



Newsletter – May 2020

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ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE IN JESUS'S NAME

SEE - INTRODUCTION TO SINGAPORE SITUATION IN APRIL 2020

Coronavirus disease 2019 is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The disease was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, and has since spread globally, resulting in the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. Those infected with the virus may be asymptomatic or develop flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, fatigue, and shortness of breath. In some, the disease may progress to pneumonia, multi-organ failure and death. The virus pandemic at this stage of writing, has spread to almost all countries, and in Singapore, our infections has reached more than 2,108 residents and 7 deaths. 492 people have since recovered.

From March 2020, our Government had put in placed measures to prevent the spread of Covid 19, and has closed all workplaces, schools, and recreation places. Churches, Mosques, Temples, and religious places are closed. The citizens were told to stay at home, and to practice safe distancing with others when out of their homes.

In homes, our families stayed in-doors as much as possible, and outside, squads of officials will issue warnings and fines if people gather, to adopt safe distancing, and deter the spread of the Covid 19. With prudent groceries stock holdings and small savings, most of us will be holding out safely in our homes, to sit out the virus pandemic.

Outside our safe confines, thousands of Malaysians have made an exodus back to Malaysia while the rest stayed in Singapore in houses and dormitories. There is an estimate of 1,399,600 foreign workforce in Singapore or a quarter of Singapore total population. (Ref: June 2019 <https://www.mom.gov.sg/documents-and-publications/foreign-workforce-numbers>). The current population of Singapore is 5,840,117 as of Saturday, April 11, 2020, based on Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data.

SITUATION ONE – Thousands of migrant workers staying in confined dormitories.

Within the safety of our homes, in the midst of protecting ourselves and our families, our eyes, ears and hearts will be reading, studying and feeling the passionate waves reported from the news. Feedback from the media has reported that thousands of workers are living in confined dormitories with more than 10 workers staying together

in the same room. In March 2020, large clusters of infected workers were detected with Covid 19 in almost all the workers dormitories.



Ref: Report from
<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/health-environment/article/3078684/singapore-cramped-migrant-worker-dorms-perfect-storm>

More informed workers sent out videos of their congested environment to the public, which raised sympathetic outcries from the city, which alerted our government to take immediate actions. The MOM (Ministry of Manpower) had regulated a space of 4.5m² for each worker living space. However, this was inadequate for a Covid 19 safe distancing mitigation. Responding to outpourings from concerned Singaporeans, the government took steps to separate the workers and housed them in army camps, floating dormitories in barges, etc. Safe distancing will be observed, and food and drinks will be provided.

Two days after another video went viral on the meagre food given to the dormitory's workers, the MOM worked even harder with the food caterers to provide better nutritious food. The improvement of food quality was greatly appreciated by the workers.

CAUSES of SITUATION ONE

- “There is a great urgency for the government to take crucial measures for the protection of migrant workers from Covid-19. The two that are of utmost importance are large-scale testing and reducing the density of workers' accommodations immediately.” (Ref: April 7, 9.13pm <https://www.facebook.com/kokila.annamalai>).
- It is common knowledge that the workers are given meagre food to eat. The dormitories operators will provide food according to the payments received from the workers' employers. In Covid 19 and quarantine situations, and with the viral feedback online, the MOH stepped in and improved on the food quality. This is evidenced by MOM's own declaration on 8th April 2020 which was posted online. Everyone was very appreciative of the positive responses.

CONSEQUENCES of SITUATION ONE

The consequences and impact on Singapore would have been dire and extreme, if our Government had not stepped in and implemented the safe distancing measures, closures of shops and workplaces, as well as closings all food outlets except for take-aways. Although the environment would have been worse if the Singaporeans did not speak out and offered suggestions and recommendations to the government, the base feedback to the government was crucial in the new policies been formulated to fight against Covid 19. This was greatly appreciated on all sides too.

JUDGE - CHRISTIAN REFLECTION

Isaiah 58:6-7- No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.

Luke 6:45- The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

1 John 3:18- Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Reflection

- 1- What do these 3 bible passages say to you in this Covid 19 situation? And what about the people who are not as safe as you are in your own homes?
- 2- Search deep in your hearts and remember, Christ has called you to follow him. He chose you to be his disciples. He wants to stay with you, even in You. However, have you ever abandoned him at any time, recently or in the past. If yes, will you come back to Jesus again?
- 3- What small steps and bigger steps can you do to transform your lives again?

ACT

- a. Would you speak up for those who cannot speak up during the Covid 19 pandemic? Why?
 - b. Would you help the Church to speak up as well? Why?
 - c. What else can you do?
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Gentle Reminder

Members who have not paid their subscription to our Movement for Year 2020 are advised hand in their subscriptions to our Treasurer together with the duly completed subscription forms. You can also make donations with the subscriptions. The Movement wishes to thank once again all its members for the support and care that it receives from all members every year.