

PRAYER BULLETIN #163, 20NOV2021

“OUCH!”

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:24,25*

REFLECTION

A spur is a sharp pointed object attached to the heel of a horse rider's boot. To make the horse go faster, the rider will press that object to the horse's side. OUCH! The writer had probably observed the horse riders in the Roman army when penning this verse. It aptly describes what we believers need to do with our emotional strength and strategy to flesh out God's love in our lives and life-styles. We literally goad, incite, stimulate and provoke one another: going beyond polite greetings, niceties and politically-correct cliches, and the boundaries of our personal comfort zones. But all this OUCH! would be done with sincerity and intention, and as reflections of God's love.

What has this got to do with our prayers and our praying?

First and foremost, notice the specific positive objective behind God's call to spur others: love and good deeds. Let us strive to be led by God's Spirit to align ourselves with that calling. Secondly, we need to look at how we have been praying all this time. While it is legitimate to pray to God for our needs, let us strive not to become "self-serving". Let us instead go beyond that focus and cover the needs of others. Finally, God is calling us to spur others. It's intentional. It's BY CHOICE. It's going out of our way. Let us then strive to courageously go from praying into action, with an open-ness to share and a sensitivity to receive similar spurring from others, and a spirit of perseverance to keep going even when we feel the OUCH! The challenge for us then is to how to be wise in what we do and discerning on where to strike the balance with what we do to encourage positive responses of love and good deeds.

PRAYER

Almighty God, my Heavenly Father, I thank You for extending my horizon in my praying, going beyond what I and my loved ones need for life and life-styles. Fill me with the courage to pray for others. Fill me with Your Spirit's wisdom and discernment on how to show Your love for them, and how to stimulate them to love You and others with good deeds that reflect that love. In Jesus' Name, I pray, AMEN.

SUPPLICATION

- As you pray, listen to yourself and make a note of what you are praying for. Are they requests for blessings of health, provisions of things and possessions to supplement lives and life-styles, and for God's Presence and Protection from various situations ONLY for yourself and for your loved ones? While they are valid (and you should not feel guilty about praying to God for them), would you now pray for others and what they are in need of? And if you do not know what they are in need of, would you intentionally contact them and ask them, telling them that you would like to pray for them?
- Is there someone you know who is in need of being spurred to get on with his or her journey with God? Be courageous and go beyond just praying for that person. Find ways to "provoke" that person into action. If you need suggestions on what to do, go online to websites and blogs (like <https://joditt.com/spur-one-another-on/>) It could be as simple as an e-card or a telephone call. But, remember to be intentionally consistent with your efforts. We are not called to spur and provoke as and when we like.
- If you are in a SMALL GROUP at BRMC, you would already have a pool of contacts to start spurring and provoking. Are you in contact with them outside the scheduled gatherings to share beyond the bible studies with details like birth dates and family milestones? Would you start by sharing these personal moments in your life? They do pave "baby" steps to encourage others to follow suit? Would you think of other ways of "meeting together" and pray for one another? We often do not see the potential to do this within the limits for visits and dine-ins unless we intentionally look for it.
- Going beyond BRMC to "spur others to love and good works", let's pray for the CEO, staff and volunteers of our METHODIST WELFARE SERVICES (MWS). They have been on forefront of serving the disadvantaged – the youth, the families, the elderly, the sick and the destitute - since 1981. Pray that God will continue to uphold their passion and fortify their efforts in spite of the pandemic. And if opportunities come your way, choose to go alongside with whatever resources God has provided you.

*In this world today,
there is already so much discouragement.
Let's not be the source of it for someone else.
- Julia Kyte, blogger, "Committing my way"*

**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**