

Lenten
PRAYER GUIDE

Celebration of Hope
2018 Year of Prayer

Celebration of Hope

2018 Lenten Season Prayer guide

Introduction

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Shalom! As we enter the second month of the year, let's not be caught off guard about what God is doing in our midst. Otherwise, we will miss out on the blessings that accompany His work. The leaders of the churches in Singapore had discerned and convinced that God is preparing a great and bountiful harvest for His people in Singapore. This stirring and vision brought forth the **Celebration of Hope** (17th to 19th May 2019), *a personal evangelism on a mass scale event*.

2018 is designated as the year of prayer for the event. The main theme for prayer is to turn Singapore towards God. Considering the declining morals, increasing evil in the world and in our nation and the perceived lack of passion for the lost, the Lord impressed upon our church leaders that our prayer must come from a position of brokenness and hearts turned to God. Without the Lord there is nothing we can do. Our strength and abilities needed to fulfill the task will need to come from the Holy Spirit. We will have to pray just to get through the day.

A series of prayer events had been outlined and pushed out for the year. They are not to be seen as one-off events nor publicity events. They are designed to provide opportunities for all Christians to pray together in one accord to beseech God for His favour upon the nation.

Lent, a long-standing tradition of the church for fasting and prayer that we may find favour with God, would be an appropriate time to begin our cry to God to turn Singapore towards God.

This simple prayer guide seeks to help us in our daily prayer (for the next 40 days) to beseech God with a broken and contrite heart. It is meant to supplement the Lent devotions that you are already using. It is by no means trying to supersede it.

In the spirit of Lent, it is also good for us to include fasting alongside our prayers. Fasting need not necessarily be from food. It can be fasting from worldly pleasure that draws us away from God (e.g. excessive time consuming mobile content).

Let us, together as one, beseech God to help us fulfill the work He had put upon our shoulders with the Celebration of Hope event as a catalyst.

In His service,

Revd Barry Leong
Prayer Convener
Celebration of Hope

Prayer Guide

We begin our series of prayer with thanksgiving as there are a lot to give thanks for before we can even begin to intercede.

Day 1: Wednesday 14th February 2018 (Ash Wednesday)

Let us thank God for:

- Quickening our hearts to His blessing of the nation with a great and bountiful harvest of souls.
- Bringing together the different church groups and organisations to work as one for His Kingdom work.
- Providing the opportunity and venue (National Stadium) for the event.

Day 2: Thursday 15th February 2018

Let us thank God for:

- The leaders of the Church to be ready and courageous to take on making Celebration of Hope a reality despite the unprecedented scale of the event.
- The wisdom and unity of church leaders to deal with seemingly unsurmountable difficulties for the event – finance, favours from authorities, fervor of people.
- The provision that God had prepared to facilitate the great harvest.

Day 3: Friday 16th February 2018

Let us thank God for:

- The preparation thus far. There are greater challenges ahead, but we know that the Holy Spirit will be with us.
- The work of the Holy Spirit in stirring up the spirit of His people to be ready for the work.
- The Holy Spirit working in the lives of those who had yet to know Him, preparing them to receive the gospel with willing hearts and accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Day 4: Saturday 17th February 2018

Let us thank God for:

- The great and bountiful harvest. It is not just a harvest but a bountiful one. We look forward to it.
- Finding us faithful to bestow such a great task to us. May we not fail Him as we humble ourselves to follow His leading.
- Giving us all a chance to show the world that we are one because we are in Christ. By working in unity, we show the world that Jesus Christ is Lord.

This week's prayer we come to God in humbleness. We beseech God to:

Day 5: Monday 19th February 2018

- Accept our little offering in supporting the event. The present budget is about \$3.8 million.
- Bring forth Christians to serve in the various positions to ensure a smooth running of the event.
- Send us out to invite people to hear the word of God.

Day 6: Tuesday 20th February 2018

- Give wisdom to the steering committee to be able to shape the final form of the event in the light of the many options to consider.
- Protect Bishop Rennis Ponniah, chairman, and Dr Lawrence Chia, co-chairman, as they helm the whole committee in the planning and executing the CoH event.
- Protect and give wisdom to the Executive committee and working committee that they will be able to find success in their various areas of responsibilities.

Day 7: Wednesday 21st February 2018

- Protect and give wisdom to Dr Ravi Zachariah as he prepares to minister in the events leading up to the main CoH event.
- Protect and give wisdom to Revd Canon J. John as he prepares to speak and minister during the CoH events itself.
- Prepare for a suitable speaker for the Chinese track.

Day 8: Thursday 22nd February 2018

- Pray for the vision of CoH to continue to catch on. That the spirit of it will continue even after the event next year.
- Pray that the churches will continue to work as one always. Let CoH be the catalyst for the churches to find common grounds always and stay united.
- Pray that the churches will be willing troops of God, working as one united entity, for the spread of the gospel.

Day 9: Friday 23rd February 2018

- Pray that Christian brothers and sisters will offer up holy lives to the glory of God.
- Pray for the Lord to touch our hearts that we may offer up the necessary help and finances for the CoH event.
- Pray for Christians of the nation to be renewed in holiness.

Day 10: Saturday 24th February 2018

- Pray that we will be deeply convicted of our tolerance of sin in our nation.
- Pray for all of us to know of our brokenness and the need for the Lord.
- Pray for us to be restored by the Lord so that we can bring that reconciliation to the lost.

Day 11: Monday 26th February 2018

- Pray for the nation to turn from darkness to the light of the world.
- Pray for the nation to let justice and mercy to flow like rivers under God.
- Pray for the leaders of the nation to be able to stand strong and firm under pressure from without and within to uphold justice and righteousness.

Day 12: Tuesday 27th February 2018

- Pray for God to forgive us of our less than desirable effort in evangelism.
- For forgiveness in our disunity.
- Pray that we may truly be one with the Lord and thereby with one another.

Day 13: Wednesday 28th February 2018

- Pray for Bishop Rennis as he shares the vision of CoH to the Christian leaders of the marketplace.
- Pray for God to touch and stir the hearts of the leaders in the marketplace to catch on the vision of CoH.
- Pray for all of us to long to work in unity for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

Day 14: Thursday 1st March 2018

- Beseech God to touch the leaders of the marketplace to see His vision.
- Beseech the Lord for the churches in Singapore to continue to work together to turn the nation towards God.
- May that the revival in Singapore come in a mighty way and continues till the Lord returns.
- May a prayer movement emerge and we continue to trust in God through prayer.

Day 15: Friday 2nd March 2018

- Pray that our prayers and evangelism will never stop or lose momentum.
- Pray that we will be resolute in our desire to serve God in evangelism.
- May we work hard while it is still day.

Day 16: Saturday 3rd March 2018

- Pray for the Prayer equipping conference (Momentum 2018) on 1st May 2018.
- Pray for the 40. Day 2018 event from 1st July to 7th August 2018. That people will come to join in to pray in the Solemn Assemblies at various decentralized locations.
- Pray for the 8th August 2018 – Day of His Power event at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Day 17: Monday 5th March 2018

- Pray for more people to come and pray and beseech the Lord at the Morning Prayer (6:30am to 8:30am) at Kum Yan Methodist Church.
- Pray for the National Prayer Convocation on 7th October 2018. Where we gather to pray to seek the welfare of the Nation.
- Pray that as we enter into this exciting time of God's visitation, we will be earnest to seek Him and serve Him.

Day 18: Tuesday 6th March 2018

- Pray for church leaders in Singapore to be bonded in heart and spirit that we may bring the gospel to the lost.
- In that one spirit, may we all be blessed as we uphold the name of Christ.
- May we be faithful to God's calling and work in synergy to bring in the mighty harvest.

Day 19: Wednesday 7th March 2018

- Pray that the Christian community may be blessed as we practise righteousness, compassion and steadfast love under the rule of God.
- Pray that we will stand firm in the way of life worthy of the gospel.
- Pray that we will be ready, in season and out of season, to stand up to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Day 20: Thursday 8th March 2018

- Pray that we will be more engrossed in giving than receiving.
- Pray that we will be ready to offer up our lives for Christ more than we want to keep it.
- Pray that we will want His will be done more than our own will.

Day 21: Friday 9th March 2018

- Pray that we will keep ourselves spiritually fit and equipped to lead people to Christ.
- Pray that the churches will do even more to equip the flock for the work of Christ.
- Pray that many more will be added to the kingdom because of participating in the preparation.

Day 22: Saturday 10th March 2018

- Pray for the church leaders and the various committee of CoH to remain strong and courageous.
- Pray for God to protect His mighty soldiers in this work.
- Pray for the health and wellbeing of the church leaders as they toil daily in the work of Christ.

Day 23: Monday 12th March 2018

- We continue to pray for the Lord's provision for all the needs of the CoH event, the finance, preparation of the stadium and other locations, all other logistics.
- Continue to keep all the invited speakers (Canon J John, Dr Ravi Z) in good health and spiritual wellbeing.
- May the wisdom of God be with all who are ready to minister, in various capacities, to the lost. That they may gain favour with man and God.

Day 24: Tuesday 13th March 2018

- Pray that we will be in step with the Holy Spirit in His work of CoH.
- Pray that the favour of the Lord continues to be upon us as the work gains pace.
- Pray for wisdom and strength for the various leaders, especially Revd Tony Yeo and Revd Lewis Lew, carrying out the operations work of the event.

Day 25: Wednesday 14th March 2018

- Pray for our brother Paul Samuel as he leads the Infrastructure and Operations Planning Committee. The work is overwhelming and tedious. May the wisdom and strength of the Lord be with him!
- Pray for sharpness of mind and eye to manage every detail without missing them out.
- Pray for peace and strength for the committee members to deal with the challenges.

Day 26: Thursday 15th March 2018

- Pray for the continual generosity of the people to continue to fill up the needs for the event. May the financial and manpower needs for the event be quickly fulfilled.
- We pray for the training of people to lead others to Christ. In particular we pray for Revd Daniel Wee who will be leading the committee to do this (Operation Andrew).
- Pray for Revd Chua Chung Kai as he works with the Programme committee to work out the programme for the event.

Day 27: Friday 16th March 2018

- Pray that the churches in Singapore will be renewed, revived and reformed as they engage in this event.
- Pray that the churches in Singapore will be ready to receive the power from on high as the Spirit of God moves mightily among them.
- Pray that the spirit will not be quenched because of lack of spiritual sensitivity to know the leading of God in this movement.

Day 28: Saturday 17th March 2018

- Pray for members within the churches to be able to flow with the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the shaking of the churches to come out of slumber and wake up to the time of harvest.
- Pray for readiness to jump up and grab the opportunities for harvest.

Next week we will be entering Holy Week. It is good for us this week to return to thanksgiving before we enter the final week of Lent.

Let us thank God for:

Day 29: Monday 19th March 2018

- His favour in renewing and revival of the Church in Singapore.
- His pleasure to prepare a bountiful harvest for us.
- His initiative for us to respond and be blessed doing so.

Day 30: Tuesday 20th March 2018

- The church in prayer with one voice for His work.
- The stirring of the hearts of Christians to respond as one body to His work.
- The opening of the way forward when we deal with secular authorities.

Day 31: Wednesday 21st March 2018

- Strengthening our faith by providing a venue that seems unlikely in the beginning.
- Further encouragement for our faith by the favour of secular authorities.
- Even further assurance of our faith when senior leadership of different church groups felt the same vision and choose to work together.

Day 32: Thursday 22nd March 2018

- Stable and safe nation that we can freely worship our God without fear.
- Strong and fair government that deals with us justly.
- Sensible and spiritual church leadership that is willing to meet up with the challenges of getting the Lord's work done.

Day 33: Friday 23rd March 2018

- Trusting us with His great work of spreading the gospel to the ends of the world.
- Believing in us to work together to carry out the CoH event.
- Having faith in us to humble ourselves to follow His leading without question or complaint.

Day 34: Saturday 24th March 2018

- Allowing us into partnership with the Holy Spirit in this great work.
- Guiding us every step of the way even before we can see what is happening ahead.
- Protecting us from falling as we trust in Him and Him alone.

As we enter Holy Week, we want to know that Christ bear the cross for us and the world. It is for us to emulate Him to bear the cross.

Day 35: Monday 26th March 2018

Pray that:

- We will wholeheartedly praise God, not because others are doing it, but we want to do it.
- Others will want to praise God too because of what the joy they see in our lives.
- The nation of Singapore will come to know God and praise Him in one voice.

Day 36: Tuesday 27th March 2018

Pray that:

- We will face up to the challenges of being criticized and reviled because of our faith.
- We will have wisdom from on high to deal with the questions that are thrown our ways.
- We will deal with the revilers with love and thus win them over.

Day 37: Wednesday 28th March 2018

Pray that:

- As we prepare for the Celebration of Hope in 2019, we will earnestly beseech God to touch the hearts of all those we invited.
- We will keep very close to God while we journey on in life.
- We will re-look at our priorities in life and align it with God's.

Day 38: Thursday 29th March 2018 (Maundy Thursday)

Our Lord humbled himself to serve others, that we may also serve. Pray that:

- We truly live out the meaning of "came to serve and not to be served."
- We will understand that serving others does not mean that we had lost our status and pride. Instead we had gained more by serving others.
- We serve out of love and passion for the lost, not for the sake of numbers.

Day 39: Friday 30th March 2018 (Good Friday)

As Jesus hang on the cross to wash away our sins; may we be willing to die to ourselves that others may also find eternal life. Pray that:

- We will die to our own insecurity, shyness or whatever reasons that will stop us from sharing the gospel to others.
- We will have the resolve to keep "knocking" on the hearts of those who have yet to know Christ.
- We will die to ourselves by putting aside the desires of the world in order that some may be saved.

Day 40: Saturday 31st March 2018

As Christ descended to bring the gospel to those awaiting, we also pray that we will go out into the world with the gospel. Pray that:

- We will be strong and courageous to share our testimonies about God to others.
- We will make the effort to invite our friends and loved ones to the Celebration of Hope right from the onset.
- We will always be passionate about bringing the gospel to the lost.