

PRAYER BULLETIN #137, 21 AUG 2021

COURAGE IN THE DAYS AHEAD

*Be on your guard;
Stand firm in the faith;
Be courageous; Be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13*

REFLECTION

These words were part of the personal requests Paul made to the Corinthian church as he ended his letter in 1 Corinthians. It was a list of four postures he asked the Corinthian church to have as they faced doubts, quarrels and questions in the establishment of their community. These four postures perhaps resonate with us today as we encounter our own doubts, struggles, and questions of what our days ahead would be like.

Paul first asked the community to “be on your guard” – not to be in panic or alarm but alert as to what is truly from God and what is not. Today, we face lots of digital disinformation, or more popularly known as fake news. Much of these news create within us a sense of anxiety and the state of seeking immediate relief. Do not be alarmed, but be on your guard. Seek the truth that stands on God’s Word. God is still in control.

Paul also asked the community to stand firm in their faith – many have pre-occupied their postures to that of survival. In a metaphorical sense, it seems that we have started to sacrifice many things in our life’s boat to keep it afloat – we have thrown away convenience, and perhaps even sacrificed leisure and other things. Standing firm in the faith is a reminder to know that we don’t need to throw away our time with God, nor lessen the relationship we have with him through this time. Secure it even today as you listen and rest in your holy trust in God.

Be courageous. What acts of courage can we, the people of God, the royal priesthood, the ambassadors of Jesus Christ, do today? Our courage does not stem from wishful thinking but in God’s faithfulness. We are reminded that God has not failed us. How can we be the courageous light and salt of the earth today?

Be strong. What does this mean for us today? Perhaps it is best summed up with these three words: don’t give up. We can be tired, worn down, and at times completely failed in our endeavors, but with God at our side, let us rise up, and press forward, for in the darkest night God’s light shines the brightest for us, and we can rest in God’s unflinching love.

For our reflection, what do you need to be on your guard against? How can you reaffirm your faith at this time? What acts of courage can you do in God’s Spirit? How can we remain strong in Him?

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you that you are a mighty fortress in whom we can find our security during this difficult time. Lord, grant us the grace to have faith, courage, and strength in the wholeness of Your character, presence, and power. Inspire in us the ability to act for your church today. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for God to intervene and deliver us all from the COVID-19 pandemic and its variant forms. Many are suffering in various ways and are in need of help. May the Lord’s church be a beacon of hope and light in these dark days to bring refreshment and relief to those who are suffering.
- Pray for continued protection for all the residents in Singapore and her neighbouring countries as the various vaccination drives take place in the communities. Many still have not received their vaccination due to lack of supply, delay in process, fear or by choice.
- Pray for the many foreign workers and students who are struggling as they remain in Singapore and are separated from their families in their home countries. Pray for their safety and preservation.
- Pray for churches around the world as they are being mobilized for God’s Kingdom and His righteousness during this season. Pray that churches will be places for solace and support as much as they are sanctuaries for worship. May those who seek help find God through his people.

*“Courage is contagious.
When a brave man takes a stand,
the spines of others are often stiffened.
Billy Graham*

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