

Pray for the nation:

### 1. Pray for racial harmony in Malaysia

- Every nation tries hard to achieve racial harmony. To do so we must trust and respect other races. However it is by the love of God that we learn to trust and respect our "neighbors". Pray that by the love of God we learn to respect and trust people around us of different skin colors, dialects, religions and ethnic groups.
- At times a handful of people, out of their personal agenda, play "dirty tricks" to create troubles in the society and thus causing racial tensions. Pray for God's mercy upon them and also pray that the law enforcers would be fair and just in enforcing the national laws so that these people's plots would not succeed.
- The different ethnic cultures in Malaysia have mutually influenced and enriched one another. We need to have the conviction that while upholding our culture we do not debase someone else's culture. We need to continue to pray for this hard-won vision so that we can all be proud because we are Malaysians, not to be proud because we are "a certain ethnic group" of Malaysia.

### 2. Pray for social harmony of the nation

- Peace and harmony in the society is everyone's desire. The economy and the development of a nation depend greatly upon social harmony. Without social peace and harmony, the national development would stagnate while foreign investors would pull out from the market and thus causing serious economic losses. Pray for peace and harmony in Malaysia and that God's peace be upon this land.
- Pray for the various shooting incidents this year. Pray especially for firearm control and asking God to put an end to all these illegal incidents.
- The main law enforcement unit in maintaining social order is the police force. The police have to address any case that occurred in the country and to take positive and prompt action to solve the case. Let us pray for the police officers, pray that God will keep them from evil threats, give them courage and a heart to love the people so that they are dedicated in performing their duties and in maintaining social order. Also pray for their work efficiency that they have a positive attitude in addressing all cases reported by the people.
- We could not just rely upon the police to maintain social order we have a role to play too. We are often reminded about community-police cooperation. When something happens people would criticize that the police are not putting enough effort in solving the case but more often the problem lies with us. We have not been giving immediate cooperation and take immediate action to curtail evil doings when we saw it happened. As Malaysians we must pray for cooperation with the police to combat crime.

### 3. Pray for the development of the nation

- Malaysia is blessed with natural resources like natural gas, petroleum, coal and so on. These resources earn a lot of money for Malaysia each year. However the natural resources will be depleted one day. By then what is Malaysia rely on to earn foreign exchange? Let us pray that while using these resources the Government will also explore ways to reduce relying upon these resources in future.
- Malaysia is a third world developing country. A lot of time for the development of the nation to be in track with the world we fail to strike a balance between nature and development, resulting in damage to the environment. In recent years, the rate of deforestation in Malaysia is very high. A lot of trees are felled to give way for development. Once the forest is destroyed, the whole ecosystem will be affected. An example is the building of dams by the Sarawak Government. We pray that while implementing development projects the Government will also look for strategies on how to reduce damage to the environment.
- Every year the Malaysian Government implements new development projects. Most of these projects are concentrated in larger cities or the Capital. This centralized development causes population of these cities to explode while other areas or states to be under-developed. This is an extremely unhealthy development plan. Pray that as our government is working on the

development plan, consideration would also be given to other states, particularly the development of the East Malaysian states and the east coast of the peninsula.

- Development is not just an external form making people to feel the progress of the nation, more importantly it is the uplifting of the humanistic qualities. Often in the process of development we ignore cultivating humanistic qualities and thus resulting in the corruption of ethical values. Pray that the government will also focus on nurturing humanistic qualities while working on development of the nation. It is our desire that Malaysians are good citizens with high ethical values.