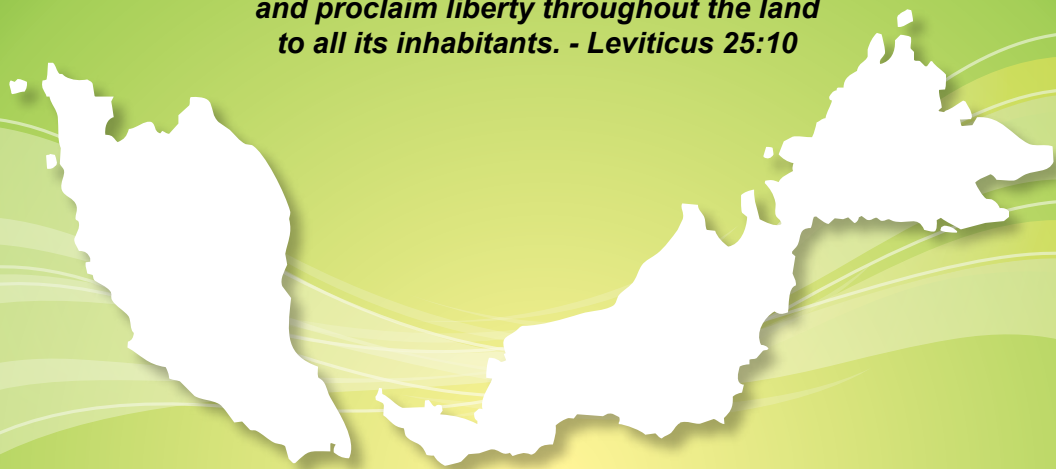


*Consecrate the fiftieth year  
and proclaim liberty throughout the land  
to all its inhabitants. - Leviticus 25:10*



# H P E of Jubilee



# HOPE of Jubilee

A laurel wreath encircling the text "50<sup>th</sup> year".

**40-Day Fast & Prayer 2012**

**(7 August - 15 September)**



# HPE<sub>of</sub> Jubilee

**T**he Jubilee celebration for Malaysia begins on 16 September 2012 and Christians are looking forward to a great year of divine intervention to bring forth multiple blessings to the nation. From historical records and the study on Leviticus 25, Jubilee is the 50th year under God's covenant with the people for the release of debts, the return of those in slavery, and the restoration of land back to its original owners. Jubilee is thus a system within Israelite society for transformation, renewal and blessings that will bring forth hope and rest to the nation.

Having faced one contentions issue after another regarding the Christian faith over the last 12 months, we await a refreshing touch from God to lift us up beyond our human concerns. Equality and religious liberty are the missing factors that cause many citizens to examine the constitution to seek fairness against injustice and an oppressive system. Nevertheless, in the midst of our frustrations as we face unending attacks on our faith, God is good as He rains the hope and promises of Jubilee upon the Christian community. We look to God knowing that He is sovereign and will intervene as we submit and obey His call to us in this nation.

God never fails! Let us arise to pray for the transformation of this nation, build our church to be strong and engage and bless the community to make our presence significant. Together, let's unite our hearts, share our resources, intercede for one another (Colossians 1: 9-12), stop complaining and start ploughing the field (Malaysia) for the Lord. As we obey and respond to God's challenges, He will find favour with us and indeed pour forth His Jubilee blessings upon our land, not only in 2012 but for many years to come.

Dear Believers, God is calling us from the East and the West to open our hearts, hear His call, receives His blessings and let Him be our Lord. We are to put our differences aside, stop finding fault and explore ways to honour Him by loving one another as He has repeatedly reminds us in 1 John 3: 11; 4: 7,8,16. Is anything too hard for God? Our God is almighty, He is able and willing to bless as we pray and submit to Him. Let's rejoice and celebrate!

# Formation of Malaysia



**O**n 16 September 1963, four former British colonies –Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo and Sarawak – merged to become the Federation of Malaysia.

After World War 2, the British decided to pull out from their colonies (with the exception of Hong Kong), partly due to pressure from local citizens. Talks to create a political union between the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, North Borneo (known today as Sabah), Sarawak and Brunei were rife in the 1950s and 1960s, but only one proposal withstood the challenges of negotiating terms agreed by all.

## **GAINING INDEPENDENCE**

The Federation of Malaya was the first of the four colonies to achieve independence. The Federation was established on 1 February 1948 to replace the widely opposed Malayan Union, which the British formed after returning from World War 2.

Tunku Abdul Rahman won the first elections in 1955 and became the first Prime Minister. He led a delegation to England for a three-month-long negotiation for independence. The British agreed to grant the Federation of Malaya independence on 31 August 1957.

Singapore was the next to achieve independence from the British on 3 June 1959. After its first Chief Minister, David Marshall, failed to negotiate a constitution for a self-governing state with the British, Marshall's successor, Lim Yew Hock, achieved success in a subsequent mission.

Sir William Goode was named the Yang di-Pertuan Negara (Head of State) while Lee Kuan Yew was the first Prime Minister of Singapore.

## **POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC UNION**

Various British and Singaporean leaders suggested a Singapore-Malaya political and economic merger in the 1950s but the Malayan government was not keen on the idea.

However, during a luncheon meeting in Singapore on 27 May 1961, Tunku Abdul Rahman proposed a closer political and economic co-operation between the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei. The "Federation of Malaysia" was promoted as an idea to benefit all.

## **HURDLES TO THE FORMATION**

Within the same year of the proposal, Malaya and Singapore agreed on the merger and published a memorandum.

Representatives from the four future partners of the Federation of Malaysia formed the Malaysia Solidarity Consultative Committee (MSCC) and recommended, among others: that the 1957 Malayan constitution will be the constitutional basis for Malaysia but with further amendments from Sabah and Sarawak; Malay would be the official language; Islam the official religion but except for Sabah and Sarawak, and Sabah and Sarawak shall manage their own immigration matters.

From 1962 to 1966, Indonesia under President Sukarno launched a "Confrontation" to protest the formation of Malaysia, stating that Malaysia was a British puppet state to expand its imperial powers. Philippines objected too, claiming that North Borneo was part of its country.

The five-man Cobbold Commission then set out to study the opinions of Sarawak and North Borneo citizens on the Malaysia proposal. The enquiries held between February and April 1962 found that among the key concerns were fears of ruling domination by the Malays, proliferation of Islam, exploitation of their natural resources and degradation of the traditional cultures and languages.

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Commission chairman Lord Cobbold wrote that Malaysia should be regarded as “an association of partners, combining in the common interests to create a new nation but retaining their own individualities” – and cautioned that any idea of taking over Sarawak and North Borneo to submerge their individualities would not be agreeable or successful.

## **AGREEMENTS OF MUTUAL RESPECT**

Following the Commission’s proposal, an Inter-Government Committee was established to look into the new constitution as well as safeguards for the special interests of North Borneo and Sarawak.

Efforts by Malaya and the United Kingdom to persuade North Borneo and Sarawak into the merger continued.

Prior to joining Malaysia, Sarawak and North Borneo wanted their 18-point terms and 20-point terms respectively agreed upon. Although these were accepted, only some were incorporated into the Constitution.

Just as the agreement on the Federation of Malaysia was to be signed in July 1963, Brunei pulled out at the last minute due to disagreements on the proposed settlement of its oil revenues. North Borneo joined as the state of Sabah while Sarawak retained its name.

Sarawak became a sovereign state on 22 July 1963 with Tan Sri Stephen Kalong Ningkan as the first Chief Minister, while Sabah gained independence on 31 August 1963 with Tun Mohd Fuad Stephens as Chief Minister.

Malaysia was to be formed on 31 August 1963. However, objections from Indonesia and Philippines as well as having to wait for a United Nations’ report on a second public opinion survey in Sabah and Sarawak caused the historic event to be postponed to 16 September 1963.

In 1965, Singapore left Malaysia.



# Pastors' Prayer Shield: Praying Daily For Our Pastors & Leaders

Jesus promised in Matt 16:18 'I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it'. He has entrusted the Church into the hands of our Pastors and Church leaders. He is ever jealous of His Church and He has given pastors and leaders authoritative anointing to raise a Church that glorifies His name, and to be a strong army that does not break ranks. They are our commanders - our shepherds, pastors, teachers, friends, counsellors, mediators, mentors, advisors - with Jesus as chief. Indeed, they are a unique people; people of power and of praise. They move in love, speak in peace and rejoice in hope. Yet, as much has been given, much is required.

The signs of end-times cannot be ignored. There are wars and rumours of wars; further challenges and persecution await. And yet our pastors must remain strong, vigilant, unshakeable and unmoveable. Everything rises and falls on leadership. Zech 13:7 says 'Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered'. Just as rice is our staple food, so prayer for our pastors should also be part of our everyday prayer. 2 Thess 3:1 reminds us to pray for them. We need to pray for them and we will see God's hand shaping our pastors.

With the anointing that God has given them and our prayers backing them up, may they lead an "army of God" to push every spiritual frontier and see God's kingdom come and His will be done in our land.





# Guide to Fasting

## 1. What is fasting?

Fasting is the discipline of abstaining from food for a spiritual purpose. In our context, we are fasting to humble and commit ourselves to pray for the nation.

## 2. Why do we fast?

Fasting is a spiritual discipline taught in the Bible. It is also a condition attached to the promise of God to heal our land when we pray (2 Chron 7:14).

## 3. What are we fasting for?

During the next 40 days, we will be fasting and praying for Malaysia. Malaysia will be entering her 50th year, her Jubilee year, and we desire to see restoration and liberty released on her (Lev 25).

## 4. How do we fast?

### *i) Make a commitment*

Pray and commit to a fast you feel God is leading you into. Be sure that it is something you are comfortable with and physically able to do. Consult your doctor if you are on medication.

### **Types of Fasts**

- Vegetarian Fast: *Fast from meat (eat only vegetables)*
- Liquid Fast: *Fast from solid food (eat only water, drinks or juices)*
- Full Fast: *Fast from food and drink (not recommended to go beyond three days)*

### **Duration of Fast:**

- *One/Two Meals A Day*
- *One Full Day*
- *Three Days*
- *Weekly*
- *Twenty One Days*
- *Forty Days*

*ii) Mark the dates you will be fasting on your calendar*

### *iii) Prepare yourself spiritually*

- Search your heart
- Get right with God & your neighbour
- Be filled with His Word and Spirit
- Put on the Armour of God

### *iv) Prepare yourself physically*

### **Before the Fast:**

Eat smaller meals before starting a fast. Avoid high-fat and sugary foods. Eat raw fruit and vegetables.

### **During the Fast:**

Avoid drugs, even natural herbal supplements and homeopathic remedies. Medication should be withdrawn only with your physician's supervision. Limit your activity. Exercise only moderately. Walk one to three miles each day if convenient and comfortable. Rest as much as your schedule will permit.

Prepare yourself for temporary mental discomforts, such as impatience, crankiness, and anxiety.



Expect some physical discomforts, especially on the second day. You may have fleeting hunger pangs, dizziness, or the “blahs.” Withdrawal from caffeine and sugar may cause headaches. Physical annoyances may also include weakness, tiredness, or sleeplessness.

The first two or three days are usually the hardest. As you continue to fast, you will likely experience a sense of well-being both physically and spiritually. However, should you feel hunger pains, increase your liquid intake.

#### End of the Fast:

Begin eating gradually. Do not eat

solid foods immediately after your fast. Suddenly reintroducing solid food to your stomach and digestive tract will likely have negative, even dangerous, consequences. Try several smaller meals or snacks each day.

#### v) *Pray*

- Decide on a fixed time and duration to pray during your fast
- Use this prayer booklet as a guide
- Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in prayer
- Combine worship and prayer
- Pray with expectation
- Pray with others (family, prayer partners, church members)

## Mark Down Your Fasting Dates

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	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

# 40-Day Fast & Pray

## Charity Collection 2012

This year, we would like to continue to challenge you into giving as you fast and pray. We believe that as we do so, we are fasting in the manner that pleases Him.

Isaiah 58:6-12 says 'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard'

Combining your fasting and prayer with giving can move you beyond concerns and concepts and into God-directed actions for community transformation and change. Prayer and fasting are merely the first steps towards acts of social justice but not a replacement for action. From the past years' collection, your giving has helped and blessed many needy and worthy projects locally and overseas.

How can you sow your meal savings to this collection?

Four simple steps:

1. Put the savings from the meals you abstain from during the fast into the envelope provided.
2. At the end of the fast, count your savings and send the amount by cheque using the envelope to us.
3. On the cheque kindly address it to 'NECF A/C 2.'
4. At the back of the cheque kindly write 'Designated to Charity 2012'



The Lord commanded Israel to observe the Jubilee every 50th year of their nationhood. On 16 September, Malaysia celebrates her 49th anniversary as a nation but also begins her 50th year. While we are not bound to such observance, Jubilee is a reflection of all that God desires for all people and nation and of what He will eventually establish for eternity. When Jesus died and was resurrected, He made the way for mankind to enter into Jubilee, a rest for all people. Many are still bound by sin and to the evil one in our nation. Corruption, evil and crime are still prevalent in our land. But Jesus liberates and provides for our Jubilee! As God commanded Israel to declare every 50th year as the Year of Jubilee, we believe that it is also what God desires for all Malaysians. So let's pray and believe for all to experience the blessings of Jubilee as Malaysia enters into her 50th year.

**Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Thank God for the last 49 years of His faithfulness.*
- *Consecrate the coming 50th year as holy unto the Lord.*
- *Pray that God will release liberty upon all Malaysians.*

[illegible]

# Fresh Start

In the Year of Jubilee, God commands three things to be done: Restoration, Release and Rest. All land must be returned to their original owners. All slaves are to be set free. And all work is to cease. In doing this, Israel and her people are re-established and given a fresh start for the next 50 years. Each one begins afresh with equal potential and opportunity to prosper. This is God’s desire. And this is what we need and desire to see happen as Malaysia enters her Jubilee. We want God to intervene and give her a fresh start for the good of the nation as a whole. Let us pray that our Jubilee will bring that restoration, release and rest needed for the nation.

*It shall be a jubilee for you; each one of you is to return to his family property and each to his own clan.... do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. (Lev 25:10-11)*

**Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray that through this Jubilee God will restore, liberate and give rest to Malaysia.*
- *Pray that through this Jubilee Malaysia will be realigned with God’s will and be changed for a fresh start.*

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# Restoration

**I**n the Year of Jubilee, God commands all lands to be restored to their original owners. Regardless of how they are lost, they are to be returned to their original owners. This is God's way to ensure that the inheritance of each tribe is preserved for the following generation. In our national context, there is a great cry for restoration. Lands and wealth have been robbed, rights have been trampled on, institutions and administrations have been abused, and harmony has been neglected. Our children are at risk of inheriting a bankrupt, corrupt and divided nation. But the spirit of Jubilee presents a promise and opportunity to reverse these circumstances.

***'In this Year of Jubilee everyone is to return to his own property. (Lev 25:13)***

## Release

In the Year of Jubilee, God commands all Israelite slaves to be set free. They are to be released back to their home and family. They are servants of God delivered from Egypt and are not to be sold and oppressed as slaves. Today, slavery is still prevalent in our society. One of the worst forms of slavery is human trafficking. Children, women and men are traded and entered into forced, often sexual, labour. It has been reported that Malaysia is a well known destination and transit point for human trafficking. Poverty is also a form of slavery. Despite rapid national development, there are still many in both rural and urban areas who are enslaved by poverty, unable to provide for themselves and vulnerable to abuse. Slavery is also alive through unjust and repressive laws that deny personal freedom and promotes injustice. Let us pray that God will send release as we enter into our Jubilee.

*'If one of your countrymen becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave. He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. Then he and his children are to be released, and he will go back to his own clan and to the property of his forefathers. (Lev 25:39-41)*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- Pray for all who are bound in sin and the evil one to be liberated and set free.
- Pray for the human trafficking network to be busted and those bound by it to be set free.
- Pray for the cycle of poverty to be broken.
- Pray for enslaving laws to be repealed.

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## Rest

**I**n the Year of Jubilee, God commands all work to cease. There is to be no sowing or reaping. No work is to be done. People are to rest in the Lord. And the Lord promised to bless the land so that all human needs would be provided. In the last couple of years, we have seen an increase of unrest and frustrations globally and in our nation. On the local front, the political scenario is becoming more and more dicey and dangerous. Irresponsible individuals recklessly use racial and religious issues to incite fear and hatred. All these have created a sense of uncertainty and tension. Let us pray that in our Year of Jubilee, we will find rest in God. Let us pray for the restoration of stability, peace and harmony in the nation.

*The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.  
(Lev 25:11-12)*

**Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for all divisions to be healed.*
- *Pray for all strife, instigation and hatred to cease.*
- *Pray for peace, harmony and goodwill to be restored in land.*

[illegible]

## The Acceptable Year of the Lord

The Year of Jubilee is also equated with the Acceptable Year of the Lord. When Jesus began his ministry, he read the scriptures from Isaiah 61:1-2. There he declared that the Acceptable Year of the Lord had arrived. Then He went about healing the sick, making the lame walk, the blind to see, setting the oppressed free and offering God's salvation and forgiveness to all who repented and believed. It was a period of great favour and grace. And that is what we desire for God to pour out throughout our nation during her Jubilee. May our nation experience His Jubilee and receive His salvation.

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:18)*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- Pray for God's favour to be upon the land.
- Pray for a mighty outpouring of His Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the manifestation of His power to set men and women free.

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## Elijah

Elijah was a man just like us yet when he prayed the heavens opened and the earth yielded its fruits! Heaven responded to his cries, evil was driven away and righteousness was restored. He was powerful and effective because his prayer carried authority! How can we learn to pray with such authority? The first step Elijah took was to pray for his nation even though he was just a man. He never gave up despite of the condition of his nation. He kept on praying for his nation. Let us give ourselves no rest to pray for our nation. Even when the 40-Day Fast & Pray ends, let us continue to pray. Effective prayer requires us to get rid of our unwilling and apathetic spirit. May we repent of this and like Elijah, rise up take hold of the situation and pray! May we seek a total change in our attitude towards prayer and the nation.

*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. (James 5:16-18)*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- Pray for the Lord to remove the spirit of slumber and apathy from the church.
- Pray for the church to be unceasing in prayer for the nation.

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**T**oken prayers are prayers where we set the time limit to pray. We even set the agenda and tell God what we want to see rather than wait upon Him to reveal what He is doing. Then we expect God to perform whatever we have prayed for. It is a man-centred form of intercession. In Luke 24:49 the Lord asks us to tarry until there we are clothed with power from on high. Nothing happens when there is no power from on high. The secret to powerful and effective prayer is tarrying with God in prayer until.... . This is what we call tarrying prayers. In tarrying prayers, God sets the time needed to wait upon Him. We do not know how long it will take but if we tarry, God will show His agenda and prepare us for what is about to come. Then at His set time we will experience a great influx of His power and authority and will have the ability to speak to mountains to be cast into the sea because we have received the authority to do so.

**Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray that the church will rediscover the discipline of tarrying prayers.*
- *Pray for a mighty outpouring of His Spirit as His church tarries in prayer.*

[illegible]

**S**piritual authority comes from God Himself. But it does not come automatically. We gain spiritual authority when we wait, trust and obey God. Like Elijah, we too need to go through a process of trusting and obedience to gain spiritual authority. Why did God send Elijah to the brook that would dry up? Why not send him straight to the widow? Yet, these small steps of faith and obedience was God's way of training him to move from one level of power to another. First, he faced the drought. Then, he had to face death. (1 Kings 17 : 17-21) As his faith in God grew so did his spiritual authority. When Elijah's time came, he was ready to face the devil! (1 Kings 18) If we want to move in spiritual authority, we must learn to trust and obey Him even when we don't understand. Will we continue to walk in obedience even when we don't see the answers to prayers that we have prayed for?

- *Pray for the church to walk in faith and obedience.*
- *Pray for the church to be empowered with authority.*

[illegible]

Unbelief is a hindrance to prayer. Jesus calls unbelief a perversity. When there is unbelief nothing can happen. Many of us may be discouraged because we may be facing personal challenges and unanswered prayers. Prayer always challenges our faith, yet without prayer, faith cannot be built! Jesus told his disciples that the only way the demon would come out is by prayer and fasting. It is only when we keep on praying that our faith grows. And our faith is in the Lord. It is not our prayer that will move the mountain but the God who called us to pray who will do it. If this is so then nothing is impossible! Will we keep on believing even in the face of these personal challenges? Will we allow God to give us a personal breakthrough so that we have faith to see a national breakthrough?

**He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. (Matt 17:20)**

- *Pray for the Lord to forgive us of our unbelief.*
- *Pray for the church to be tenacious in prayer and faith.*

[illegible]



## Action

2012 is also the Jubilee year for Malaysia. What is it during this season of that God wants to release to the church? What has He anointed us to do? It is to bring good news to the poor, to bring justice to the nation, to be a light to the gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind and to free captives and release those who sit in darkness. To be anointed means we have God's unction and authority to do all of the above. What has God laid on your heart to do after these 40 days of fasting and praying? In what ways can we bring light to the gentiles or justice and hope to the peoples, especially for those who are sitting in dungeons of darkness? Pray for the Spirit of the Lord to move us into action. Pray, too, for Christians whom God has placed in positions of authority and influence to that they will want God's anointing for their tasks and never rely on their human strength.

*I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. (Isa 42:6-7)*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- Pray for God to anoint His church into action.
- Pray for His church to be the agents and channels of His blessings.



# Hari Raya

**H**ari Raya Aidilfitri is a Muslim holiday that is celebrated by Muslims all over the world to mark the end of their fasting month. In Malaysia, Muslims start the day by wearing new clothes and congregating in mosques early in the morning for prayers followed by visits to the graves of the departed. The young will ask for forgiveness from their elders and homes will be open to relatives and friends. Plenty of traditional Malay delicacies are served during this festive season. The celebration lasts for a month but most of it is concentrated in the first three days. Muslims also give packets of money to children when they go visiting. Overall, Hari Raya Puasa is a joyous occasion for Muslims.

**Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for God to bless our Muslim neighbours.*
- *Pray that they will also enter into Jubilee.*

[illegible]

## Illegal Immigrants

Sabah now has a population of 3.2 million of which some 25% are foreigners. Sabah has called for the setting up of a Royal Commission of Inquiry to look into the gigantic problem of illegal immigrants in the State. The federal Cabinet has reportedly agreed and is working out the terms of reference. In 2009, Sabah was home to about 52,000 stateless children whose numbers are steadily increasing. This is mainly due to the influx of immigrants, often illegal. Majority of these undocumented children are not allowed in government schools and are often found working in fish markets or as shoe shine boys in the streets. The main contributing problem is the lax enforcement by the immigration department. Another cause of concern is the alleged granting of citizenship to illegal immigrants for political purposes.

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for the speedy setting up of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into this problem.*
  - *Pray for stricter enforcement of border control to stem the influx of illegal immigrants.*
  - *Pray against any misuse of power in granting citizenship to illegal immigrants to be exposed and prosecuted.*
  - *Pray for effective and fair solutions for existing illegal immigrants in the state.*
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## Lack of Development

Sabah was recognised as the richest – in terms of resources – of the four states that came together to form Malaysia in 1963. Today, Sabah ranks as the poorest state in Malaysia. Women, Family and Community Development Minister, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, said that there are presently 16,753 poor families with income of less than the minimum monthly income of RM3,102. There are also 15,293 hardcore poor households in Sabah. In 2009, 41% of Sabah's land area was without piped water compared to 10% in the Peninsula, while 23% of areas in Sabah are without electricity compared to only 0.3% in the Peninsula. And yet, under the 9th Malaysia Plan (2006-2010), Sabah was allocated only 8% of the total national budget resulting in Sabah having the largest number of people below the poverty line in Malaysia. Despite being oil and natural gas-rich, Sabah has been allocated only RM1,520.76 million of federal funds for development in 2012, which is less than 3% of the total development budget of RM51 billion for the whole country.

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray against nepotism and corruption by those in charge of developing the State.*
- *Pray for God-fearing political leaders who are champions of the poor and marginalised.*
- *Pray for Sabahans to shed their 'laid-back' attitude and make their voices heard and issues addressed.*



## Education

Last year, there was an Education Ministry proposal to post some 80,000 teachers from the Peninsula to Sabah and Sarawak. This proposal is baffling given that there are thousands of youths in East Malaysia who are interested and qualified to be trained as teachers, local political leaders have said. Besides, there are 578 attachment teachers in Sabah who are waiting for their contracts to be extended. Fears have been expressed that the transfer of teachers to East Malaysia would include many religious teachers. Education Ministry officials in remote districts such as Nabawan, Kemabong and Telupid have allegedly rejected the applications of local youth who are keen to be teachers. According to the Sabah Education Department, more than 20% of teachers placed all over Sabah are not from Sabah. Sabah is also critically short of English teachers. With regards to infrastructure, about 100 primary and secondary schools in the interior are flooded whenever there is continuous heavy rain, often affecting about 9,000 schoolchildren.

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for the Church to challenge more dedicated Christian teachers to serve in interior areas.*
- *Pray for greater support for our Christian teachers and Principals by the Church and society in their endeavour to make a difference in the sphere of education.*
- *Pray for teachers to model good values.*
- *Pray for Christian Fellowships in schools to flourish.*
- *Pray for parents to be willing to release their children to become educators in the state.*



## Sabah's Preparation for the Hope of Jubilee

In preparation for Sabah's entry into the Hope of Jubilee, several initiatives are being planned by the Project Jubilee Team. Among them are Hope of Jubilee Seminars to be held in various location in Sabah. The objective is to create awareness and educate the churches regarding the Hope of Jubilee. It is also to give a clear and accurate account of how Malaysia was formed. Besides these seminars, regular prayer meetings by the different language groups will be held state-wide to pray towards the Hope of Jubilee. On 16 September, a mass meeting will be held in Kota Kinabalu to welcome Malaysia's Jubilee for Sabah.

*Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come  
in. Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle. Lift  
up your heads, O you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may  
come in. Who is he, this King of  
glory? The LORD Almighty-- he  
is the King of glory. Selah.  
(Psa 24:7-10)*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- Pray for the Project Jubilee Team as they lead the various initiatives.
- Pray for churches in Sabah to prepare and embrace the Hope of Jubilee.
- Pray for a mighty visitation of God at the mass meeting in Kota Kinabalu on 16 September.

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**M**alaysia practices a system of government based on a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. The head of State is the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong (King) and the head of government is the Prime Minister. As the Head of State, His Majesty has wide powers as provided for in the Constitution. His Majesty has prescribed roles and functions in the three branches of government, namely, the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary. The office of the King is not hereditary. He is elected and appointed by the Conference of Rulers. The current King is Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku AlHaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Ibni AlMarhum Sultan Badlishah. This is the second time he has been appointed as King of Malaysia.

- *Pray for God to bless our King.*
- *Pray for our King to rule wisely and justly.*
- *Pray for our King to speak and act on behalf of all.*

[illegible]

## Putrajaya

**P**utrajaya is located 25km south of Kuala Lumpur and serves as the federal administrative centre of Malaysia. The seat of government was moved here in 1999 from Kuala Lumpur due to overcrowding and congestion. Kuala Lumpur remains Malaysia's national capital, being the seat of the King and Parliament, as well as the country's commercial and financial centre. The main government buildings including the Prime Minister's office are located in Putrajaya. From this centre, the Federal Government administers the affairs of the nation. The Federal Government is led by the Prime Minister and his cabinet and is responsible for defence, the police, and the railways, labour, broadcasting, post and finance, health, national security, education and more. Putrajaya's population is overwhelmingly Muslim with the majority employed in the civil service.

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for God to rain down righteousness and holiness upon our government.*
- *Pray for our government to implement righteous and just policies.*
- *Pray for the government to exercise prudent and transparent spending.*
- *Pray for our Government to deliver their promises.*



## The Civil Service

The Malaysian public service has 1.2 million employees covering 28 schemes of service. These include the Federal Public Service, the State Public Services, the Joint Public Services, the Education Service, the Judiciary, the Legal Service, the Police and Armed Forces and others. They are the implementation arm of the government performing numerous duties including delivering services, handling public interest, ensuring public security and safety, and community development. As a professional force, the public service should offer impartial and appropriate advice, be loyal to public interests and obedient to the Minister and Cabinet. At the same time, they should be politically neutral which means complete loyalty to the government of the day regardless its political complexion or a change in government. The present Malaysian Public service is predominantly Malay. All other racial groups, including non-Malay bumiputras, are under-represented to varying degrees.

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for God's blessing on the 1.2 million employees in the public service.*
- *Pray for increased efficiency, productivity, accountability and integrity within the public service.*
- *Pray for more opportunities for other racial groups and non-Malay bumiputras to enter the public service.*



## Orang Asli

The Orang Asli are the indigenous minority peoples of Peninsula Malaysia. They are categorised into three large groups under Negrito, Senoi and Proto-Malay, and are further divided into 18 sub-ethnic groups. In the early 1950's, the British saw the importance of utilising the Orang Asli in winning the war against the communist insurgency. The Orang Asli were introduced to basic health facilities, education and consumer items. This period also saw the first important attempt at legislation to protect the Orang Asli through the Aboriginal Peoples Ordinance in 1954. This law was considered a milestone for it indicated that the government had finally admitted its responsibility to the Orang Asli. While this Act recognises some rights of the Orang Asli such as for the establishment of Orang Asli Areas and Reserves, it also grants states the authority to order any Orang Asli community to leave and stay out of an area. States wanting to re-acquire land can also revoke the land's Orang Asli status, leaving the community with no other recourse but to move elsewhere. The Act also accords the Director-General of the Orang Asli Development Department (JAKOA) the final say in all matters concerning the administration of the Orang Asli. This has given rise to a situation where the Orang Asli have very little or no say in decisions made by JAKOA on their behalf.

### Prayer Suggestions:

- *Pray for a major revision of the Aboriginal Peoples Ordinance to give the Orang Asli rights over their land and to represent and determine their affairs.*
- *Pray for their status and rights to be included into the Federal Constitution.*
- *Pray for the younger generation of Orang Asli to excel in their studies.*
- *Pray for more Orang Asli professionals to rise and return to help their own communities.*

The Malays are the largest ethnic group in the Peninsula. In the 2010 census, Malays comprised 67.4% of the population. As the majority people they largely control the government administration. By law, all Malays are to be Muslims. Converting out of Islam is prohibited. Proselytizing to Malays is also prohibited and punishable in 10 out of the 13 states in the country. Conversion to Islam is mandatory when marrying a Malay. Conversion of minors is automatic when either parent or both convert to Islam. Malays are generally a tolerant, friendly, hospitable and helpful people. They are also an artistic people who love music and cultural dance. Many Malays are increasingly modernised and progressive but there are also pockets who feel that their religious, economic and political rights are being threatened.

- Pray for God to bless the Malays.
- Pray for the Malays to enjoy the Jubilee.

[illegible]

## Stepping into the Statewide Community Transformation Process

Sarawak Christian leaders are increasingly aware that, despite their years of success in raising the Christian population in the State, the general welfare of the people of the land and the Christian influence in various arenas (education, business, family, politics, media and entertainment) remain comparatively backward, and thus community transformation has remained dismal. This has led to the recent surge of passion and call of God among the church leaders on the whole perspective of church's active involvement in the transformation process of the community through the various societal arenas. God has begun doing a special work in the hearts of a number of Christian leaders of the State to look beyond the four walls of the church and seek Him for specific calls to impact the community. This has never happened at this scale before and we believe it is just the beginning.

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*  
Matthew 5:16

### Prayer Suggestions:

- *Pray for the Christian leaders of the State to receive fresh revelations on the meaning and process of community transformation in response to God's commandment to '...go and make disciples of all nations'.*
- *Pray for the more leaders to seek God for direction and strategies in influencing the community through various arenas or 'mountains'.*
- *Pray for the unity of the church leadership statewide on specific community transformation initiatives.*
- *Pray for breakthroughs in the heart of the overall Christian community to do more than just church-based programs.*

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## Raising Up Christian Leadership and Godly Gatekeepers in Sarawak

Events in the recent years concerning the wellbeing of the Christian community in Sarawak highlighted the great need for local Christian leaders to be strong and courageous in leading God's people in their hour of need. The key state Christian leaders, though well recognized in their respective groupings, struggle to unite fellow Christians from across different denominations and alliances. The great tasks of the hour call for unprecedented measure of leadership. With such diverse church and cultural backgrounds, the leaders we are looking for to unite the Christian community are not easily found. We must look to God Almighty not only for His provisions of such leaders but also for His anointing on them for the undertakings.

*Be strong and very courageous.  
Be careful to obey all the law  
my servant Moses gave you;  
do not turn from it to the right  
or to the left, that you may be  
successful wherever you go.  
Joshua 1:7*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- *Pray for God-fearing Christian Leaders and Gatekeepers in Sarawak who are passionate about His presence and will for the kingdom in this time.*
- *Pray that they may establish open doors to fresh waves of the Holy Spirit bringing revival and new awakenings in Sarawak.*
- *Pray for God to grant greater spiritual authority and anointing upon these Gatekeepers to discern His Will and Purpose for this "Kairos" moment.*
- *Pray for these leaders to lead from a posture of prayer, service and humility.*

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## Unity of the Sarawak Christian Community

Since the first Christian missionary landed at the shores of Sarawak, Christian groups of different denominations or alliances, though highly commended for their hard work in bringing the church growth to where it is today, have operated largely within the confines of their own 'missions' of God. Interactions among the groups have been limited and often, by necessity, through loose alliances. However, the calls of the hour – to seek religious freedom as guaranteed under the Formation of Malaysia agreement, to respond to the eradication of extensive poverty among the rural poor, to focus on righteous state administration, etc. –now demand an unprecedented kind of unity among the Christian community. Many Christian leaders in recent years have awakened to this reality and sent out calls to rally other Christians in Sarawak to look beyond what divide them and stand together for the common causes.

*I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me John 17:23*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- *Pray for Christian leaders to be sensitive to the call of God to unite His people for statewide causes.*
- *Pray for these leaders to be courageous to stand for this call, looking beyond whatever boundaries that keep them from advancing forward.*
- *Pray for Christian leaders from various denominations and alliances to seek reconciliation among themselves.*
- *Pray for Christians in the State to break out of the confines that keep them away from uniting with other Christians.*

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## Raising the Next Generation Leadership

What shapes the younger generation of today? From the bigger cities to the smaller towns and to the villages in the interior of Sarawak, there is one common issue... exposure to cyberspace, networking through Facebook, YouTube or Twitter and the availability of all sorts of information through the Internet. What is the pressure this generation is experiencing? Pressure to be better than their peers, to attain straight A's in their exams, to get a place in university to pursue a course of their choice and then finally to land a job that is considered prestigious in the eyes of society. How do young people cope with such pressure and what would be the keys for them to move on and sustain in life? How can the church be relevant and play a part to shape the destiny of our youth today? It is time like this that we need to hear the 'still small voice of the Lord Jesus' instructing and guiding us what to do and how to minister.

*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well Matthew 6:33*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- *Pray for God's wisdom and understanding in handling truth and justice in a society that emphasize on materialistic, educational pursuit and career advancement.*
- *Pray for parents, pastors or mentors to understand the needs and struggle of the next generation and to be Spiritual Fathers to them, guiding them as they face challenges and temptation while striving to live a meaningful, wholesome and fruitful life.*
- *Pray for God-fearing young people to rise up and influence their peers through creative means in order to see another generation on fire for the Lord.*
- *Pray for a willingness for Sarawakians to stay or to come back and fulfill the God's calling and purpose.*

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## Justice, Fairness, Righteousness, Wisdom, Godliness in Our State Government Administration

Malaysia was formed after 122 years of peaceful and harmonious rule of the British Government and Rajahs undergirded by strong Christian principles based on the Nine Cardinal Principles of Rule. As we wake into the 50th year of Malaysia, the need for a godly state government is more acute more than ever. The present state of the wellbeing of the Sarawakians, especially those living in the rural areas, calls for a more effective and efficient state administration in raising the people's standards of living. We need leaders who are strong and righteous in managing the rich resources that the state is endowed with and increasing equitable distribution of income among the people groups. The perspective of 'church and politics do not mix' has created a serious lack of active involvement of Christian leaders in political arena in Sarawak?

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for a heightened awareness and strong commitment of the Sarawakians to their role in the political process (and as the responsible voting population) in the development of the state.*
- *Pray for an active political system that ensures just and fair administration of the state.*
- *Pray for a rise in the participation of the Christians in exerting their influence in the political arena.*
- *Pray for a provision of political leaders who are courageous and stand fervently for righteousness.*
- *Pray for the Fear of God to rule over those involved in the administrative system.*

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## Economic Development

**S**arawak's economy is based largely upon her vast natural resources. The major sectors of economy are Mining, Timber, Agriculture, Tourism, Construction, Manufacturing and Services. Although Sarawak is blessed with abundance of natural resources, the high proportion of poor people and low number of middle-income Sarawakians leave much to be desired in terms of a healthy economy.

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for a better business climate in Sarawak through Government support by education, incentives initiatives and infrastructures.*
- *Pray for more jobs to draw professionally trained Sarawakians home to promote state development.*
- *Pray for positive mindset and work culture change that will enable Sarawak to meet current global challenges.*
- *Pray for skills, funding and knowledge for rural business development.*
- *Pray for more 'Kingdom' enterprises that will help alleviate the local economy.*
- *Pray for Christian Professionals, Business Owners and Employees to work towards economic transformation of Sarawak.*

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## Stepping Forward to Global Missions

The growth and spread of Christianity in Sarawak has its genesis in the commitment of overseas missionaries from various denominations. There were many humble beginnings and these began with the most basic means of blessing the community – primarily through education and medical services.

Many influential people in Sarawak, both in the public and private sectors, came from mission schools. Surely this is a testament to the commitment and sacrifices the early missionaries have made. In those days, it took months to sail from their homelands to Sarawak's shores.

It is time for the churches in Sarawak to rise up and take on Jesus' vision for the nations. The world has gotten smaller because of air travel, and connectivity in communication means a message from one part of the world is received within a few seconds at the most!

*May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.  
Psalm 67:1-2*

### Prayer Suggestions:

- *Pray for God's grace and blessings on Sarawak churches to send more missionaries and church planters from Sarawak.*
- *Pray for genuine joy and personal victories in Sarawak churches as the launch pad into world missions.*
- *Pray for abundant blessings on Sarawak churches so that great resources will be released for world missions.*

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Poverty deprives a person of his or her basic needs and consequently their welfare. It destroys a person and his or her family units. Many poor are women who are single heads of their households. Unmitigated poverty eventually leads to a breakdown in community. Poverty may be likened to sin that corrupts the body and eventually the soul. In line with the coming Jubilee of the nation, the church as the redemptive body of Christ must continue to pray against poverty and act by removing the barriers to sufficient income. By doing so, the church is alleviating the plight of the poor and hopeless as well as uplifting their social status for restoration and well being.

- *Pray that the Lord will break and remove the poverty cycle in Malaysia.*
- *Pray that the government will always have the interest of the poor at heart.*
- *Pray that the church will continue her good works to address the root causes of poverty.*

[illegible]

## Liberating The Oppressed

Minority communities such as the Orang Asli and the natives of Sabah and Sarawak have long been neglected. For the Orang Asli, many have not had title deeds to their land and run the risk of losing their land. We also know that many who have dwelled on their land for centuries from one generation to the next have not had their land recognised as Orang Asli land. Consequently, the Orang Asli are always subjected to abuse, discrimination and oppression, whether religious, racial or economic. Likewise, the natives or Bumiputera of Sabah and Sarawak face similar abuses, discrimination and oppression. Constitutionally, although the natives of Sabah and Sarawak are as privileged as the Malays to receive certain preferential treatment, in reality, it is often not the case.

### **Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray that the government will recognise the Orang Asli's rights to their land.*
- *Pray for capable leaders to rise among the Orang Asli to represent their people.*
- *Pray for all Orang Asli, and bumiputera of Sabah and Sarawak to enjoy the same privileges as their Malay counterparts.*



## Towards a Corruption-free Society

**T**ransparency International (Malaysia) has defined corruption as the “abuse of entrusted power for private gain”. In Biblical terms, corruption includes all that which distorts and brings decay due to the ravages of sin, the consequences of which is death to the nation and society. It includes bribery, illegal activities and all that is scandalous both private and publicly. For the third consecutive year, Malaysia witnessed a decline in her Corruption Perception Index. In 2011, Malaysia’s score of 4.3 is slightly lower than 4.4 recorded in 2010<sup>1</sup>. It is significantly lower than the government’s benchmark of 4.9. Although public awareness against bribery and corruption has arisen, not enough is being done to combat corruption on the grand scale. These include the practice of awarding mega projects and contracts without open tender, limited access to information that encourages secrecy and the close ties between business and politics in Malaysia.

<sup>1</sup>The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is a composite index, a combination of polls showing how corrupt a public sector of a country is perceived to be. The index is a spectrum ranging from 1 which is the worst, to 10 which is the best.

**Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for a culture of righteousness, transparency and morality to be restored and upheld.*
- *Pray that the government will have the will and determination to stem out corrupt practices.*
- *Pray for the church to be a beacon of light in our lives and daily practices so that we may be examples of ethical integrity to the nation.*

[illegible]



# Transcending Racial Divisions

Historically, politics in Malaysia has always been premised on communal lines. We see this in the composition of the three main component parties within the ruling coalition which are formed along racial-ethnic distinctions. Over the years, this has led to segregation and polarisation of Malaysian society rather than a people united. Although it was our founding fathers' aspiration that citizens of this land and the various ethnic communities come together and acknowledge themselves as "Malaysians" first rather than according to ethnic lines, the stark reality is that this aspiration still remains a dream. The time has come for the nation to abandon such a narrow and myopic mindset in favour of a more liberated outlook that truly represents the collective identity and will of the people as Malaysians.

**Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for Jubilee to bring the people of various communities together.*
- *Pray for the church to exemplify such unity and harmony in the nation.*

[illegible]

# Celebrating a Truly Liberated and Free Malaysia!

**P**salms 103: 6–12 declares that the Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repays us according to our iniquities, for as high as the heavens, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fears him. To realize Jubilee for the nation, the church needs to surrender the destiny of this nation to the Lord. We must acknowledge that our Lord is a sovereign God who is gracious and merciful and yet one who works righteousness and justice. This is where our hope for Jubilee and for a truly liberated and free Malaysia lies. As we praise and worship our Lord for this, we can trust and count on Him as the one who will truly bring about reconciliation, redemption and restoration to all that is lost in Malaysia and for His people. And as we experience redemption and restoration, we will also experience that He is gracious, compassionate and good!

**Prayer Suggestions:**

- *Pray for the church to put her full confidence in God.*
- *Pray for God's sovereign purpose to be fulfilled.*
- *Pray that Malaysia will enter into her Jubilee.*

[illegible]

# Nationwide HPE of Jubilee Celebration

16 September 2012

## **Local Church**

We would like to invite local churches to set aside this Sunday to welcome, proclaim and pray as our nation enters into her Jubilee. A sample sermon, proclamation and prayer list will be made available in our website for your resource.

## **Citywide**

At 7pm in the evening, we will be celebrating our nation's Jubilee nationwide in every city corporately. You are all invited to this celebration. Locations of these citywide venues can also be found in our website.

*\*Our website, email and contact number can be found at the back cover of this prayer booklet. For towns and cities that want to participate in this nationwide celebration, kindly contact or write to us.*

## Upcoming Events

October	Ministers' Appreciation Month
November	International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (13 Nov) National Children's Prayer Conference (15-16 Nov)

## Acknowledgements

Special thanks to:

Kota Kinabalu Pastors Fellowship – Hope of Jubilee for Sabah

Kuching Ministers Fellowship – Hope of Jubilee for Sarawak

Dr Ps Lew Lee Choo – The Spirit of Elijah & Hope of Jubilee

Nicole Tang – Pastors' Prayer Shield

*All scriptures quoted from the New International Version (NIV)*





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