Psalm 28:7

This is the FIRST day of our 40-day Fast & Prayer! God is our strength and our shield; our hearts can fully trust Him! Just as the psalmist's heart *leaps for joy* because of who God is, let us also thank God because we can trust him *completely*.

Sun
August 7

Does your heart leap for joy when you pray to God?

If your heart feels worried, ask God to give you His peace and joy.

What is something that is worrying you?

Write it down here:

God is strong and can protect you. Give him praise for that!

Christians will be humble

Spiritual Food – Luke 18:9-14

It's not how good you are, it is how merciful God is! Many times, there is a lot of pride in our own heart – whether it is because we have done well, or because we think we are very talented.

Mon
August 8

Is it wrong to feel glad for these things? Actually, no.

However, it is wrong when we think we are better than the next person. The Bible says, *pride itself* is a sin! "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 18: 14b)

God Himself will oppose you if you are proud. Likewise, God Himself will give you grace if you are humble and give Him His due glory!

Today, let's pray for Christians in Malaysia. Let's pray that they will see how merciful and good God has been to them. Pray that every seed of pride in their heart will be removed. Pray that they will humbly come before God, and thank Him for everything that they are and have.

Christians will be united

Spiritual Food – Psalm 133

Unity is a good and pleasant thing! The psalmist compares unity to precious oil flowing richly down Aaron's head, beard and robe to morning dew falling onto Mount Zion. This comparison simply means that unity is a precious and life-giving thing because God gives blessings and life where there is unity. In other words, ***God loves and treasures unity!***

Do you live in unity with all those around you? Is there someone whom you are angry with/don't want to be good to/don't want to talk to?

If yes, ask God to help you forgive this person.

As a Christian, if you want to keep unity, you must do your part to preserve it. God's promise is true – where there is unity, there is blessing and life!

Today, let's pray that Christians in Malaysia will live in unity. Ask God to help each person see that unity is precious to God, and that it pleases Him for them to live in unity! Where there is hatred, let them sow love; where there is offence, forgiveness; where there is disunity, harmony!

Tue
August 9

Wed
August 10

Christians will love one another

Spiritual Food – John 13:34-35

No one is greater than his/her teacher. Jesus says to love one another, just as He has loved us. Jesus is a good teacher because He only expects us to do what He Himself has done before... He laid his life down for us to show His love for us! And *because* He has done this, we can also learn from Him by laying our lives down for others!

Have you thanked Jesus for giving His life for you?

Why don't you do this today? Thank Him for dying on the cross for you, for obeying God to suffer on the cross to demonstrate His love for you. Thank Jesus that because of what He has done, God's love is in you!

Today, let's pray that the Christians in Malaysia will also love one another. We are truly only Jesus' disciples if we love one another. Ask God to help Christians see this truth, and to obey it!

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Christians will love others

Spiritual Food – Matthew 25:31-36

Jesus appreciates everything that we do for others. In His Word, He says, "And if anyone gives *even a cup of cold water* to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42).

Whatever we do for others, Jesus takes it personally. How would you treat Jesus if you were to see Him hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, sick or in prison? How would you treat Him?

Why don't you pray that Jesus will help you see HIM in those who need all these things? Jesus loves them, and appreciates even a small, insignificant thing you do for every person who is in need.

Today, let's pray that the Christians in Malaysia will have a heart for all those around them. Pray that they will listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to their hearts when they see someone who needs their help – whether it is material things (food, water, clothes), or non-material things (friendship, concern and care).

Christians are good and faithful servants of God when they care for those around them!

Thu
August 11

Fri
August 12

Christians will shine for God

Spiritual Food – Matthew 5:13-16

How do you know salt is salt? ...because it is SALTY!

And how do you know that light is light? ...because it GIVES LIGHT!

This was basically Jesus' lesson when he taught His disciples about being the salt and light of the earth. He said, "If you are salt but you're *not* salty, or if you are light but you *don't* give light, then what's your purpose? There is really no reason to be salt or light!"

As Jesus' disciple, are you doing what you are meant to do? Are you shining for Him?

"I want to shine for Him, but how do I know what to do?"

By letting God's word speak to you through the Holy Spirit!

Today, let's pray that Christians in Malaysia will obey the Holy Spirit and let their light shine wherever they are!

Sat
August 13

Christians will answer God's call

Spiritual Food – Matthew 28:18-20

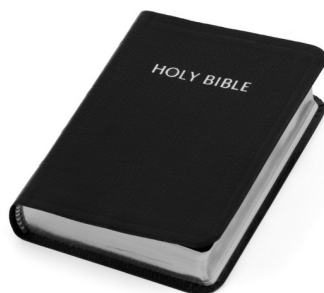
Jesus has given His followers a very important job – to tell people of ALL nations about Him so that they will follow Him...to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to obey everything He has commanded. Basically, to bring others to God... this is the important job we are given as Jesus' followers!

How are we going to do that? Jesus has promised us, "I am surely with you always, until the end." Isn't that a powerful promise?? Yes, we are not alone!

...What can I do then in my everyday life?

As a Christian, ask God to help you SHARE HIM with others. Ask God to show you the right time and place to share... also for right words and courage. There is power in Jesus' Name, so ask Him to be with you in doing this job, and He surely will be!

Today, let's pray that the Christians in Malaysia will answer God's call – to share Him with others no matter who they are. Ask God to grant them power, wisdom, willingness, and opportunity to do His work!



This week, we will pray for the Christian families in Malaysia. Christian families need to be strong in God because the family is where real values and ideas about life are shaped. God desires for godly families – families who would give Him glory and who would serve Him faithfully. Let's pray this week that Christians in Malaysia will prepare themselves well **as a family**, so that they can stand before God & say that they have done their part!

WEEK 2: THE FAMILY

*But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” **Joshua 24:15***

Sun
August 14

Thanksgiving

Spiritual Food – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

This is the second week of our 40-day Fast & Prayer!

How has your week been??

If it has been good – praise God! If it has been not so good...well, don't be discouraged – keep on praising God!

The Bible tells us... in ALL circumstances – good or bad – give thanks to God. For He is good and is more than able to take care of you.

*What is **one good thing** that happened to you last week that you can praise God for? Thank God for it, and give Him the due praise! Giving thanks to God helps us understand that whether our life is up or down – God is always there and is in complete control!*

Family Prayer

Spiritual Food – Matthew 19:13-14

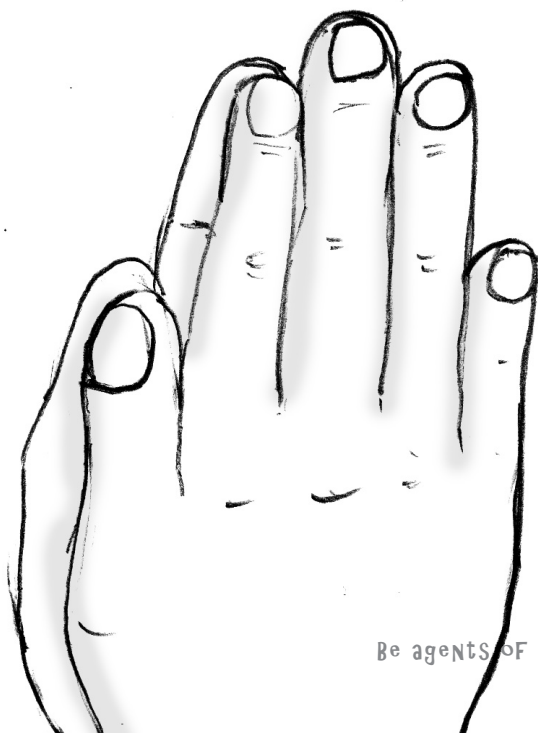
Mon
August 15

Jesus wants *all* to come to Him – including the little children!

Many times, parents or guardians may not truly understand how much God wants the children to come to Him, to pray to Him and to love Him. They may feel that their children's simplicity or 'lack' of understanding will stop them from coming to God.

Jesus was strongly against this attitude and said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them!" Christian parents must remember that God *loves* their little children and also *admires* their heart.

Today, let us pray for the Christian parents in Malaysia. Let us pray that they will remember God's will for their children – that they will come to Him! Pray also that parents will know how to teach their children how to pray, and how to explain to their children how much God loves them!



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Tue
August 16

Parents will teach their children about God

Spiritual Food – Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Everyday & Everywhere – this is how dedicated God wants parents to be when they teach their children about God!

It is no easy task – if parents want to be successful in teaching their children about God, they will need to talk about Him when they sit at home and when they are outside the house. They will have to continue teaching their children when the children go to sleep at night, and when they get up in the morning. In other words, parents will need to KEEP talking to their children about God. They will need to make sure that every part of their children's life is filled with God's teaching.

This job needs dedication from parents. They will need to understand that it is *very important* to teach their children, and that they will need to *keep at it*.

Today, let's pray for Christian parents in Malaysia, that God will speak to their hearts – to help them see that teaching their children about God is very important. Let us pray that they will be faithful in what God has given them to do; to be very dedicated in telling their children about Him!



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Wed

August 17

Parents will be good Christian examples

Spiritual Food – 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Timothy 3 4-5

Monkey see, Monkey do! People learn from following other people's examples... and this is *especially* true of children! The way to smile, the way to laugh, the way to talk to someone, the way to take off shoes... children follow just about everything they see!

What are parents in Malaysia showing their children then? Do their children see that they think God is important? Do their children see that they honour God in their lives?

Today, let's pray for the Christian parents in Malaysia, that they would set good, godly examples for their children to follow. Pray that God will give them strength to live a life pleasing to Him, that they will be successful in leading their children to God!

Thu

August 18

Strong Marriages

Spiritual Food – Mark 10:9

What God has joined together, let no man separate. What is God's will for two people who are married to each other? That they will live together as one, not separately!

There are so many problems in the family in our time, and you may have heard of divorces happening in your friend's family... or maybe even in your own family. You may be sad about what is happening, and God sees your heart... He says in Malachi 2:16, "I hate divorce..."

If you are hurt, worried or angry about what is happening to maybe your parents or a friend's parents that you know, *tell God how you feel*. Give whatever you feel to Him, and trust that He will take care of things.

Today, let's pray for the marriages of Christians in Malaysia. Let's pray that God's will is done in their marriage, that they will commit all their problems to Him and give their marriages to Him. God can work miracles if they will allow Him, so let us pray that they will be obedient to Him in their marriage!

Fri
August 19

Close bond with grandparents

Spiritual Food – Psalm 145:4; 2 Timothy 1:5

Grandparents are as much a part of your family as your parents are. What you have learnt is because of what your parents have taught you, *and* because of what *their* parents have taught them!

Do you love your grandparents? Maybe you may not see them often, or talk to them much... so you find it hard to love them. Ask God to help you to be concerned about them and to love them. God wants us to honour our parents, and that should also include our grandparents.

Today, let's commit the grandparents of Christian families in Malaysia to God. Let's pray that their children and their grandchildren will honour and love them. Let's pray that parents and children will understand how important it is to love their grandparents, and they will do something about it!

Sat
August 20

Single Parents

Spiritual Food – Psalm 68:5

God has a soft spot for the fatherless and the widows. He has declared Himself 'a Father to the fatherless, a Defender of widows'.

Do you know of any families who have single parents?

If you do, why don't you write their names here _____

It could be a family in church or school that you know, or even your own family. God is concerned about such families and wants them to be well taken care of.

Today, let's pray for whomever you've written in the space above, and also for all single parents in Malaysia. Let's pray that Christians in our country will take care of them when they need help, and would also be kind, fair, and caring towards them. God is pleased when Christians take care of such families!

A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF OLD – PART 1

There's a *faithful servant* in the Bible that not many people talk about. He was only mentioned *once* in the Bible, but he played a significant role in ensuring that God's plan for Israel went smoothly.

Can you guess who he is?

He was made *chief* of all the servants in the household he served. He was also *God-fearing* – he asked God to help him with the assignment he was given. He was also *very trusted* because he was given a very important assignment by his master – choosing a wife for his master's son. Can you guess??

... he was Abraham's chief servant!

This servant's name was not even mentioned in the Bible, and we can only know him as 'Abraham's servant'.

Ok, this is how his story goes. Abraham was a very, very rich man at this time. The Bible says that '... the Lord had blessed him in every way' (Genesis 24: 1b). To become Abraham's chief servant was probably a great privilege, as he was put in charge of *everything* his master owned.

What do you think made this man such a trusted person?

Let us look closer at his life because in this account, he showed the mark of a very trusted servant.

Invaluable Quality 1

In the Bible, it says that Abraham was very old... and being old, he wanted his son Isaac to have a wife. Now, Isaac was the promised son of Abraham – through Isaac, God would give him many more children – like the '*stars* in the sky and the *sand* on the sea shore'. Looking for a wife for Isaac, then, was a VERY IMPORTANT JOB.

According to the account, Abraham called out his chief servant and asked him to make a solemn promise – *an oath* – to look for a wife for Isaac in his home country (far away from Canaan where he was living), and who was one of his relatives.

This was a very serious job, and the chief servant wanted to be VERY sure he could do it. **So what did he do??**

First, he asked Abraham two very important questions:

What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to Canaan?

Should I then take Isaac back to the country you (Abraham) came from?

Abraham answered his questions, telling him NOT to take Isaac back as God had asked him and his family to stay in Canaan. If the woman would not come back, then he (the servant) would be released from the solemn promise.

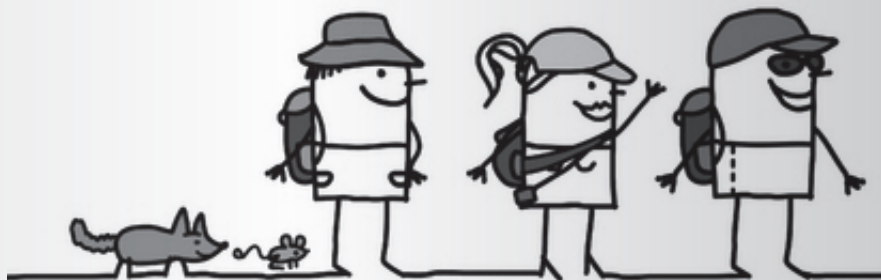
After being assured that he *could* do the job, he took the oath.

Then, the servant set out to make sure his trip would be successful. He brought along ten of his master's camels, and all kinds of good things (earrings, bracelets, gold, etc.). These were all the important things he needed to *make sure* he could complete his job (he needed to give the bride-to-be and her family valuable gifts)... and also to make sure that the girl's family would believe him and let him take her back to Abraham.

Third, to make sure he would *really be successful* in his job, he thought up a very good plan and *asked God* to confirm it. He prayed and asked God to show Abraham kindness by granting him success, and he told God his plan... that if he would ask a girl in that area to let him have a drink, she would say 'yes', and would *also* offer to water his camels.

Wow, looking at all this servant did, we can see that he was very serious about doing his job, don't you think? He made sure his master understood the problems that could come up, he made sure his team was well-prepared (loading up on all the good stuff), he thought up a good plan, and he made arrangements with God to really make sure he would get the right girl! **What a faithful servant!**

Honestly... he could have done *many things* to make his own life easier. If he wanted, he could have found just any girl from Abraham's homeland and claim that



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she was his relative. Abraham would never know! The servant had all the valuables he needed to find a girl who would agree with him to trick Abraham.... *Or*, he could also have kept some gold and valuables for himself, and told Abraham that they were used up during the long journey he had taken... that would have made him a little richer! *Or*, he could also have used his own wisdom to look for Isaac's wife, and be very proud of being capable enough to do the job on his own... that would have brought him a lot of praise!

But, he did none of that. As a servant trusted by his Master to do an important job, he took it seriously and was very determined to make sure he *did the job*, and that he did it *the right way*! He was really a servant Abraham could trust... is it any wonder that he was put in charge of everything his master had??

... well, what can we learn from this Ancient servant?

Faithfulness. A faithful servant does everything he can to make sure he GETS THE JOB DONE (AND DONE RIGHT!). This is an invaluable quality that all of us can learn from, and a quality that God asks of us. When we meet Jesus, we want God to say, 'Good and faithful servant!' – which means, you did your job!



Be agents of change

This week, let's pray for the Education in Malaysia. Education is a very important area to pray for because it is where young minds and hearts are shaped and changed. Let's pray that the Christians in Malaysia, whether students or teachers or parents or ministers, will be faithful servants of God. God has asked us to be the salt and light wherever we are. Let us pray that Christians will faithfully **do that job** in education.

WEEK 3: EDUCATION

<p>Sun August 21</p>	<p>Thanksgiving <i>Spiritual Food – Psalm 69:30-31</i></p> <p><i>This is the third week of the fast!</i> We are near mid-point, you are doing well! Let us begin this week with praising God with a song, and thanking Him. 😊</p> <p><i>What's your favourite praise/worship song?</i></p> <p>Take some time now and sing it whole-heartedly to God. Never mind if you have a 'croaky' voice – when you sing it with a thankful heart, you are glorifying God!</p>
<p>Mon August 22</p>	<p>Good Testimony <i>Spiritual Food – Ephesians 2:10</i></p> <p><i>Wherever we are, we are called to be faithful servants of God – including in schools.</i> For teachers and students, school is where they spend A LOT of their time in. A very important question to ask yourself is this: <i>What good work in school has God prepared in advance for me to do?</i></p> <p>Normally, you will not know <i>exactly</i> what God has called you to do. However, when you JUST START obeying God to live a good and righteous life in school, you will begin to understand the good work God has called you to do for Him.</p> <p><i>Today, let us all pray for ourselves and the Christians in education. Let's pray that Christians will commit their lives to God – to live good and righteous lives for Him – so that they will make a difference for God where He has called them!</i></p>

Christian Fellowship

Spiritual Food – Matthew 18:19-20

Tue
August 23

The friends and the people that you meet in school are the ones you can share God with. Many of them do not know Him, and you are the one who can share the Light that is in you through the things that you do, the way that you treat others, and what you can tell them when they ask you.

Christian Fellowship is not just a place to make great friends – but also a place to pray *together* with these friends to move God's hands. Whatever two or three of you ask God for in unity, Jesus has promised that it will be done for you! Isn't that amazing?

Today, let's pray for all the Christian Fellowships (CFs) in Malaysia. Let's pray that Christian students and teachers everywhere will answer God's call for them to be the salt and light for Him in their schools, and that God will bless and grow their CFs. Let's also pray that there will be real unity among the Christians in school so that everyone will know that they are God's children!

Good Teachers

Spiritual Food – Matthew 10:24

Wed
August 24

Teachers have a great responsibility towards their students in school. Whatever they do, say, feel, think about and teach – whether good or bad – affects their students.

Today, let's pray for the teachers in Malaysia. Let's pray that whether Christian or non-Christian, they will realize how much impact they have on their students, and will be responsible. Ask God to give them a good heart so that they will teach their students sincerely, passionately and excellently.

Do you know of a good teacher in your school? *Thank God for this teacher.*

Pray that this teacher will be a good example to other teachers in school. Also pray that God will provide more teachers like that in Malaysian schools.

<p>Thu August 25</p>	<p>Christian Teachers <i>Spiritual Food – Ephesians 6:18-20</i></p> <p><i>Christian teachers have a special mission in schools.</i> They are not only called to teach, but to make an impact on those around them, which includes their students and their colleagues. They are also placed in a very special position to influence the students under their care – their thoughts, their attitudes, and their speech.</p> <p><i>Today, let's commit the Christian teachers in Malaysia to God. Let's pray that God will empower them so that they will not be afraid to do what is right in schools. Pray also that they will keep their paths pure and righteous, so that they will shine brightly in whatever school God has placed them in.</i></p> <p>Christian teachers need your prayers!</p>
<p>Fri August 26</p>	<p>Textbooks will not mislead students in what they believe <i>Spiritual Food – Acts 20:28-31</i></p> <p><i>Our hearts are influenced by what we put in our minds.</i> In schools, many students are exposed to the teachings of Islam because they are included in textbooks. Students who are not strong in their Christian faith, or who may not know God can be swayed towards these teachings. As Christians, let us not underestimate the dangers of young minds being exposed to these teachings.</p> <p><i>We need to pray that God will lead students to the truth, and protect them from being led astray. Let's also pray that textbooks in Malaysia, especially History books, will be fair and not overemphasize one religious teaching.</i></p>

Vocational Schools

Spiritual Food – James 1:17

Every talent we have is a good and perfect gift from God – whether we are Christian or non-Christian. Our heavenly Father provides for everyone – do you know that?

Sat
August 27

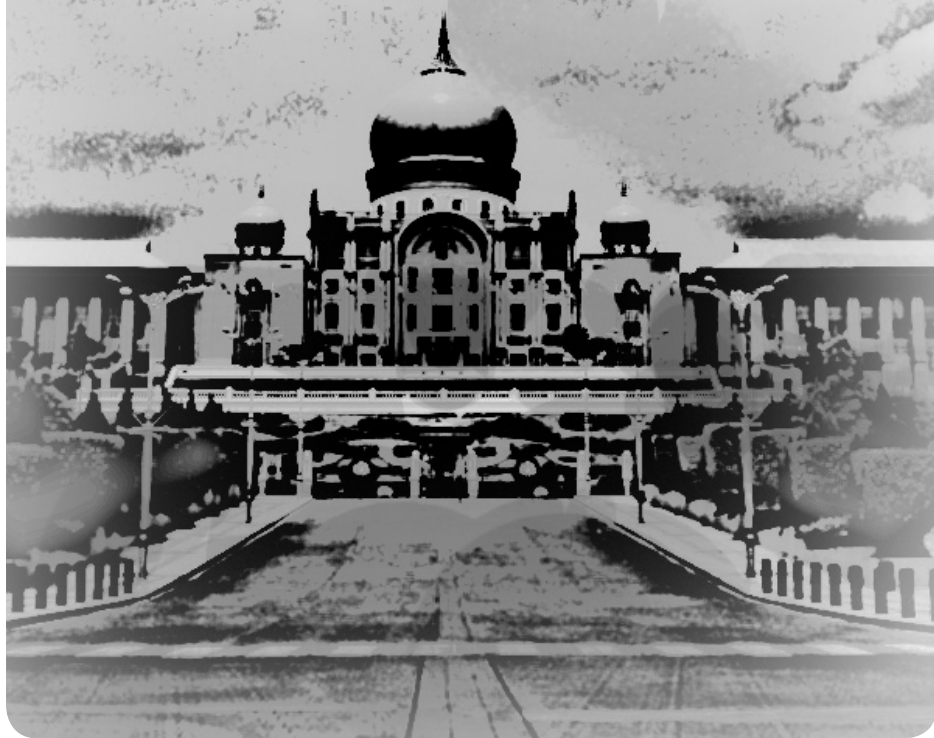
Today, let's pray for students in schools who are talented in many ways, but not in their academic studies. Many of these students are frustrated, and end up dropping out and getting themselves into trouble. There are some organizations, including NECF, which are trying to open up vocational schools for them.

Let's pray that there will be more vocational schools in Malaysia. Also pray that these students will be able to develop their God-given talents so that they can really be successful in earning a living next time.



Be agents of change

The Prime Minister's Office, Putrajaya



Be agents of change

This week, we will pray for the Government in Malaysia. A good or bad government will determine how peaceful our lives are. Christians have a responsibility towards the government – to take an interest in what is happening and to ensure that they support the right leaders and laws. Let's pray that Christians will be faithful in **doing what they need to do** so that a good government will rule in Malaysia.

WEEK 4: THE GOVERNMENT

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Sun
August 28

Thanksgiving

Spiritual Food – 1 Timothy 2:1-2

We are in Week 4! You are doing great – keep going!!

Today, let's thank God for the Government in Malaysia. They are not perfect, but God has put them in authority to serve our country – so let's thank God for the people HE has chosen!

What is one thing that you appreciate the government for?

Thank God for it.

People have a bad habit of only looking at the bad things others do. Let's not forget to notice the effort the government has put into doing good things... and let's thank God for it!

Mon
August 29

Christians will be interested to know about politics

Spiritual Food – 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Let us meditate further on the same verses today. It says that it is *pleasing* to God for us to pray for those in authority.

Many of us do not pray for our country – simply because we are just not interested in the government. Sometimes, it may be very boring to know what is happening in politics. However, this does not give us an excuse *not* to know. God asks of us to pray for our government – *how are we to pray if we don't even know what's happening?*

One way to know more about the government is to read about what others are saying concerning Malaysia. Watching television and talking to informed people will also help. Not everything people say is true, but we can listen to learn more.

Today, let's pray for Christians in Malaysia, that they will be responsible enough to learn about the government. Let's also pray that Christians can effectively pray for the country's leaders.



Top: The Palace of Justice

Left: The Malaysian Parliament

Tue
August 30

Christians will vote for the government responsibly & wisely
Spiritual Food – Romans 13:7

Malaysians who are 21 years and above can start voting for the government. From what they know about the government, they will choose which leaders they feel are best to lead the country. Voting is a chance for Malaysians to make a *responsible choice*.

Today, let's pray that Christians will take voting seriously. Let's pray that they will do their part as citizens of Malaysia to choose their leaders. This will ensure that good leaders are given authority in Malaysia!

Wed
August 31

Prime Minister & Government Leaders
Spiritual Food – Romans 13:1

Our Prime Minister and country leaders need our prayers. In the Bible, it says that the authority they have is given to them *by God*. As it is God's will for them to be in authority, we as Christians need to respect them and pray for them.

Today, let's pray for our leaders. If you have never done this before... well, it is a good time to start!

Let's pray that God will bless our leaders with abundant wisdom and favour from others. Also pray that they will fear God, and be convicted to do the right thing.

We need to pray for the best leaders for our country so that there will be peace and justice in Malaysia!



Be agents of change

<p>Thu Sept 1</p>	<p>Country's Wealth <i>Spiritual Food – Psalm 104:14-15</i></p> <p><i>What do we have that God has not given?</i> Our plantations, our oil, our rich soil, our cattle, our buildings, our roads, our universities, our bright minds...all of our resources belong to God. In Psalm 50: 10a-12, God says:</p> <p><i>"... for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures in the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it."</i></p> <p>Whatever God has given us, we must be <i>responsible</i> with it.</p> <p><i>Today, let's pray that our country will be faithful with our wealth. Let's pray that our leaders will be responsible – that they will use the wealth for good and not evil, for the people and not for selfish reasons.</i></p> <p>Let's pray that what is given to us will be used responsibly!</p>
<p>Fri Sept 2</p>	<p>No Corruption <i>Spiritual Food – Proverbs 29:2</i></p> <p><i>How true this proverb is! Christians must pray for righteous leaders.</i> When our leaders do the right thing, the people live well. <i>IF</i> our leaders are unjust, the people suffer!</p> <p><i>Today, let's pray for righteous leaders to hold authority in Malaysia. Let's pray that more and more men and women with honest ways, compassionate hearts, and bold spirits will become leaders in our country.</i></p>

1 Malaysia

Spiritual Food – Matthew 22:37-40

Unity is precious to God, and that includes unity in Malaysia!

Christians can really show a good example to other Malaysians by truly loving every race in Malaysia. Gossiping, putting down another race, criticizing, scoffing, making fun of, cracking insulting jokes... these are the habits that cause disunity between races.

We as Christians must not do as everyone does... we must accept every race as equal – dignified in God's eyes – and love them as ourselves.

Sat
Sept 3

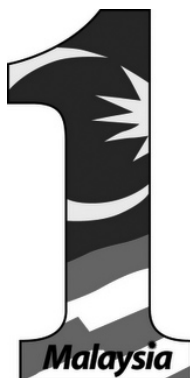
In God's Kingdom, everyone is the same in Jesus:

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

As Christians, we are able to understand how everyone is equal in God's eyes. Let us as Christians demonstrate this equality to others in Malaysia!

Today, let's pray that Christians will be a good example of loving and respecting other races in Malaysia. Let's also pray that others will see how they can love a person from a different race from our example... and then change their ways.

Truly, love for our neighbours starts with us!



Be agents of change

A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF OLD – PART 2

Coming back to Abraham's trusted servant... **so was he successful in completing his job?**

In the Bible it says, '*before* he had finished praying...' (Genesis 24:15a) the woman who was to become Isaac's wife came near with her jar on her shoulder. She was a relative, very beautiful, and was still unmarried.

When the servant saw her, he hurriedly went over to meet her and *immediately* put his plan into action. He said, "Please, give me a little water from your jar."

The girl answered, "Drink, my lord," and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink. After giving him a drink, she offered to give all his camels a drink, just as the servant had prayed!

Did the servant immediately tell her of his reason for coming? Interestingly, he did not. The Bible says that without saying a word, the man watched her closely to learn whether or not God had made his journey successful.

When *all* his camels had finished drinking did the servant only take out his valuable gifts for the girl. However, he did not yet tell her of his reason for coming. He continued to ask her, "Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" The servant wanted to make sure that she was Abraham's relative, just as his master had instructed.

When she finally told him who she was, he realized that she *was* one of Abraham's relatives and he started praising and thanking God for granting him the success he had asked for!

Mission Accomplished!! What now?

What would a faithful servant do once his mission is accomplished? Let's continue with the story and find out.

When the girl received all these valuable gifts (the Bible says it was a gold nose ring and two gold bracelets – very valuable!)... and also after hearing everything he said, she ran home and told her family about all that had happened.

When her brother heard about all these things, he hurried out to meet this servant and to invite him to stay with them. The servant was treated very well – straw and

fodder were brought for his camels, and water was given to him and his men to wash their feet. Food was also taken out and served to him and his company.

By now, the servant was probably very comfortable with his camels taken care of, his feet washed, and food set in front of him. Everyone was expecting him to start eating, but he did not. Instead, he said, "I will *not* eat until I have told you what I have to say".

For him, his duty came first before anything else. Even though God had shown him that everything would go smoothly, he still felt it was important to make sure he finished the job well!

The girl's brother replied, "Then, tell us."

So the servant told them everything, starting with who he was – Abraham's servant. He told them how rich God had made Abraham, how Abraham made him swear an oath to find a wife for Isaac, and to make sure the wife was a relative. He told them what kind of oath it was, and also about his prayer to God, that the woman who did all he had asked would be Isaac's wife. He also told them how God had answered his whole prayer, that he was led to a girl who was Abraham's relative, just as he had prayed!

After everything that he said, the girl's brother and father were convinced, and agreed to let her become Isaac's wife – mission accomplished! His careful and thorough explanation helped to ensure that the girl's family really understood his reason for coming, and to assure them that the arrangement was really from God.

So... Mission accomplished!! – What now?

Let's see.

The very next morning, the servant got up and said, "Send me on my way to my master." He wanted to leave right away!

The girl's brother and mother hesitated, and replied, "Let the girl stay with us ten days or so, then you may go."

However, the servant said, "Do not keep me back, now that the Lord has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master."

The servant did not want to delay his job even for a day, and he wanted to complete his job as soon as he could! To him, the mission was *not yet* accomplished – even with success, he still had not completely finished his job. *Wow, what a hardworking, dedicated, and faithful servant!*

Because of his persistence, the girl's family decided to ask her whether she was willing to follow the servant that day. As the story goes, she agreed, and followed the servant back to the place Abraham was living. The rest, as people say, is history, and the servant safely brought her to his Master. Isaac and the girl (her name was Rebekah) then got married! 😊

Invaluable Quality 2

Because of the servant's faithfulness, God's plan for Abraham and his descendants (to multiply like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore) went smoothly. He was not a well-known character in the Bible, but he showed tremendous excellence in serving Abraham's family – he was a Great servant, someone whom we can really learn from.

So what made him such a great servant?

He did everything with *excellence*!

... *He was very, very careful.* When the girl was watering his camels, he waited until she had done everything before he said anything! *He was also very focused.* He put his job first before his comfort, and refused to eat before he had told the family about his mission. *He did not take things for granted.* He made sure he explained everything very carefully to the girl's family so that they would be confident about his request. *Finally, he was very efficient.* He wanted to go back the very next day so he could finish the job as soon as he possibly could!

What an excellent servant!

I think all of us can learn from this servant about what it means to be **faithful**. His *excellent spirit* really showed how faithful he was as Abraham's servant.

Christians in Malaysia also need to show this **spirit of excellence** in being faithful servants of Jesus!

This week, let's pray for the Christians in the workplace. Many times, Christians become confused about whom they serve in this world – God or Money? Money can be very deceiving because people can do many things with money, and at work, money is one way people measure a person's success. Let's pray that Christians will know whom they serve – *God*, not Money. Let's pray that they will be excellent at work not because of money, but because they want to make a difference for God in their workplace!

WEEK 5: WORKPLACE

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. **Colossians 3:23-24***

Thanksgiving

Spiritual Food – Psalm 95:1-6

We are in Week 5! Keep going! We've started well, let's finish well!

Today, we will continue to praise our Father in heaven. Have you praised God *out loud* before? Praising God out loud is very powerful – it is one thing to praise Him quietly in your heart, and another thing to praise Him audibly with your voice. Praising God out loud will build up your faith and help you connect with God at a different level.

Why don't you take a few minutes now to praise God out loud... you may find it weird at first, but once you've started, it will get easier and easier!

Like the psalmist, let's give God all of our praise!

Sun
Sept 4



Be agents of change

Mon
Sept 5

Not love money

Spiritual Food – 1 Timothy 6:17-18; 1 Timothy 6:6-11

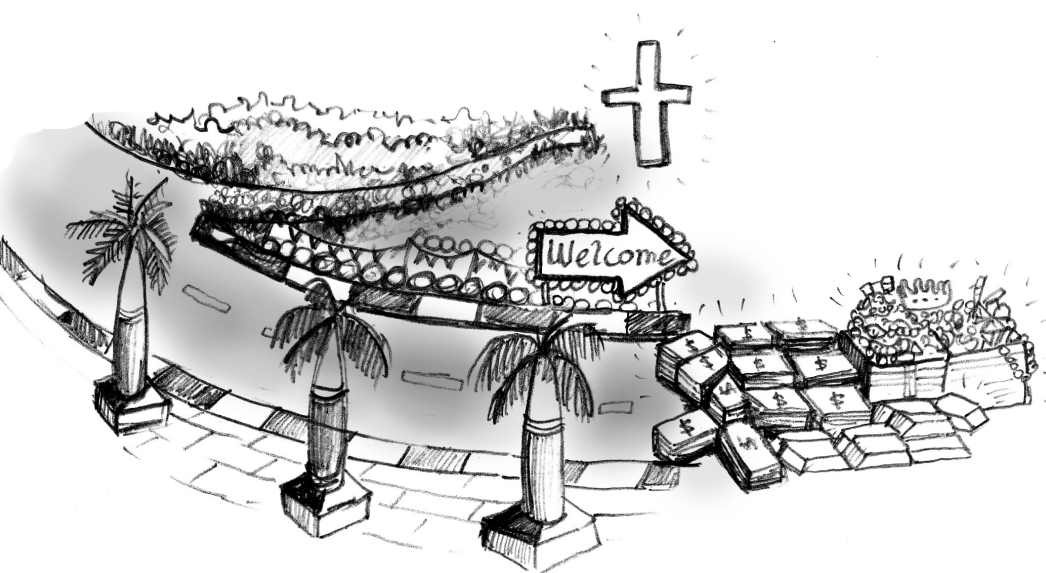
A servant cannot serve two masters – he cannot serve both God and Money. He *must* choose. How important do you feel money is? Who do you trust to provide what you need – God or money?

Many adults who are already working trust in money and really desire to be rich. They put in all their time and energy to earn money... and keep trying to earn more.

The Bible warns us against loving money. We will **dishonour** God if we do.

Today, let's pray for Christians who are working. Let's pray that they will trust in God and not money. Let's pray that they will use their money to build God's kingdom, and trust that He who is rich will provide them with everything they need!

P/s. It's not wrong to be rich, but it **IS** wrong to love money and to trust in it.



Be agents of change

Not be influenced by worldly thinking

Spiritual Food – Romans 12:2

God's Word is a very bright light – it shows us the right way ... the path of God's righteousness! God's Word is so precious, and we must treasure it and follow it so that we walk the right way!

Christians need to really KNOW God's Word & let it change them... rather than let people's attitudes, opinions and thoughts change them. God declares in Isaiah 55:8:

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways...." We must know His thoughts and ways... simply because *they are different* from ours! Only then can we know *what it is* He wants us to do.

Let's pray that Christians in the workplace will CHOOSE to let God's Word change them rather than what they see and hear around them. Let's pray that they will have STRONG FAITH in God and trust in Him more than people, skills and money!

Tue
Sept 6

Christians will deal honestly with others

Spiritual Food – Leviticus 25:14

God gave very clear instructions to the Israelites on how to be fair in business. There are many ways people can make a little more money than they *should* by using unfair methods. Even if they can be 'smart' enough to earn more, God sees... and knows it is unfair.

God wants us to deal fairly and honestly with others. He wants every person to earn what they should, and not cheat or be cheated.

Today, let's pray for Christians in businesses. Let's pray that God will help them be strong, and make the RIGHT & FAIR decision... so that they are fair to everyone IN GOD'S EYES. Let's also pray that their good example will help to change their workplace for the better!

Wed
Sept 7

<p>Thu Sept 8</p>	<p>Christians will help the needy with their wealth <i>Spiritual Food – Deuteronomy 24:19</i></p> <p><i>God loves it when we help those in need!</i> God does not want us to be calculative and only think of profit... but rather, He wants us to bless others and be generous with those in need. When God sees us doing that, He has promised to bless the work that we do!</p> <p>Over and over again, the Bible shows God to be very generous is His rewards. In Luke 6:38, Jesus says, <i>“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”</i></p> <p>God knows how to count too, and He will give you value for whatever you’ve given!</p> <p><i>Today, let’s pray for Christians in Malaysia to be generous in blessing those in need. Let’s pray they will see that helping people is MORE IMPORTANT than earning more money.</i></p>
<p>Fri Sept 9</p>	<p>Christians will be diligent workers for God <i>Spiritual Food – Acts 17:17</i></p> <p><i>Wherever we are, whether at home or at work/school, during our free time or during our ‘working’ time – we are always ‘on-duty’ for God!</i></p> <p>God asks us to be the salt and light wherever we are... we can’t be salty at home, but not salty at work/school... <i>we work not part-time but all the time!</i></p> <p><i>Today, let’s pray that Christians in Malaysia will serve God both at home AND at work. Ask God to help them see that they are God’s workers first before anyone else’s workers!</i></p>

God's victory in an ungodly workplace

Spiritual Food – Ephesians 6:10-13

Christians must be very strong and be able to fight off whatever traps the devil has set up. When there is a chance to do wrong, Christians must stand firm and not do it. When there is a chance to earn money unfairly, Christians must stand firm and say 'no'. These are things that cause us to sin, to do what is not right in God's eyes.

Sat
Sept 10

Joseph in the Bible was a manager in a rich man's house, and also in the government. He had many chances to do wrong... but he did not because he feared God. Even though he suffered unfairly for his decisions, God was faithful to him and took good care of him!

Today, let's pray that Christians will stand firm in the workplace where there are many chances to do the wrong thing. Let's pray that Christians will fear God, just as Joseph did, and continue to do right even when it is difficult!

God will honour us when we honour Him!





This week, we will pray for the Media & Arts. These two areas are very important because they are powerful tools of communication. Let's pray that these tools will be used **wisely and righteously** in our country. Let's also pray that God will bless Christians in Malaysia so that they can **be excellent** for Him in these areas!

WEEK 6: MEDIA/ARTS

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

Thanksgiving

Spiritual Food – Psalm 100:4

It's the last week of the 40-Day Fast & Prayer! Wow! Only 5 more days to go!

Let's run with even more energy as we see the finish line from a distance. 😊

Let's begin this week with thanksgiving and praise!

The last 5 weeks have been a wonderful journey with God – what would you like to thank Him for? What is one thing He has spoken to you about?

Take some time now to give Him thanks and praise for it.

When we come before our God, let us enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

Sun
Sept 11

Mon
Sept 12

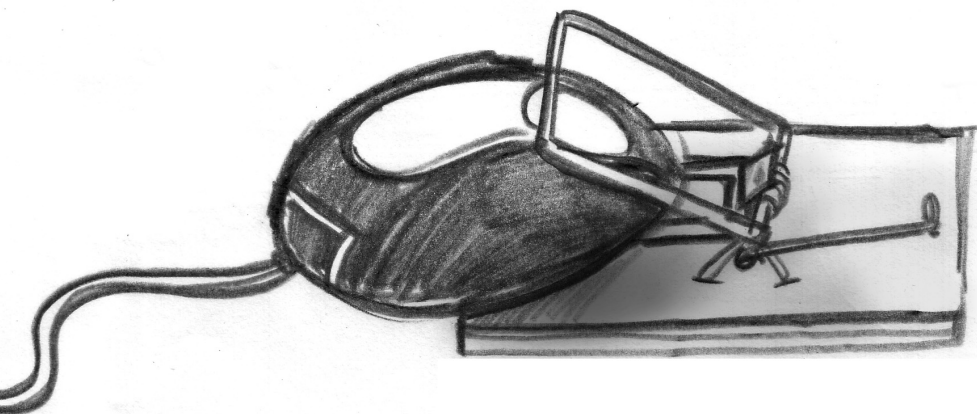
Freedom to gain information

Spiritual Food – Romans 1:18

Today, let's commit the media in Malaysia to God. The media includes the news we gain from the television, internet, newspaper, radio etc.

There are times in our country when important information is not given to the people. This is *not healthy*, especially when it is a truth that shows the mistakes or the wrong deeds of the government. For now, some of this information can still be received from the internet, or from international media. However, things are more controlled in the mainstream media, which includes the national newspapers, television and radio.

Today, let's pray that the government will not control the mainstream media in an unfair way. Let's pray for healthy freedom to gain important information so that Malaysians can trust the government more, and know how our country is really doing!



Be agents of change

Truth

Spiritual Food – Proverbs 28:13

There are many ways not to tell the truth... by only telling half the story, by unfairly focusing on only one part of the story, or by pretending that nothing is wrong and not saying anything at all!

The truth is hard to tell especially when mistakes are made because it can bring 'unnecessary' problems or cause trouble.

BUT, even though telling the truth can be difficult, it is the **ONLY** way to live righteously. God says **DO RIGHT** and do not lie.

Today, let's pray that the media & the government will be truthful. Pray that God will speak to their hearts about their untruthfulness, and God will HELP them to tell the truth.

Let's also pray that the media will not be afraid to tell the whole truth... that there will be brave people in the media who will TELL THE TRUTH even when it is difficult.

Our country must be built on truth and not lies. Truth will help us see ourselves better, and help us build trust and love in our country.



Be agents of change

Tue
Sept 13

Wed
Sept 14

Christians will be a good influence through the arts & media

Spiritual Food – Psalm 149:3; Psalm 19:1-2; Psalm 139:14-15

God loves artistic expression, and the beautiful works of His hands can be seen everywhere... even in ourselves!

The arts – whether it is drawing, painting, dancing, singing, acting, writing, sewing, moulding – arts in different forms draw people easily because it is beautiful. It touches people's hearts and minds and is a powerful way to communicate. Let's commit this part of communication – the arts – to God. Many talented Christians can make a real difference for God through the arts. They can express His love, wisdom, strength and hope to others through their artistic talents.

Today, let's pray that God will increase the talents of Christians in the arts. Let's pray that Christians will show awesome creativity that is God-inspired so that they would be able to touch others with His presence!

The media – different tools for giving information – is ANOTHER powerful way to communicate. For the last two days, we have been praying that God would ensure information is given righteously and truthfully.

Today, let's also pray that God will increase the influence of Christians in the media. Ask God to give Christians interest, favour & great talent to communicate well through the media. With more Christians in the media, God's righteous ways will have more influence!

Commit Malaysia to God

Spiritual Food – Nehemiah 1:11

TODAY is the last day of our Fast & Prayer! God bless you for being faithful in fasting & praying for Malaysia!

Today, we will pray a special prayer for Malaysia. Over the 40 days, we have prayed for the Church, Family, Education, Government, Workplace, and the Arts & Media. We have especially prayed that Christians in Malaysia will be *faithful servants* of God – to be the salt and light for Him wherever they are. We have also *committed* all these parts of Malaysia to Him, asking Him to make a difference in our country.

Today, let's pray Nehemiah's prayer to God.

Nehemiah was on a mission to build the walls of his city Jerusalem after it had been destroyed in a war. It was a tough job because he was living in a foreign country, and needed the King to approve his mission. *Before* he started doing his work, he first came before God and asked Him for FAVOUR – favour to do this work, and favour from the King.

Today, let's pray this same prayer. Let's pray that God will be with us – the Christians in Malaysia – to make a difference for Him. Let us pray that He will bless us and give us favour, that he will PROSPER the work we do for Him. Let's also pray that He will grant us favour IN THE EYES of our government and leaders. Let's pray that we will receive strong support from them and timely help when we need it!

Praise God for His promise to always be with us. May we continue to faithfully serve HIM so that others will see our good deeds & praise our Father in heaven!

Thu
Sept 15

Praise God! You have completed your 40-day journey!

You did a great job!!!

These 40 days, we have prayed that Christians in Malaysia will be HIS Agents of Change – faithful servants who are His Salt & Light.

**Before you run off to have your *char kuey tiaw*,
let's pray this closing prayer together:**

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You Father for walking with us these 40 days.

We thank You for the things that we have learnt
through Your Holy Spirit.

We also thank You that Your Word is our daily bread,
which brings us life.

We pray that we will continue to grow in You,
to rely on Your Word
every day & to be Faithful Servants to SHINE for You.

Thank You for listening to our prayers...

we believe that our prayers have moved Your Hands.

Lastly, we want to thank You Father for all our brothers &
sisters in Christ who have come on this 40-day journey...

Bless them & let them have a wonderful dinner tonight!!!

Thank you for being on board & SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!! ☺