
Ignite

“Dear Lord, we are grateful for Your love to each of us with Your covering and protection upon DUMC as a church. We cry out to You now, Lord, asking that You would revive Your church and rewire the culture, using the words of the prophet Habakkuk 3:2 ‘I have heard of Your fame; I stand in awe of Your deeds, Lord. Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.’ Amen”



SERMON SUMMARY

IMPACT Nation Now 3:

Breath of Life

Rachel Hickson

Ezekiel 37 :1-11

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

Introduction

This is a strange time globally as we face a global pandemic. Many of us took time to declutter and sensed a stirring in our spirits. God is stirring a fresh desire and hunger for Him. As Rachel prayed for Malaysia (with Malaysia Day in mind) she felt Him say it is time for Malaysia to receive His Fresh Wind and then breathe life into Malaysia, into its people and society.

1 The Cry for the Breath of God [Job 33:4](#), [Genesis 2:7](#), [John 20:21-22](#)

It is because the breath of God is within us that we live. We are not fortunate accidents but careful creations by God. Just as we need breath in our physical lungs in order to live, we also need breath in our spiritual lungs. The Holy Spirit is that breath. As we receive this "heavenly breath", it activates life within us.

2 New Hunger – New Wine

As we take time to declutter and seek God, He is stirring a fresh hunger for Himself and His ways in us. He awakens our spiritual life where we have been sleepy or apathetic. God is producing New Wine in our lives.

3 New Winds and New Fire

As we allow the Holy Spirit blow through our hearts, it awakens the dying embers within us and sharpens our discipline and attitudes toward God. He is refueling the fires of our love for Him with fresh passion and hope, awakening His army that desires God.

He is challenging us who profess the faith again with a mission and shows us the future landscape of our nation that He sees - to take His Breath and use it to breathe new life into the community and nation we live in.

4 Breathe Life into Others [*Numbers 27:15-17, Ezekiel 37 1:14, Song of Songs 2:10-14*](#)

In Numbers, Moses understood that God appoints someone to breathe into those without hope or life. In Ezekiel 37, the prophet is commissioned to speak life into dry bones and turn them into an army for God. God is able to put breath where hope and life is lacking. We need people to take up His mandate and breathe life into the nation - to be willing to go into the community and work spaces to shepherd the people.

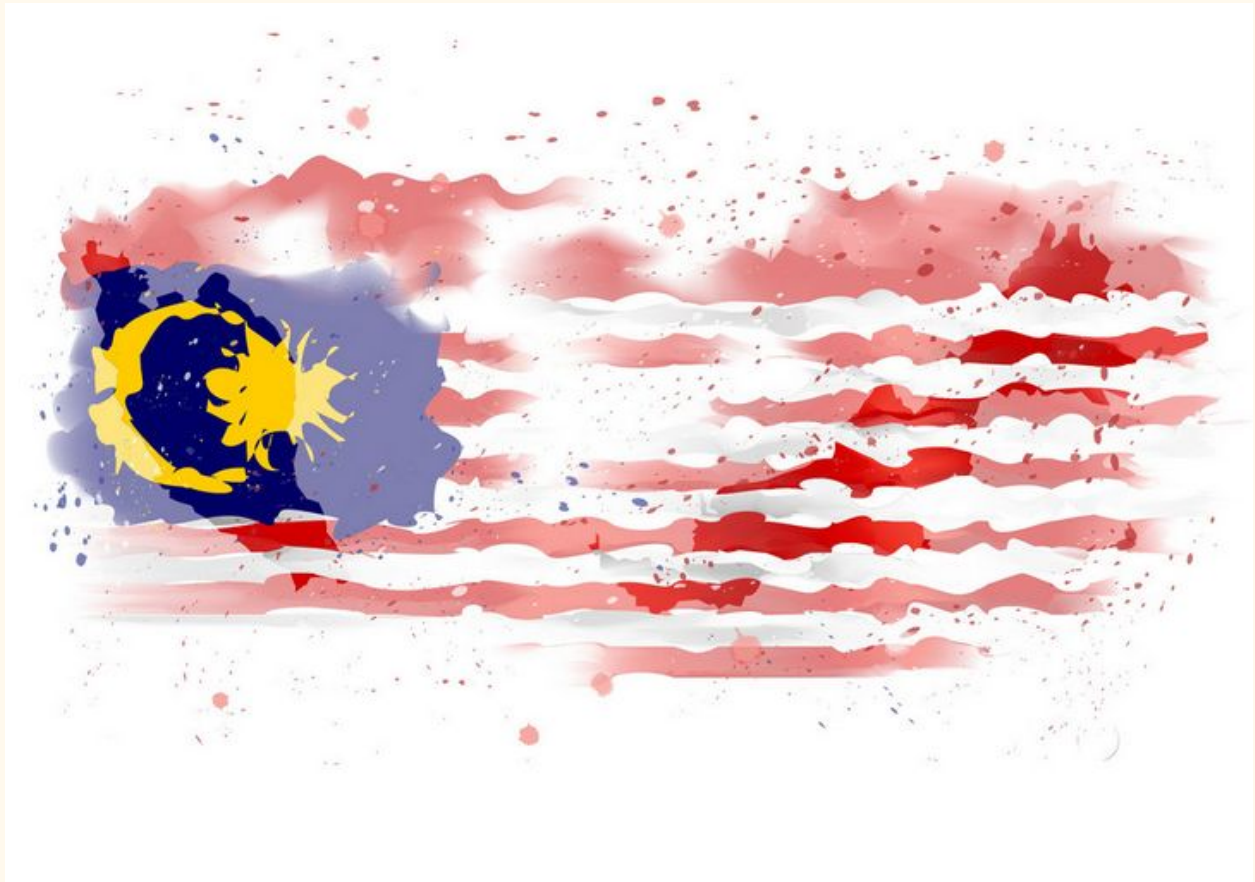
Conclusion

In the Hebraic calendar, this is the year 5780. 80 is the year of Pey, of which its Hebrew character looks like a mouth with a seed in it. This signifies the importance of speaking and declaring the purposes of God in this season. We are not to sit back and watch, but to open our mouths and let the seed out.

We have the power to bless the community and break generational chains surrounding them. In these uncertain times we are to seek the Breath of God, be rejuvenated in our spirit and transfer that Breath into the world around us and give it life.

Breathe in the Breath of God and breathe out Life to our surroundings.

SERMON REFLECTION



(VectorStock/Windwheel)

2020 seems to be a troubling year for Malaysia. As we were facing a global pandemic early this year, we were slammed with a sudden change in government. Suddenly it felt as if all hopes and dreams were dashed. The people's mandate was violated by those blinded by personal ambition and power. Many were hit financially and emotionally as directives for social distancing were given. Businesses were forced to scale down, some even had to lay off workers. Anyone who was not an essential worker was to stay home. All opportunities to socialize in a physical space were halted.

Even this year's Merdeka celebrations lacked visual representation of the nation's patriotic spirit in comparison to previous years where we were able to see shops and cars decorated with the national flag and national flower. It is as though the events of 2020 have dampened the people's love for the nation and hopelessness is felt throughout.

Yet during the MCO period and following RMCO, there are many signs that God is in control. The churches are turning to Him and are stepping up and out to help those in need, raising funds and distributing supplies to the poor, the illegal immigrants and refugees. Cell Groups members are also supporting one another be it in ministry needs, or the giving of financial and emotional support to each other during this time. Cell Groups have also been organizing prayer drives to declare life to the communities around them. Then there are churches coming together as one to organize an 80-hour Bible reading session online to bless Malaysia!

God indeed is using the Church to be His voice. As we continue to pray and seek Him for our lives, our communities and our nation, let's forget our prayer shopping list of what we want for the country but instead tune into the Breath of God. Let it turn our hearts to align with God's heart for this nation; to open our mouths to humbly ask that His will be done in our country. May we then obey and act on that which He would put in our hearts in accordance to His Word. For our hope is in God and not man!

Contributed by Adeliyn, PJN4



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficaciously. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end

or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.



Suggested Icebreaker Question (for Welcome that would link to the Word time)

- Activity/Questions:
 - Well Being: Let's do Breathing exercises.
 - Well Being: "Are there smells and scents which you absolutely love and those that you don't like?"
 - Discuss the importance of breathing during exercise (*Example: in running proper breathing leads to better endurance, in swimming breathing is a strategy to go further than others*)
 - My God is _____ (*fill in the blanks with something new you may have discovered about our God in the past few months*)

[Note to Word facilitator: The above are sample activity/questions that you may ask your CG to do/answer. The idea is to link it to the other questions below that will be asked during WORD time.]

Suggested Word Questions:

- What are we breathing in? Are we breathing the air filled of God/joy/peace or

the air filled with hopelessness? anxiety/ despair?

- The pandemic brought about changes in our lives. What is something new that you've discovered about yourself over the past few months?

Question Bank *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

- What does this mean to you? *“South East Asia is like a megaphone in his hands to be a mouthpiece and voice to the nations”*
 - How are we using our voices to glorify God? Are we using our voices to bless or curse?
 - Was there something new that you've done this year?
 - How are we reaching out to those who feel lost and hopeless? What are we doing to ease their burden (financial/emotional/psychological)?
 - As we receive God's breath how do we breathe onto others?
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WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



Photo by Judit Peter from Pexels

Story of the week...

“On the day we delivered the clothes, the kids came down to help us carry two car loads worth of clothes up to their center. Seeing the smiles and excitement on their faces were all I needed to know how happy and excited they were....”

- Hannah Tan, NextGen

* Read the rest of Hannah's IMPACTNow story on dumc.my/blog

“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.”

- Maya Angelou

If you or your CG member(s) has a story to share related to today's Word (or not) that would speak of God's goodness, **share their/your story** [\[HERE\]](#)



PRAYER

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.



Photo by Vincent Gerbouin from Pexels

Pray for Sabah

A. Elections (Sept 26, 2020)

- *For God-fearing men and women to be elected into office*
- *For free and fair election - electoral processes will be safeguarded*
- *For wisdom for the voters to choose for the future of their children*
- *For righteousness and justice would be sought after in this election*
- *Against wicked schemes to defraud the people*

B. COVID-19 pandemic

- *That recent cluster in Lahad Datu would be contained*
- *For appropriate measures will be taken so that the elections will not be affected*
- *For Sabahans returning back from Peninsula to vote, will not be deterred*

C. Church in Sabah

- *To continue strongly to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel, as salt and light in this season"*



OTHER RESOURCES

Below are some links to resource you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!

FEATURED

In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!

	
<p>Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership ...</p> <p>30 minutes on average transformingcenter.org</p> <p>Ruth Haley Barton</p> <p>Prayer & Spirituality</p> <p>Podcast</p>	<p>Spiritual Formation on the Run</p> <p>188 pages kairos2.com</p> <p>Alex Tang</p> <p>Prayer & Spirituality</p> <p>E-Book (Free)</p>



OTHER RESOURCES

Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!



DUMC STORIES

Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!

