

Dear friends,

As Singapore prepares to exit the 'Circuit Breaker', many are making plans to restart and re-building their businesses. In engineering, a circuit breaker is designed to protect an electrical circuit from damage caused by excess current from an overload or short circuit. For myself, it was also a personal circuit breaker which the Lord knows is needed from time to time. The appliances in our lives – work commitment, hobbies, social engagements and even ministry work can overwhelm our time and generate that "excess current" that is detrimental to our spiritual health. An abrupt power cut allows us to check each appliance in our life to see if it is still serving its intended function.

With the gradual adjustment back to the new normal, I ponder also whether it will be a new spiritual dawn. Or will the lessons quickly be forgotten as we slip back to the old ways. I was reminded of the story of Nehemiah who led the efforts to rebuild the city walls of Jerusalem. When it was completed, they gathered together in the open square to hear Ezra the scribe read from the Book of the Law (Nehemiah 8:1-8). And they heard the reading from the Book of the Law, day by day for 7 days (Nehemiah 8: 18). When they had completed the physical reconstruction, they turned to the hearing of God's word, confession, repentance (Nehemiah 9) and took an oath to walk in His ways (Nehemiah 10: 28,29).

Let us also turn our hearts to the diligent study of the Word of God and be obedient to its instructions. Surely the financial uncertainty faced by once mighty and respected companies is a sober reminder that things of this world are transient and easily lost. May this season bring an opportunity to build with gold, silver and precious stones on the foundation that is Christ Jesus.