

PRAYER NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Intercessors,

In this month of November, let us persevere in upholding our beleaguered nation in prayer, given the headwinds from the global economic downturn that has adversely impacted the country's revenue and reserves, and the political overhang from allegations of blatant corruption and misappropriation. Let us continue to pray 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 –

*“**When** I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, **if** my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, **then** I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”* (ESV – underline and bold emphasis ours)

Let us pray without ceasing, that the Church will be a beacon in dark times, to repent, seek God and walk in holiness, so that He will heal our land.

November is also the month where we stand in solidarity with the worldwide persecuted church, so let's especially remember our brethren who are suffering for the gospel.

‘Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.’ Hebrews 13:3 (ESV)

A. KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH TO UPHOLD IN PRAYER

No.	Event	Date	Highlights
1.	Parliamentary Sitting	19 th Sep – 3 rd Dec	<p>Parliament has convened in October and continues for 25 days. Key notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tabling of The Supply Bill (Budget) 2016 by The Minister of Finance on 23rd October 2015 2. A new, comprehensive Child Act now in the final stage of completion to replace the Child Act 2001, is to be tabled. 3. Likely tabling of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Bill.
2.	International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church (IDOP)	Nov 1 – Nov 30	<p>Uphold the Persecuted Church in Prayer, as Malaysia too has gone up the ranking for persecuted church from 50 to 37. Pray too for Brunei, which has seen Hudud laws now being imposed on non-Muslims. (for more informed prayer, please contact Open Doors Malaysia).</p>

B. KEY ITEMS FOR PRAYER

1. THE CHURCH TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY

- a. Pray against complacency, apathy and prayerlessness. Pray for a return to holiness and righteousness.
- b. Pray that the church will be at the forefront of mission, blessing the nation by its generosity, being the hope of the nation. With the petrol hike and toll hike, along with the slowing economy, many are struggling to make ends meet especially, the urban poor. Pray for families to be frugal in their spending yet generous in their giving. Pray for those who face financial difficulties due to job loss, that they will find comfort, help and direction in Christ and His church.

2. PARLIAMENTARY SITTING

- a. Pray for the debating of Budget 2016:
 - i. For improved accountability of tax revenue and reform of public services expenditure that takes up one-third of the federal budget. Pray that the government will proactively reduce wastage. Pray for concerted efforts to reduce the national debt and prevent the potential downgrade of the nation's global financial standing from perceived default risk by international bond rating agencies.
 - ii. For more allocation to development expenses and correct imbalances, especially excessive cuts in allocations to many ministries, such as Higher Education, Women, Health care, Resources and Environment, that could lead to further deterioration in vital services to the vulnerable and poor, and could also lead to further slide in the standard of living.
 - iii. For greater efficiency in public sector delivery. Pray also that urban poor will not be burdened with sharp reduction in subsidised food and petrol, coupled with toll, GST and petrol hikes.
- b. Pray for all Members of Parliament:
 - i. That they will debate, decide and vote with the welfare of the people in mind and heart, and not vote according to partisan lines. Pray for reduced politicking, and more responsible governance, sober judgment, wise counsel, concern for the people, and visionary decision making for the good of all the people of the nation.
 - ii. Pray that parliamentary democracy will be upheld, and that Parliament proceedings will be run with less politicking, but with fairness and the fear of God, and not men, in the management of motions.
- c. Pray for righteousness to reign and pray against Bills that will cause further harm to the upholding of the rights and harmony of the people and the democracy of the country.

3. HUDUD LAWS

- a. In June, a private group filed an injunction to prevent federal lawmakers from debating a Private Members Bill to remove the legal barriers preventing the Islamic fundamentalist party, PAS, from enforcing the Islamic Panel Code in

Kelantan. High Court Judge, Justice Asmabi Mohamad, has set November 9 to decide on the application by PAS President Abdul Hadi to strike out the lawsuit.

- b. Pray for a pushing back of Hudud plans in the country and for a ruling that will prevent such oppressive legislation from being imposed in the state of Kelantan, which will have a domino effect on the nation.

4. HEALTH HAZARD: HAZE, TYPHOID, RABIES, DENGUE

- a. We thank God for clearer skies and that the Penang state government has stopped the culling of stray dogs. Let us continue to ask God for protection upon the people, especially for young children and the elderly, against outbreaks and the negative effects of the haze. Pray that families will take the necessary precaution.
- b. Pray for the healthcare sector to remain ethical and wise in the provision of medicines and vaccines. Pray that in times of economic difficulty, people will still have access to good healthcare.
- c. Pray for the authorities that they will be truthful and wise in dealing with outbreaks and health hazards. Pray also that the government will continue to take stern measures to tackle the root cause of these recurring problems.

5. MONSOON SEASON

- a. Following on from last year's flood in Kelantan which caused 1,927 houses to be washed away by unusually strong currents, much has yet to be done. In Gua Musang alone, out of 200 displaced, 14 families are still living in tents and 127 in the National Service Camps, which they will have to vacate in December.
- b. Pray for the families, for God's comfort and practical help to come their way. Pray for their protection and wisdom as they take the necessary precautions to prepare for this rainy season.
- c. Pray that government agencies involved in emergency response will be better equipped and prepared, and will take for the necessary measures and strategies and prevent to be in place and fully functional. Pray for a reduced risk of heavy losses from rain and extreme flooding.

6. ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY

- a. Recently the media has highlighted the difficulties and frustrations of the Orang Asli community – from the tragedy of the missing school children to the rising mortality of our indigenous peoples due to polluted water and loss of their natural habitat. Pray that the Church will come together in unity to come up with solutions and strategies to empower and build up the Orang Asli community – from education to economic empowerment.

C. OUTSTANDING LEGAL CASES AFFECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us continue to persevere in prayer for the deliberations and pending judgements of important court cases. *Please refer to previous newsletters for detailed information on the cases.*

No.	Court Case	Update	Items for Pray
1.	Tuai Rumah Sandah Case	Federal Court hearing was on 9 th September. Judgment deferred to another date to be fixed later.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a very important judgment as it will have serious ramifications for all future NCR land rights cases. Pray for the panel of judges, that they will be righteous God-fearing men who will decide justly. 2. For justice to prevail in every ruling, that the state government will recognise the Iban Adat of Pemakai Menoa and Pulau Galau.
2.	Victoria Martin Case	Federal Court Hearing was on August 13. The Federal Court has since reserved its judgment for a later date.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This case revolved around the rights of a non-Muslim to practise as a Syariah lawyer. However, this case has taken a turn as it has been used to potentially elevate Syariah Law to be of higher status than Civil Law. 2. As this is turned out to be a constitutional issue of monumental importance, let us pray that our Federal Constitution will continue to be upheld, that the right to fair trial for non-Muslims will not be jeopardised.
3.	Jill Ireland Case	CD's have been returned. However, the Islamic agencies MAIWP and MAIS have sought to intervene, this time regarding the bid to recognise her constitutional rights to practice her faith and her rights as an individual in her use of 'Allah'. Case management is November 4.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to uphold the lawyers handling the case. Pray for a favourable closure in the matter, that God will be glorified.
4.	Azmi Sharom Case	After the dismissal of Prof Dr Azmi Sharom's constitutional challenge against the Sedition Act 1948, his charge for allegedly making seditious remarks has been set for re-mention on November 5 at the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pray for academic freedom to prevail, against the unjust use of oppressive laws to stifle comment.