

Love Thy Neighbour

40-Day Fast & Prayer 2009

A Shining Light to the Nations

Loving my neighbour

– Letting God's love SHINE through me

Thank you Father for Your love and mercy that
You have poured out on all people

Thank you Father that Your love is a never ending supply

Thank you Father that Your love endures forever, and EVER!

Such love is too wide and too deep for me to understand

How will I ever know how deep the love of my Father is for me?

Why am I so precious in Your sight?

Out of Love

Dear Kids,

Do you love God?

I know many of you do and want to sincerely serve Him. You know that He is a good God and that He cares for you. He is indeed a good God and values every one of you. In Luke 12:6-7, Jesus says God cares for even such small things as sparrows. How much more is His love for you who are worth more than many sparrows! He even knows how much hair you have on your head!

Can you imagine how much He loves you?

As children of God, we have to give our whole hearts to Him. God has commanded us to love Him with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind, and with all of our strength. In other words, to love Him with ALL that we are! This is the first and the greatest commandment.

There is another commandment that is also very, very important – *love your neighbour as yourself*. Jesus

sums up God's two greatest commandments in Mark 12:28-31.

Kids, do you love God?

Jesus says if you love Him, you will obey His commandments. If you really love someone, you will want to do what the person asks for.

So, if you love God, you must also ask yourself, "Do I love my neighbour?"

Umm... is my neighbour the uncle next door?

A teacher of the law in the Bible also wanted to know. He asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus answered by telling a story about the Good Samaritan.

³⁰...A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

³³But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

³⁵The next day he took out two silver coins^[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

So, is your neighbour the uncle next door?

Well, yes... but more than that. Your neighbour can be anyone, but especially those who need your help. Just like the poor man who almost died and needed help, your neighbour is anyone who is in trouble and needs your help.

Love is not only saying, but also doing

This is a story of a girl named Eileen.

In church, Eileen was learning about the children who lived all over the world. She thought of all these children, just like her, living in China, India, Alaska, Australia, Africa. Their lives must be so different, she thought. But she felt close to all these children because in many ways, they were the same. As she heard more, the feelings in her heart for these children from all over the world grew. When the teacher finished sharing, Eileen leaned over and told her, "I love all of Heavenly Father's children."

In class, just a few minutes later, Peter came over and sat down next to Eileen. Peter was new in town, and didn't really dress very well. He spoke in a funny way, and combed his hair differently with his hair parted too much to the side. Eileen had laughed before when her classmates made fun of Peter, and when he sat down and said "Hi", Eileen heard someone giggle. Suddenly, she felt very embarrassed sitting next to Peter. Without saying anything, she got up and moved to the seat behind.

For the rest of the lesson, Eileen had

a bad feeling inside. She kept looking at Peter, who sat quietly, looking down at his feet in embarrassment all throughout the lesson. Eileen wished she had acted differently. She thought of how she had also felt the same way a few times in school when her friends made fun of her for 'always being so good'. The bad feeling in her grew as she remembered how embarrassed she was for being 'different'. She also remembered feeling sad and lonely. When class was over, she hurried over to Peter's side and caught his arm. "I'm sorry I moved away Peter," she said. "Would you like to meet for recess tomorrow in school?"

Peter's face lighted up and broke into a happy grin, and Eileen's bad feelings immediately disappeared.

You see, loving our neighbour isn't only a feeling we have inside – it is also an action. It is important that we want the best for others in our hearts, but we also need to put this feeling into action.

"There should be less talk... Take a broom and clean someone's house. That says enough."

~ MOTHER TERESA ~

How do we put our love into action for Malaysia?

Praying for those around us who are in need

In Malaysia, there are many groups of people who are in need of our prayers. During this 40-Day Fast and Prayer, let us pray for our neighbours. The main groups of people who really need our prayers are:

- **The Poor:** Those who have very little or do not have enough money
- **The Excluded:** Those who are rejected by the community because of the way they live

- **The Migrants:** Those from other countries who have come to Malaysia to work
- **The Indigenous Peoples:** The natives from Sabah and Sarawak, and the Orang Asli

We will also pray for our country to be *fair and upright* so that the suffering of those in need will be lessened. We must pray that Malaysia will be a nation who cares for those in need.

So kids, are you ready to pray?

An important note!

PRAYING WITH THE WORD OF GOD

When we pray, it is good to pray with the Word of God. *Why?*

God says:

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire and
achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

~ Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)

Praying with the Word of God is very effective. This is because...

When we pray God's word, His words will not return to Him empty. That means He will do something. This is because we are confirming what He has said and we are praying what is in HIS HEART. So, there is power in the words that we pray and our prayers will bear fruits!

Let's look at an example:

Let's say you want to ask God to help you love your neighbour.
You can pray...

Dear Father,

Psalms 139 –

*You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

*³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

*⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.*

You know what is in my heart. You know when I sit and when I rise.
You know my very thoughts.

You know when I go out and when I lie down. You are familiar with all
of my ways.

Before I even say a word, you already know what I am going to say.

Psalms 139 –

*²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

*²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Search me O God, and know my heart,

See if there is any way in me that you are not pleased with,

Correct me if I have any wrong attitudes,

And lead me and guide me in your ways.

Mark 12:31 –

...You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Help me Father, to love my neighbour as myself,

As that is one of the greatest commandments in the Bible.

John 14:15 –

If you love me, obey my commandments.

You say that if I love You, I would do as You say,

Help me Father then, to do as You say,

Give me the willingness in my heart to love my neighbour,

Because I love You and want to be obedient to You,

Help me to love my neighbour.

I pray this in Jesus' precious name, Amen!

Every day, there are a few verses included with the prayer points.

Read these verses first before praying.

It will really make a difference!

Go for it!

~ WEEK 1: DAYS 1-4 ~

Being united to love our neighbours

BOUND BY GOD'S LOVE

I have been serving as an officer in the Girls' Brigade in Kuching since 1985. The Girls' Brigade is an international, inter-denominational Christian uniform organisation. Its motto is "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ". The activities in Girls' Brigade are based on four aspects – spiritual, physical, educational and social. Membership is opened to girls aged six and above (non-Muslims).

I enjoy working among the girls, bringing them to know Jesus and seeing God moving in their lives, moulding them into beautiful women. I also thank God for the strong bond of friendship with fellow officers which has brought us through thick and thin in Girls' Brigade.

One Saturday, during our Girls' Brigade worship time, the Lord prompted me to give this word: "Be still and listen to what God wants to say to you." Later during Bible session, some of the girls shared. One girl said, "God told me to forgive my friend." Another said, "Jesus told me to obey my parents." Yet another said, "God asks me to be kind to my friend." Many times, God has encouraged me through the simplicity of these little cadets. On 4 April 2009, my lesson was "Jesus wants me to know that I belong to Him". So I asked, "Are you sure you belong to Jesus?" One girl spoke up, "I know I belong to Jesus because I wrote my name in the Book of Life in heaven during the camp."

At that point, God encouraged me again that what I had shared at the Cadet Camp five months ago had remained in them. Young as they are, these girls understand and hold fast to what they did in responding to salvation's call.

I have been serving God in Girls' Brigade for 16 years now. Through the work, God has opened my eyes to see that we are all serving and worshipping one God. I see God moving among our girls of various races and denominations. I have come to love and accept each one of them. If God does not discriminate, why should I?

Betty Chan

GETTING OURSELVES RIGHT

Being united as Christians first

Just as God loves all the little cadets in the Girl's Brigade, we should also learn to love and accept one another. It doesn't matter which church or denomination we are in, what matters is that we worship the same God and that HE does not see any difference among us. He loves everyone JUST THE SAME. Let's not allow our differences to stop us from doing what is more important – reaching out sincerely and wholeheartedly to our neighbours. Let us all as children of God come together in unity, asking God to help us love our nation.

Ask yourself...

(Please write your answers in the box.)

Have I ever felt I am better than someone from another church or denomination?

Have I ever felt afraid that another Christian would be “cooler” or better than me?

If you have (and most of us have!), ask God to forgive you (and He will!). Ask God to help you see that we are all the SAME in His sight. He does not want you to compete or to push away one another; He wants you to accept, help and encourage one another. That is what it means to really love one another.

This week, we are going to pray that God will unite all of us to love our neighbours.

PRAY

**Day 1
(22 July,
Wednesday)**

A change of heart and mind

(Ps. 139:23-24; Psa. 51)

- ✿ Getting your heart right with God: Ask God to forgive you if you have been jealous or insincere towards others; if you lack love and care for others
- ✿ Getting things right with others: Ask God to mend any friendship that has gone sour among Christians

**Day 2
(23 July,
Thursday)**

Love for Malaysia

(Acts 17:26, Gen. 13:14-15, Ruth 1:16-17)

- ✿ Thank God for blessing Malaysia and for the many different cultures in the country. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you in what way you lack love for the country
- ✿ Ask God to specially bless the state/town you are in
- ✿ Pray that God will bring peace between different races
- ✿ Pray that Christians will give their whole hearts to God and be determined to honour and love this nation

PRAY

**Day 3
(24 July,
Friday)**

Love for the People of Malaysia

(Rom. 9:3; Matt. 9:35-38)

- ✿ If you have looked down on people from other races in Malaysia, ask God to forgive you for not loving them. Ask Him to give you the love and compassion to reach out to every group of people in Malaysia
- ✿ Pray for the groups of people in Malaysia who have not really heard or been changed by God's love. Pray that God will soften their hearts and that there will be more Christians to reach out to them
- ✿ Pray that churches will have a burning vision to grow and there will be more new churches among the groups of people who have not heard about God

**Day 4
(25 July,
Saturday)**

Church will be united to love our nation and neighbours (Jn. 17:20-26)

- ✿ Ask God to forgive the church for pride, competing, and not trusting one another; for not being united as God's people
- ✿ Pray that God will keep working among the churches to unite them and give them the ability to work together to help the communities

~ WEEK 2: DAYS 5 - 11 ~

**Loving our neighbours who are
poor and excluded**

**Interview with Rev. Henry, the president and founder of
a social organisation, about loving our neighbours...**

How do you and your team love your neighbours?

We try our best to help people and walk that extra mile with all our strength to help the needy and the abandoned. The foundations of Christian teachings definitely highlight the importance of love and being compassionate.

What is needed to love your neighbour?

To love a neighbour, we have to be caring, sharing and not expect anything back in return. This basically revolves around the fact of being a good human being. This is what we feel loving a neighbour is all about.

“Going that extra mile to help the needy and abandoned and not expecting anything in return” – that is at the *heart of loving our neighbour*. These two things that Rev. Henry points out show the attitude that we all should have when we reach out to love our neighbours.

Jesus says:

*‘If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles’
– (Matthew 5:41).*

‘If you love those who love you, do you deserve any thanks for that? Even sinners love those who love them’ – (Luke 6:32).

Jesus clearly teaches us to do more than what is ‘normal’ or what is ‘required’ of us. Going that extra mile and not expecting anything in return from others is something many of us will not do. Without God, that is how we will think and behave. This is how the world thinks and behaves as well. But because God’s love is in us, we can be MORE than what a person without God would normally do – we can give more than what is required, we can

love our neighbours as much as we love ourselves. Because God has poured out His love on us, we too, having received His love, can also pour out abundant and generous love on others.

Rev. Henry is a good example of a Christian who lives out God's command to 'Love our neighbour'. The non-profit organisation that he runs (Perkhidmatan Sosial dan Pembangunan Komuniti) focuses on helping single mothers and their children. Volunteers from the local community help him to run the organisation. A big cheer to Rev. Henry and his team, as well as other organisations which are willing to 'love their neighbour'!

Let us be encouraged and inspired to do the same as well!

Ask yourself...

(Please write your answers in the box.)

When I do something nice for someone, what do I expect in return?

(Hint: A simple thanks could be an answer.)

How can I give to others without expecting anything in return?

(Hint: Read what is written above to get a clue. You can also ask an older Christian for his/her answer.)

This week, we will pray for the poor and excluded in our community.

PRAY

<p>Day 5 (26 July, Sunday)</p>	<p>Putting compassion for others into action (James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:18)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Pray for our minds to be renewed and for a compassionate heart ✿ Ask God to show you practical opportunities to help your neighbours ✿ Pray that Christians will have a united vision for God's kingdom, rather than their own
<p>Day 6 (27 July, Monday)</p>	<p>The poor will be delivered from hardship and poverty (Matt. 25:31-46)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for the poor and excluded ✿ God will hear the cries of those who are facing hardship and deliver the poor and excluded
<p>Day 7 (28 July, Tuesday)</p>	<p>The Government will get rid of poverty (Prov. 22:22-23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Pray against laws that do not take care of the poor ✿ Government will be committed to get rid of poverty and look into the needs of the poor ✿ The poor will be given proper education so they will have a better future ✿ Those who are in business will not just think about making money but will want to help the poor by providing job opportunities for them
<p>Day 8 (29 July, Wednesday)</p>	<p>Workers with lower income and who do menial work (Ps. 82:3-4; Ps. 140:12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ The lower income group will not be mistreated ✿ Churches will have a bigger vision and heart to take care of this group's interest ✿ Churches will have the wisdom to teach this group how to apply God's Word in their lives ✿ Pray for God's covering over this group of people, such as hawkers, garbage collectors, etc.

PRAY

<p>Day 9 (30 July, Thursday)</p>	<p>Churches will reach out to the poor (Matt. 5:16; Prov. 28:27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Churches will think of effective ways to reach out to the poor✿ The authorities will cooperate with churches to carry out these strategies✿ Church home groups/cells will reach out to all kinds of people who are in need
<p>Day 10 (31 July, Friday)</p>	<p>Churches will tell the poor about the good news of God's salvation (Luke 4:18-19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ God will provide opportunities for churches to tell the good news of God's salvation to the poor✿ The Holy Spirit will move powerfully among the poor and excluded and break the things that hinder them from becoming better✿ There will be salvation among the poor and excluded, along with their families; they will experience God's healing love
<p>Day 11 (1 August, Saturday)</p>	<p>Churches will tell the excluded about the good news of God's salvation (Rom. 1:16; Rom. 10:14-15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ God will pour out His compassion on the excluded of society, such as the prostitutes, drug addicts, single mothers, the homeless, etc.✿ Churches will work together and with the Government to help this group of people✿ Ask for God's covering over the NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations), such as Malaysian Care, and also rehabilitation centres which are reaching out to this group of people

~ WEEK 3: DAYS 12-18 ~

Loving our neighbours who are losing their homes and who do not have much

THE PLIGHT OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

In Sarawak, the natives are facing a lot of problems relating to their land. When Malaysia was formed, the natives were given special rights to own certain areas of land. However, at present, the Government does not respect them as the rightful owners of this land. In many cases, their land is given over to business developers without even informing them. As a result, they will only find that their land has been taken away when bulldozers and tractors come to develop the land.

So far, there have been about 200 reported cases. This shows how serious the problem is. The usual length of time to get one case looked into is six to seven years. Some of the problems that the natives face are: the Government's unwillingness to recognise certain areas of land as belonging to the natives, and the difficulty the natives face in proving that they are the owners of the land. Also, when the natives make police reports on their land issue, the police usually ignore the cases and sometimes even mistreat them.

The Orang Asli is also facing a similar situation regarding their land. The land that they have been occupying for many centuries is now being slowly taken away from them. This situation has caused a lot of anger among them.

THE GROWING MIGRANT GROUP

Many of the migrants in Malaysia are foreign workers who work in airports, hotels, restaurants, petrol stations, domestic services, and so on. Their number has grown over the years. In 2006, it was reported that there were 1,823,431 foreigners from at least 22 countries in Malaysia. In 2008, the number was reported to be 2.01 million. These migrant workers now play an important role in the workforce in Malaysia. The top five groups of migrants in our land are the Indonesians, Nepalese, migrant Indians (from India), Vietnamese and Bangladeshi. With this huge number, we cannot ignore the fact that the migrants have become our neighbours in our land!

Along with the growing population of migrant workers, there are also many illegal immigrants in the country. Many of these illegal immigrants have

run away from their own home countries because of dangerous conditions back home. However, they face a lot of hardship and difficulty here in Malaysia because they lack food, shelter, money and legal protection. We as Christians need to pray for God's protection to be on them as they try to survive in unsafe conditions in our land.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOURS WHO ARE LOSING THEIR HOMES AND WHO DO NOT HAVE MUCH

Both the indigenous peoples and the migrants need our compassion, mercy, prayer, and above all, our help and action. Many times, their struggles are 'unseen' or 'invisible' to us, especially when we do not take the time to find out about their problems.

Ask yourself...

(You can write your feelings in the box.)

After reading about the land problems of the indigenous peoples, how do you feel?

Try to imagine you are in their shoes. Now, how do you feel? How do you think they feel?

You can share your answers with a friend. See if they feel and think the same way as you do.

Ask yourself...

Who are some of the migrants you have seen or met in your daily life? They could just be the security guards that work at your home. They could be the cleaners that you see in shopping complexes or in your school. They could even be your *kakak* who stays with you!

How do you feel about them when you see them in your daily life?

If you put yourselves in their shoes, how do you think they feel?

You can share your answers with a friend. See if they feel and think the same way as you do.

This week, we will pray that God will help us to meet the needs of our indigenous and migrant neighbours.

PRAY

<p>Day 12 (2 August, Sunday)</p>	<p>Concern for Sabah and Sarawak (Isa 60:1-2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Pray for fair and just Governments in Sabah and Sarawak, that they will bring benefits to the people ✿ Fair laws that will protect the rights of the indigenous peoples
<p>Day 13 (3 August, Monday)</p>	<p>Remembering the needs of the church in Sabah and Sarawak (Isa. 64:1-9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Pray that God will move powerfully through Sabah and Sarawak to stir up every church to do what God has called it to do ✿ God will give wisdom to church leaders and pastors of Sabah and Sarawak as they try to handle community problems ✿ Christians will want to reach out and tell every group of people about God
<p>Day 14 (4 August, Tuesday)</p>	<p>Helping the churches in smaller areas and other towns (Acts 20:35, 2 Cor 9:8-15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Pray that churches in Peninsular Malaysia will bless the churches in Sabah and Sarawak with what they have ✿ God's covering to be over churches who do not have enough workers and materials in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia and in smaller towns ✿ The smaller churches will work together with churches in Peninsular Malaysia to love our neighbours
<p>Day 15 (5 August, Wednesday)</p>	<p>Helping the indigenous people of Peninsular Malaysia (Isa. 60:21-22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ God will bless and protect the Orang Asli in Malaysia ✿ Unfair treatment of the Orang Asli will stop ✿ The Government will sincerely help them

PRAY

Day 16
(6 August,
Thursday)

Strong church among the indigenous people of Peninsular Malaysia (Eph. 3:16-21)

- ✿ God will raise up godly, strong and righteous leaders among the indigenous people
- ✿ Churches will be strong in God's Word and raise leaders among their own people
- ✿ Orang Asli Christians will know God deeply and will not be influenced by false teachings

Day 17
(7 August,
Friday)

Church helping the migrant people in Malaysia (Prov. 14:31; Prov. 19:17)

- ✿ Ask God to forgive us if we have mistreated the migrant workers
- ✿ Christians will help them with their material needs
- ✿ Christians will open up their homes to migrants to care for them and to befriend them
- ✿ Migrants will be touched by God's love shown by Christians and will seek after Him
- ✿ Migrant fellowship groups will grow in strength and numbers

Day 18
(8 August,
Saturday)

Government's role for the migrants

(Ps. 72:1-4, 12-14; Jer. 22:3)

- ✿ All mistreatment against migrants will stop
- ✿ The Government will sincerely protect and care for the migrants
- ✿ Wisdom for the authorities to handle crime that is started among the migrants

~ WEEK 4: DAYS 19 - 25 ~

Praying for those in authority to make a difference in the public

THE BOY AND THE STARFISH

One day a man was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance during the day. So he began to walk faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he saw that it was a boy and the boy wasn't dancing, but instead, he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.

As he got closer he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?"

The boy paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish in the ocean."

"I guess I should have asked, 'Why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?'"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in they'll die."

"But, young man, don't you realise that there are miles and miles of beach, and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!"

The boy listened politely. Then he bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said, "It made a difference for that one."

The man left the boy and went home, deep in thought. Later that day, he returned to the beach and spent the rest of the day helping the boy throw starfish into the sea.

[Adapted from: <http://www.askalana.com/stories/starfish.shtml>]

DOING OUR PART

Have you ever found yourself thinking, “No, I won’t do it, what difference does it make?”

The man in the story didn’t see any point in doing anything to help the starfish, but the boy knew better.

“It made a difference to that one”.

The boy understood that although he couldn’t save all the starfish stranded on the beach, he could still do something to help a few starfish.

This week, we will be praying about making a difference in the public.

The public refers to all the people in a community or the nation. To pray for the public means to pray for all the people. This may seem like a huge effort, too huge for our ‘little’ prayers. But, let’s be like that little boy who saved some starfish. If he had thought about saving all the starfish, he probably would have just thrown up the idea of saving some. It’d be too big a job for him. But he concentrated on what he could do, and that’s what we should do too.

In the Bible, there was also another boy who made a difference to thousands of people, a huge number that he probably never imagined. He was the boy with five loaves and two fish who brought what he had to Jesus. He couldn’t possibly feed the thousands of men and women who were there at the time, but he did not let that stop him. He did his part anyway. The rest of the task was left to Jesus, who multiplied his offering many, many, many times over.

As Christians, let us just do our part without worrying too much about whether we can make a big difference. (We CAN!) We have a mighty God who will turn our ‘little’ to ‘much’. We just need to cooperate with Him. Together with Him, we WILL make a difference.

PRAY

<p>Day 19 (9 August, Sunday)</p>	<p>Being concerned with what happens in the public (Esther 4:13-14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Ask God to forgive you if you have not been concerned with what is happening around you✿ Ask God to give you a heart and interest for what is happening around you
<p>Day 20 (10 August, Monday)</p>	<p>Praying for those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-4; Prov. 14:34)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Bless the leaders of our country✿ Pray that our country's leaders will use their power in the right way
<p>Day 21 (11 August, Tuesday)</p>	<p>Fair and righteous laws (Prov. 8:14-16; Lev. 19:15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Those who are in charge of the laws in our country will be fair; they will not be afraid to do what is right, they will not do things for their own interests✿ The laws of our country will continue to be fair for everyone
<p>Day 22 (12 August, Wednesday)</p>	<p>Praying for Christians who are in politics or in anything related to public concerns (Isa. 11:2-5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✿ Christians who are in politics will have the courage to stand up for what is right and fair, and be willing to defend those who are poor, excluded, neglected and mistreated✿ God will help Christian politicians to serve in a humble attitude and protect them from being tempted to do what is wrong✿ Also pray for other Christian workers who serve in organisations that improve the social situation of the country

PRAY

**Day 23
(13 August,
Thursday)**

Christians to be involved in public concerns

(Isa. 42:1, 6-8)

- ✿ God will raise more Christian workers that will serve in the public
- ✿ God's wisdom and strength to be on those who are serving in the public
- ✿ The church will have the courage to fight against any unfair situation and mistreatment of people in need

**Day 24
(14 August,
Friday)**

Asking God to remove anything that stops real change from happening (Isa. 57:14-15)

- ✿ Ask God to forgive us for not wanting to change things even when they are wrong because we think it is too troublesome
- ✿ Christians will not put money or any other things as first in their lives; God should be first in our lives
- ✿ Pray against anything that blocks the way to good change in the lives of the people in need

**Day 25
(15 August,
Saturday)**

God will bring real change in our country

(Isa. 40:3-5)

- ✿ Ask God to bring real positive change in lives with His power – beginning with ourselves, and then in those around us, and in our country
- ✿ God will bless what we are doing as Christians for our country so that our work will have a big impact on our country
- ✿ God will protect us as we become involved in public concerns

~ WEEK 5: DAYS 26-32 ~

Praying for upright and good examples

WHY IS LIGHT SO IMPORTANT?

Do you know?!

Without light, there would be no sight.

Humans and animals can see an object because it reflects light. When the light reaches our eyes, signals are sent to our brain. Our brain decodes the information and tells us what the object is. This whole process is a complex one, however, it would not be possible if there is no light present.

If you turned off the room lights for a moment and then cover all the windows with black coloured paper to prevent light from entering the room, you would notice that nothing in the room can be seen. Even though there are objects, eyes, and a brain, the room and everything in it would look completely black, simply because there is no light!

In fact, without light, we can't even be seen by others. The only reason why other people can see us is that we are reflecting the light that comes from the sun.

[Adapted from: <http://www.glenbrook.k12.il.us/GBSSCI/PHYS/CLASS/refln/u1311a.html>]

REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF GOD

Just like the world needs natural light, it also needs God's light. The Bible says we are His light. If we do not reflect His light, the world will not be able to see Him! Jesus says:

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:14-16

As the light of the world, we should not hide our light. Who lights a lamp and then puts it under a bowl? The light from the lamp would be useless then! What should be done is to put the lamp on a stand so that everyone in the house can see the surrounding. *If we hide our light, there will be no sight.* The world will not be able to see God, who is the Light in us. When we let our light shine by doing good deeds, by doing what is right, people will see God and praise our Father in heaven.

So kids, remember, don't hide your light! Do good to stay bright!

Pray this prayer on your own or with a friend:

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

*Pour out your Spirit on me Father
That I may walk in your light
That You may direct my paths
That You may show me the way that I should go
So that I will walk in Your perfect will
That I may live out all the days that You have ordained for me
That I may bring glory to Your name
That I may be a light and a vessel for Your love and glory
That all men may see and praise my Father in heaven
Because all your works are good
And You are great, High above every name
Worthy of ALL praise!*

This week, we are going to pray for those who are willing to be good examples in our country by doing the right thing and walking uprightly before God and others.

PRAY

<p>Day 26 (16 August, Sunday)</p>	<p>Church as bringing truth and light (Col. 1:10-14)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Ask God to forgive us if we have not been upright and honest in all that we have done ✿ Ask for forgiveness for the wrong things we have done
<p>Day 27 (17 August, Monday)</p>	<p>Good morals and attitudes (Amos 5:24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ God will speak to the hearts of our leaders of Malaysia to be strong in their morals and turn away from attitudes and behaviour that are not honest ✿ For all civil servants that they will have good morals ✿ For Malaysians to value good morals and upright behaviour
<p>Day 28 (18 August, Tuesday)</p>	<p>Christians in authority will fight unfairness and dishonesty (Micah 6:8; Exo. 23:7-8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Christians who have authority in the country, whether they are politicians or government servants, will fight unfairness and dishonesty ✿ They will live a life of high moral principles ✿ Christians will have the courage to speak up and fight against any unfair and dishonest behaviour
<p>Day 29 (19 August, Wednesday)</p>	<p>All Christians to fight against unfairness and dishonesty (Phil. 2:12-16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Christians will themselves be true, fair and do the right thing ✿ More Christians will rise up to put their energy into fighting against unfairness and dishonesty in every area of life ✿ For Christians who are already doing such work, that the church will support them and their efforts in every way it can ✿ The efforts of Christians against unfairness and dishonesty to be truly effective

PRAY

Day 30
(20 August,
Thursday)

Pray for government servants in authority to be against unfairness and dishonesty

(Prov. 6:35; Psa. 26:11-12)

- ✿ They will continue to reveal and get rid of every unfair and dishonest practice in the country
- ✿ They will be responsible and do their duties without fear of others or for selfish reasons
- ✿ People in the country will work together with those in charge to get rid of unfair and dishonest practices in every area of life

Day 31
(21 August,
Friday)

Christian businessmen will be honest and responsible

(Ps. 37:23-29; Isa. 60:5)

- ✿ They will put away and be free from every greed and unrighteousness
- ✿ They will be upright in their business so that they will be the salt and light wherever they are
- ✿ They will be responsible with their money and use it the way God wants them to

Day 32
(22 August,
Saturday)

Fairness and equality will return to every area in the country (Psa. 89:14-18)

- ✿ Justice and equality among the people will return to every area in the country
- ✿ The wealth and benefits in the country will be enjoyed and shared by everyone and not just the rich and powerful

~ WEEK 6: DAYS 33-40 ~

Praying for salvation and justice in Malaysia

THROUGH THE EYES OF LOVE

Grant us Father, a vision of our land as seen through Your eyes...

*A land where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
A land where the benefits of life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
A land where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
A land where peace is brought by justice, and where justice is guided by love.*

And give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[Adapted from: http://www.invitationtoprayer.org/prayers_justice.html]

As we come to the last week of our fasting and praying, let us not slow down in our prayers, but let us DOUBLE up our energy in praying!

When a runner runs a race, no matter how tired he is, the moment the finishing line comes into view, he will pick up and run as fast as he can...

So, just like an athlete running a race, let us all pray with all of our hearts and strength this week! Keep your eyes on the finishing line!

**This week, what we are praying for covers our country as a whole.
We will be praying for salvation and justice in Malaysia.**

Let us all pray our hearts out together for Malaysia this week!

PRAY

Day 33
(23 August,
Sunday)

Christians as good moral citizens

(Titus 2:6-8; 2 Tim 2:22)

- ✿ Christians will always be ready and prepared as servants of God and live lives that are an example to the people around us so that God's light will shine BRIGHTLY
- ✿ Those in authority will have the wisdom and willingness to put a stop to problems in our society; They will CLEAN UP society from all immorality
- ✿ The young people will follow godly values and turn away from immoral influences

Day 34
(24 August,
Monday)

Strong families so that the nation will be healthy (Gen. 12:3b; Col. 3:18-21)

- ✿ Families will get their lives right before God and have His values
- ✿ Christian families will be good examples wherever they are – at school, at play, at home, and at work
- ✿ Christian families will rise up to be strong and powerful in prayer so that families and our nation in the future will be changed
- ✿ The Holy Spirit will anoint the parents to be good and wise fathers and mothers to their children; the Holy Spirit will mend the relationships between parents and children

Day 35
(25 August,
Tuesday)

Care for extended family

(Deut. 5:16; 1 Tim. 5:3-4)

- ✿ Ask God to forgive us if we have not loved our relatives, especially those who are elderly
- ✿ Ask God to protect and care for many elderly relatives who are not cared for by their own family
- ✿ All Christian families will care for the elderly and the sick, especially those who are not cared for
- ✿ Christian families will be an example to others on how to be loving and caring in the community

PRAY

<p>Day 36 (26 August, Wednesday)</p>	<p>Education will be fair and effective (Prov. 22:6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Education in our country will be effective to help prepare our youths to be productive and useful people ✿ Any unfairness in education that causes unhappiness among the students of different races will be removed ✿ Students, teachers and administrators of different races in education will stand together and be united ✿ God will raise up godly Christians to work in the education sector so that they influence it with His good, fair and upright values
<p>Day 37 (27 August, Thursday)</p>	<p>Government's main focus will be on serving the people (Ps. 2:8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Government will aim to serve and develop the people ✿ The rights of Malaysians will be protected ✿ Government will care for ALL Malaysians
<p>Day 38 (28 August, Friday)</p>	<p>Pray against extreme forms of religion (Ps. 11:4-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Any form of extreme religion that seeks to destabilise and destroy the country will be found out and immediately stopped by the Government ✿ All religious groups and races will respect one another, accept one another's differences and live in harmony together
<p>Day 39 (29 August, Saturday)</p>	<p>Christians will watch over the nation (Isa. 62:6-7; Amos 9:13)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ All Christians to 'wake up' and seek to watch over the nation ✿ Every Christian will begin to earnestly pray for revival in Malaysia ✿ God will raise up people to prepare for revival in Malaysia

PRAY

**Day 40
(30 August,
Sunday)**

Celebrate our independence and pray for the future of the nation (Num. 6:25; Isa. 62:1-4)

- ✿ Praise and thank God for 52 years of independence, peace and harmony. God will continually show favour on us so that we will continue to dwell in peace and safety
- ✿ Pray that the future of the nation will be built on justice, uprightness and fairness. O Lord, make the Church a blessing to Malaysia!
- ✿ Commit the prayer rallies all over the country tonight to God; pray that God's presence will be real and touch many lives!

HAPPY HARI MERDEKA! YOU MADE IT! WELL DONE!

It has been a long 40-day journey, going through the prayer points day after day, and week after week! It is not an easy thing to do, but well done!

There have been many things that you have prayed for over the last 40 days. Just to help you recall everything in a nutshell, you...

- ❖ Prayed that Christians will be **united**.
- ❖ Prayed for **those in need**:
 - The poor, the excluded, the indigenous peoples and the migrants.
- ❖ Prayed for **a nation which cares for those in need**:
 - For those in authority to make a difference in the public, for upright and good examples, for salvation and justice in Malaysia.

After this Fast and Prayer, don't close the book and forget about everything. Keep praying for these groups of people. This is only the beginning to spark off a revival in your heart and in the heart of the nation! Keep letting your light shine before men!

God's highest blessings be on you, dear brother and sister-in-Christ!