

Ninth Pastoral Letter to the Wesley Church Family on the Covid-19 Situation (01 June 2021)

(By Rev Raymond Fong, Pastor-in-Charge)



Dear Wesleyans,

How are you? I pray for God's peace to fill your heart as we journey through a very trying season given the recent Covid-19 situation.

In this current climate of rising fear, hopelessness and helplessness, may we stay anchored on God's promises in His Word. I am reminded of His promise to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV):

***Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them,
for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.***

These were the words of Moses to the Israelites. The Israelites had experienced the power and provision of God for 40 years in the wilderness. As they would soon enter the Promised Land, Moses urged the people to trust God, not to be afraid as they face enemies in the land, because God would be with them and deliver them.

In the same way, God is with us. There may be obstacles, challenges and struggles ahead but we can be strong and brave because God goes with and before us. His grace is sufficient for us in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). He is a strong tower of refuge for the righteous (Proverbs 18:10). His securing and faithful love is such that nothing can separate us from Him (Romans 8:38-39). Let us indeed be strong and courageous, for He is trustworthy and true.

Allow me to share a few thoughts on how we can press on for the season ahead.

Stay rested in our Lord

It's imperative we find our spiritual rest in our faithful God. Take time to rest in His presence and reflect on His goodness so that you may be renewed to face the challenges of each day.

Like the Psalmist, remember the deeds of God and recall His wonders of old (Psalm 77:11). As you reflect on God's past faithfulness which has seen you through Circuit Breaker, you can surrender what lies ahead to Him. It is in our surrender, our waiting upon Him that God's renewing strength comes upon us (Isaiah 40:31).

Let's cultivate a daily rhythm of rest, reflect and renew through the spiritual disciplines for true Sabbath-rest. That is how we can be deeply rested in God, despite the uncertainty and vagaries of the times we are in.

Stay vigilant

I urge all of us to adhere to all safety measures so as to protect our families and loved ones. Whether it be safe distancing, mask-wearing or compliance with regulations, let's be a godly example. Let's take care of ourselves to take care of others.

I would like to echo our Bishop's encouragement to us (in his letter dated 23 March 2021) to take up the opportunity to be vaccinated as soon as possible, as our health permits, in order to prevent or reduce the severity of the Covid-19 disease amongst us.

May the Lord grant us His grace to be vigilant yet surrendered to Him for His protection as we do our best to protect one another in this pandemic.

Stay connected

Let us continue to connect with our communities of faith, whether it is the small group, ministry team or friends who will journey with us. I know God can use the online platform or simply a phone call to nurture spiritual friendships in these challenging times. Let's pray to God to protect and strengthen our families even as students manage home-based learning and parents work from home. Let there be a revival of family discipleship and strengthening of relationships.

Let me encourage you to join our online services so that we may worship together as a Wesley Family. Share our worship service links with friends and family, and come together online to worship God together.

Reach out to someone in need

Finally, let's reach out to bless someone in need today.

Let's remember to encourage our front-liners, our healthcare workers who have worked tirelessly and yet receive discrimination. They need our affirmation and appreciation.

Let's remember to lend a hand to that elderly neighbour who needs help, encourage an anxious parent affected by their children's home-based learning arrangements, or make that timely phone call to a friend under quarantine.

Let's play our part to be God's hands and feet to serve the least and last in our community, and bring hope to this broken world during these troubling times.

As I close, I pray we will view these challenging times we are in as a divine opportunity to mature as disciples of Christ. I believe this season is one of refining, purifying and moulding. I know the Lord has a message for us as a church. May we be faithful to discern and respond in obedience.

May God grant us a fresh revelation, a deep renewal of our hearts and minds to trust Him wholeheartedly, share the gospel urgently and honour Him rightly.

Take good care of yourselves. Stay safe and well in our good and faithful Lord.

Persevering with you,
Pastor Ray

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