

THE CHARACTER OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS

"Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom..." (Acts 6:3a)

REFLECTION

Once every four years, the Methodist Church in Singapore will hold elections for important office bearers. This year the General Conference has already elected Rev. Dr. Gordon Wong as our new Bishop. Later this November, at the Trinity Annual Conference session, a new President will be elected to succeed Rev. Dr. Wong. Apart from electing a new President, there will be other elections for Vice-President, Lay-leader, Associate Lay-leaders, Chairpersons of Boards and Conference Officers. Who should the delegates vote? What kind of leaders does God have in mind and prepared for this season?

If we look at the Bible, the kind of leaders chosen for the tasks must be leaders with virtuous character. In Acts 6:3, the early church was asked to pick men "full of Spirit and wisdom." If we refer to 1 Timothy 3, and Titus 1, we will see that the leadership qualities which Paul favours has do more with the integrity of a person and less of how smart or skilful the person may be. The standard of leadership which Jesus has set for us is how prepared we are to serve and not to be served (Mark 10:42-45). The biblical model of a leader is a person who is prepared to step down a ladder and provide leadership by example. Unlike the corporate world, Biblical leadership does not measure how high we climb, but how far we are willing to be an obedient servant of God. The symbol of leadership is a towel and a basin, not how expensive is the property we own or how opulent our life-style.

PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, you have taught us and shown us that Christian leadership is servant leadership. Help us to avail ourselves as your servants, always willing and ready, to serve you wherever you may send us. Remind us that when we serve, it must not be driven by temptation of promotion and power, attractive that may be, but because it is always an honourable privilege to answer your call to serve you. In your name. Amen."

SUPPLICATION

- Praise and thank God for the election of Rev. Dr. Gordon Wong as the new Bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore. Praise and thank God for the consecration of

Rev. Dr. Titus Chung as the new Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Singapore. We ask God to guide them and enable all heads of churches to provide Christ-centred leadership for the churches under their care. Pray that they will intentionally seek after God's kingdom and righteousness. May they be committed to ensuring that members grow in spiritual maturity, Christian witness and loving service to the communities that God has placed them in.

- As the three Annual Conferences of the Methodist Church in Singapore elect their Presidents and other key Conference Officers, we pray that God will give us men and women filled with the Holy Spirit, to step up and offer their service. We pray that God will give us leaders of sound character, with humility, wisdom, righteousness, courage, foresight, deep love for God and for people.
- We pray too that our church leaders and our pastors, including those at the local churches, as the shepherds of the flock will have clear mind to discern what is good and true for the church, and that they will have the moral courage to reject any teaching that is dubious, shallow and false, no matter how popular those teaching may be.
- We lift up to God the people in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Philippines who have been hit by recent storms. Many have died and still more have lost their homes and possessions. Pray for the victims of floods and landslides that they will receive needed help soon. Ask God to bless and empower the Christian groups and churches reaching out to the affected people, that their efforts will not only bring needed relief to the people, but will also point them to God.

*"There's a work for Jesus,
ready at your hand.
'Tis the task the Master
just for you has planned.
Haste to do His bidding,
yield Him service true.
There's a work for Jesus,
none but you can do."
(Elsie D. Yale)*

***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