

Appendix

Intercessory Prayer led by
Bishop Rennis Ponniah
The Diocese of Singapore, Vice-President, NCCS

THANKSGIVING ON THE SINGAPORE BICENTENNIAL

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your gracious and sovereign hand over our nation through the centuries. Even before the founding of modern Singapore 200 years ago, when Singapore was a seaport and inhabitants of this land were sparse, Your hand was guiding our nation to fulfill Your good purposes. Ancient sea-route trade maps had given our island the place-name “Centre of Hope (*Sabara Emporion* in Aramaic)”.

We praise You Lord that You have blessed our nation to fulfil such a destiny.

We thank You that You have shaped us through good times and tough times. As we celebrate our Bicentennial, we remember Your steadying and merciful hand in times of adversity: The Japanese occupation in the 1940s; the forced exit of Singapore from Malaysia in 1965 and SARS in 2003. You turned times of crises into times of growth. We thank You for those who served our nation in those times with tremendous sacrifice, courage and commitment.

Lord God Almighty, we praise You for the PEACE we have enjoyed for the major part of our history. Today, to bolster our defence and to deter external threats, we have built up our armed forces and equipped them with the best weapons. We pray that we will never have to use them. You have kept our nation safe thus far. We thank You and ask You to preserve PEACE in our land for years to come. “*Some trust in chariots and horses, but we trust in the Name of the Lord our God*”.

Gracious God, through the labours of past generations and the present one, You have built up a marvelous total living environment for the residents of Singapore. We thank You for:

- a. Tastefully designed and carefully implemented public housing and urban development that have surmounted so many constraints. Thank You for our guest workers who have played no small part in our physical environment.
- b. We praise You for the high level of public security that we often take for granted.
- c. We honour You that You have blessed our nation-building efforts and granted us racial and religious harmony. You have made a collectivity of migrant ethnic groups into a community with a growing sense of national identity, shared values and common cultural traits. Thank You for the freedom to practice and propagate our faith in a mature way. Preserve and deepen our ethnic and religious harmony for the common good of all who dwell in this land. May You also bind us together inter-generationally.

Lord, we thank You for blessing us with economic growth and progress. Because of Your favour upon our land, we have gone beyond economic survival to a high standard of living. Keep us from the traps of affluence and foster the virtues of care for others, simplicity and thrift in our midst. We thank You for sound Government policies, the standards of integrity of Government leaders and the civil servants as well as the diligence and adaptability of our people that has contributed to peace and prosperity in our homeland.

Lord God, we realise You have a purpose not only for the Church in the land but for Singapore as a nation. We give You thanks for leading and blessing us thus far. May we

always be grateful and dependent on You as we seize the Day and move into the future, under Your mighty hand.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Intercessory Prayer led by
Rt Rev Keith Lai
Moderator, The Presbyterian Church in Singapore, Vice-President, NCCS

PRAYER FOR THE MIGRANT WORKERS

Father, we are thankful for the 1.5 million foreign migrant workers who have played a key role in driving our economy. They have played an important part in building our nation. For many they have sacrificed much to be here, laboured hard for long hours, separated from loved ones, and often times gone through much pain and sufferings which are hidden from most of us.

And today we come as a church, to recognise that we can become so religiously obsessed with the fine-print details of maintaining church, our budgets, our church calendar, programs and events, our human resource, our database, membership and our publicity, so much so that we have neglected the weightier matters of justice, mercy, faith & love.

The church has become more corporate than compassionate. We come in repentance because we are convicted by this challenging question, "In rich Singapore, why must migrant workers go hungry?"

Church have become business-like and busy with our own programs. We have neglected and turned a deaf ear to the migrant workers among us who are suffering. We have treated them as disposables and replaceable labourers.

Father, we pray that compassion will be a distinguishing characteristic of the Singapore church. In honour of Your Name, may we your church, lead the change in transforming Singapore into a city of compassion.

We pray that the employers will be responsible in caring for the welfare & well-being of their workers. We pray that more churches will intentionally set aside finances, facilities & manpower to serve the migrant workers in Singapore.

Father we learned from Your Word that You have preferential option for the poor. That though the world may be tilted to the rich and powerful, Lord You are tilted towards the underdogs. You have brought down rulers from their thrones but have lifted up the humble. You have filled the hungry with good things but You have sent the rich away empty.

You are the God who looks out for the underdogs. May your church be also like you.

May we have room in our hearts for them, that the focus, goals & and plans of our churches include the migrant workers.

Father, we confess there is a huge imbalance in terms of ministry priorities in our churches today. On the one hand, there are the over-reached, over-heeled, well-placed cosmopolitans in the marketplace and on the other hand, are the under-reached, poor and needy in our

communities that includes both the heartlanders and the migrant workers. Father help us to correct this imbalance.

And begin with us Lord we pray, that each of us in our own small ways help to correct this imbalance.

May we receive Your grace to act and do something tangible to mediate for the abused maids, to defend the migrant workers who have been exploited and cheated by their employers and to care for their dependents.

We thank You God for the many excellent ministries in Singapore, that are trying to reach out to meet these specific felt needs, in providing personal welfare, cultural adjustments, friendship and protection from abuse. We thank You for ministries like HealthServe, who have done so much to help them. And we pray Lord, that migrant workers in Singapore will experience supernatural encounter with You. We pray that during their short time here, every migrant worker will have the opportunity to hear the good news, call upon You and be saved.

We pray that existing churches and ministries who are reaching out to them, will enjoy a season of fresh passion and explosive growth. We pray that many more “language congregations” be birthed and new believers to be effectively disciplined. Among them Lord, You will raise up leaders, apostles, prophets, evangelist, pastors and teachers who will be sent back to their own nations. We ask Lord there will be dynamic missionary movements emerging from every migrant group represented here in Singapore. May the churches in Singapore lead the way in transforming Singapore into a city of compassion.

We pray all these in Jesus Name, Amen.

Intercessory Prayer led by
Rev Dr Chua Chung Kai
Evangelical Free Church of Singapore, Exco, NCCS

COPING WITH CHALLENGES IN A DIGITAL AGE

Dear Father, we thank you for the conveniences and blessing that technology has afforded us:

- Instant information that allows us to know more about our world.
- Instant connection that bridges relationships across continents.
- Instant resources that bring healing, build cities, grow food, multiply wealth and bring justice.

We thank you for them. Yet at the same time, we acknowledge the many challenges and evil that come from misuse of such technology.

- Protect us from the loss of truth and authority in a world of dis-information. Grant our leaders and your Church much discernment in the midst of overwhelming information that we may respond with wise judgment and sensible action.
- We mourn the loss of purity through the porn industry that corrupts and darkens our hearts! Capture us once more with the beauty of JESUS! Shine Your Light into this darkness and scatter it!

- We repent at the loss of hunger for Your Word because it is now so easily accessible that we no longer value it. Pour your Spirit afresh over Your Church that we may long for Kingdom reality!
- We acknowledge the loss of our souls through mind-numbing social media that consume us and mold us into screen zombies. We would rather Facebook or Facetime than converse Face-to-face. Lift our eyes to that which is truly important – the wonder of lives – our wives, husbands, children, families, neighbours, people, made in Your image, and that which will truly last for eternity.
- Finally, we recognize the loss of our humanity when we treat things as more important than people, when we value efficiency over essence, function over fellowship and doing over being. We have become less human, so little like our Master. Stir our hearts to love as Jesus loved. Fill us with a grander vision of our Christ and His Kingdom!
- Protect us, dear Father, turn these around, so that what is intended to harm society and your Church, be used to strengthen and fortify us and bring You much glory! For We ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

Intercessory Prayer led by
 Bishop Terry Kee
 Lutheran Church in Singapore
 President, NCCS

OUR 'COMMITMENT' TO SINGAPORE

Almighty God,

We are thankful for the way you have blessed and prospered Singapore through the years. With deep gratitude, we pray that with your help, we can rightly represent you who called and saved us for your purposes in Singapore and beyond.

We pray that you help us live lives worthy of our calling as citizens of Singapore and as disciples of Jesus Christ in a multi-racial and multi-religious Singapore. Help us to love Singapore and treasure her as a priceless jewel to display your glory through strong and righteous families, government and Church.

Help us raise generations of Singaporeans who feel passionately that this home is worth building and worth fighting for.

O Lord, help us to seek the shalom of this city with a deep sense of belonging and turning the heart of Singapore God-ward. Help us to live out Singapore's calling to be a light to the nations as Antioch, that all the Earth will praise You, our King of kings and Lord of lords.

All these we humbly pray in Jesus' name. Amen.