



June 3, 2020

Dear RiverLife Family

The 8-week Circuit Breaker (CB) period has ended and we have just entered the first of three phases of the CB roll back.

This CB period has been challenging but we thank God for His grace. We celebrated with two young couples who got married amidst the rapidly changing legislation and situation. Our parents coped with working from home whilst guiding children with home-based learning. Our children ministry came alongside to support parents in shepherding children. Our Chinese ministry kept at loving and connecting with our elderly. We are so encouraged that our seniors have adjusted and even embraced online cell meetings.

For some of us, we might be more concerned about what life will look like after CB. How will our school or workplace look like? Others might be wondering if Phase 3 will happen sooner than later.

I have been looking forward to the roll back too. Today, I hope to encourage us with practical pointers to posture our hearts as we cross over to a post-CB era.

**Place our trust in God** (*Hebrews 13:8*). Trust God by praying for our government, that God will guide them in this pandemic. Looking ahead, while the situation seems volatile, remember that God remains unchanging. Our family situation may be challenging, the way we work or study may be changing, church gatherings are being affected, but God remains the same. Hence, we can be content in whatever situation we face. We grow in our trust in God when we get alone daily with Jesus and get intimate with Him. Encourage newer believers to do the same too.

**Practice Gratitude** (*1 Thessalonians 5:18*). There may be feelings of disappointment and impatience about the speed of rolling back of CB measures; but I am thankful for the calibrated approach taken by the authorities in handling this pandemic and the economic fallout. I encourage us to be thankful too. In this, be thankful for our parents and for our cell leader too. I am also thankful for the home-cooked food and increased meal conversations with loved ones. We can also be thankful that we have pantries stocked with food and that we enjoy luxuries that do more than keep us alive.

**Life is a Rehearsal** (*Ecclesiastes 3:11*). Life is a school where God trains us for our future ministry in eternity. This explains the presence of trials in our lives. This continuing delay must mean that God has some more work to do in us. So, we have the choice to see the pandemic — or any other difficulty — as a detour in our plan or as an opportunity for God to be honoured and for us to be strengthened, our character built, and our spiritual backbone fortified. Our cell group is vital in this process. I want to encourage us look out for worshipers who are not yet part of a cell group and invite them to be part of ours.

**Make the Most of Today** (*Matthew 6:34*). If things are going great today, enjoy it fully. Enjoy time with loved ones. Be fully present. Don't waste the good day we are having worrying about the bad day we might have tomorrow. We don't know about tomorrow, but God does. God has given us everything we need up until this point. And He promises to provide for us going forward. Learn to focus on today instead of having to fear about tomorrow.

**Exercise Kindness** (*Galatians 2:10*). This time continues to be an opportunity to view others through the lens of compassion. Practice empathy toward those facing dire situations. Help them emotionally, financially, and practically. And thank you for giving towards *RiverLife Cares*. This compassion initiative will begin to take a different form during post-CB. We have prepared a plan to deliver daily necessities to assist needy families together with RCS. We will share more once the situation allows us to mobilise teams into action.

RiverLifers, I rejoice that we are not neglecting to meet regularly. And a growing number of cell groups are meeting more than once a week. I also want to assure you that our Elders and Senior Leadership Team have you in our hearts and we pray for you when we come together online each week.

Missing all of you  
Ben KC Lee