



THE VICAR

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WRITES

With the recent spike of COVID-19 cases in Singapore and in the regions, our authorities have implemented heightened measures to stop the spread of the virus and we are thankful that thus far it is working out well. But let's consider what is happening to the world around us today:

Malaysia has declared a nationwide lockdown, sees an average of 7,680 cases a day (death toll of 2,796). Indonesia sees on an average of 5,797 cases a day (death toll of 50,578). The South Asian countries were the worst hit with new virus variants. Although cases have slightly tapered down, India sees an average of 175,167 cases a day (death toll 332,000). Nepal sees an average of 6,269 cases a day (death toll of 7,386). Global death toll has reached 3.55 million (Source: John Hopkins University, 2 Jun 2021).

As I looked at the statistics, the global death toll of 3.55 million caught my attention. Singapore a small nation with only 4.04 million resident population and a total population of 5.69 million (Source: Singstats,

Jun 2020) could have easily succumbed to the pandemic. We need to thank God for His Sovereign grace and mercy, for protecting and for watching over Singapore. Although we are relatively blessed with low number of cases (an average of 27 cases a day & death toll of 33), we cannot be careless and complacent.

As I was penning this, I got on my knees to give thanks, and this was my prayer – “Heavenly Father, thank you for your divine protection over Singapore. Thank you for sending your angels to watch over your Church, for watching over every member of Cathedral, over our families, over our political leaders, over our economy and over our well-being. Father, thank you for our government, thank you for leading them to make those difficult decisions, and we thank you for the men and women who have worked tirelessly to battle in the front-line on our behalf. We are sorry that we have treated some of them badly and without respect, they deserve better from us. Father, forgive us and thank you for your love, grace and mercy. Amen!”

As a community of believers, we need to stand together with fellow Singaporeans

to break this new wave of transmission. This cannot be the job of the authorities and the front-line workers alone. We need to play our small part and we can do so by following the safety guidelines and participate in the strategy set out by PM Lee to work towards the new normal. We can certainly do our part by reaching out to care for fellow church members who may be affected practically or emotionally. The church staff with the support of lay volunteers have started to call church members focusing on the elderly. We will reach out to them, to encourage and to assist them if they have needs. You can also do your part as a cell group. You can reach out to members within the cell and to your circle of contacts who are needing encouragement and help. Let's love and care for one another, and should you be aware of members (regardless of age) who are in need, please do not hesitate to inform our pastoral team by dropping us an email (info@cathedral.org.sg).

Lastly, we must step-up our prayers as a body of Christ – only God can bring an end to this global pandemic, and we need to believe that God will answer our prayers. This is a trumpet call to **ALL MEMBERS OF CATHEDRAL TO COME TOGETHER TO PRAY AT THE NEXT PRAYER & PRAISE** on 20 July 2021, 7.14pm over ZOOM, to plead for God's mercy over Singapore and the World!

Keep trusting in the Lord –

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

(Jeremiah 17:7-8, ESV)

