

## **PEACEMAKERS**

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)*

### **REFLECTION**

Since the days of Noah, the world has been “full of violence” (Genesis 6:11). Proverbs speak of “the unfaithful craving for violence” (Proverbs 13:2). Today violence continues to perpetuate in the escalation of the arms race with weapons of mass destruction in the name of self-defense. We witness civil hostility and mob riots within communities and countries in attempts to seek justice for the common good. We hear of crimes committed against humanity, youth rebellion, conflicts against state authority and clashes between high profile personalities, all of which are often worsened by the social media. Violence also exists in strained marriages and family relationships, road rage, school bullying, sexual harassment, and the list goes on.

*The Bible tells us the walls of hostility have already been pulled down.* Jesus not only died in our place for our sins that we may be “the righteousness of God” but that we may also become “ambassadors” of Christ committed to the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19-20). Christ has broken down the barriers which divide and put down the wall of hostility to bring us all back to Himself.

*The Bible tells us the root cause of violence.* “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires within you? You want something but don’t get it. You will kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel, you fight...” (James 4:1-2). The Bible also records: “...hatred, discord, jealousy fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissension, factions and envy” are all acts of the “sinful nature” (Gal. 5:19-21) that come “from within, out of man’s hearts” (Mark 7:20-22).

*The Bible gives us the antidote to violence.* 1Thess. 5:23 tells us that the God of Peace Himself inhabits our hearts if we let Him. Jesus also promised to give us His peace (John 14:27). The violent person would reject God’s peace, BUT God’s children who have His indwelling peace within them would bear the mark of peacemakers. The God of Peace seeks to transform our propensity for violence into proponents for peace. Jesus said: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in Heaven”(Matt. 5:43-45. Peacemakers would want peace above all, will

negotiate, maintain, speak and pray for peace. Peacemakers would ultimately bear the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).

### **PRAYER**

*Heavenly Father, You are the source of Peace and Comfort, and reconciled us back to You through our Lord Jesus Christ, make us to be Your peacemakers, that the people around us may know Your saving grace and receive the true peace that You alone can give. Amen*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- Pray for the de-escalation of arms race among nations. Pray that leaders of major powers would take initiatives to negotiate for non-nuclear proliferation treaties and work for peaceful co-existence.
- Pray for communities in ruins as a result of war and communities that carry the scars of war. Pray for the rebuilding and restoration of peaceful communities free of terror and trauma. Pray for war memorials to stir the next generation to remember the devastation of war and always choose peace and make every effort to live in peace with all humankind (Heb. 12:14)
- Pray for peace in communities torn by racial and religious conflicts. Pray for mutual understanding and acceptance such that people would endeavour to promote peaceful living instead of seeking only after narrow sectarian interest.
- Pray for every loving word, every gesture of peace in a warzone, every humble hand offered to render help and harmony in struggle and disunity, every effort to bring peace in the face of contention, every step made to make peace where there is anarchy and every refusal to violence and hate in a world prone to discord and strife.

*For the creation waits in eager expectation of the sons of God to be revealed...Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship. (Romans 8:19, 23)*

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

***Email: [wecare@brmc.org.sg](mailto:wecare@brmc.org.sg)***

***Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012***