

I HAVE A DREAM

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It is the dream of a transformed society – a transformed Malaysian society! A society totally changed and transformed by the power of God to fulfil His purpose and for His glory. Is it possible here in Malaysia? Can it be done? Will it be done? I would like to believe so and invite you to join me in seeking together to fulfil this dream.

- **Firstly, what does a transformed society look like? What are the marks, the features of such a society? This is best captured in Zechariah Chapter 8:**
 1. It is a city of truth (v. 3) – where truth is the foundation and justice and righteousness are its twin hallmarks. This gives character and great strength to the city
 2. It is a holy mountain (v. 3) – a consecrated place where only right practices are found and seen to be practised
 3. It has men and women of ripe old age (v. 4) – this speaks of health, wisdom, generations and legacies
 4. The city streets are filled with boys and girls (v. 5) – speaks of life, vitality, dynamism, safety, security, potential and a future
 5. People are rightfully restored (v. 7, 8) – “I will save my people and bring them back”
 6. The temple is rebuilt (v. 9) – true worship is restored
 7. There will be safe and fair dealings in business (v. 10, 11) – people can trust one another
 8. There is fruitfulness and abundance and the people are blessed (v. 12)
 9. We become an object of blessing to others (v. 13)
 10. Truth is practised and sound judgements are given in the law courts (v. 16) – all can trust the law courts which is the foundation for a strong society
 11. There is no lie propagated, no evil schemes practised (v. 17)
 12. Even fastings will be joyful celebrative occasions (v. 18, 19) – as there will be peace and truth
 13. Many want to come to seek the Lord (v. 20-23) – people want to come because they hear that God is with us
 14. It is a fulfilment of the vision in Isaiah 60:3: “Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn”.
 15. It may seem incredulous but not with the Lord (v. 6). Why?
 - a. Because God wants to bring it to pass
 - b. Will we believe it?
 - c. Will we cooperate with God?
 - d. Will we work alongside God and see His power and glory revealed?
 - e. For a better society, a better city and a nation like Malaysia; a nation that will draw people to the Lord in large numbers; a nation where there is great revival
- **Secondly, what is the basis, paradigm or template on which we work to realise a transformed society?**

God gave His people a template to see that His pattern of a transformed society will be realised. What is this paradigm or template? I believe it is to be found in the Ten Commandments:

- Commandment No. 1 (Ex. 20:3): You are to have no other gods
 - True worship frees and liberates us to achieve our fullest potential in life
- Commandment No. 2 (Ex. 20:4): You are not to make idols in the form of anything
 - This delivers us from idolatry, bondage, enslavement, blindness and confusion
- Commandment No. 3 (Ex. 20:7): You are not to misuse God's name
 - There is a real fear of God and therefore it produces right practices in our conduct and dealings at all time with everybody
- Commandment No. 4 (Ex. 20:8): Remember the Sabbath rest
 - There calls for rest, recreation, refreshment and learning to acknowledge and trust in God for His provisions
- Commandment No. 5 (Ex. 20:12): Honour our father and mother
 - This is God's order for the family. When there is such order it produces a good home, a great family life and a strong society
- Commandment No. 6 (Ex. 20:13): Do not murder
 - This calls for a respect of all human life because human beings are made in the image of God. People are therefore to be treated with dignity, honour and value whatever their background and station in life
- Commandment No. 7 (Ex. 20:14): Do not commit adultery
 - This calls for the upholding of the most intimate of human relationships
 - It is treating the most intimate relationship with respect; covenants, agreements and bonds are honoured leading to no break-up of the most intimate relationship → strong bond → strong marriage → strong family → strong society
- Commandment No. 8 (Ex. 20:15): Do not steal
 - This calls for respect of other people's things and property
 - This emphasises the need for honest and hard work
 - So, things can be left around with no worries and cars and houses do not have to be locked
- Commandment No. 9 (Ex. 20:16): Do not bear false testimony
 - This is not taking advantage of people, especially the strong against the weak, the rich against the poor
 - Contracts and agreements are honoured. In fact, no agreements are necessary because our word is our bond → people of honour and self-respect
- Commandment No. 10 (Ex. 20:17): Do not covet
 - There is no place for greed, envy or jealousy which is often the cause of misery, heartache and trouble. There will be no theft or crime
 - The emphasis here is really the need for contentment and gratitude
- **Thirdly and finally, how can we achieve this? How can we do it?**
 1. Keep vision of a transformed society clear
 - A transformed society where truth, justice, righteousness, respect, honour and diligence are its hallmarks
 2. Work on the vision of a renewed church that models a microcosm of a transformed society

- Where the church practises truth, justice, righteousness, respect, honour, trust, transparency, honesty, diligence, hardwork, excellence, order, encouragement, affirmation, wisdom, patience, rest, recreation and refreshment
 - Where there is real peace, joy, love, contentment, gratitude and thankfulness
3. Wherever God has placed us, work and serve based on the Ten Commandments to transform our corner of the world
- To inspire: share the vision
 - To instruct: give understanding
 - To influence: to make a difference as salt, light and yeast
 - We are here to produce better people and a greater society, a transformed society
 - The church becomes a movement and, when we join forces, a movement becomes unstoppable and that is what we desire
 - It goes back to the proper role we play at every level
 - We must not imbibe nor give in to the spirit of the age, a spirit of resignation, where we say and think we are impotent to bring any positive change to the environment and society
 - We must believe God that in Him all things are possible
 - The hope of our future generations is in our hands
 - We owe them a debt to do something; otherwise we fail them – our future and theirs
 - Never in the history of the Church in Malaysia when something like this looks possible with vision, faith and courage in God
 - That is God's clarion call to us
 - Will we respond to the hour? Should we? Can we? And must we?
 - The time is now!
 - It is a call of a lifetime; to be changers of history and the spiritual atmosphere of our land and nation
 - The key to unlock the future of our nation is in our hand
 - The destiny of future generations is in our hand
 - It is an exciting future, a bright future, a glorious future
 - We have received the baton; let us pass it on well to the next generation and generations to come until Jesus returns
 - Let us love, lead and live with renewed vigour, passion and energy and go out and just do it!
 - And God, I believe, will be with us every step of the way. And we say, "Hallelujah, our Lord reigns!"