

May 2020

Dear friends and pastors who care about Asian Americans and Asian American Christians,

We feel privileged to send you this Asian American and Pacific Islander prayer for unity and repentance. In these days, as we have seen incidences of discrimination against Asian Americans, we have undertaken soul and scripture searching to ask the Lord what He thinks about these scenarios and produced what we think has been His response to us.

The Lord loves His Church and purchased it at a very high cost- the price of His Son.

Would you therefore join us in this prayer for repentance during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month this May? We believe that this time of COVID-19 gives us a unique opportunity for our voices to be heard, especially as this virus has also unmasked incidences of discrimination amongst persons who might also love the Lord. We all possess blind spots and have things to repent of. But repentance begins with us and creates room for the Lord to move. We read in the scriptures that the prayers of the righteous avail much.

Please see the prayer below that we invite you to pray together, out loud, with your congregation during the month of May. If you would like, it might be especially powerful to pray this together on the National Day of Prayer on May 7, which happens to coincide with AAPI Heritage Month.

Our team of volunteers who love the Lord and His body of Christ have also prepared a **Self-Reflection Tool** that we encourage you to disseminate to your community. This tool is envisioned to create space for the Lord to move and breathe unity into His Church here in the United States and beyond. In addition, we aim to create the website www.allthingsprayer.com by May 10, 2020 to provide additional information and resources. Please check it accordingly.

Thank you so much for reading this note and for your consideration to partner with us to build unity in the Lord's Church.

God bless you.

Lord God, I thank you that you are the Creator God who breathed this Earth into existence. And so it is only right as Habakkuk 2:14 says that “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” I thank you that I live in a country that provides me with:

- opportunities
- happiness
- liberty
- freedom of worship

Lord Christ, I glorify your Name which is above all names, and say Yes and Amen to Your plan for Your Church, the global Body of Christ, to be glorified. So I humbly come before you to pray and seek your face so that you will heal our land. As an Asian American¹ Christian, I repent for how we have, as you call your people out in Haggai 1, *put our own houses before Your Body who is the global Church*.

I repent...

- for not loving others as ourselves, especially those from different ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds and for harboring biases that are unfair to these groups [other *Asian Americans, Anglo Americans, African Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, Arab Americans, Native Americans, and other groups*]
- for not reaching out and being a peacemaker/ bridge builder
- for having a worldly and materialistic mentality rather than seeking the health of those who are vulnerable, including those who are poor and defenseless

I ask you to search our hearts to show us where you would like us to manifest Your Life and Your Love to those around us. I ask you to forgive us, and to give us Your Love, Your Eyes, and Your Vision for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I pray that you would heal the division and bring unity to your people as we come under the banner of Christ's love. By the power of your Holy Spirit and the example of Christ, I am making a radical commitment to be a bridge to my brothers and sisters who are different from my cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

During this worldwide pandemic I pray...

- for your protection over the health and safety of hospital staff, first responders, police, urban poor, the unemployed, families, teachers, government, and business leaders
- for your peace, hope, and comfort to those who are sick with COVID-19 and those who have lost their loved ones
- for your wisdom and direction for our leaders and their day to day decisions

Thank you God for your love for us and for your desire to see your global Church glorified. During this Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we ask you to bless the Asian American Body of Christ. Thank you for the privilege of partnering with You in your work here so that your will be done here on Earth as it is in heaven.

In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.

¹ This prayer can be adapted for persons for all ethnic, geographic, etc. backgrounds- just change this one phrase.

“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

John the Baptist (Matthew 3:8)

“...repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.”

Paul (Acts 26:20)

In recognition of the repentance that has just taken place, we invite you to take a tangible step to invest in the Lord's multicultural, global body. You may do this by:

- 1) Raising funds through a cross-cultural love offering for vulnerable families facing a higher incidence of death due to COVID-19
- 2) Providing a scholarship fund for students from a different culture majoring in medical and health care related fields or in church or para-church ministries
- 3) Investing in an action to build bridges with a community of believers who you don't know and who would be blessed by the funds

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He shine His face upon you and give you Peace.