

## **IF WE HAVE TO BOAST**

*"This is what the LORD says:  
Let not the wise boast of their wisdom  
or the strong boast of their strength  
or the rich boast of their riches  
but let the one who boast boasts about this:  
that they have the understanding to know me  
that I am the LORD who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight," declares the LORD."  
Jeremiah 9:23-24*

### **REFLECTION**

Usually during a special day, like a National Day or Armed Forces Day, the leader of the country will make a public speech to detail the achievements of the country. Among the things which a leader may say is to show figures comparing the rate of improvements registered by the country over the years. Some subjects normally highlighted would include the percentage of people who have completed university studies, acquisition of the state of the art military hard wares, money spent on scientific research and the growth of the economy.

Advances made in education, military and economy are worth featuring. We can understand why a country is proud of such achievements.

Important as the achievements in education, military prowess and economic development may be, we must not neglect the more crucial advances which we, as individuals and as a country, must secure.

God spoke through his prophet Jeremiah and advised the people that it is not enough to boast about advances in knowledge, military power or material riches. If they have to boast about anything, let them boast about knowing God as the LORD who loves and "exercises kindness, justice and righteousness." These are virtues our LORD delights in; virtues which we should cultivate personally and promote corporately for the common good of the country.

National Day for Singapore is 9<sup>th</sup> August. Many of us would have put up our flag as a way of thanking God for this country which He has given to us and for the many advances the country has made as well as the countless blessings most of us have enjoyed, since independence.

May we seek to follow what God delights in, and that is in pursuing and exercising kindness, justice and righteousness as we ask God to continue to bless us and our small country.

### **PRAYER**

*"Lord of the nations, thank you for blessing Singapore, our island republic. Instil in the hearts of those who have done well and acquired more wealth to be generous in caring for the poorer residents in Singapore. Let Christians be in the forefront setting examples to care for the voiceless and vulnerable: the poor and powerless. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."*

### **SUPPLICATION**

- We praise and thank God for the 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Singapore's independence. While many countries have struggled after gaining independence, our LORD has protected us, given us committed leaders and a hardworking population. For God's blessings, we give Him thanks.
- We commit to God our country's future. We ask God to give us leaders with courage, competence, wisdom, foresight and moral integrity to lead our country into a better and brighter future of peace and stability, social justice and generosity of spirit.
- We pray for those who have fallen ill during this COVID-19 pandemic. Our hearts are troubled by the number of people dying and infected in various countries. Pray for help to find the cure for this illness and let the medicine/treatment be available to the poorest countries and to those who need them most.
- We pray for ourselves, asking God to teach us to cultivate a deeper desire to love Him more and to share His love with our neighbours. Ask God to transform us to be people who are Spirit-filled, holy, wise, upright and Christ-centred in our thoughts and the way we live our life.

*"May truth and freedom come to every nations;  
May peace abound where strife has raged so long;  
That each may seek to love and build together,  
A world united righting every wrong;  
A world united in its love for freedom,  
proclaiming peace together in one song"  
Georgia Harkness*

***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***