

### PRAYER NEWSLETTER

#### A CALL TO PRAY FOR MALAYSIA

**Prayer United** was formed in the Year of Jubilee to mobilise Christians to pray non-stop for *the revival of the Church, and the transformation in the Nation.*

We ask that all intercessors will persevere in prayer, that God will open the heavens, reveal His glory and pour His power upon our nation. Let us claim His promise that “if my people who are called by My Name, will 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” (2 Chronicles 7:14). Let us beseech God earnestly to answer our prayers for the following:

- **A Holy and Righteous Church** – Pray that the Malaysian church will stand out as a prophetic community, impacting society, and live out authentic and vibrant Christian lives that will be salt and light in the nation, for then only can the Church act and speak with credibility and moral authority, and be taken seriously by the nation's leaders.
- **A United Church Reflecting a Malaysian Identity** - Pray that Christians will make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit, embracing reconciliation and restoration, shaking off encultured blockages and being an example in bringing together all races, languages and cultures, uniting them under the Lordship of Christ, modelling ethnic reconciliation powerfully in our nation.
- **Pursuing True Discipleship** - Pray that Christians will understand what true discipleship means, and be willing to take up their cross daily and suffer for Christ. Pray that many Christian professionals and countless university students studying abroad will return with a clear vision to build both the church and nation.
- **An Empowered and Growing Bumiputera Church** - Pray for the increasing emergence of strong and growing churches in Sabah, Sarawak and among the Orang Asli community in our land, and the rising up of bold and God-fearing leaders among them.
- **Economic Recovery** - Pray that God will continue to bless our nation by giving our national leaders the wisdom to steer our nation during this time of global economic turmoil and falling commodity prices. Pray for the equitable sharing of the wealth of this nation among all races and the fair treatment of foreign workers and refugees. Pray for improved policy making and careful expenditure. Pray against the blight of corruption, creeping Islamisation and abuse of power.
- **Independence of Government Institutions** – Pray for protection of the independence of institutions such as the Central Bank (BNM), the Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), the National Audit Department (JAN) and the judiciary against underhanded political manoeuvring to undermine the supremacy of the Federal Constitution, fundamental human liberties, the principles of democracy and the rule of law in our country. Pray for godly and upright civil servants who are able to work boldly without fear or favour. Pray for upright and clean leaders who will uphold democratic processes and institutions and revitalise good incorruptible

- **A Return to National Righteousness** – Pray for a powerful transformation that will result in a return to justice and righteousness in Malaysia. Pray for a recovery from a scandal-driven year. Pray that all evil in high places be exposed, and that justice will prevail.

## ITEMS FOR PRAYER THIS MONTH:

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### 1. PAS Private Member's Bill on Hudud

- a. During the last parliamentary sitting, PAS MP for Marang YB Dato' Seri Hadi Awang's Private Member's Bill was permitted to be tabled for debate by elevating it above government's matter. The Private Member's Bill seeks to primarily remove safeguards which we refer to as the "3-6-5 Safeguards" from the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965, otherwise known as Act 355. As mentioned by Kelantan Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Mohd Amar, the Bill tabled recently seeks to elevate and streamline the powers of the country's entire Syariah justice system in the whole of Malaysia, with the plan to control the Syariah courts, not just for Kelantan but for the whole country.
- b. Pray that at such a time as this, the church will be awakened to pray, knowing our identity as children of God and our privilege of prayer. Pray that instead of complaining we will realise our part in nation building and being a voice to the voiceless, seeking unity and the revival of the church.
- c. Pray for righteous men and women in the Parliament and Government to speak up for justice and uphold human rights. Pray especially that Sarawakian MPs will unite with one a voice against this bill. Pray against covert plans to implement Syariah law via the various state administrations with the intention to eventually Islamise the Federal Constitution and harmonise all laws under hudud.
- d. Pray for the upholding of Article 8 of the Federal Constitution – Equality Before the Law which provides that "all persons are equal before the law and entitled to the equal protection of the law". Pray for fairness, equality, consistency and uniformity of laws that extends to the enforcement of such laws and the form of punishment which is also equal and consistent for all affected persons in Malaysia. Pray for the preservation of the "3-6-5 Safeguards" consistent with this equality and consistency and is expressed in the case of Act 355 as placing limits to ensure that all forms of punishment are consistent and uniform.
- e. Pray for Muslims and non-Muslims alike, that each will be aware of the potential consequences of such bills and not to be confused by people wishing to use religion for their own political gain. Pray for God to guard the hearts and minds of all generations. Pray that Malaysia will remain a nation where the Freedom of

Religion is upheld. Pray in advance for the next Parliamentary Sitting in October, where the PAS Private Members Bill will be potentially tabled and debated, for God's intervention.

## **2. Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister to head Sarawak ministry of Non-Islamic affairs**

- a. Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Douglas Uggah Embas has been appointed state minister for non-Islamic affairs. Let us pray for him, for wisdom, no-compromise and the fear of the Most High God. Pray for proper structure, good cooperation with the local church and other non-Islamic faiths.
- b. Pray that this ministry will serve to promote religious harmony among the people of Sarawak and resolve the issues and difficulties faced by the Christian community with regard to religious freedom. Pray against any compromise on the Religious Freedom of the state as guaranteed by the Federal Constitution. Pray that all necessary steps to safeguard the state's rights and interests as one of the founding members of the Federation of Malaysia will be taken.

## **3. Church Unity in Sarawak**

- a. Churches in Sarawak have worked closely through the years under the umbrella of ACS. However, a substantial number of independent, Baptist and AG churches are not included under ACS. It would be good for a way to be found to bring the ACS churches and the non-ACS churches together. The challenges facing the Church in Sarawak are enormous. Pray for the unity of the body of Christ in Sarawak.

## **4. 1MDB and Economy of the Nation**

- a. Pray for 1MDB, pray for a quick and just resolution. As the authorities from various parts of the world such as Singapore and Switzerland investigate and consider criminal action against money laundering and violations of banking and compliance rules, we pray that the Malaysia authorities will look into taking the necessary action to bring appropriate actions without fear or favour.
- b. Given that 1MDB bonds have defaulted on their coupon payments, and that the Ministry of Finance has announced taking on 1MDB debts under the government, this could further weigh down the debt situation of the nation, creating contingent liabilities; all these issues will hurt our sovereign rating and lead to downgrading. Pray for wisdom for the Ministry of Finance as they navigate difficult waters.

## **5. Protection Against Threats Of Terrorism And Insurgency**

- a. Pray that the authorities will be vigilant and alert in protecting the nation against threats of terrorists in cities such as Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Penang and in the state of Sabah, as ISIS threatens to create a caliphate in the South East Asian

region. Pray for greater vigilance over the borders of ASEAN. Pray that plots to undermine the South East Asian nations will fail.

- b. Pray for the Muslim youth, that they will be protected from being radicalised by extremist ideologies taking them captive through hate, fear, disillusionment, enticement and a wrong theological interpretation of their faith.

#### **6. Pray for Muslims over Ramadan and Hari Raya**

Pray for peace and protection for all especially the Muslims in our nation throughout the month of Ramadan and as they celebrate Hari Raya. Pray for understanding, tolerance and love between races and religions, and that in all engagement between groups, God will be lifted up. Pray for an increase in prayer for the Muslim world and for a growing love for them.

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