

PRAYER UNITED

MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Ever since September 16, 2014 when we began the nationwide 24-7 Prayer, the situation in the country has continued to escalate to unhealthy levels. This calls us to intensify our prayers for church and nation alike.

Just over the past two months, we have seen significant answers to prayer in the public sphere, and much is being exposed on the levels of corruption and mismanagement in the high places. However, non-Muslim minorities continue to perceive government efforts at Islamization to be affecting their freedom and rights. Consequently, the church must be prepared for growing pressures ahead.

The thrust of our prayer over these two months is this:

- The Revival Of The Church And A Return To Personal Holiness
- Sabah and Sarawak to Play a Pivotal Role to Bringing Changes to Malaysia
- For God to watch over this Parliamentary Sitting from March 9 – April 9, 2015 for the nation's good.

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

– Ephesians 6:12

The full prayer points are as follows:-

1. For Personal Holiness and A Return to Our First Love

- a. The restoration of the nation must first begin with the restoration with ourselves. Pray for personal holiness and a conviction of sin in our personal lives. Let us pray not for our own preservation that we may live comfortable lives, but that God's kingdom will come and His will be done.
- b. Pray that the Christians in Malaysia have a readiness in hearts to remain strong in faith that we may be able to stand strong given the pressures ahead. Pray that we may fully understand the call of our Lord Jesus Christ to take up our cross and follow Him.

2. For The Restoration of Relationships

- a. Pray for forgiveness from past hurts, in our personal relationships, within our families and in our friendships. Pray for restoration and reconciliation.
- b. Pray also for reconciliation following the breakdown of our relationships within the Church so that the work of the Spirit may not be hindered, that others looking on may not be stumbled by our behaviour. Pray that we will not be easily offended but be willing to let go of the pain of gossips, unfair criticisms and false accusations, and forgive those who have hurt us. Pray that in the ministry of the Church, we may put relationships above ministry, love for one another above being right.

3. For the Revival of the Church – To be Holy, United and Return to Her First Love

- a. When we see the deteriorating situation our nation is in, it is a stark reminder that it is a mirror image of what the church is. God is more concerned with the condition of His Church, than the condition of the nation. If we want to see a change in the direction of our nation, and the fulfillment of the Great Commission, then we must first fast and pray for the Church to be holy and refined as the Bride of Christ. { *An unholy church deserves the kind of nation it gets*
– Rev Dr Dion Forster
- b. Let us first pray for personal holiness in the lives of our church leaders and pastors. The Church can only move forward if our leaders lead holy lives and are focused on God’s kingdom. Pray that God will reveal the sins that have taken place in the church and in the lives of church leaders, that there will be genuine repentance and restoration.
- c. Let us pray that the Church will prepare herself for the growing pressures ahead, work to strengthen the flock and not to fear.

4. For the Renewal of Communities

- a. Pray that the Church may have a deeper theological understanding of its role in the renewal of the community and the nation through its influence in upholding justice and human rights, and in the work of being peacemakers in a world filled with strife and hatred. Pray for Christian communities to be a distinctive presence as light and salt in their neighbourhoods, suburbs, towns and cities.
- b. Pray that the Church will work together and coordinate their resources in empowering impoverished communities in Sabah and Sarawak, and also the Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia.

- c. Let us pray that the Church will always be in the forefront of recovery and rebuilding in times of national crisis just as what we experienced recently in the Kelantan flood.

5. For Justice and Righteousness to Reign, and for Freedom of Religion in the Federal Constitution to be Upheld

- a. As freedoms for the minorities continue to be gradually eroded, let us pray:-
 - i. That moderate Muslims will rise up and speak up against attempts to radicalize nation, which could lead to a free fall into Islamic extremism;
 - ii. That civil society and the Church will continue to speak up for the freedom of religion enshrined in the Federal Constitution to be upheld and defended for all.
 - iii. That plans to implement Hudud at state and federal levels will be pushed back.

6. For the Alkitab To Remain Unrestricted for Use Even in Peninsular Malaysia.

- a. The government has said that the decision of the Court of Appeal is only confined to the Herald's case. According to the 10-point Agreement, the government guarantees the use of the Alkitab for personal use in Sabah and Sarawak, and for praise and worship in Church.
- b. Let us pray that Sabahans and Sarawakians to have the right to exercise their personal freedoms when they are in the Peninsular Malaysia to use their Alkitab openly in churches and in their homes and without any restriction.

7. For the Nation's Political and Economic Situation

- a. Pray that the government will not be distracted by party politics but focus on managing the slide in the economy as consumer and business confidence continue to weaken. Pray for stability to return to the top leadership of the nation. Pray that national leaders of stature, who are righteous and incorruptible, will emerge during this time of tension and uncertainty in the country. Pray that more godly politicians will be raised, who would think of the greater good of the multicultural heritage of this country. Pray that God will intervene by removing those who promote gutter politics of hate-fueled rhetoric and fear mongering. Pray that the Lord will remove those who are in high office only for personal gain.
- b. Pray for the judiciary, that honest and honorable judges will act without fear or favour. Pray for the police, that they may not be used as pawns by powerful politicians, but be bold in protecting the nation from corruption, criminal activity and keep the nation safe.
- c. Pray that the wealth of the nation will not be plundered or squandered. Pray that the Lord will protect this nation from plans to launder and for corrupt use. Let us also pray

that during this time, the government would have the political will to stamp out corruption and bad governance. Let us also pray that as cash dries up, Christians will remain generous and maintain their giving to the poor and needy.

8. For Sabah and Sarawak

- a. As Sarawak government prepares for the upcoming state elections, let us pray that the recent strong and exemplary moves towards good governance and integrity would not be a cosmetic display to fish for votes, but a genuine change in the heart of the government to work towards a clean and vibrant state. Pray for the Sarawak Church to be revived, that they will be fervent and united in prayer to cover the state and play a key influential role as the state enters into the next phase of preparation towards the elections.
- b. Let us continue to pray that urgent measures be taken to care for Sabah's poor. Pray that federal funds will be made available quickly to assist the state government to build up the necessary infrastructure needed to further develop the economic status of the people, such as road access, schools, clean water supply and electricity.

9. For the Parliamentary Sitting From March 9 to April 9, 2015

- a. This is the first sitting of the year. As important bills are being prepared to be passed, many such as the Prevention of the Anti-Terrorism Act (POTA) have not even been made available to the Members of Parliament, pray that nothing can be passed covertly through Parliament which is against the will of the people, and that which further erodes the rights of the minorities. Pray for wisdom, clarity and honesty, as the MPs debate issues that affect the nation. As issues of wealth mismanagement of the country seek to be raised, let us pray that everything will be exposed. Pray that all evil plans and plots will fail, and that God's purposes for this nation will not be thwarted.

BE FERVENT IN PRAYER. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

The Prayer United Secretariat

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PRAYER UNITED is made up of the prayer networks of the following organisations, denominations, fellowships: Council of Churches of Malaysia (CCM), National Evangelical Christian Fellowship (NECF), Assemblies of God Prayer Commission (AGPC), The Methodist Church in Malaysia, SIB Sabah, SIB Sarawak, SIB Semenanjung, Kuching Pastors' Fellowship, Kota Kinabalu Pastors' Fellowship, Malaysia National Prayer Nurturing (MNPN) and 24-7 Prayer Malaysia.