

Weekly Prayer Letter

Week of 6 September 2020

Biblical Productivity

‘But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things ...”

- Luke 10:41

The cultural obsession is all about “capitalistic productivity” and always spending time in a productive, “fruitful” way.

Just what is productivity? Busyness is often mistaken as fruitfulness. Even during this downtime, many still believe they need to maintain a sense of busyness in order to feel productive and fruitful. We are now hard-pressed to believe we need to fill in every moment we have at home with some kind of work or self-improvement endeavour. Quarantine guilt is real.

Worldly productivity is all about *producing more and earning more money, being first, having the most. Being “successful”. Do more.* And soon, we find ourselves compromising our time with God.

Biblical productivity is, however, the reverse. It is not about us getting the most out of life; it is about giving the most we can.

Productivity is not just about getting things done fast or getting more done; it is about getting the right stuff done. “The right stuff is whatever fulfills God’s calling to do good for others and bring glory to him.” (Tim Challies) Sometimes, the right stuff may just be spending more time with God.

During this time where we still need to work from home and socialising is still kept to a minimum, we may need to rethink what it means when we keep pursuing activity after activity, perhaps to fill up time or just not appearing lazy. If we are not careful, “productivity” can become an idol.

May we seek to sit at His feet more to hear what He wants from us instead of being busy to fill up our time.

Tammy Ang

Pastoral Team Member

(Discipleship and Nurture | Parish Leader)

Prayer Pointers

1. The 12th General Conference of the Methodist Church in Singapore will convene from 7-11 Sep and it will be a complete virtual meeting. Pray that the Lord will direct the process of the Episcopal Election, election of Council Chairpersons, Judicial Council members, General Conference Treasurer and Finance Council Chair and confirm the office bearers of the three Conferences for the next quadrennium.
2. Pray for God's guidance on Faith Last Local Conference 2020 which will be held on 15 Sep where the names of the Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) will be decided and endorsed for service. Pray for the Lord's anointing on our leaders in the 2020-2021 LCEC as they faithfully serve Him in Faith—for God to grant them sensitivity and discernment to hear His voice and to receive and carry out His divine directives and instructions—individually and corporately.
3. Pray for the Lord's light to shine into the economic darkness brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. Pray for those who were retrenched and lost jobs despite the government and labour unions' call on employers to lay off workers as the last resort and to do so fairly and responsibly. Let us speak God's shalom to the people who are worried about the weak economy of Singapore and reports on retrenchment exercises that may add fear to many.
4. Pray for young families and children. Pray for parents for God's empowerment to lead Christ-like lives and to cultivate spiritual growth at home. Pray for children to prepare well for upcoming exams; to grow in the grace and knowledge of God; to be moulded positively by godly habits and practices; to have close and caring friendships.
5. Pray for the vulnerable. Pray for the elderly in Singapore, especially those lacking social support (in nursing homes, rental flats). Pray for God's peace to drive away all fear; for sharp mind and sense of purpose and hope; for Christians to bearers of God's love and blessing to them; for their caregivers (doctors, nursing home staff) to be strengthened and kept well.

We Are Here For You!

- Perhaps you are going through a challenging time, and you need someone to pray with you, our pastoral team is here and ready to journey with you.
- Even though we may not be able to be with you in person, we can still reach you via telephone and other means.
- You may submit any Prayer Requests online via our church website at <https://www.faithmc.sg/care-help/prayer-requests/>.