



The calling of a leader

“We live in a world in desperate need of leadership. Good, wise Leadership.” Ron Boehme¹

“Global politics have come to a standstill in recent years with the United States unwilling to show leadership and Europe and other major powers unable to fill the vacuum.” *Der Siegel Magazine*²

The quality of a leader

A lot of people may not fully agree with the above two views about world leadership, but the world, including Malaysia, urgently needs leaders and this is an indisputable fact. What is meant by leader? George Barna, the Group President of Barna Research Group, defines “leaders” as: “Christian leaders are called by God to lead the people of God. The leaders lead by being Christ-like and that functional capacity is enough to make the fruit of leadership occurred.”³

George Barna’s definition of leaders may not be suitable for secular leaders. However his definition includes the character of integrity. In a survey made upon 1,500 managers from the US, these managers want to see in their superiors the following values: integrity, honesty, trustworthy and good character. In the follow-up study on 2,600 top CEOs, they set out a list of leadership qualities among which integrity ranked first!⁴

Integrity is the leadership quality expected by the people in general, but what is integrity? “Integrity is the complete, wholehearted, without distraction, entire quality or state of life; integrity comes from the Latin term *integer*, which means completely or entirely.”⁵ People of integrity are people uniform in thought, spirit and behavior. That means his faith, attitude, speech and behavior are consistent. He boasts not and tells only the truth, he walks his talk and never be hypocrite. He is honest, not corrupted and is able to distinguish right from wrong. When he governs he would do it with justice and treat everyone equally, so that the people would live in peace and harmony.

¹ Ron Boehme, Youth with America Founder, Revive America Project Leader

² Germany: *Der Siegel Magazine*, Feb., 1, 2013

³ 巴乔治,《领导话领导》(Leaders on Leadership),谭国治译(香港:天道书楼,2008),1-16.

⁴ 由美国管理协会所资助的 James M. Konz and Barry Z. Posner 领袖研究调查。安迪史坦力,《N 世代领导 5C》(The Next Generation Leader),杜宏毅/林大萌译(台北:中国主日学协会,2004),165-77

⁵ “国际领袖学院”(International Leadership Institute,ILI)。

The term “integrity” appears in the conversation between Jesus and his opponents. The Pharisees and Herodians were trying to trap Jesus by finding faults with Jesus’ words by asking Jesus: "Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?....." This shows that the secular leaders may by themselves not people of integrity but they also want to see his followers or employees to be people of integrity.

George Barna’s definition of leaders includes the noble character, the leadership ability and the calling of God; leadership ability is of course the basic to be a leader, integrity is the character of the leader and his calling. God may call secular leaders of poor character, like King Cyrus, to do His work. God can also call secular leaders through the democratic voting method and raises up the secular leaders to do His work. In essence a secular leader should be man of integrity, with leadership quality and be installed legitimately. Otherwise when he fails the people suffer.

Lack of leadership?

What about the leaders of Malaysia? For those who are in power, even the word they said matter the rise and fall of the nation, and what about their leadership qualities? This is a current issue of great concern for you and me. The 1MDB’s debt of RM42 Billion, the various formidable reports by the Wall Street Journal on the related scandals, the selective suing, the law enforcement units delay in the execution of the High Court's verdict, lack of action against those that raise racial issues, the religionizing of language, the politicalizing of education system, the issue of dress code

These social issues are telling us that our leaders really have much room for improvement. Some have said that because of the abuse of power or corruption by some or certain senior official he/she or they should step down, other critics suggest that it is not easy for Malaysia to look for a sensible and qualified leader and leadership change at this junction may open way for religious extremism and further retrogression of the nation. In other words, Malaysia seems to be lack of leadership.

Therefore, we urgently need to pray to God, raising among us leaders that can do His work! In our desperation, prayer is the way out; when Israel was in crisis, the Prophet had repeatedly advised the king not to rely on foreign forces, but to turn to their God for victory. Solomon’s married the foreign princess for political reason and for foreign relationship; the end result was the forsaking of God, the rise of the enemy, and after he passes away the kingdom split (1 King 17; 2 Chronicles 10)

When Moab and the coalitions attacked southern kingdom of Judah, King Jehoshaphat determined to rely on God and ordered the whole nation to fast and pray, sending the people to sing praises to God. God sent ambush against the enemies, causing them to kill each other. (2 Chronicles 20) When the Assyrian army invaded, King Hezekiah and Prophet Isaiah cried out to God, God's messenger came out at night killed 185,000 Assyrians! (2 Chronicles 32; Isaiah 37) These historical events are telling us that God is the God that answers our prayer and performs miracles.

In recent years, our country's political arena is changing fast and sometime making surprising development. What is this all about? Prayer warriors have to believe that God is among us, accompanying His children when we are praying. The spiritual warfare is intense and God's people, despite the hardship and with His help, win the war over and again. (Dan. 9: 12-14). These days, tens of thousands of intercession prayer warriors have heard how God has done wonderful things in our country!

Pray for the Leaders

1. Pray for the leadership quality of the state and national leaders; ask God to give them the aspiration to pursue integrity and ability and to be proud of it.
2. Pray for Holy Spirit to bring those leaders lacking integrity to God: to be shameful of their selfishness, dishonesty, corruption, injustice, poor deeds and behavior and that they have the will to gradually leave the unrighteous life.
3. Pray for the state and national leaders for encouraging each other to be honest and caring and pray for the good leaders of our nation.
4. Pray that the people have good understanding about leadership and be far-sighted, not voting for short term benefits but for leaders with integrity.
5. Pray that the people also seek to become people with integrity, so that when they see that the leaders act unjustly and unjustly, they have courage to point out and make sure that leaders would rule the nation effectively to fulfill the trust by the voters.
6. Pray that the almighty Lord will have mercy for Malaysia, to rule us with His supreme wisdom and authority, sanction the unjust and unrighteous leaders and that His justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream. (Amos 5:24) Also pray that Lord would raise leader suitable for this era to establish a righteousness and harmonious nation.
7. Pray that our Lord would call those with gift in politic to work in establishing a righteous and just society and rule the nation according to God's wills.
8. Plea our Lord to conserve those honest political leaders, protect them from evil attack, so that they are able to continue to serve the people. When they have to

- speak or plan for the nation, the Lord would anoint them and keep them so that they can serve unceasingly.
9. Plea our Lord of justice to help our magistrates and judges at all levels, that they have the will to be just and be impartial in their judgment, not be self serving, not to be fearful of other power and to establish a just society.
 10. Plea that the people at all levels of law enforcement are able to keep themselves clean in their life, and be committed to protect the country and the people so as to establish a secure and stable society and the people would also treasure them and would build up the nation together.

M24/7 Prayer Secretariat