

## PRAYER BULLETIN #74, 13JAN2021

### NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNING

*"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and stream in the wasteland."  
(Isaiah 43:18,19)*

#### REFLECTION

It is still early days in the New Year following the Gregorian calendar. Lunar New Year is around the corner. It is understandable that there are people who are not in the mood for celebration. However, instead of being entangled by the depressive development of 2020, a better thing for us to do is to look at 2021 with greater optimism, difficult though that may be. Truth be told we were ill-prepared for the pandemic which has taken many lives and brought the world's economic activities to an almost stand-still.

It would be unkind to downplay the pain borne by those who had suffered because of COVID19. It would also be tragic if we get ourselves stuck in time and refuse to move away from the dark valleys of 2020. That will serve no positive interest other than to make us more miserable.

Taking lesson from the verses we have for this Prayer Bulletin, we should "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past." It is time to move on and entrust to God our future. We are invited to experience the goodness and greatness of our Lord. He is the one who can restore beauty in the "wilderness" and bring life to "wasteland" that we have encountered in life. Look, then, with expectancy that the Lord would do something wonderful or meaningful in the lives of people and in this world.

#### PRAYER

*Creator God, the world has been hit by a pandemic which we have not been prepared. Many people around the world have suffered. Human plans have been put in disarray. Lift up our sagging spirit out of gloom and point us to you for hope and healing which you alone can give. Amen.*

#### SUPPLICATION

- Thank God for family and friends He has given to us. May we treasure them and always be on the lookout for their well-being. Ask God for forgiveness if we have taken them for granted or neglected them in some ways. Consider how we can be intentional in our efforts to spend more time with them and cultivate healthier relationship based on God's teachings for us to love one another and encourage one another.
- Pray for the growing number of seniors in our churches and in the wider society, that they will not be viewed as burdens to be disposed but persons loved by God and by us as well. The elderly have their own health issues, social and spiritual needs. Let Singapore and Christians set examples of making our city and our churches/homes be elder-friendly and where the seniors can age with grace and peace, surrounded by people who care and love.
- Pray for our pastors and church leaders, that God will grant them shepherding hearts and servant spirit as they provide care and spiritual leadership. Open their ears to hear God's prompting and to follow His heartbeat, so that whatever they do, they will do so to glorify His name and contribute to feeding the His children, guiding them to grow towards spiritual maturity.
- Pray for the vaccines which is now available to stop the spread of COVID19 that they will be safe and efficacious for those who have been or will be vaccinated. Pray for more options which are less expensive, easier to produce and convenient to distribute to the poorest communities in the remotest part of the world.

*"Christ has no hands but our hands  
To heal the world's infirmities;  
To touch the hurting, comfort, calm,  
To offer hope and healing balm.*

*Christ has no arms but our arms;  
To lift the fallen, hold the faint,  
To bear the heavy weight of grief  
For all in need of relief."  
(Mary Kay Beall)*

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

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