



The Methodist Church in Singapore

新加坡基督教衛理公會

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Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung

张振忠会督

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Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

The peace and prosperity of our Lord be with you this Chinese New Year.

As we celebrate new beginnings, I ask that we also pause to remember our brethren and the people in Wuhan who are experiencing a never-seen-before coronavirus infection that has brought fear and uncertainty to the population. Even as the disease spreads to other parts of China and the world, we want to pray for God's sovereign will to be done and that He will intervene in this time of crisis.

We pray for calm and clarity for the leadership; that God will give them the wisdom and will to overcome this virus. We remember the doctors, nurses, healthcare workers, soldiers and all those who are waging the war. We lift up those who have caught the disease or have died from it, and their loved ones; we ask for comfort and protection for these people. May the Holy Spirit grant them strength and endurance for the battle. Lord, have mercy!

We know that in all things, God is master and fully in control.

For our part, I ask that we as a church do not get alarmed, nor cause undue alarm by forwarding false news and gossip that may arrive through social media. It is wrong to continue these lies by unthinkingly forwarding them without verifying if they are true. Give respect to the governing authorities as the Bible teaches us, and follow their instructions carefully. We trust our government has our best interests at heart.

When we greet each other in the exchange of peace, instead of a handshake we may choose to greet our brother with hands placed palms-together in front with a slight bow of the head as is common in this part of the world as a sign of peace so as to prevent hand contact. Do also follow the instructions of your local church leadership and pastor-in-charge as to any additional measures that may be taken to help contain this contagion. If you have flu-like symptoms, please see a doctor and rest at home.

I urge you to continue to lift our leaders and healthcare workers in prayer as they stand on the front line to do battle for us. You are remembered daily in my prayers and hopes.

Serving One God together with you,

Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung
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