



**APBF  
SUNDAY**

TOGETHER  
WE ARE STRONG

AUGUST 16TH, 2020

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# The Power of Praying Together

Asia Pacific Baptist Federation

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# MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT ASIA PACIFIC BAPTIST FEDERATION

*By Rev. Edwin Lam*

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

**Matthew 18:18-20**

“Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:39

I thank and praise God it's APBF Sunday again except that we are in the midst of a worldwide crisis! The COVID-19 pandemic has reached every corner of this planet with researchers, doctors and scientists seeking either a vaccine or cure for it. This pandemic doesn't just reset the world, it is also a clarion call for prayer—to seek the face of the Almighty! As Christians we know that praying is like the breath we breathe and reading the Bible, the daily meals we take. Here, I am referring to corporate prayer, not individual closet prayer! Matthew 18:18-20 gives the principle of the power of praying together while Matthew 18:15-17, the application with regards to conflict management. It speaks of the God-given privilege and power to bind and to loosen which in turn moves heaven to act.

This principle is based on the Unity of believers gathered together with the Lord Jesus Christ present in their midst. He emphasizes that our action precedes heaven's action. God in His sovereignty could do whatever He wants as and when He wants, yet because He made man and woman with free will, He chose to restrict Himself. In spite of man's free will, God still chose to work in partnership with His creation. Man can choose God's will or his own will. Of course, there will be consequences for those choices. Instead of using free will

to do God's will, mankind sought own agendas and ambitions resulting in sin, selfishness, bloodshed, violence, and evil wickedness creating separation from God. However, when the Lord Jesus came, He sought God's will lovingly and willingly when He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39).

No wonder God was well pleased with Him. Now the Church on earth, clothed with Christ's righteousness is the new entity that desires God's will. Sometimes the church can fail too, either because of self-love, self-will, self-reliance or selfishness. Let us remember: we cannot make God do what He doesn't want to do, but we can hinder Him from doing what He wants to do. This is the great responsibility and privilege given to Christians. There will come a day, when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to earth when the fullness of the Church is formed—the body that seeks God's will lovingly, willingly and completely! William Carey once made this wise statement: "Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God!"

This is what the church should be doing. So, let us join hands and hearts in prayer to bind the COVID-19 and trust God for a solution to swipe out and stop this pandemic and let us loosen His power to transform life for His Kingdom in spite of the great devastation, disaster and deaths! This happens when the church prays together! This is what God is seeking here and now, that the church, like her Lord Jesus Christ will desire God's will so much that it will be as food and sustenance! (John 4:34). Thus whenever we pray, we can bind or loosen in Jesus' name. I am not suggesting we are such powerful human beings as to override God's authority and sovereignty but I am saying God has given us the privilege to bind or loosen which in turn impact His work on the face of this earth. Of course, as the Sovereign of the Universe, He can supersede and override our ways out of His great love! So, let us pray according to God's will. As the Lord Jesus Christ taught us in Matthew 6:10 "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!"

**“AS CHRISTIANS WE KNOW THAT PRAYING IS LIKE THE BREATH WE BREATHE AND READING THE BIBLE, THE DAILY MEALS WE TAKE..”**

# APBF Standing Together

MESSAGE BY  
VESEKHOYI TETSEO (VEE)  
GENERAL SECRETARY  
ASIA PACIFIC BAPTIST FEDERATION

Browse the internet with 'Covid-19 Pandemic' and you will find hundreds and thousands of articles written on many subjects that surrounds Covid-19. Who would have dreamed the world would be where it is even a few months ago. The last travel of this year was February when I was returning from India. Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok was already in alert of Covid-19 although WHO had not declared Coronavirus as Pandemic and Quarantine was not in picture. But I could see people beginning to wear masks. People already felt a sense of danger lurking behind. A month after Racism began showing its dirty face. Churches began to close its doors for corporate worship. And the world changed.

5 months since then and the world has changed. Millions have lost lives, the battle against the virus does not seem to be easing. Many businesses have declared bankruptcy, millions of people have lost jobs. Economies are predicted to tumble within this year. Travels will become more restricted. People will continue to feel anxiety over meeting people. Much less talk about meetings.

But aside all the sad stories, also lies stories of hope, and resilience. Articles calling out for people to be more human. People calling out for solidarity and to lean into hope. Leaders addressing global citizens to build up to global togetherness. Yes, we still have hope because Christ has won the battle of death and sin through His resurrection and His resurrection reassures us that He has power and authority over His creation, even sickness and death. Therefore, we have hope and we shall overcome.

The Asia Pacific Baptist Federation is also calling out for hope along with Baptist World Alliance in the theme of 'Standing Together'. You are not alone in this battle. We are with you. And this message must be shared with every

Baptist believer that 'You are not alone'. And we want to reverberate this message on this special day 'APBF Sunday'.

As we celebrate the APBF Sunday, may we be reminded that some decades ago Baptists from Asia Pacific felt the need of this togetherness. 'To come together as one Baptist family in the BWA'. We are now 63 conventions in 22 countries. We come as one body "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:5). Our vision is 'Baptists Together Transforming Lives in Christ across the Asia Pacific'. May we live up to this vision. That, we serve our communities to change lives through Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you as we celebrate APBF Sunday in solidarity with the APBF, BWA and the citizens of the world.



## Prayer Items Submitted for APBF Sunday!

### Thailand Karen Baptist Convention

- \*The unity of Christian organizations in Thailand.
- \*Christians leaders will humble themselves before the Lord and listen to His voice.
- \*God's protection for His churches all around the world.

### Nepal Baptist Church Council

\*Pray for the NBCC leadership team, all the staff of NBCC's departments and provinces, local Baptist Churches Pastor, deacons, youth leaders, women leaders, elder people, sick people and all believer's good health and spiritual growth and maturity life.

\*Pray to stop as soon as possible the effect of the COVID-19 Coronavirus from the world.

\*Pray for the Nepali Christian living witness for Christ because the Nepal government passed the anti conversion rule in Nepal to stop Christian activities.

## **Pray for Japan**

\*Coronavirus continues to increase in cities like Tokyo. Pray for containment that it will not spread to other Prefectures.

\*Pray for the US Military Base in Okinawa where a total of 99 cases were reported at five facilities in Okinawa Prefecture over the last week through Tuesday.

\*Pray for wisdom and creativity to hold worship services as some churches are beginning to re-open.

\*Pray for wisdom that Christians will be able to share the gospel amidst this pandemic crisis.

\*Pray for Japan where the public look at any organized religion with suspicion due to problematic Cult groups like Aum Shinrikyo etc.

\*Pray for continual faithful witness of Christ in Japan.

## **Okinawa Baptist Convention (宗) 沖縄バプテスト連盟**

\*人材育成 Human resource development

\*教会成長と教会開拓 Church growth and church plant

\*世界宣教への取組み Vision and Passion for World Mission

## **Australian Baptist Ministries (Baptist Union of Australia)**

\*Lord's special protection for Australia's First Nation People from COVID-19, especially in remote areas.

\*Wisdom for our National and State leaders as they seek to reduce the impact of COVID-19.

\*Opportunities for our local churches to share the good news in word and deed at this time of great uncertainty.

## Pray for India

\*Asia Times News headlines the surge of infections in India as 'India drifts rudderless as Covid-19 worsens. India is now the third largest infected country in the world following USA and Brazil.

\*The pandemic is spreading to other cities and towns, and lockdown is being reimposed in some areas although big cities like Mumbai and Delhi are the worst hit. There is fear that infections are higher than official figures reports.

\*News reports the situation in Delhi is "absolutely bad" but also are the pandemic-related effect upon the migrant laborers. Millions have lost their jobs due to months of lockdown. People, families are committing suicide.

\*Pray for Churches, Pastors, Christian Leaders who need wisdom to wade through this troubled time and most importantly, how to ministers to the needs of the poor and the hungry while keep safe and protected from the Coronavirus.

**HOPE IN CHRIST AMIDST PANDEMIC**  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

YouTube PREMIERE

5:00 pm	India, Sri Lanka	7:30 pm	Hong Kong, Malaysia, Perth
5:15 pm	Nepal		Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan
5:30 pm	Bangladesh	8:30 pm	Tokyo, Korea
6:00 pm	Myanmar	9:30 pm	Sydney, Papua New Guinea
6:30 pm	Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam	11:30 pm	Fiji, New Zealand

APBF Asia Pacific Baptist Federation

### Our Vision

Baptists together Transforming Lives in Christ across the Asia Pacific.

### Our Mission

Inspire and Equip Baptists by Collaborating, Networking, Training and Serving to fulfill the Great Commission.

### Who We Represent

APBF represents over 33,000 local churches and 63 Conventions in 22 Countries across the Asia Pacific region.

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