

PRAYER BULLETIN #53, 31 Oct 2020

OPEN HEARTS, WELCOMING HANDS

"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother."(Deut. 15:7, ESV)

REFLECTION

We all know that people around the world are facing difficult and challenging times due to COVID19. While many have been hit with health issues and economic crisis, most of us in Singapore have so far been spared. Most have some form of steady income, though for others this might have been much reduced. But as long as we have some we can be considered blessed. We should then consider the poor who really need help and try to offer care and assistance so as to meet their basic needs. As the Lord has blessed us, continue to be a channel of blessings to others.

How may we be a blessing to those who are needy at such challenging times, especially when we don't really know who they are? We can offer help through the Church. BRMC has a variety of ministries – caring for poor families, reaching out to migrant workers, and offering assistance to members who need emergency help. In addition, we can support the works of Epworth Community Services and Methodist Welfare Services.

We bear the Lord's concern for the poor in our hearts and we become his hands to the needy. Would you be willing?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, in rough times we may complain that rose bushes have thorns or be thankful that thorn bushes have roses. But help us to be grateful and contented with the blessings that you have showered upon us in times past and even now. May we be thoughtful and caring people to reach out to help the poor and vulnerable with grace and generosity. In Christ's name. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for family members and friends who love us and who are always around to assist us

when we need someone to talk to. Pray that our Lord will watch over them too, that their needs will be met and they will be protected from harm. And just as they have blessed us, we pray that we will be willing and ready instruments of God to bless them.

- Praise God for a responsive government. While there were unforeseen challenges in managing the COVID-19 pandemic, the government with the help of Voluntary Welfare Organizations and religious groups have done relatively well in controlling the spread of the disease and keeping the fatality rate down. Pray for continual wisdom, courage, foresight and compassion as they manage the crisis to protect life and livelihood of all people, including the migrant workers, the poor and vulnerable.
- Pray that Christians will use this time of upheavals to share God's love with people who are in distress and searching for peace. Pray that we will offer practical assistance, wholistic counselling as well as spiritual direction to those most badly hit by the pandemic.
- Pray for the well-being of Christians who have in recent months switched to worshipping away from physical sanctuary. While having to stay at home to worship online is a good reminder that the church is more than just concrete buildings, pray that Christians would not be too complacent and comfortable that they develop an irreverence for the Lord and forget to gather for fellowship and corporate witness when the condition allows for Christians to return to church premises. Pray that in adjusting to the new normal we will not forget the good practices of the time-tested normal.

*"Forth in Thy name O Lord, I go
my daily labour to pursue.
You, Lord, alone I long to know
in all I think, or speak, or do."
(Charles Wesley)*

**If you need any prayer or pastoral care support,
kindly contact the pastoral care team via:**

Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg

Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012