

PRAYER BULLETIN #105, 01May2021

IN HIS STEP

*"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."
1 Peter 2:21*

REFLECTION

As the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus, entered the world by taking on the form of a man and experiencing pain and suffering as a human person. He did not only teach about the hope of an ultimate victory which Christians can look forward to, He also told His disciples to expect persecution and suffering here on earth. We know that Jesus Himself went through excruciating sufferings when He was nailed on the cross for the sake of providing a way for us to return to God and receive His gift of salvation.

Apart from having to endure the pain on the cross, through the cross Jesus showed us the perfect example of voluntary self-denying love for others.

Only Jesus can die for the sake of the whole world. We cannot do that. But what we can do is to be prepared when we have to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. If we want to live a faithful life, Christians must learn to follow the way of our Lord and Saviour. We have to "follow in His steps."

Besides the text for today, Peter advises "if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear his name." (1 Peter 4:16). Instead of retreating and be preoccupied with self-pity, Peter adds, "those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator, and continue to do good." (1 Peter 4:19). Live life. Do good whatever the circumstances. Follow the steps of Christ.

PRAYER

Merciful God, our Heavenly Father, thank You for the daily blessings You have bestowed upon us. Thank You for the smiles on our faces and the joy in our hearts. In times when we cannot smile and we feel disheartened because of setbacks or illness, give us strength to cope with afflictions and to trust that You will be there for us and with us. In the name of Christ. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- During the current pandemic, many people have stepped up to offer caring services. They are still there working very hard to attend to the sick and manage the spread of COVID-19. We thank God for – the doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers; the volunteers who helped to ensure public order; the scientists engaged in accelerated research in search of vaccines; the essential service providers, among them cleaners and garbage collectors. Thanks be to God for their invaluable service.
- COVID-19 has gone through many waves in different countries. Some countries have been badly hit and respective governments are struggling to manage the unprecedented scale of infection and demands for hospital beds. Keep these countries in prayer, asking God to help them stop the spread of coronavirus and to ensure that the people will have timely access to vaccinations.
- Pray for the youth of our church. Like all of us, their routine and participation in Christian fellowship and service have been disrupted by restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19. Pray that they will not only keep their faith but they will find ways to fellowship with their church mates and grow in their faith.
- We commit to God the future of our country and His Church. We pray that our Lord will give us women and men with good character and competence to provide self-less and courageous leadership in politics, the academia, professional services, voluntary welfare organisations, commerce and our churches.

*"I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, No turning back.*

*The world behind me, the cross before;
The world behind me, the cross before;
The world behind me, the cross before;
No turning back, no turning back."*

(Anonymous)

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