

# BE AGENTS OF CHANGE

NECF 40-DAY FAST AND PRAYER

7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST TO 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011



INCLUDING 40-DAY PASTORS AND LEADERS PRAYER SHIELD

B E A G E N T S O F C H A N G E



# FOREWORD

**T**HE YEAR 2010 WAS THE TENTH year of the **NECF 40-Day Fast and Prayer** flagship event, and for 2011 with the theme **“Be Agents of Change”** we are encouraging the Malaysian church to be ‘missional.’ That means all of us are called to be **“missionaries”** wherever we are and to carry out that corresponding responsibility. It also means that all generations can be involved in this Great Commission

In the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar looked among the Jews he had brought to Babylon for young potential leaders who could “serve in the King’s palace.” He had decided to enrich his kingdom by making use of the abilities of capable people from a minority race. His top official Ashpenaz was given the job of choosing these people and grooming them for leadership.

These young potential leaders were laymen. They were taken by force and transplanted to the alien city of Babylon to cope with a new culture. They served during a bleak period in Israel’s history. They fitted into the category like Abraham owner of livestock, Joseph a government official, Joshua an army chief, Ruth a housewife, and David “a man after God’s own heart” who served as shepherd, warrior and finally a ruler. Even people like Nehemiah who was a cup-bearer and Esther the queen of Persian king, served faithfully under foreign leadership.

We too, as Christians, stand in the minority but have been called by God to make use of the abilities that He has given us. That is what this year’s **40-Day Fast & Prayer** theme is all about. As God’s chosen generation we have been called to make our impact in the various spheres of influence. As laymen and women we are to exercise our faith and uphold the values of our Christian heritage. For ours is the story of a faith that triumphs in adversity – a faith that overcomes against the odds.

My prayer is that this booklet would bring encouragement to you, and to remember Paul’s words in Col. 3:23 ***“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” (NIV)***

Have a Blessed time communing and worshipping the LORD.

*Samuel Ang*

Secretary General NECF

# SEEKING THE WELFARE OF THE NATION!

**T**HE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE been a most challenging time for NECF Malaysia. With our motto of “Transforming the Nation through the Local Church”, we sought the Church to “Love our Neighbors” as an expression of our commitment and devotion to transforming our community for 2009. Then, in 2010, we called upon the Church to “Unite the Generations” as a sign of unity and solidarity for the sake of our beloved nation. This year, we are sounding the trumpet call to not just pray fervently but to seriously take up our mantle and begin seeking the welfare of the nation. Hence, the theme “Be Agents of Change”.

As we waited upon the Lord, we believe this year’s theme to be timely. The nation is at a crossroads. There are important decisions to make at this crossroads, and each turn and path we take will ultimately chart the future direction and destiny of this nation. As Christians who are in the world but not of this world, we have been given the mandate to be prophetic witnesses as a light unto the path for every neighborhood, workplace, community and wider society at this crossroads. Christians need to arise, to proclaim and to live out this role passionately without offering any more excuses. Leaders need to encourage, nurture and challenge their congregation to be true agents of transformation in the various places and spheres of influence where God has placed each one of us in.

There is much to be done within the various spheres of influence in wider society. The state of corruption in the country is at an endemic level. We hear also of baby dumping, teenage pregnancies and youth assault. These are signs of a ‘crisis of morality’. The Government Transformation Program and its sub-set the Economic Transformation Program seem promising enough. Yet, in spite of its potential, doubts exist as to whether it will bring actual economic growth! The challenge is for all citizens of this nation to put aside our differences and band together to strive and thrive together. Within the political arena, there is a lot of talk as to who will claim the greater credential to helm the nation. For all its talk, the reminder is solemn; the people desires and dreams of the common good of the nation. This sounds utopian and may well end up as broken dreams! But it is that sort of common aspiration that the Bible seeks Christians to pray and work towards; for in seeking the welfare of the city, we will find our welfare (Jer. 29:9).

It is for these reasons the urgency exists. And the Christian community as God’s people who call on the Name of the Lord must humble themselves and pray and seek

His face and turn from their wicked ways, then the Lord will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land (2 Chr. 7:14). We must therefore believe our prayers and our labor will never be in vain no matter the weight of the burden.

Let us then during this season of the 40-day fast and prayer begin to earnestly seek the Lord for His blessings upon our nation. Let us trust the Lord that as we seek His face, the Lord will hear from heaven and our prayers will yield transformation for our nation in the days and months to come. And let us also pray and trust the Lord that the 'sleeping giant' of the Church may indeed awaken, bringing forth new wine in every sphere of influence, thus becoming the cutting edge that bears fruits of lasting impact for the future and destiny of this great nation!

May God grant to us the joy and the solitude in praying and fasting. God bless the Church and Malaysia!

*Eugene Yapp*

**Executive Secretary, Research**  
**NECF**

# 40-DAY PASTORS & LEADERS PRAYER SHIELD

**P**ASTORS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO FALLING. No matter where you are from, you would have heard of at least one renowned Christian leader or pastor who has been removed from leadership for some sort of scandal, leaving in their wake thousands of shocked and devastated followers. On a less drastic but more common front, you would have heard of pastors who have stepped down from ministry because they have lost the vision or have just simply given up.

In our increasingly selfish world, church often becomes another place where we require someone else to meet our needs. We are often too preoccupied with asking the pastor to pray for us and to meet our needs rather than to remember that they too are fallible humans who need our prayer and support. Instead, we place upon them - and their families - our unachievable expectations of perfect leadership and perfect spirituality.

One of the greatest difficulties a pastor faces is in getting the church to catch the vision and ministry direction that they believe God has given to the church. We usually fall in line easily with the goals and purposes of our corporate jobs but for some reason, we always have something to comment about the direction of the church.

Getting volunteers often poses an even bigger problem – everyone assumes that someone else will get involved, leaving only a core of volunteers (often the youth) who have to take up all of the responsibility. This leaves the pastor even more frazzled than ever!

In 1 Thessalonians 5:25, Paul asked the church to pray for himself, Silas and Timothy. In John 17:15-19, Jesus prayed for His disciples. If Jesus prayed for his disciples and Paul requested for prayer, how much more do you think our pastors require our prayer support and intercession? No one else is as qualified as you to pray for your pastors – or would know better what they are going through.

Therefore we urge you to remember your pastors and leaders in prayer throughout the 40-Day Fast and Prayer, and encourage you to ask if they have any specific prayer requests. They will be blessed to know that you care for them!

*Anna Tan*

**Member of Full Gospel Tabernacle**

# FASTING GUIDE

## A. CHOOSE YOUR FAST

1. Total Fast: Abstain from solid food for 24 hours. Take only water.
2. Jewish/Muslim Fast: Abstain from food and water from dawn to dusk.
3. Meal Fast: Sacrifice one full meal a day. Eg.: Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner
4. Partial Fast: Abstain from solid food for any extended part of the day.  
Take only water.
5. Daniel's Fast: Abstain from meat and other favorite delicacies. Take only small portions of fresh vegetables, fruit and juices.

## B. MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Select your fasting dates.

AUGUST 7 – SEPTEMBER 15

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15		

### C. INVITE OTHERS

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Invite others to fast with you on selected dates. Having others will inspire you to fast as well as encourage them into fasting. You can include your family, your cell group members, your church members, your Christian neighbors or your office colleagues.

### D. PRAY

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1. Set aside time to seek God daily in prayer as well as in fasting.
2. Worship the Lord in spirit and in songs.
3. Read the prayer guide and meditate on the scripture.
4. Pray as the Spirit leads.

### E. GIVE

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Set aside money saved from your meals. Use the envelope provided and send it by cheque addressed to 'NECF Malaysia.' All money collected will be designated to NECF Charity Fund for relief work and the needy. Do not send any cash by mail. Fasting accompanied with giving is pleasing to God (Is. 58:6-9).



# THE CHURCH

**C**ONSIDER THIS: WHAT IF THE CHURCH were miraculously removed from Malaysia in a moment? Would it be missed or would things carry on without us? Are we bringing revolutionary transformation to this land? Do we have what it takes to influence society and government policy? Can we steer public opinion? These questions and the honest introspection required to answer them will help us to gauge the influence of the Church in our nation.

In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus details His mission on earth when He said: “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” (NASB)

What is the Gospel? Is it just responding to God so that we do not go to hell? Is the Gospel not more than just saving us from hell and meeting our personal needs? Yes, it is much more than that. A large part of the Gospel is taking what God has given and done in us and allowing it to permeate our society. We must stop looking inward and at what it does for us and look instead at what it demands from us. We must begin to look at how we can be a blessing to our nation and an influence to the society we live in.

For far too long we have looked at the Church as a building or a meeting which we attend. Is this what Jesus intended for this group of people He calls His Church? We should all be aware that rather than it being somewhere we go to, the Church itself should be a-GOING! We must break out of our four walls and begin influencing society in the key areas of the Arts & Entertainment, Business, Education, Family, Government, Media and Religion. Rather than being passive and having a retreat mentality, the Church in Malaysia must remember Daniel, Nehemiah and others who used their influence to be role models for their societies. We must lead and be catalysts of change in our society.

All around us, culture is not only influencing but also being influenced. It is being influenced either by the Babylonian degradation of society or the Kingdom of God — there is no in-between. The Church must rise up and this will not happen if we just have more meetings, services and programmes. We must go out into the midst of our culture, engage it and transform it.

*Reverend Elisha Satvinder*  
**New Covenant Community**

# Pastors & Leaders

*And truly He gave some to be... pastors... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)*

Pastors-elders are God’s gift to the Church. They are one of the five fold ministry for the equipping of the saints. As leaders and mentors, they set the pace for the Church. The Church cannot grow beyond their Pastors-elders. For the Church to grow, their Pastors-elders must grow. The complexity and demands of today’s world also demands for the Pastor-elders to grow. Having a clear vision, skilled leadership, good communication, great planning, wide knowledge, relational skills coupled with theological training, godliness and zeal; these have now become essential and necessary for effective pastoral leadership. The pastoral/leadership role and expectations are indeed great today. Our encouragement, prayer support and generosity will be a welcome help to all Pastors-elders in the service.

**Prayer Points:**

- God to give them the grace and divine ability to grow and cope with the rising demands of the ministry
- Needs of their families to be well provided so they can devote service to the Word, prayer and His flock without distraction
- Congregations raise prayer shields for their Pastors-elders and leaders
- The raising of the next generation of shepherds to meet the future need for shepherds.

**Sabah & Sarawak:**

- Pastors to put priority in discipling their flock
- Pastors to emphasize academic education among the young generation
- Interior pastors-elders to encourage and initiate development of private and church land for the financial benefit of ministry and community
- More regular leadership training program for pastors-elders and church



## DAY 2: AUGUST 8

## CHURCH

## Unity

*If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tenderesses and mercies, then fulfill my joy, that you may be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord and of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Do not let each man look upon his own things, but each man also on the things of others. (Philippians 2:1-4)*

The collaboration of two mega churches in the Klang Valley during last year's Christmas is an example of a new level of unity among churches. It is a work of God liberating a new move of His Spirit that would bring much healing and restoration in our churches and land. Unity strengthens. Joel 2 reflects a united army of God that pursues. They do not break ranks, do not push one another. It is the Lord that gives voice before His united army. Only a united church can impact our nation.

**Prayer Points:**

- Walls of division to be demolished--strife, bitterness and envy to be replaced with understanding, humility and love
- Healing and restoration of fellowship between spiritual leaders and among churches
- Greater collaboration between pastors-elders, churches and denomination.



**Leaders' personal life: God's divine protection**



BE AGENTS OF CHANGE

CHURCH

# Organizational Leaders

*Therefore dissension and not a little disputation occurring by Paul and Barnabas, they appointed Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders about this question. (Acts 15:2)*

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Since the fire-bombs in January 2010, the three main components of Christian Federation of Malaysia (CFM); namely the Catholic Church (RC), the Council of Churches Malaysia (CCM) and the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF), were brought into closer cooperation and agreement. Through they were faced with many challenging issues, they succeeded in speaking up for the Church because of their unity. May they continue to stand united and unmovable to the Truth regardless of all kinds of objections & and oppositions. May they rise to be a prophetic voice to our government and our nation.

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**Prayer Points:**

- Greater trust, understanding and unity between RC, CCM and NECF within CFM
- Vision and passion for the transformation of the Church and Nation
- Boldness, wisdom and discernment from God to speak on behalf of the Lord and the church in Malaysia
- Favor before the Rulers and Government.

**Sabah & Sarawak:**

- The Sabah Council of Churches and the Association of Churches Sarawak to play a greater role in looking into the religious liberty and welfare of the East Malaysian Churches.



**Leaders' personal life: Good health**

## DAY 4: AUGUST 10

### CHURCH

## Religious Liberty

*If it is so that our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, then He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image which you have set up. (Daniel 3:17-18)*

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While Islam is recognised as the religion of the Federation, the Federal Constitution provides for the freedom of religion. However, this freedom is beginning to be restricted. From the banning of the Alkitab and the usage of the word 'Allah' to the burning of churches and removal of statues and crosses from missionary schools, Christian religious liberty is being seriously threatened. Currently, there is an acute lack of Alkitab in East Malaysia. Many are deprived of the scriptures because of the ban. Despite attempts by certain quarters to provoke and intimidate the Church, Malaysian Christians showed great composure and calmness. This saved the situation from getting out of hand.

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#### Prayer Points:

- All religious restrictions and harassment to end
- Religious bans such as those on the Alkitab and the usage of 'Allah' to be lifted
- Aborigines to be given the rights to construct their own church buildings
- Christians to remain strong and prayerful in the midst of harassment.

#### Sabah & Sarawak:

- Religious liberty as stated in the Sabah 20 points and Sarawak 18 points agreement to be honored and upheld
- Apostasy laws and rehabilitation centers not to be enforced
- Printing and import of Alkitab and other Christian bahasa literature to be allowed.



**Leaders' personal life: Adequate finances**

DAY 5: AUGUST 11

CHURCH

Missional

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen.*  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus commanded that we go and make disciples of all men. This is our primary purpose that is to be done outside of the four walls of the church. God has planted His people in the various spheres of influence so that she may be a living witness and the agent of change for the transformation and salvation of the nation. As God’s people we must see our community, schools and workplaces as our parish where God has placed us in order to shepherd and lead the lost to Him. We need to take the lead and engage those within our sphere of influence with prayer, good works and the gospel.

Prayer Points:

- The Church within the different spheres of influence to awaken and arise
- Believers to come together in prayer to impact and reach their specific spheres
- Local churches to be equipped to equip their flock to influence their spheres
- For the different spheres to be impacted and transformed for the Lord.

Sabah & Sarawak:

- Churches to be involved in community and economic development
- Churches to promote and preserve racial and religious harmony.



Leaders’ personal life: Strong prayer life

# GOVERNMENT

**T**HE GOVERNMENT HAS THREE INDEPENDENT BRANCHES. The first is called the Executive. At the federal level, the Executive branch consists of the Prime Minister and his cabinet and at the state level, it is the Chief Minister and his cabinet. The second is the Legislature consisting of Parliament at the Federal level and at the state level, the State Assembly. This branch of the government makes the laws of the nation but the laws must be consistent with the constitution. The third branch is the Judiciary, which interprets and applies the constitution and the laws of the nation.

The constitution is the basic law by which all other laws and governmental actions stand to be judged. The government, the civil administration, the Prime Minister, his Cabinet, members of Parliament and judges must all affirm to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution while upholding the rule of law. Hence, the government and its officials are all subject to and bound by the constitution and the rule of law.

Of course today, there are much negative remarks about the government of the day in what they should or should not be doing. Much is said regarding the policies and practices of the government that seem to not promote the common good of all but towards a select community of people. In times such as these, it is easy to feel a sense of hopelessness and disappointment.

As beacons of light and “agents of change” in the sphere of government, the Church must now actively engage the national life of the nation. The responsibility of Christians is to support the government in the execution of her legitimate function as servant and/or ministers of God for the good governance of the nation. Christians are to actively seek the peace and prosperity of our nation. To do so, a Christian should participate meaningfully in the processes and structures of democratic government and participative democracy for the common good of the nation. As a voter, a tax-payer, a consumer and as someone exercising a profession, a Christian has a meaningful role to play in the affairs of the nation. And in playing out this role, Christians need to be responsive to the issues arising out of the events, policies and laws generated by the processes of politics and governance.

*YB Hannah Yeoh & Eugene Yapp*

# Parliamentary Democracy

*Therefore, brothers, look out among you seven men being witnessed to, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this duty. (Acts 6:3)*

Malaysia practices Parliamentary Democracy with a constitutional monarch, His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, as the Supreme Head of the country. Parliamentary elections are held once every five years to elect the government of the day. As an elected government, they have no absolute power in themselves. They are elected by the people for the people and therefore they are accountable to the one who elected them. The people have the right to hold every elected government responsible over how they have administrated the nation. The people are under no obligation to retain a government if the government of the day has failed in their duties.

**Prayer Points:**

- Malaysians to be free from apathy, indifference and blind loyalty and to vote wisely
- Fair and clean elections with no manipulation of phantom voters and postal votes
- More Malaysians to be registered as voters and for Malaysians residing abroad to be able to vote
- More volunteers to be trained as polling observers and counting agents.

**Sabah & Sarawak:**

- Christian communities will rightly divide and apply the Word in relation to our parliamentary democratic system
- Communities not sell away their votes for temporal gain.



**Leaders' personal life: Deep in the Word**



## DAY 7: AUGUST 13

### GOVERNMENT

## Prime Minister & Cabinet Ministers

*First of all, then, I exhort that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior.*

*(1 Timothy 2:1-3)*

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Our current Prime Minister is Dato' Seri Najib Razak. He was appointed as Malaysia's 6th Prime Minister on 3 April 2009 after the March 8 elections. The Prime Minister is assisted by the Cabinet, which is the executive branch of Malaysia's government. The task of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet is to administrate the government and nation. How they lead will determine the progression or regression of the nation. Being humans, they are also liable to failure and temptation. As Christians, it becomes our duty to uphold them in prayer that they wisely and reverently fulfill their task and not fail during their term of duty.

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#### Prayer Points:

- They will discharge their duties with wisdom, diligence and integrity
- They are clothed with the fear of God and humility
- They avoid and oppose all corrupt and wicked ways
- They uphold truth, justice, righteousness and equality.

#### Sabah & Sarawak:

- State Governments to be purged of all corrupt politicians and practices
- State Governments to place the people's need before their political interest.



**Leaders' personal life: Healthy emotional life**

GOVERNMENT

# Wealth of the Nation

*He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for the service of man, to bring forth food out of the earth, and wine cheers the heart of man, and oil makes his face shine, and bread sustains the heart of man. (Psalm 104:14-15)*

The Lord owns the earth and everything in it. He created it all. The earth is given to mankind as a stewardship and they must one day give account of their management of the earth and its resources. As a nation, we have been blessed with abundant resources in timber, minerals and its people. Ultimately, our nation and its leaders will be judged in the way its resources are managed for the benefit of all its peoples, regardless of their beliefs and racial, social or economic backgrounds. The government must utilize the nation's wealth to ensure justice, peace and stability. Its wealth must also be used for the underprivileged, e.g. to defend the cause of the fatherless, the widow and the foreigners living in our midst. The nation's wealth must especially be used to help the poor.

**Prayer Points:**

- Greater accountability over how the nation's wealth is being used
- The government to manage and multiply the wealth of the nation wisely
- Our natural resources to be preserved and used carefully
- The wealth of the nation to be shared to all and the needy.

**Sabah & Sarawak:**

- Wealth of the state to be restored and wisely managed
- Deforestation and construction of dams be reviewed and limited
- Recognition and restoration of lands belonging to the natives



**Leaders' personal life: Time for recreation**

## DAY 9: AUGUST 15

## GOVERNMENT

## Money Politics

*A wicked man takes a bribe out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment. (Proverbs 17:23)*

Money politics is a form of corruption often associated with political circles. The objective is to secure votes unfairly by inducing voters with gifts – be it monetary or otherwise. The practice of money politics is part of a larger bribery culture entrenched within various sections of our society. Ordinary folks have no qualms in engaging in acts of bribery when they perceive those in political power practice money politics. We have much reason to be concerned when Malaysia's ranking in 2010, as measured by Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, achieved a CPI score of 4.4, with "10" indicating no corruption whilst "0" indicates extreme corruption. Further, the nation's ranking has been dropping over the years from No.23 in 1995 to No 56 in 2010.

### Prayer Points:

- Malaysians will be repulsed by bribery and corruption
- Corrupt politicians and ministers would be exposed and prosecuted
- Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) would enforce existing anti-corruption laws without fear or favor
- Christians will respond actively and positively to the Global Day of Prayer (GDOP) Unashamed Ethically Conference and initiatives.

### Sabah & Sarawak:

- More economic independence to combat political dependence and economic ransom
- More Christian entrepreneurs to invest in economic development for eradication of poverty.



**Leaders' personal life: Good circle of friends**

GOVERNMENT

# 1Malaysia

*And if a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. (Mark 3:24-25)*

On 16 September 2008, Prime Minister Najib Razak launch the 1Malaysia campaign under the slogan, ‘1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now’. It was meant to foster unity among the different communities for nation-building. Every Malaysian should see themselves as Malaysian made up of difference ethnic groups and religion. However, with the recent rhetoric of irresponsible politicking, racist extremism and religious bigotry, serious questions have been raised about the Prime Minister’s sincerity and commitment to the 1Malaysia concept and his political will to promote it. Some claimed that it is merely a political tool to garner votes and not an honest commitment for change.

**Prayer Points:**

- The Prime Minister to be fully committed to implementing the 1 Malaysia concept as against mere slogan
- Racial and religious supremacy to be dismantled
- Irresponsible politicking to be reprimanded
- National unity and harmony among the various communities.

**Sabah & Sarawak:**

- Perception as “fixed deposit” states by Federal Government to be corrected
- Given equal economic, educational and infrastructure development as in West Malaysia
- More interaction, understanding and cooperation between the east and west
- Past constitutional agreements to be preserved and respected.
- Recognition and restoration of lands belonging to the natives



**Leaders’ personal life: Have spiritual mentors**

# EDUCATION

**O**UR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LIKE ‘SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD’ in the schools. Our Lord Jesus faced the same situation when He was on earth. In Matthew 9:35-38, it is recorded that ‘Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”’

More than ever, today, we need teachers who are called by God into this vocation to be role models for the young; teachers who will love their students, care for them and pray that they will catch a glimpse of the Saviour who alone can lift them out of the ‘miry clay of sin and set their feet on the rock of salvation’. In this career, Christians will walk in the footsteps of Jesus, as they teach and heal young lives.

Henry Adams has rightly said “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence ends.” A teacher influences his immediate students, who then go out into the world and, in turn, influence their families, their colleagues, and everyone else with whom they come into contact for the next forty or so years of their lives. One generation influences another generation. This has the effect of a pebble thrown into a stream, rippling with ever-expanding circles, as each ripple of influence goes on and on.

In a very real sense, teachers are the builders of the nation. They groom young lives, lay the foundation for character with principles of integrity and shape minds that will be other-centric rather than egocentric. They will be role models to the young of people who will serve with their lives rather than expect to be served. Many of us can think of at least one teacher who has impacted our lives. The future generations of young people in our country desperately need to have such teachers to impact their lives. What Malaysia becomes in thirty years’ time depends on what teachers are in the schools today.

Teaching is the noblest of professions. A teacher burns his life out for the sake of others in his care. Like a candle, his life is given to shine in the darkness of confusion and helplessness of our youth.

*Moey Yoke Lai*

**MCKL Chief Executive Officer**

# Religious Factor

*Therefore take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to feed the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also men shall arise from your own selves, speaking perverse things in order to draw disciples away after them. Therefore watch and remember that for the time of three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. (Acts 20:28-31)*

There is a serious concern that our education system is lob sided in promoting religious faiths. One clear example is the widespread reference of Islam over other faiths in our school history textbooks. This can be construed as a form of indoctrination and imposition of one’s belief onto another. It appears to influence the young minds of various faiths to follow the prophet of one particular religion. It details the study of the prophet’s life and is repeatedly praised throughout the chapters. Students are repeatedly exhorted throughout the book to emulate him as a role model in life. This has created unhappiness and mistrust between religious organizations and the Islamic faith.

**Prayer Points:**

- Our school history books to be reviewed and corrected for its lob sided emphasis
- Education curriculum to be more academic than religious
- All faiths to be given equal coverage to promote understanding and accurate reflection of our pluralistic society
- Religious clubs of other faiths to be allowed in schools.

**Sabah & Sarawak:**

- Christian parents to be vigilant and watchful over the teachers, curriculum and activities carried out to influence our young minds with one religious slant
- Christian parents to vigilant and alert that their children are not misled to attend Islamic Religious classes.



**Leaders’ family: Strong marriages**

## DAY 12: AUGUST 18

## EDUCATION

## Quality of Teachers

*A disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. (Matthew 10:24)*

The Ministry of Education have identified the quality of teachers as being one of the key factors in producing quality students and graduates from our education system. In the past, we used to have many teachers of great quality that produced brilliant students. But the quality of teachers has deteriorated today. Some of the common remarks made with regard to teachers today are not very flattering, e.g. the teachers are poor in the English language, disinterested in teaching as well as being of poor quality. Of late some have been guilty of uttering racist remarks to students. If we want our standard of education to improve, we urgently need to re-look at the selection of our teachers and their training.

### Prayer Points:

- Minister and Ministry to propose and implement effective developmental programs to improve the quality of teachers
- Minister and Ministry to set and maintain high standards of professionalism and teaching among teachers. Ministry to weed out teachers who teach and promote racism and religious bigotry
- Teachers to have a strong sense of passion and dedication towards their vocation
- Wage structure to be revised and improved to draw better quality teachers into the vocation.

### Sabah & Sarawak:

- Teachers to view their profession as nation-building
- Ministry not to practice sending teachers under discipline into the interior.



**Leaders' family: Happy children**

# Christian Fellowships

*But Jesus said, Allow the little children to come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of Heaven. (Matthew 19:14)*

The role that Christian Fellowships (CF) play in schools as an effective witness cannot be denied. In the past many students have come to know Christ through this vehicle. Today, many of these fellowships have been systematically shut down, some due to the lack of Christian teachers as CF Advisors. Schools are an important harvest field that we must retain and regain. To make this happen, Christian teachers, parents and students must work hand-in-hand to revive Christian fellowships in our schools.

**Prayer Points:**

- CF's to be allowed and encouraged in schools
- Christian teachers to step forward to take the role of CF Advisors
- Christian Parents to unite together to request for CF's in their children's schools through the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Teachers and students to take the initiative to start prayer cells in schools that are without CF's

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**Leaders' family: Right priorities**





**DAY 14: AUGUST 20**

## EDUCATION

# Christians & Teaching

*Truly, O Theophilus, I made the first report as to all things that Jesus began both to do and teach (Acts 1:1)*

*Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)*

Currently, there is a perceived lowly status of the teaching profession in terms of social recognition. As a result, this once noble profession has lost its shine and luster among career aspirants, especially among the young people in Malaysia. But if we view and regard teaching as a noble profession, then it is time for the Christian community to exalt the teaching profession to its rightful place again. In view of less and less Christians entering the teaching profession, this becomes an urgent call for church leadership to encourage their members to become ‘missionaries’ among students.

### Prayer Points:

- Younger Christians to capture teaching as a mission and vocation
- Teaching profession to be saturated again with Christian Principals and teachers
- Christian Principals and teachers to continue to maintain high standards of professionalism and teaching
- Christian Principals and teachers to continue to be salt and lights in their schools.

### Sabah & Sarawak:

- Christian teachers to be willing to be posted to East Malaysia
- Christians to apply as Tabika Kemas teachers
- Adequate funding to train and support Christian Tabika Kemas teachers.



**Leaders' ministry: Fresh anointing**

# Vocational Schools

*Then having gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us... (Romans 12:6a)*

Some children find their niche in life in the academic spheres whereas others are gifted in the non-academic areas. Currently, our education system places too much emphasis on the academic. Although Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR) students who acquire borderline passes are allowed to continue their studies to Form 4, many end up showing little interest in the academic subjects while others end up as truants and drop-outs, throwing their future away. In response to this situation, NECF has initiated plans to set up a vocational school in the near future. The government should also look into this and provide an alternative for the talented students who are not interested in academic pursuits.

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**Prayer Points:**

- More vocational schools to be established
- License to be granted for NECF vocational school project from the Education Department
- Capable project manager to handle this project
- Sufficient funds to complete this project.

**Sabah & Sarawak:**

- Construction of hostels for rural students studying in the city
- More universities and vocational schools to be established
- Churches to help finance needy and poor students into school.



**Leaders' ministry: Gifted with spiritual gifts**

# THE MALAYSIAN JUDICIARY

**M**ALAYSIA IS A DEMOCRATIC NATION CONSTITUTED by the Malaysian Constitution which sets out the foundational and fundamental pillars and basic structure of the nation together with the various institutions of government. The Constitution vests judicial power in the Malaysian Judiciary whilst other powers such as the lawmaking and the administration of the nation are vested in Parliament and the Cabinet respectively.

The Malaysian judiciary consists principally of the High Court of Malaya, the High Court of Sabah and Sarawak, the Court of Appeal and the apex Federal Court. Below the High Courts are the subordinate courts consisting of the Sessions and the Magistrate's Courts.

Judicial power is exercised through the jurisdiction to adjudicate and determine legal disputes between various parties, whether between private parties, between the citizen and the government and its officials, and between one of the constituent states of Malaysia and the Federation.

In this constitutional set up, the judiciary functions as an important means of maintaining a check and balance against Parliament and the Cabinet. This will arise when legislative and executive action is being challenged as being unlawful or unconstitutional by an increasingly assertive rakyat and civil society organization. In this regard, it is the sacred duty of the judges in the course of exercising its judicial power to ensure that the government upholds the twin pillars the Rukun Negara relating to law which are "The Rule of Law" and the "Upholding the Constitution".

This is a duty which judges undertake an oath before exercising the functions of their office and that is to "preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution within which is embedded the principle of Supremacy of the Constitution and the Rule of Law.

At this important defining moment of our national life, there are serious challenges which if not properly resolved will undermine foundational and fundamental pillars of our nation and jeopardize nation-building. While the courts might not be the most suitable forum to resolve some of them, the judiciary must rise to the occasion and demonstrate judicial independence, integrity and courage to do justice without fear or favour to defend, uphold and preserve these constitutional pillars of the Malaysian nation.

*Bra Lim Heng Seng*  
Advocate & Solicitor

JUDICIARY

Judges

*You shall appoint judges and officers for yourself in all your gates which Jehovah your God gives you, tribe by tribe. And they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. You shall not pervert judgment; you shall not respect persons, nor take a gift. For a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. (Deuteronomy 16:18-19)*

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The Role of a judge is crucial in delivering a judgment that is just and equitable. From the very start of a matter, at any level of court, a good judge will act as a referee between parties or their lawyers, so that the louder, richer or more influential does not bully the other. This is only possible when a judge remains unbiased by refusing to allow his own preferences and prejudices of any kind such as race, religion, gender to color his/her decision-making process in any way. He/she would also need discernment to look beyond the eloquence of lawyers and courtroom drama for accurate character assessment, which is much needed to ascertain where the truth lies. Also, discretion and diligence in seeking out the truth as quickly as possible and applying the relevant laws, would ensure that injustices are dealt with swiftly.

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Prayer Points:

- Judges to be diligent and bold in dispensing justice
- Judges to be free from corruption and political biasness
- Judges to zealously defend and enforce the constitution and law.

Sabah & Sarawak:

- More qualified locals to be appointed as judges
- Judges to uphold the rights of East Malaysians to religious liberty as provided in the 20 and 18 point agreement.



Leaders’ ministry: God’s favor

**DAY 17: AUGUST 23**

## JUDICIARY

### Bar Council & Lawyers

*Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy; save them out of the hand of the wicked. (Psalm 82:3-4)*

The Malaysian Bar, which is the body of all Malaysian lawyers, occupies a special place in the nation. The Bar can be looked to and counted on to state the legal position clearly in matters of particular public interest and concern. The Bar Council issues regular press statements that clarify in the media the legal provisions, in such matters. In that sense, it provides a check and balance as to whether justice for all as enshrined in the Federal Constitution is adhered to. Whilst the Bar Council also seeks to uphold the integrity of its over 12,000 members, the task is overwhelming. The lawyers must therefore on their own accord practice their profession with integrity in every aspect from how they handle their client's matters to how much they charge etc, with the fear of God and a passion for justice.

#### Prayer Points:

- Bar Council to be a voice to speak on justice, truth and righteousness
- Lawyers to conduct their practice with professionalism, passion and integrity
- Christian lawyers to uphold Biblical standard in their practice of law.



**Leaders' ministry: Clear vision**

JUDICIARY

Judiciary: AG, Police & MACC

*And the soldiers also asked of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said to them, Do not forcibly extort anyone, nor accuse any falsely. And be content with your wages.*  
(Luke 3:14)

The Attorney General’s (AG) Chambers is an independent body that undertakes to uphold the law and safeguard the nation’s interests in accordance with the Federal Constitution, providing advice and views to the Federal and State Governments on all legal matters including syariah laws. It drafts all legislations for the Federal Government, revises, reprints and reforms the laws of Malaysia. The Royal Malaysian Police is to enforce law and order and maintain peace and security in the nation. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) is a government agency under the Prime Minister’s Department. It’s role is to investigate and prosecute corruption in public and private sectors.

Prayer Points:

- AG to act independently and fairly in prosecuting cases
- Police to eradicate corruption, use of excessive force and power abuse within her ranks
- MACC to investigate and prosecute corruption cases with diligence and integrity.

Sabah & Sarawak:

- AG to act in accordance to the 20 and 18 point agreement.



Leaders’ ministry: Good communicator

**DAY 19: AUGUST 25**

## JUDICIARY

# Independence and Accountability

*And I commanded your judges at that time saying, Hear the causes between your brothers, and judge righteously between a man and his brother, and the stranger with him. You shall not respect persons in judgment. You shall hear the small as well as the great. You shall not be afraid of the face of man, for the judgment is God's. (Deuteronomy 1:16-17a)*

In order for justice and righteousness to be established in our beloved nation, all the respective bodies namely the Judiciary, the MACC, the AG's Chambers, the Royal Malaysian Police and also the Bar Council need to be independent, without control and with full authority to carry out their respective roles and responsibilities. For greater effectiveness in each of these bodies, they must be held accountable for what they do and do not do. Abuse of power needs to be made known and checked quickly. The setting up of a Royal Commission of Inquiry when abuse of powers are highlighted is a means by which the matter can be addressed as the powers of the Royal Commission are wider than a judge and can be effective provided the scope given is sufficiently wide.

### Prayer Points:

- These bodies to be held accountable for any injustice, corruption or power abuse
- Media to play active role in highlighting and holding these bodies accountable for any abuses or corruption
- An effective and independent Royal Commission of Inquiry to investigate such abuses and corruption.



**Leaders' ministry: Able leader**

JUDICIARY

# Conflict of Jurisdiction

The recent spate of cases ranging from conversion cases like Lina Joy’s case to family issues where one spouse has converted to Islam leaving the rights of the unconverted spouse in areas of custody and maintenance uncertain has shown clearly that supremacy of the civil courts is much needed to resolve with finality the outstanding issue of the jurisdiction between the civil and syariah courts. This outstanding issue has resulted in the non-converting spouse being left without a real solution apart from the syariah courts to custody matters and also the right of the converting spouse to convert the minor children to Islam without the consent of the non-converting spouse.

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**Prayer Points:**

- Supremacy of civil courts to be recognized and restored
- Civil court to accept jurisdiction over syariah cases when one of the party involved is a non-Muslim
- Civil courts to remain separated from syariah courts.



**Leaders’ ministry: Capable administrator**



# MARKETPLACE

**C**HRISTIAN BUSINESS OWNERS OR PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE can be the most powerful vehicle for building the Kingdom of God as well as our nation. It is no secret that a depressed economy is a bed for evil. Therefore, we invite every praying Christian to cover and pray for this vital domain being developed in our nation at this time.

For as many years as I can remember, the Church was taught the doctrine of separating the world by the secular and the spiritual. The business world falls under the secular and therefore, isn't as important to God as the spiritual. Thank God for paradigm shifts that has taken place in the global church since the renewed call for the WHOLE CHURCH bringing the WHOLE Gospel to the WHOLE world at the Lausanne Forum 2004. We can no longer just be satisfied with spiritual salvation while other needs are ignored.

The Bible is filled with admonitions for God's children engaging in business for just profit and to play a role in providing various supports in all community. God's promises include giving us the ability and strength to gain wealth and success. God also promised that He can be counted upon in the day of need as well. He is the true source of Provision in our world. Unfortunately, many have put their trust into the channels rather the Source.

Business for the Christian can be a mission for God. Business as mission means a calling to do business to advance the kingdom of God and to provide for the needs of ourselves and others. The Bible commands, "Work so that you will not be in need and you will have something to share with others," (Eph 4.28), and "If any man is unwilling to work, then neither shall he eat," (2 Th. 3.10).

Business as "mission" means to use business skills, resources and structures to seek the Kingdom of God and to "do good to all people, especially those of the household of faith" (Gal 6.10) The mission to do business for the Kingdom of God is not merely doing business for purposes of creating opportunities for evangelism. Work and business are needed in-and-of themselves for the Kingdom of God and the welfare of people.

"What the poor want is not aid, but jobs – real jobs, not subsidized ones. This is the dignity and self-reliance they deserve."

*Rev Daron Tan*

**Pastor & Businessman**

DAY 21: AUGUST 27

MARKETPLACE

Work

*Then indeed he addressed the Jews in the synagogue, and those worshipping, and daily in the market, to those happening to be there. (Acts 17:17)*

It is not uncommon for an employed individual to work beyond the 9am to 5pm time frame as stipulated in most working contracts. Many of us spend more hours at work than anywhere else. We can either view time spent in the workplace with eternity in mind or be like the moaning Israelites who complained to God of the severe oppression. Besides making a living, God has strategically placed each one of us in the marketplace as an opportunity of bringing God’s Kingdom there. Let us allow God to use us to influence and impact the many and the marketplace we are in.

Prayer Points:

- Change of mindset towards work
- Priesthood in the marketplace
- Shepherding the lost
- Vocation as vehicle to serve God



Leaders’ ministry: Effective counselor



## DAY 22: AUGUST 28

## MARKETPLACE

## Lifestyle

*You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its savor, with what shall it be salted? It is no longer good for anything, but to be thrown out and to be trodden underfoot by men. (Matthew 5:13)*

*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)*

The House of God was to be called the House of Prayer. She was to be the influence of change in her world. But that wasn't what the Lord discovered when He visited the temple. Instead of bringing change to the marketplace, the House of God became the marketplace. Instead of becoming an influence, she had become one with them. She had strayed from her purpose and lost her influence. Jesus became consumed with the Lord's holy zeal. He turned the tables and chased the merchants. To transform the marketplace, we must first be transformed. While we are in the world, we are not of the world. We need to keep that distinction clear and only then can we affect change.

**Prayer Points:**

- Repent for turning the Lord's House into a marketplace
- Repent for conforming to the world instead of being transformed by the renewing of our minds
- The Church to be true to her values while serving God in the world
- The Church would know how to be different and at the same time remain relevant.



**Leaders' ministry: Good personal relation**

MARKETPLACE

Pitfalls

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and it is clear that we can carry nothing out. But having food and clothing, we will be content. But they who will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which plunge men into destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all evils, of which some having lusted after, they were seduced from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness. (1 Timothy 6:6-11)*

We are living in an age of borderless travel, communication and business. Global business transactions can be performed by a quick click of a button. In the marketplace, business has never been so inter-connected by video conferencing and the wireless media that it is not impossible to transact business 24 hours a day. Many, driven by the quest to make lots of money in a short time, to earn an easy life as quickly as possible and to reach the millionaire mark, have fallen prey to the world's financial and economic systems. The grip of wanting to be rich fast led many astray including Christians and robbed them of their faith and witness.

Prayer Points:

- To be on guard against the love of money and quick gain
- To be contented with a moderate lifestyle
- To stand firm and trust God in the midst of corruption
- To use the wealth gain to serve God.



Leaders' ministry: Relevant pulpit ministry

## Aidilfitri

Muslims celebrate the festival of Aidilfitri to mark the culmination of Ramadhan, the holy month of fasting. It is a joyous occasion for Muslims, as it signifies a personal triumph, a victory of self-restraint and abstinence, symbolising purification and renewal. The Muslim community ushers in the first day of Aidilfitri by congregating at mosques for morning prayers. Then it's usually breakfast at home with the family, followed by a visit to the cemetery where deceased loved ones are remembered; graves are cleaned and cleared of overgrowth, and prayers are offered to Allah. This is also a time to forgive and forget past quarrels. Although the first three days are celebrated on a grander scale, many Muslims hold 'open house' throughout the month, where friends and neighbors of other races are invited to join in the celebrations

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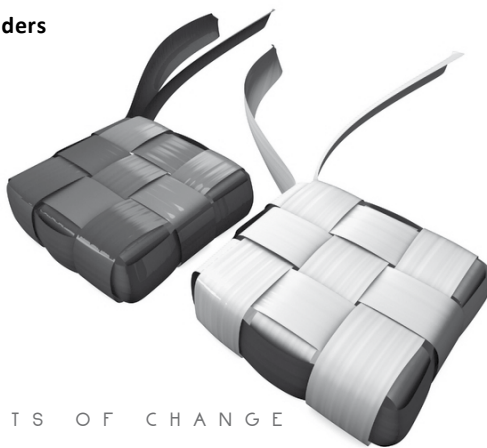
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### Prayer Points:

- God's glory to descend upon all Muslims
- They will discover true liberty and freedom
- Christians will bless their Muslim neighbours
- Hostility and mistrust between Muslims and Christians to be bridged.



**Leaders' ministry: Leader of leaders**



# Hari Merdeka

*And it happened after many days the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. (Exodus 2:23-24)*

Hari Merdeka is Malaysia National Day commemorating our independence from British colonial rule. It was the day we became a free and sovereign nation. Since then Malaysia has made good progress and is on her way to becoming a developed nation. While outwardly we have attained national independence, our struggle for true liberty is still a long way off. A vast majority of our population is still living in spiritual darkness. Injustice, corruption, power abuse, racism and violence continue to prevail in the land. Greed, wickedness and hatred continue to fill the hearts of men and citizens denied of their religious liberty.

**Prayer Points:**

- The spiritual liberty of people living in darkness
- Overthrowing of injustice, corruption, violence and racism
- Restoration of religious freedom
- Peace, security and harmony in the land.



**Leaders' ministry: Responsive members**



## MARKETPLACE

## Stronghold

*Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Therefore take to yourselves the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. (Ephesians 6:10-13)*

The marketplace is no ordinary realm. It is a realm dominated and controlled by the god of this world. It is a realm that feeds on the greed of men and exalts the desire for more money. It is a realm where ungodly ways are common and acceptable. To penetrate, influence and succeed in this realm, one cannot do it without prayer. The powers behind the system must be paralyzed before we can bring transformation to it. This requires every marketplace believer to be grounded in their faith, clothed with God's armor and engaged in prayer.

### Prayer Points:

- Marketplace Christians to be spiritually strong in the Word and engaging in prayer
- Their hearts to be upright and governed with the right motivation
- God's divine protection and favor to preserve and enable them
- Demonic and corrupt powers behind our financial system to be paralyzed.



**Leaders' ministry: Growing Churches**

MARKETPLACE

# Stewardship

*Charge the rich in this world that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, He offering to us richly all things to enjoy, that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to share, to be generous. (1 Timothy 6:17-18)*

On 9 December 2010, Forbes reported social networking giant, Facebook Founder and President, Mark Zuckerberg announced his plan to give away the majority of his fortune to charity. “People wait until late in their career to give back. But why wait when there is so much to be done? With a generation of younger folks who have thrived on the success of their companies, there is a big opportunity for many of us to give back earlier in our lifetime and see the impact of philanthropic efforts,” he said in a statement. It is God who gives us the power to get wealth (Deut. 8:18). And this wealth is not meant to be hoarded or spent selfishly but to be used to serve others and God’s purpose. In doing this we become agents of God’s divine providence to others and reap God’s eternal blessings.

**Prayer Points:**

- Christians to possess the right understanding of wealth
- Christians to use their wealth in the right way
- Christians will use their wealth for the furtherance of God’s cause and His Kingdom
- Christians will also provide for social, educational and economic development of the marginalized and needy.



**Leaders’ ministry: Productive & successful**



# MEDIA

**T**HOUGH MOST PEOPLE ATTRIBUTE THE START of modern media to the beginning of radio in the early part of the 20th century, it really started with foot messengers of ancient days. They carried all manner of information. The most sought after news and information was about wars. The Gibeonites tricked Israel into thinking they came from a faraway country instead of Canaan. Joshua could have been helped by efficient media when he was tricked into entering into a treaty with the Gibeonites (Joshua 9).

From the foot runner, to the town hailer, the pony express, the printed daily newspaper, television, radio and now the internet—one thing has not changed: people want and need news and information. The types of available media, and its pervasiveness (or accessibility) has increased considerably with time. In the process, it has made media more powerful. It has the capability to set up and to bring down governments, corporations and individuals. Facebook and Twitter (the most popular social media platforms today) have provided a user friendly and an efficient manner in which news and information can be disseminated. Media is a key pillar of society that people are prepared to go to great measure to control.

In today's circumstances, many media organisations are operated on profit motivation. This has added to the challenge of having media that builds society. Like money and many other things, media can be used to build or abuse. There is no doubt about its power.

The Malaysian media scene is fast developing. In the pre-1983 era, the only daily news and information sources were television and radio run by the government (except for a wired radio service called Rediffusion) and the privately owned printed newspapers. Since then, new licences were given for private operators of television and radio but many, if not all, were related to the ruling government of the day. While this was not bad in itself, it created some conflict of interest in the way news was presented. With the advent of the internet, and a growing hunger for independent news and information sources, internet news has become very popular and attracts audiences of all ages and strata of society.

As the prophesy in Daniel 12:4 says, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Truly media is an important pillar for transforming this nation.

*Sreedhar Subramaniam*

**CEO of GoodTimes (Online magazine)**

MEDIA

# Freedom of Information

*For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (Romans 1:18)*

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*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without preaching? (Romans 10:14)*

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Media is the tool by which information is communicated and disseminated. It includes newspaper, television, radio and the internet for various purposes such as advertising, marketing, public relations, political communication, entertainment, news and announcements. While some of regulations may be needed to restrict young minds from exposure to corrupt and unhealthy materials, the suppression of the media that conceals facts and information can be abused for the purposes of control and tyranny. The government exercises control over the mainstream media but due to the proliferation of the internet, people now have access to alternate perspectives.

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**Prayer Points:**

- Continued liberalization of the media
- Mainstream media to be allowed to communicate without fear or favor
- All to have access to communicate through mainstream media.



**Leaders' character: Wise**



**DAY 29: SEPTEMBER 4****MEDIA**

## Truth

*Therefore putting away lying, let each man speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.*

*(Ephesians 4:25)*

*And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32)*

The media is a power tool. It can empower or it can destroy. Too much control can deprive us of the truth while an absence of control can lead to chaos. The public looks to the media for truth. Unfortunately, the media has been hijacked by parties with political interest to promote propaganda and spread lies to pull down one another. There is so much slanderous news and sensational stories that no one knows the actual truth. Often these news play on the sentiments of the public that leads to disharmony and division. Even the Christian community has not been spared from it.

**Prayer Points:**

- The public to be cautious and discerning over all information communicated by the media
- Media and journalists to uphold ethical, professional and truthful reporting
- Government and public servants to practice highest standard of transparency and accountability so as to give no room for unfounded allegations and accusations.



**Leaders' character: Humble**

MEDIA

# Communicating Through Arts

*And let them make Me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments of it, even so you shall make it. (Exodus 25:8-9)*

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*Let them praise His name in the dance; let them sing praises to Him with the timbrel and harp. (Psalm 149:3)*

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The Arts is another means of communication which uses different modes of creative expression such as music, literature, film, theatre, photography, sculpture and paintings. It is used by individuals, cultures and religions to express and communicate their core beliefs and values. It is powerful because it touches the senses, moves the emotions and stirs the imagination. In the Bible, God Himself displayed His artistic inclination in the pattern and construction of the Tabernacle. Through it He illustrated truth for Israel to learn and remember. In worship, Israel used music and dance to express their devotion to God. History also teaches how the domain of arts used to belong to the Church. The Arts can be a powerful tool to communicate the Gospel and further the Great Commission. It is a language all cultures understand and respond to.

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**Prayer Points:**

- Churches to excel in the Arts again
- Greater support for Arts in Churches
- Arts to be developed and used in Church and ministry
- Arts to be used to communicate Christian values and the Gospel.



**Leaders' character: Bold**

## DAY 31: SEPTEMBER 6

## MEDIA

## Cultural Arts

*And the Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us.  
And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of  
the Father, full of grace and of truth. (John 1:14)*

*... but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him-  
self the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of  
men. (Philemon 2:7)*

Culture and arts are closely related. Most cultures find ex-  
pression in Arts. They each have their individual music,  
clothing, architecture, literature, language etc. Culture of-  
ten defines the identity of the community. Identification is  
an important tool to gain access into a community. While  
cultural arts may be employed for religious purposes, it can  
be redeemed and used to communicate the Gospel. This is  
what it means by incarnating the Gospel--delivering the  
Gospel clothed in the culture of a particular community.  
Using cultural arts is one effective way to contextualize the  
gospel into communities.

**Prayer Points:**

- Churches to explore into cultural arts
- Churches to develop and invest in cultural arts
- Churches to use cultural arts to connect with communities
- Churches to use cultural arts as a medium of communication and influence.



**Leaders' character: Upright**



MEDIA

# Christian & Media

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me; because of this He has anointed Me to proclaim the Gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim deliverance to the captives, and new sight to the blind, to set at liberty those having been crushed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” (Luke 4:18-19)*

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Much of our lives is shaped by the media. The media has been known to influence communities and shape nations. Governments understand the influential power of the media. Whoever controls the media controls the mind and life of people. Through the media, we can be a positive influence for God. Currently, the Christian involvement in the media is low. It is not because of the lack of talent. False perception and the high costs involved are among the major reasons for it. If we desire to influence and inspire change in the nation, we must explore and penetrate into this sphere of influence. We need to raise our own production house, producers and artists.

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**Prayer Points:**

- Christian to recognize the power of media
- Christians to penetrate and serve through this sphere of influence
- Funding and development of Christian production house, producers and artists
- Christian movies and programs.



**Leaders' character: Faithful**

# FAMILY

**I**N THE CREATION STORY IN GENESIS, immediately after God had created man in His own image, He instituted the family: For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh (Genesis 2:24, NIV). Since then, it is apparent throughout history, that the family has played a pivotal role in every people group all over the world to shape society and civilization. It is the family, together with the extended family and often times with the help of the community, which has played the primary role of preparing the next generation to continue the process of perpetuating itself. The family has done this by teaching skills as well as acceptable norms, values, attitudes and behaviour to the new generation. As such, the family has always been the greatest influence in a person's life at least until he/she reaches adulthood.

In the last several decades, however, the influence of the family has seen a steady decline. The onslaught of humanistic philosophies have been reshaping the mindset of the individual from one that is family- and community-centred one to a more individualistic and 'I first' outlook. Furthermore, with the spiralling increase in the two-income nuclear family, there is much less interaction in the parent-child relationship; time and opportunities for teaching and training the young minds has grown scarce. This deprivation is leading a growing number of youth to seek security and a sense of belonging amongst their peers. With little guidance and direction from responsible adults, the youth are exposed to a multitude of bad influences: substance and alcohol abuse, irresponsible sexual activities, gambling, petty crimes and all forms of addiction. When the influence of the family wanes, all forms of social ills can be expected to rise and tear at the stability of the social fabric. This is exactly what we are seeing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To arrest the decline in social order and reverse the trend we need to return to the basics: we need to strengthen the family.

There is a desperate need today for the resurgence of strong families. The onus is on the Church and the believers in Christ to lead the way. Being aware of God's warnings and being 'illuminated' by the Word of God, Christian families must be the salt and light to the communities in which they live. Are Christian families ready to take the lead?

*Bro Wruttheran Sinnadurai*  
Retired Teacher & Author

FAMILY

Family Altar

*For I know him, that he will command his sons and his house after him, and they shall keep the way of Jehovah, to do justice and judgment, that Jehovah may bring upon Abraham that which He has spoken of him. (Genesis 18:19)*

The family altar is one of the most important practices for the Christian family. It is the place for nurturing faith in our children's hearts and minds besides being a spiritual adventure for the whole family. It offers the setting and atmosphere for nurturing a love for God and His Word, and provides the opportunity for the family to worship God, interact on spiritual matters, and pray together. All members of the family can participate and grow together spiritually with parents setting the pace and being role models. Unfortunately, the family altar is probably the most neglected family practice. Churches have generally failed to teach, emphasise, and encourage this spiritual discipline. Furthermore, for many who are aware of its importance, it is not a priority in their busy daily routine. With the overwhelming worldly influences, the adverse consequences of neglecting the family altar are only realised when it is too late.

Prayer Points:

- Every household to be won for Christ
- Family altars will be established in every household
- Family altars will be made a priority in every family
- Head of households to take the lead in family altars and contribute to the spiritual development of the family.



Leaders' character: Blameless



## DAY 34: SEPTEMBER 9

## FAMILY

## Strong Marriages

*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall be one flesh.*

*(Genesis 2:24)*

*Therefore what God has joined together, let not man put apart. (Mark 10:9)*

Marriage was in God's plan even at the beginning of creation. Therefore, strong marriages are most desirable in fulfilling God's plan for mankind. Strong marriages ensure strong families which in turn contribute towards building a strong and stable society. When a marriage is strong, all members of the family are greatly blessed – there is happiness, love, acceptance, communication and an environment for the growth and development of wholesome individuals. Therefore, time and effort invested in strengthening the marriage is far more rewarding and fulfilling than any other investment. With marriages breaking down at an alarming rate and families becoming increasingly dysfunctional, Christian families can be a testimony to the watching world. With God's guiding principles laid out in His Word, Christian marriages and families must be strong and exemplary.

**Prayer Points:**

- Marriage institution to be preserved and defended
- Every marriage to be preserved and protected
- Marital relationships to be deepened and strengthened
- Christian couples to exemplify loving and stable marriages



**Leaders' character: Secure**

FAMILY

# Healthy Parenting

*And fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)*

Parenting today has become an increasingly difficult task. With shrinking family size, decreasing support from the extended family and increasing rate of the two-income family, children tend to be neglected. Little time and opportunity is available for children to interact meaningfully with parents or other adults in the family. As a result there is little teaching, discipline and guidance for children. Parents need to prioritise their activities, plan their time wisely and manage their financial resources prudently so that their children get enough attention and opportunities to interact and learn from them. Expensive toys and electronic gadgets are very poor substitutes for effective parenting. Parents also need to learn to be effective in raising their children--through reading published materials on the subject, attending seminars and talks, discussing the issue with other parents, etc.

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**Prayer Points:**

- Parents to place their families as high priority
- Parents to embrace the task of parenting their own children
- Parents to equip themselves with biblical as well as up-to-date parenting approaches and skill
- Parents to be role models and not just lecturing.



**Leaders' character: Forgiving**



## United Families

*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially his family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel. (1 Timothy 5:8)*

In just one generation, family composition and dynamics have changed tremendously. The contributions by members of the extended family are very rare today. With the focus on the nuclear-family a wealth of experiences and learning opportunities for children is lost. In the past, grandparents were an important resource for the learned experiences of the young. They were trusted, experienced and wise adults who were effective complements in the parenting task. Unfortunately their function has been increasingly sidelined. There is a need to recapture the important contribution the elderly can make to the younger generation by embracing contributions from the extended family. Instead of being allowed to grow old alone or in special homes, the possibility of including the elderly in the family home needs serious consideration. It may well be a symbiotic relationship.

### Prayer Points:

- Christians to personally care and provide for their elderly parents
- Christians to resolve or manage any conflict they have with their elderly parents
- Christians to encourage bonding between grandparents and grandchildren
- Christians to teach their children to respect their elderly grandparents.



**Leaders' character: Generosity**

FAMILY

# Single Parents

*In His holy dwelling God is the father of the fatherless, and the judge of the widows. (Psalm 68:5)*

Even with two parents, effective parenting can be a daunting task. Parenting alone can therefore be a nerve-racking experience. Having to juggle career, home responsibilities and parenting can not only be physically exhausting but it can also be mentally and emotionally draining. The growing number of single parents need support and from others--families as well as singles. Usually siblings and relatives are of help but with families shrinking in size such support may be difficult to come by. The church can play an important role in alleviating the emotional and physical stress that single parents need to endure. The many families and single adults in the church must avail themselves to help. After all, the church is supposed to be another extended family.

**Prayer Points:**

- Christians to be compassionate and supportive towards single parents
- Christians to aid and assist single parents and their children who are without the assistance of their extended family
- God's grace and strength for all single parents who face the task of working as well as raising their children at the same time
- God's protection upon their children while they are away working.



**Leaders' character: Teachable**

## Give Thanks

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. (Philemon 4:6)*

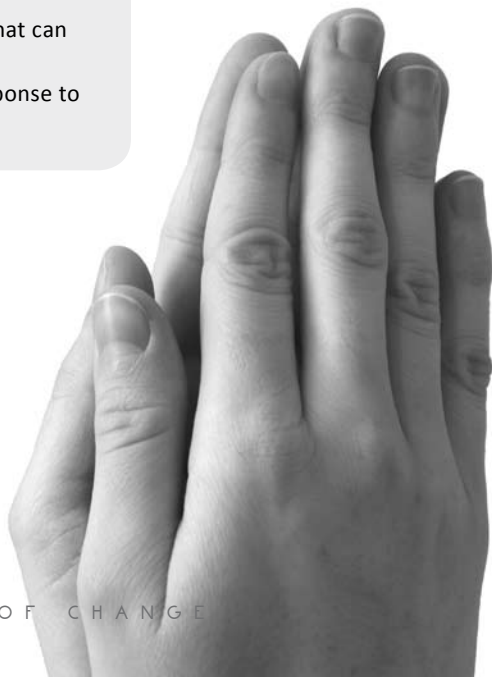
As we approach the close of our 40-Day Fast and Prayer, we want to begin to offer our thanksgiving to God. Thanksgiving expresses our gratitude for all He has done, the acknowledgement that all things come from Him and the confidence that He will do what He has promised. Thanksgiving is a reflection of our attitude and faith towards God and is an important ingredient of prayer. When our prayers and supplication is accompanied with thanksgiving, it becomes as sweet incense unto God.

### Prayer Points:

- Thank God for His accompanying Spirit and grace that has help us through the last 37 days
- Thank God for the many that had sacrificed their meals and time to stand in the gap
- Thank God for His enduring promises that can never fail
- Thank God for all that He will do in response to our prayers.



**Leaders' weakness: Blind spots**



# Arise & Build

*O Jehovah, I pray You, let now Your ear be open to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name. And I pray You, bless Your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. (For I was the king’s cupbearer). (Nehemiah 1:11)*

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Nehemiah is a good example of a successful agent of change. He rounded up the people together and roused them to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. In rebuilding the walls, he also helped the people regain their faith, confidence and dignity. A whole city was transformed. How did he do it? Apart from being a man of prayer, he availed his life to be the answer to his prayer. He did not only pray for God to intervene, he asked God to use his life to meet that need. Our prayers must be translated into action if change is to be a reality. God is not looking for someone else to make that change. He looking at what we are willing to offer to make that difference and He will work out the rest.

**Prayer Points:**

- Christians to see themselves as the answer to their prayer
- Christians to move from prayer into action
- God’s favor to be with them as they launch out by faith
- Others will be gathered to them as the work requires more than one person.



**Leaders’ weakness: Shortcomings**

## For A Better Malaysia

*Brothers, truly my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is for it to be saved. (Romans 10:1)*

*For I myself was wishing to be accursed from Christ for my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh, (Romans 9:3)*

Much has been said about Malaysia. Unfortunately, there are more negative news than positive ones. Sometimes it appears as though there is no hope for the nation. This has created a wrong perception in the minds of the public in particular the young. Many have chosen to abandon the nation and migrate overseas. But are these facts true? Do we see widespread poverty? Do we see civil strife? Do we see war? While we are not denying there are problems in the nation, the nation itself is not as bad as it is perceived. In fact, it is still a land filled with much goodness. We have one of the best infrastructures, good education and medical care, and affordable cost of living. With the millions of migrant workers in the nation, surely it is a testimony that anyone can make a decent living here. Instead of mourning, let give thanks to God. Instead of migrating, let us make this our permanent home and work to make it a better place.

### Prayer Points:

- Christians will see beyond the flaws of the nation and recognize her goodness, potential and destiny
- Christian will embrace and love the nation
- Christians will seek the welfare of the nation
- Christians will make a difference in the nation.



**Leaders' weakness: Struggles**

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*All scriptures quoted from the Modern King James Version (MKJV).*