

The Way Forward

By Bishop Emeritus Hwa Yung

Looking Back

A year ago when the prayer leaders of networks in PU met at our January 2017 retreat, we took time to reflect on what God has done and continues to do in the prayer movement in Indonesia through the *Jaringan Doa Nasional*, in the revival that has been taking place in the Columbia which began in the 1990s in response to the prayers of the church there, and also at some of spiritual awakenings taking place in several parts of Sarawak over the past couple of years.

In light of the above, we resolved at the 2017 retreat to do three things.

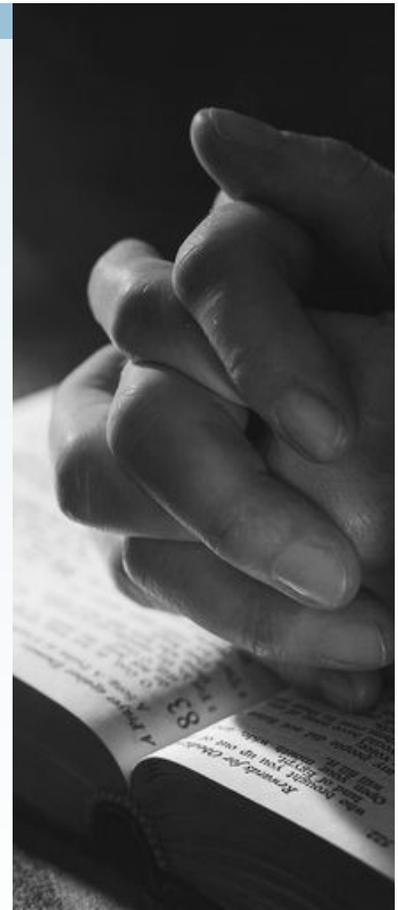
First, we will continue to work at strengthening each of our own prayer networks.

Second, we will work in cooperation with others to grow the 24/7 prayer movement throughout the Malaysian church.

Third, we will encourage the development of a youth prayer movement in the country among our students and young working adults.

Mobilising 27 Prayer

When we met in January at the 2018 retreat in Penang, we were greatly encouraged to hear of movements on all three fronts. Take 24/7 prayer for example. We discovered that a number of 24/7 prayer groups had already been established even before our 2017 retreat. *(Cont'd next page)*



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Three Key Initiatives

- Strengthen efforts to motivate, monitor and mobilise 24-7 prayer within each prayer network and across the networks;
- To grow 24-7 prayer through the Malaysian Church; and
- To raise youth watchmen and build a 24-7 national youth prayer movement



Penang GBC Hosts 2018 PU Retreat

Our retreat this year was organised by PU Penang, under the leadership of Pastor Liew Yean Huat, and kindly hosted by Georgetown Baptist Church, Penang.

Pastor Hanny Andries, the Senior Pastor of Gereja Bethel Indonesia in Batam was the inspirational speaker.

In his two evening sessions, he brought a powerful sense of the presence of God which deeply

touched many present at the meetings.

The two morning devotions were brought by the Pastor Steven Choon of Sabah Pastors' Fellowship, who shared on what Habakkuk has to teach us about trusting God even when we do not fully understand his ways, and by Pak Pudun Tadem of BEM Sarawak, who spoke on the need to break down barriers in order to find unity!

"We need to break down barriers in order to find unity!"

- Pudun Tadem, BEM Sarawak

24-7 Prayer "In the Air"

What has begun as a Sabah initiative has now exploded across the nation as churches and networks coordinate prayer chains through mobile messaging platforms. Intercessors are adapting very quickly thanks to user friendly mobile applications and the ease of information sharing. However, monitoring 24-7 prayer would be a challenge for administrators to determine if intercessors are really praying at their chosen hours.

Effective 24/7 Prayer

(Cont'd from front page)

Others are in the process of being built up.

Some of the most effective 24/7 prayer chains are being coordinated "in the air" via mobile messaging platforms, with participants praying at their appointed hours of the day or night, wherever they may be.

Thus in the Sabah Pastors' Fellowship 24/7 network, different churches each covers one specific day of the week.

But what about Sunday with all the church activities on-going?

Their solution was brilliant—members of the Prisoners' Fellowship cover that day in jail!





Biggest turnout at the PU Annual Leaders' Retreat in Penang this year, led by the Methodists and the Assemblies of God denominations.

How to Pray for GE14?

But inevitably, much of the discussion also concerned how we should pray for the coming GE14.

This is of course fit and proper because the church cannot live in isolation from the world around. We are called to be “salt” and “light” in the world (Mat 5:13-16), and this is particularly relevant today because of the problems and malaise facing us in Malaysia.

But the question before us is, how do we pray in the midst of all the confusion, politicking and fake news flying around?

PU as a movement recognises that the church should avoid being partisan or taking sides openly in party politics.

Whatever each of us personally think, we must remember that there are members and supporters of both the government and the opposition in our churches.

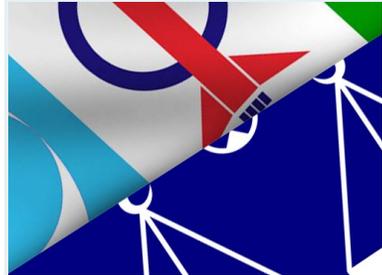
At the same time, all Christians have the moral and social responsibility to act in a manner that seeks to ensure that the best possible government is voted in. What are some guidelines?



Sarawak Churches Send A Big Contingent of Prayer Leaders and Intercessors

It was a joy to see Sarawak Churches from Kuching, Miri, Bintulu and Sibul come together—Anglicans, SIB, Baptists, Independent Churches ... and the Catholics too! Wow!!

What an amazing sight when the family of God comes together in unity!



Pray for righteous men to rise up in this coming elections.



Pray for Christians to be God's light to the nation.

Mistake #1 Involving the Church in Partisan Politics

First, we must avoid the mistake that some Christians made at the last election.

They felt so strongly that God was with the opposition, and prayed so fervently for an opposition victory that when BN won again numbers at church prayer meetings dropped drastically!

Let's remember that political leaders are human and not flawless, so that we will not place all our hopes on them.

Moreover, history reminds us that a change of political leadership solves little if more fundamental problems such as greed and corruption, poor governance resulting from bad laws and lousy institutions, tolerance of dishonesty and bad work ethics, widespread immorality of all kinds, etc. remain unsolved!

We need to avoid the mistake of thinking of any political leaders, whether from the government or opposition, as the next "messiah"!

Mistake #2 Christians Not Reflecting God's Light to the World

Second, Christians are called to be the "light of the world".

But we do not have light in ourselves—we can only reflect the light and glory of God!

Just as Moses went up to the mountain to pray and "the skin of his face shone because he has been talking with God" (Ex 34:29), so the church spends time with God in prayer and thereby shines the light of God into the spiritual and moral darkness of the world!

Further, in the Gospels, we read again and again that whenever Jesus went, demons came out of hiding and often scattered in fear.

Many of us have had similar experiences.

Often in the midst of worship when God's presence is powerfully felt, demons manifest themselves through screams or other forms of disturbances coming from those demonised. These have to be cast out to set the demonised free.

What is happening? It is simply that when God is truly present, demons have nowhere to hide!

How Then Should the Church Pray?

How then should the church pray? We need first go into God's presence in repentance so that our hearts are purified and hands made clean.

We should then spend time with Him in worship, prayer and intercession. When that happens, like Moses, the light of God will be reflected through the church and the darkness dispelled.

Our nation is not only covered in much moral darkness, but many of us are aware that there are demonic powers at work as well. Otherwise, why are so many politicians right up to the highest levels engaging *bomohs* and other spiritual powers to do their work?

Thus even if we are unsure exactly what to pray for, we can simply go into God's presence in worship and ask Him to come in His glory and power upon our nation. As God's light shines upon the nation, increasingly the powers of darkness will be cast out. And more and more righteousness and justice will prevail in our land!



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- Bishop Emeritus Hwa Yung

PU Youth Comes Together

Fulfilling one of the three initiatives mooted in 2017, the PU Youth Network came together and formed a protem committee for the first time in the fledgling history of Prayer United.

Prior to this, PU Youth had mobilized an overnight prayer in the Klang Valley in July

2017, and a 3- day prayer conference in Kuching in November 2017.

Chaired by Jed Tin, exciting days are ahead as we raise a next generation of watchmen for our nation.

Plans are in place to come together in Miri in August 2018.





Nobody Does It Better!

When it comes to mobilizing 24-7 Prayer, nobody does it better than Rev Teo Kwee Keng who leads the Assemblies of God Prayer Commission. Praise God for her leadership and example!

ABOUT US

Prayer United is a movement of more than twenty prayer networks coming together to pray for the nation, seeking the peace and prosperity of the land. Members include denominations, churches, pastors fellowships, and independent prayer networks .

Prayer Points for GE14

How then should we pray for the nation as GE14 draws nearer and nearer?

1. First, let us urge our own networks to give themselves to “pray without ceasing” for our country and its welfare. Challenge them to pray individually, in small groups and also in their local churches’ prayer meetings, on regular daily/weekly basis. And if they can do it 24/7, so much the better. For as we worship and pray, the light of God will shine stronger and stronger into our land to drive out spiritual darkness and demonic powers in our midst.
2. Secondly, pray that the whole electoral process will be carried out properly with transparency by the appointed officers, and that all forms of cheating will be minimised if not eliminated.
3. Thirdly, we discussed the “Light Up Malaysia” (LUM) initiative, wherein we gather churches in every federal and state constituency to pray for their respective constituencies. Let us ask God to move the voters to elect MPs or ADUNs who are known for integrity and genuinely committed to work for righteousness in our nation and the good of all citizens.
4. Fourthly, let’s ask God to open the eyes of the whole nation so that they will see through all the politicking, fake news and false promises, and vote in a government that will really rule with righteousness, justice and compassion in our nation.
5. Pray that both trouble-makers and demonic powers behind racial and religious bigotry and violence will be bound and restrained from causing riots and public disorder in the nation.
6. Finally, pray that Christians will go forth to do whatever God puts into our hands to do before and during the elections to help bring in a good government, for the glory of God and for the blessings of Malaysia!

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