

When trouble strikes – how do we respond?

I. Why did God allow it?

“Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.” 1 Cor 13:12

Light to guide us...

1. God did not create evil and suffering

*“Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!”
Genesis 1:31*

2. Though suffering is not good, God can use it to accomplish good

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28

3. A day will come when suffering will cease and God will judge evil

“...and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.” Revelation 21:4b

“But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead.” 1 Peter 4:5

Why the delay?

“The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” 2 Peter 3:9

II. What is my response?

Our Church mission: **To reach out to everyone and see them transformed into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.**

1. Put urgency into our mission – Reaching out

“Indeed, the ‘right time’ is now. Today is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6:2b

Neighbourhood Chaplains

Discovering my life mission – next 4 weeks

2. Put urgency into my prayers for others

“I will give them hearts that recognize me as the Lord.” Jeremiah 24:7

3. Embrace the Holy Spirit’s work of transformation in me through community

*“**All the believers** devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, and to fellowship and to sharing in meals, and to prayer...**all the believers met together** in one place and shared everything they had...**They worshiped together**...and each day the Lord **added to their fellowship** those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47*

- 4 gears + CR
- Welcome others
- Use our gifts
- Share what you know to see God transform others