

THE STAR

DATE: 30/08/2007

A prayer for the nation

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PARDON me if I don't fly the *Jalur Gemilang* but I will certainly be raising my heart to God for you. In moments of quiet contemplation:

> I WILL pray for the King, the Government, the opposition, the NGOs and patriotic individuals, and all the governing authorities who collectively make your democracy work under the ambit of the Constitution.

> I WILL remember the many foreign workers in the country who build the physical infrastructures for you that you might be a towering nation recognised by the world not for the wrong reasons but the right ones.

> I WILL spare a thought for the foreign maids who help build the homes of your children and nurture the lives of your next generation.

»More is gained by our reaching out to one another with a helpful hand for indeed this is the spirit of Merdeka – the spirit of loving your neighbour as yourself, the spirit of positive construction«

> I WILL remember that the road to nationhood was a hard fought one albeit without bloodshed but not without the sweat and tears of a generation that gave us the wisdom of the country's motto that "unity is strength" and that it is something not to be taken for granted and should not be tampered with by those who are myopic in their self-interests and foolishly undermine national harmony.

> I WILL pray for the judges, the police, the teachers, the bureaucrats and all those in positions of trust and responsibility that they may remember that the destiny of their nation rests in how they perform their duties honestly and justly without fear or favour and serve the people with a clear conscience before the Almighty.

> I WILL pray that the demon of corruption that exists within you will be exorcised for its pervasive and pernicious influence

undermines your very existence and threatens to destroy all the good that you have gained until now.

> I WILL pray that those who have faith will learn to use faith to engage in acts of good works for bigotry was the sin of the devil. Righteousness exalts a nation.

May your children grow in love for one another and realise that life is but a blink of the eye in the realm of eternity and that we are all sojourners on this planet.

More is gained by our reaching out to one another with a helpful hand for indeed this is the spirit of Merdeka – the spirit of loving your neighbour as yourself, the spirit of positive construction.

God bless the King and rulers, government, and peoples of Malaysia.

**STEVE OH,
Winthrop, Australia.**