

HOPE FOR A BETTER 2022

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

REFLECTION

It is the last week of 2021. A time to wrap up this rather eventful year and to hope for a better 2022.

As we reflect on life in 2021, we can be thankful and grateful for many things, such as the many prayers that were answered, a successful vaccination programme and protection against the dreaded virus, and life becoming more fulfilling with the grace in Christ

Yet while we are thankful for these blessings, we still live with problems that may make us feel less hopeful. The pandemic continues with new variants that nullify the protection the vaccines have given us. Elsewhere the contention for dominance between the world's major powers threatens our economic well-being and livelihoods. Broken families and personal relationships continue to fester with no reconciliation in sight. Chronic health issues continue to weigh on us and our loved ones, and poverty robs many of their basic needs.

How can we hope for a better 2022? John 3:16, in a way, helps us by reminding us to live everyday remembering whose we are.

We are God's dearly beloved. We have a special place in His heart. He sealed His love for us through the gift of His Son Jesus Christ. So we can put our hope in Him not just for life here on earth, but also for the life in eternity.

When we trust God by following Jesus, He guides us in the choices we make, teaches us the truths to rely upon, and empowers us to live life fully. For the One who rules and reigns over all things will help us to overcome every obstacle we face, heal every sickness and make whole every relationship not just in 2022 but for eternity.

Let the dawn of 2022 remind us to thank God for eternal love for us and to place our hope in Him who loves us always. Turn our eyes to God and follow Jesus, remembering that we belong to God His dearly beloved.

PRAYER

Dearest Lord, thank You for loving me with the gift of Your Son Jesus, my Saviour. Help me Lord not to rely on myself or the things of this world, but to always call out to Jesus first for every need in 2022. Let me grow in faith to trust Him more and follow Him more intimately. For I am assured that a life following after Jesus will certainly overcome every obstacle. This is my hope for a better 2022 and hereafter. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Take the time to reflect on this year 2021. What are some things that you can be thankful for? Turn them to God with grateful heart. Any issues that may have left you feeling regretful or unpleasant? Surrender them to God. What are some hopes and concerns that you may have looking forward to 2022? Talk to God about them.
- Everyone is affected by this pandemic and global issues in one way or other. Pray for God's grace and mercy to come upon those greatly affected. May they find hope, healing, solutions, etc. in God and through His church and people.
- Pray for God's justice to reign as new measures are implemented to guide life when the pandemic becomes endemic. Pray for God's inspiration for new drugs and vaccines to be developed and distributed to end the pandemic. Pray for people to adjust and manage well to the on-going changes in societies, communities and families.
- Pray for God's wisdom to guide the political leaders of the major world powers as they work out their differences. Let their decisions give space for small nations to grow and prosper. Pray for God's hand to guide our church leadership as BRMC re-gathers for worship and fellowship as the pandemic becomes endemic

*In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.
I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.*

Psalm 25:1-2

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

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