



# BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MELBOURNE

AUGUST EDITION

1 JOHN 4:11-13

*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also  
ought to love one another. No one  
has seen God at any time. If we love  
one another, God abides in us, and  
His love has been perfected in us.  
By this we know that we abide in  
Him, and He in us, because He has  
given us of His Spirit*

## FELLOWSHIP LIFE



for my house  
will be called  
a house of  
prayer for all  
nations

# *table of* CONTENT



DEVOTIONAL FROM JAKARTA	01-03
DAILY DEVOTIONS	04-10
PRAY FOR A NATION	11
UPCOMING EVENTS	12
LIST OF COOL	13
BIC SERVICE SCHEDULE	14



# *Kerajaan Allah yang Memulihkan*

*“Sebab Kerajaan Allah bukan terdiri dari perkataan, tetapi dari kuasa.” (1 Korintus 4:20)*

Kerajaan Allah ialah Allah yang menyatakan diri-Nya dengan penuh kuasa dalam semua karya-Nya. Kerajaan Allah yang terdiri dari kuasa Allah ini tentu tidak akan hadir dengan sendirinya, tetapi hadir karena peranan orang-orang percaya yang senantiasa mencari-Nya dengan hati yang haus dan lapar dalam kehidupan mereka sendiri maupun dalam persekutuan orang percaya.

Tuhan Yesus mengajarkan orang percaya dalam Doa Bapa Kami untuk berdoa; *“Datanglah Kerajaan-Mu, Jadilah kehendak-Mu di bumi seperti di sorga”*. Allah ingin membaharui dunia yang sudah “rusak” sebagai akibat dari kejatuhan manusia dalam dosa, sehingga di dalam dunia sekarang ini telah terjadi banyak ketidakbenaran di semua aspek kehidupan manusia. Tetapi firman Tuhan menjamin apabila kuasa Allah hadir di hidup orang percaya, maka kebenaran yang akan memerintah dalam hati manusia.

Seperti yang ditulis di Yesaya 32:15-18, *“Sampai dicurahkan kepada kita Roh dari atas: Maka padang gurun akan menjadi kebun buah-buahan, dan kebun buah-buahan itu akan dianggap hutan. Di padang gurun selalu akan berlaku keadilan dan di kebun buah-buahan akan tetap ada kebenaran. Dimana ada kebenaran di situ akan tumbuh damai sejahtera, dan akibat kebenaran ialah ketenangan dan ketenteraman untuk selama-lamanya. Bangsa-bangsa akan diam di tempat yang damai, di tempat tinggal yang tenteram di tempat peristirahatan yang aman”*.

Nubuatan-nubuatan Yesaya sekalipun mengenai penghukuman tetapi tidak pernah tanpa disertai oleh harapan pemulihan, karena ciri khas nubuatannya

adalah mengenai tema keselamatan. Sesungguhnya, kebenaran dan berkat akan terjadi apabila Roh Kudus dicurahkan atas orang-orang percaya yang merindukan-Nya dan Roh Kudus akan bekerja, memerintah di dalam hati mereka.

Tuhan Yesus mengatakan di Matius 11:12, bahwa Kerajaan Allah atau Kerajaan Sorga hanya dapat direbut oleh orang yang kuat, yang sungguh-sungguh mau melepaskan diri dari perbuatan dosa kepada Kristus dan firman-Nya. Kerajaan Allah bukanlah untuk mereka yang tidak memiliki kelaparan rohani; yang jarang berdoa, memuji, menyembah Tuhan, atau yang hidupnya masih kompromi dengan dunia dan melanggar firman Allah. Orang percaya harus berdoa dan berupaya untuk menghadirkan manifestasi rohani dari Kerajaan Allah di dunia sekarang ini dan juga pernyataan Kerajaan Allah di antara umat-Nya agar dapat menghancurkan pekerjaan iblis, menyembuhkan orang sakit, menyelamatkan jiwa-jiwa yang terhilang, dan menyatakan kebenaran dalam kehidupan orang percaya. Oleh sebab itu peranan orang-orang percaya menjadi sangat penting di hari-hari terakhir ini untuk menghadirkan Kerajaan Allah sehingga transformasi terjadi di dalam kehidupan orang percaya maupun di bangsa kita.

Apa yang harus dilakukan orang-orang percaya untuk dapat menghadirkan Kerajaan Allah dalam hidupnya?

Percakapan Tuhan Yesus dengan seorang ahli Taurat di Markus 12:28-34,

“Lalu seorang ahli Taurat, yang mendengar Yesus dan orang-orang Saduki bersoal jawab dan tahu, bahwa Yesus memberi jawab yang tepat kepada orang-orang itu, datang kepada-Nya dan bertanya: “Hukum manakah yang paling utama?” Jawab Yesus: “Hukum yang terutama ialah: Dengarlah, hai orang Israel, Tuhan Allah kita, Tuhan itu esa.

Kasihilah Tuhan, Allahmu, dengan segenap hatimu dan dengan segenap jiwamu dan dengan segenap akal budimu dan dengan segenap kekuatanmu. Dan hukum yang kedua ialah: Kasihilah sesamamu manusia seperti dirimu sendiri. Tidak ada hukum lain yang lebih utama dari pada kedua hokum ini.” Lalu kata ahli Taurat itu kepada Yesus: “Tepat sekali, Guru, benar kata-Mu itu, bahwa Dia esa, dan bahwa tidak ada yang lain kecuali Dia. Memang mengasihi Dia dengan segenap hati dan dengan segenap pengertian dan dengan segenap kekuatan, dan juga mengasihi sesama manusia seperti diri sendiri adalah jauh lebih utama dari pada semua korban bakaran dan korban sembelihan.” Yesus melihat, bagaimana bijaksananya jawab orang itu, dan Ia berkata kepadanya: “Engkau tidak jauh dari Kerajaan Allah!” Dan seorangpun tidak berani lagi menanyakan sesuatu kepada Yesus”.

Sikap hati orang percaya yang dapat menghadirkan Kerajaan Allah di hidupnya ialah:

### ***Mengasihi Tuhan***

Tuhan mau semua orang percaya yang sudah menerima keselamatan-Nya mengasihi-Nya dengan setia, kasih ini menuntut sikap hati yang menghormati dan menghargai Tuhan sehingga orang percaya sungguh-sungguh merindukan persekutuan dengan-Nya, menyerahkan seluruh hidupnya kepada Tuhan dengan setia untuk menjadikan kebenaran firman Tuhan sebagai standar hidupnya, dan berusaha dengan segenap kekuatannya untuk menuruti kehendak-Nya.

### ***Mengasihi Sesama***

Orang percaya dituntut untuk mengasihi semua orang tidak hanya dengan orang seiman termasuk juga orang yang memusuhi mereka. Kasih orang percaya kepada sesama harus didasarkan oleh standar firman Tuhan, oleh karena itu ketika menyatakan kasih kepada sesamanya, orang percaya tidak boleh berkompromi mengenai kekudusan Allah, kehendak-Nya dan standar-Nya sebagaimana yang tertulis dalam firman Tuhan.

Kerajaan Allah yang terdiri dari kuasa akan dinyatakan ketika Roh Kudus dicurahkan, dan terjadi transformasi. Maka seperti yang dinubuatkan oleh Yesaya:

“Dimana ada kebenaran di situ akan tumbuh damai sejahtera, dan akibat kebenaran ialah ketenangan dan ketenteraman untuk selama-lamanya. BangsaKu akan diam di tempat yang damai, di tempat tinggal yang tenteram di tempat peristirahatan yang aman.” (Yesaya 32:17)

Hari-hari ini kita sedang menantikan penggenapan janji Tuhan yaitu: pencurahan Roh Kudus yang dahsyat, janji Tuhan ini akan tergenapi apabila kita semua orang-orang percaya memiliki kelaparan rohani, hidup sesuai dengan kehendak-Nya dengan mengasihi Tuhan dan sesama. Maka Roh Kudus akan dicurahkan dengan dahsyat dan Dia memerintah sebagai raja dalam hidup kita, sehingga Trasformasi terjadi. (JM)

*“Sebab Aku akan mencurahkan air ke atas tanah yang haus, dan hujan lebat ke atas tempat yang kering. Aku akan mencurahkan Roh-Ku ke atas keturunanmu, dan berkat-Ku ke atas anak cucumu.” (Yesaya 44:3)*

## Marvelous Maker

# 19 AUG

As an amateur photographer, I enjoy capturing glimpses of God's creativity with my camera. I see His fingerprints on each delicate flower petal, each vibrant sunrise and sunset, and each cloud-painted and star-speckled sky canvas.

My camera's powerful zoom option allows me to take photos of the Lord's creatures too. I've snapped shots of a chattering squirrel in a cherry blossom tree, a colorful butterfly flitting from bloom to bloom, and sea turtles sunning on a rocky, black beach. Each one-of-a-kind image prompted me to worship my marvelous Maker.

I'm not the first of God's people to praise Him while admiring His unique creations. The writer of Psalm 104 sings of the Lord's many works of art in nature (v. 24). He regards "the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number" (v. 25) and rejoices in God for providing constant and complete care for His masterpieces (vv. 27–31). Considering the majesty of the God-given life around him, the psalmist bursts with worshipful gratitude: "I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live" (v. 33).

While reflecting on the Lord's magnificent and immense creation, we can look closely at His intentional creativity and attention to detail. And like the psalmist, we can sing to our Creator with thankful praise for how powerful, majestic, and loving He is and always will be. Hallelujah!

*Read*

Psalm 104:24–34

*Bible in a Year*

Psalm 103–104  
1 Corinthians 2

*How many are  
your works,  
Lord! In  
wisdom you  
made them  
all; the earth  
is full of your  
creatures.*

Psalm 104:24

By Xochitl Dixon

“God’s works are marvelous, and so is He.”

# 20 AUG

*Read*

Hebrew 10:5-14

*Bible in a Year*

Psalms 105-106

1 Corinthians 3

*For by one  
sacrifice he has  
made perfect  
forever those  
who are being  
made holy.*

Hebrews 10:14

By Adam Holz

## *In Progress or Completed?*

It's satisfying to finish a job. Each month, for instance, one of my job responsibilities gets moved from one category to another, from "In Progress" to "Completed." I love clicking that "Completed" button. But last month when I clicked it, I thought, if only I could overcome rough spots in my faith so easily! It can seem like the Christian life is always in progress, never completed

Then I remembered Hebrews 10:14. It describes how Christ's sacrifice redeems us totally. So in one important sense, that "completed button" has been pressed for us. Jesus's death did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves: He made us acceptable in God's eyes when we place our faith in Him. It is finished, as Jesus Himself said (John 19:30). Paradoxically, even though His sacrifice is complete and total, we spend the rest of our lives living into that spiritual reality—"being made holy," as Hebrews' author writes.

The fact that Jesus has finished something that's still being worked out in our lives is hard to understand. When I'm struggling spiritually, it's encouraging to remember that Jesus's sacrifice for me—and for you—is complete . . . even if our living it out in this life is still a work in progress. Nothing can stop His intended end from being achieved eventually: being transformed into His likeness (see 2 Corinthians 3:18).

*Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for us. Help us trust You as we grow into followers whose lives look more and more like Yours, knowing that You are the one who makes us complete.*

*"God is at work to make us who He intends us to be."*



# *A Prayer to Point Us Home*

# 21 AUG

One of the first prayers I learned as a little boy was “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep . . .” It was a prayer I learned from my parents, and I taught it to my son and daughter when they were little. As a child, I found great comfort in placing myself in God’s hands with those words before I fell asleep.

There’s a similar prayer neatly tucked away in the “prayer book” of the Bible, the Psalms. Some biblical scholars suggest that the phrase “Into your hands I commit my spirit” (Psalm 31:5) was a “bedtime” prayer taught to children in Jesus’s day.

You may recognize that prayer as Jesus’s final cry from the cross. But Jesus added one more word to it: Father (Luke 23:46). By praying that word in the moments before His death, Jesus demonstrated His intimate relationship with the Father and pointed believers toward their home with Him (John 14:3).

Jesus died on the cross so we could live in the wonder of a relationship with God as our heavenly Father. How comforting it is to know that because of Jesus’s sacrificial love for us, we can rest in God’s care as His children! We can close our eyes without fear because our Father watches over us and has promised to wake us up to life with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

*Lord Jesus, I receive the gift of forgiveness You offer me through the cross. Help me to turn from my sins and follow You, all the way home.*

*Read*

Luke 23:44-48

*Bible in a Year*

Psalm 107-109  
1 Corinthians 4

*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*  
John 1:12

By James Banks

“A bright new morning awaits us in Jesus.”

# 22

## AUG

## *God's Care for Us*

My young grandsons enjoy dressing themselves. Sometimes they pull their shirts on backwards and often the younger one puts his shoes on the wrong feet. I usually don't have the heart to tell them; besides, I find their innocence endearing.

I love seeing the world through their eyes. To them, everything is an adventure, whether walking the length of a fallen tree, spying a turtle sunning itself on a log, or excitedly watching a fire truck roar by. But I know that even my little grandsons are not truly innocent. They can make up a dozen excuses about why they can't stay in their beds at night and are quick to yank a wanted toy from the other. Yet I love them dearly.

I picture Adam and Eve, God's first people, as being in some ways like my grandchildren. Everything they saw in the garden must have been a marvel as they walked with God. But one day they willfully disobeyed. They ate of the one tree they were forbidden to eat (Genesis 2:15–17; 3:6). And that disobedience immediately led to lies and blame-shifting (3:8–13).

Still, God loved and cared for them. He sacrificed animals in order to clothe them (v. 21)—and later He provided a way of salvation for all sinners through the sacrifice of His Son (John 3:16). He loves us that much!

*Dear Lord, thank You for loving us, despite our sin, and for making a way for us to be with You forever!*

*Read*

Genesis 3:1–13

*Bible in a Year*

Psalms 110–

112

1 Corinthians 5

*The Lord God*

*made garments of skin  
for Adam and  
his wife and  
clothed them.*

Genesis 3:21

By Alyson Kieda

「*Jesus loves us so much He sacrificed Himself for our sins.*」

# An Enduring Happiness

23  
AUG

Often we hear that happiness comes from doing things our own way. That, however, is not true. That philosophy leads only to emptiness, anxiety, and heartache.

Poet W. H. Auden observed people as they attempted to find an escape in pleasures. He wrote of such people: “Lost in a haunted wood, / Children afraid of the night / Who have never been happy or good.”

The psalmist David sings of the remedy for our fears and unhappiness. “I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears” (Psalm 34:4). Happiness is doing things God’s way, a fact that can be verified every day. “Those who look to him are radiant,” writes David (v. 5). Just try it and you’ll see. That’s what he means when he says, “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (v. 8).

We say, “Seeing is believing.” That’s how we know things in this world. Show me proof and I’ll believe it. God puts it the other way around. Believing is seeing. “Taste and then you will see.”

Take the Lord at His word. Do the very next thing He is asking you to do and you will see. He will give you grace to do the right thing and more: He will give you Himself—the only source of goodness—and with it, enduring happiness.

*Lord, sometimes we must simply pray: “I believe. Help my unbelief.” Help us trust You by doing what You have given us to do today.*

*Read*

PSalm 34:1-4

*Bible in a Year*

Psalm 113-115

1 Corinthians 6

*Whoever of  
you loves life  
and desires to  
see many good  
days . . . Turn  
from evil and  
do good.*

Psalm 34:12,14

By David H. Roper

*“Happiness is doing the right thing.”*

# 24 AUG

*Read*

John 12:20-26

*Bible in a Year*

Psalms 116-118

1 Corinthians

7:1-9

*They came to  
Philip ... with a  
request. "Sir,"  
they said, "we  
would like to  
see Jesus."*

John 12:21

By Amy Boucher

## *We Would See Jesus*

As I looked down at the pulpit where I was sharing prayers at a funeral, I glimpsed a brass plaque bearing words from John 12:21: "Sir, we would see Jesus" (kjv). Yes, I thought, how fitting to consider how we saw Jesus in the woman we were celebrating with tears and smiles. Although she faced challenges and disappointments in her life, she never gave up her faith in Christ. And because God's Spirit lived in her, we could see Jesus.

John's gospel recounts how after Jesus rode into Jerusalem (see John 12:12-16), some Greeks approached Philip, one of the disciples, asking, "Sir, . . . we would like to see Jesus" (v. 21). They were probably curious about Jesus's healings and miracles, but as they weren't Jewish, they weren't allowed into the inner courts of the temple. When their request was passed along to Jesus, He announced that His hour had come to be glorified (v. 23). And by that, He meant that He would die for the sins of many. He would fulfill His mission to reach not only the Jews but the Gentiles (the "Greeks" in verse 20), and now they would see Jesus.

After Jesus died, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in His followers (14:16-17). Thus as we love and serve Jesus, we see Him active in our lives. And, amazingly, those around us too can see Jesus!

*Lord Jesus Christ, I am humbled and amazed that You would come and live in me. Help me to share this amazing gift with those I meet today.*

***"We can see Jesus in the lives of His followers."***

# Generous Givers

# 25 AUG

After reviewing all God had already done throughout our church's history, leaders presented the congregation with a proposal for a new gym to help us better serve our community. The leadership team announced they'd be the first to sign pledge notes to fund the construction. I initially prayed with a heart soured by selfishness, not wanting to offer more money than we had already committed to give. Still, my husband and I agreed to pray for the ongoing project. While considering all God continued providing for us, we eventually decided on a monthly offering. The combined gifts of our church family paid for the entire building.

Grateful for the many ways God's used that gym for community events since we celebrated opening its doors for ministry, I'm reminded of another generous giver—King David. Though the Lord didn't choose him to build His temple, David invested all his resources to the project (1 Chronicles 29:1–5). The leaders under him and the people they served gave generously too (vv. 6–9). The king acknowledged all they'd contributed had first been given to them by God—the Creator, Sustainer, and Owner of everything (vv. 10–16).

When we recognize God owns it all, we can commit to grateful, generous, and faithful giving for the benefit of others. And we can trust the Lord will provide—and may even use the generosity of others to help us when we're in need.

*Lord, please help us remember You own it all as we commit to giving You our all, willingly and selflessly.*

*Read*

1 Chronicles  
29:1-14

*Bible in a Year*

Psalms 119:1-88  
1 Corinthians  
7:20-40

*Everything  
comes from  
you, and we  
have given  
you only what  
comes from  
your hand.  
1 Chronicles  
29:14*

By Xochitl Dixon

**“God gives first, and He always outgives His most generous givers.”**



# Pray for Nation

## INDONESIA



Capital: *Jakarta*

Population: *263.5 million people*

Religion: *Majority Islam*



1. God will not remain silent. Every prayer and cry raised on the Indonesian people was heard by God. Rise up oh God, declare your greatness and your strength and your truth, so that the people who are bound by this religious spirit are saved.

2. Entering the general election in April next year, let's pray that the electoral process can run smoothly, correctly and safely. God's strong hand will dispel any chaos, money politics, cheating and division between people and ethnic groups. God will choose the right leaders and get rid of the evil from every line of government.

3. Every effort to replace the foundation of the state and state system will not succeed. God uses the hands

of the intelligence agency to seek and thwart any of these efforts. And the government dares to punish and impose severe sanctions on them.

4. God bless the government. President Jokowi and all ministers, state officials, police, TNI, MA and Supreme Court Justices. Spirit of Unity bind them in one mission and vision for a prosperous of new Indonesia.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Bethany International Church  
HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

BE MY FRIEND

**INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION**

1945 2018

**SATURDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER**  
**11AM - 2PM**  
**AT BIC MELBOURNE**  
**29 - 37 Ballantyne St**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$5 (NON REFUNDABLE), BEFORE 19 AUGUST**  
**LUNCH PROVIDED**



SATURDAY, 25 AUGUST 2018

**WORKERS'**  
**PRAYER**  
**MEETING**

**BIC MELBOURNE**  
**10 AM - 12 PM**



## MAIN SERVICE

8.30 am & 11 am  
(Indonesian with English  
translation)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

9 am (English)

## 180

(TEENS)

8.45 am (English)

## NEXT GENERATION

(YOUTH)

11 am (English)

## PRAYER TOWER

Point Cook | Monday | 7:15 PM  
BIC Melbourne | Tuesday | 6:30 PM  
Mount Waverly | Wednesday | 7:15 PM  
BIC Melbourne | Friday | 12:00 PM  
BIC Melbourne (Fasting Prayer) | Saturday | 10:00 AM

## COOL

Friday, 7:00 PM

## LADIES FELLOWSHIP

*Woman of Impact Community*  
Tuesday 10.30 AM, at BIC

## EVENTS

*Be My Friends; Games and Fellowship*  
Saturday, 1 September, at 11pm at BIC

**Bethany International Church**  
HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS



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