

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

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Era Pentakosta

Dalam agama Yahudi, ada tujuh perayaan yang harus dilakukan oleh orang Israel. Beberapa perayaan tersebut wajib dilakukan di Yerusalem, yaitu Hari Raya Paskah, Hari Raya Tujuh Minggu (Pentakosta) dan Hari Raya Pondok Daun. Pada bagian akhir dari pelayanan-Nya di bumi, Yesus pergi ke Yerusalem untuk merayakan Paskah bersama dengan orang-orang Yahudi yang lain. Hari Raya Paskah dirayakan oleh orang Israel untuk memperingati bagaimana orang Israel dibebaskan dari perbudakan Mesir dengan pertolongan Tuhan dengan lambang darah anak domba yang tercurah (Kel 12). Yesus lah yang kemudian menjadi Anak Domba Paskah (1 Kor 5:7) yang mencurahkan darah-Nya untuk membebaskan seluruh umat manusia dari perbudakan dosa, lewat kematian-Nya di kayu salib.

Hal tersebut terjadi dengan disaksikan banyak orang Yahudi yang saat itu berkumpul di Yerusalem untuk merayakan Paskah. Sebagian besar dari mereka ikut berteriak “Salibkan Dia!” (Yoh 19:15, Kis 2:23). Tiga hari kemudian, pada hari Minggu, saat orang Yahudi merayakan hari raya Buah Sulung (Im 23:10-11), Yesus bangkit dari kematian. Yesus menjadi yang pertama bangkit dari kematian diantara orang-orang percaya (1 Kor 15:20,23).

Lima puluh hari kemudian, orang-orang Yahudi yang sama, kembali ke Yerusalem untuk merayakan Hari Raya Tujuh Minggu (Im 23:17). Orang-orang Yahudi Helenistik menyebut Hari Raya Tujuh Minggu dengan bahasa Yunani “Pentakosta”, yang artinya lima puluh, yaitu tujuh minggu sejak Hari Raya Paskah. Bagi orang Yahudi, Hari Raya Pentakosta dirayakan untuk memperingati panen raya. Selain itu, orang Yahudi juga mengaitkan Hari Raya Tujuh Minggu dengan peristiwa turunnya hukum Taurat kepada orang Israel di Gunung Sinai. Orang Israel sering menyebut Hari Raya Pentakosta sebagai “shimchath torah” atau Sukacita Taurat. Jika ribuan tahun sebelumnya Tuhan menurunkan Taurat kepada orang Israel, pada hari itu Tuhan menurunkan berkat sorgawi lain kepada seluruh manusia yaitu pencurahan Roh Kudus kepada seluruh umat manusia.

Ketika pencurahan Roh Kudus pertama kali terjadi kepada 120 murid-murid Tuhan Yesus di loteng atas di Yerusalem, terjadi peristiwa yang menggemparkan kota Yerusalem. Dimulai dengan bunyi seperti tiupan angin keras yang membuat orang-orang Yerusalem berkerumun, mungkin ingin mengetahui asal dari bunyi tersebut (Kis 2:6).

Kemudian muncul lidah-lidah seperti nyala api hinggap pada seluruh murid-murid dan mereka mulai berkata-kata mengenai perbuatan-perbuatan besar yang dilakukan Allah (Kis 2:11) dalam bahasa-bahasa yang dapat dimengerti oleh orang-orang Yahudi dari segala bangsa yang sedang berkumpul di Yerusalem (Kis 2:6-11). Karena murid-murid berasal dari daerah Galilea yang merupakan daerah pedesaan dibandingkan dengan kota Yerusalem, banyak dari orang banyak yang tidak percaya dan menganggap para murid itu sedang mabuk. Pada saat itulah Petrus, nelayan sederhana dari daerah Galilea kemudian tampil dan mulai mengajar dalam kuasa Roh Kudus kepada orang banyak pada saat itu.

“Hai kamu orang Yahudi dan kamu semua yang tinggal di Yerusalem, ketahuilah dan camkanlah perkataanku ini. Orang-orang ini tidak mabuk seperti yang kamu sangka, karena hari baru pukul sembilan, tetapi itulah yang difirmankan Allah dengan perantaraan nabi Yoel: Akan terjadi pada hari-hari terakhir--demikianlah firman Allah--bahwa Aku akan mencurahkan Roh-Ku ke atas semua manusia; maka anak-anakmu laki-laki dan perempuan akan bernubuat, dan teruna-terunamu akan mendapat penglihatan-penglihatan, dan orang-orangmu yang tua akan mendapat mimpi. Juga ke atas hamba-hamba-Ku laki-laki dan perempuan akan Kucurahkan Roh-Ku pada hari-hari itu dan mereka akan bernubuat.” (Kis 2:16-18)

Petrus memulai pengajarannya dengan mengutip dari kitab Nabi Yoel (Yoel 2:28-31). Yoel menubuatkan bahwa akan ada satu saat sebelum kedatangan Tuhan di mana Tuhan akan mencurahkan Roh-Nya kepada seluruh manusia. Di dalam kitab-kitab Perjanjian Lama, ada banyak catatan dari pekerjaan Roh Kudus, namun tidak kepada seluruh manusia, hanya kepada orang-orang tertentu saja, untuk tujuan pekerjaan tertentu saja, dan waktu tertentu saja.

1. Yusuf dipenuhi dengan Roh Allah sehingga dapat mengartikan mimpi Firaun (Kej 41:38),
2. Bezaleel dipenuhi dengan Roh Allah untuk membuat perabotan kemah suci (Kel 31:3).
3. Yosua dipenuhi dengan Roh Allah untuk mendampingi Musa (Bil 27:18),
4. Otniel, Gideon, Yefta, Simson dipenuhi dengan Roh Allah agar dapat bertugas sebagai hakim-hakim (Hak 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:5).
5. Saul dipenuhi dengan Roh Allah agar dapat bertugas sebagai raja (1 Sam 10:9-10), walaupun akhirnya Roh Allah undur dari Saul ketika Saul melanggar perintah Allah (1 Sam 18:12),
6. Daud dipenuhi dengan Roh Allah sehingga dapat melakukan tugasnya sebagai pahlawan, pemazmur dan raja (1 Sam 16:13)

Pada awalnya orang-orang Yahudi yang menyaksikan peristiwa Pentakosta tidak akan menerima bagaimana orang-orang biasa yang bukan dari kalangan imam atau nabi, bisa mengalami kepenuhan Roh Allah seperti para tokoh di Perjanjian Lama. Bukankah para murid tersebut hanyalah orang-orang sederhana dan tidak terpelajar, bukan ahli kitab maupun pemuka agama. Dalam nubuatnya, Yoel melihat saat dimana ada Perjanjian yang baru antara Tuhan dengan manusia ketika Roh Allah dicurahkan atas semua manusia, baik anak-anak, teruna maupun orang tua, atas laki-laki maupun perempuan.

Pentakosta menjadi sebuah tonggak sejarah dimulainya suatu era baru, yaitu era dimana Tuhan bekerja melalui semua orang yang percaya kepada-Nya. Karena Pentakosta lah maka gereja didirikan. Sebelum kenaikan-Nya ke sorga, Tuhan Yesus memberikan pesan kepada murid-murid-Nya “Tetapi kamu akan menerima kuasa, kalau Roh Kudus turun ke atas kamu, dan kamu akan menjadi saksi-Ku di Yerusalem dan di seluruh Yudea dan Samaria dan sampai ke ujung bumi.” (Kis 1:8). Tujuan Roh Kudus dicurahkan adalah agar semua murid-Nya, yaitu orang yang percaya kepada-Nya memiliki kuasa untuk memberitakan injil keselamatan. Inilah era yang sedang kita jalani.

Jika kita memperhatikan nubuat Yoel maka kita akan melihat bahwa puncak dari pencurahan Roh Kudus ini adalah hari kedatangan Tuhan (Yoel 2:31; Yoel 2:1). Hal inilah yang juga menjadi konteks pengajaran Petrus: “Akan terjadi pada hari-hari terakhir” (Kis 2:17).

Ketika Yesus menjanjikan pencurahan Roh Kudus, konteksnya pun mengenai kedatangan-Nya yang kedua kali (Kis 1:6-7). Ketika Yesus naik ke Sorga para malaikat yang muncul pun mengingatkan murid-murid bahwa Yesus akan datang kembali (Kis 1:11).

Pentakosta adalah masa yang dimulai dengan kenaikan Yesus ke sorga dan diakhiri dengan kedatangan-Nya yang kedua kali. Ketika Pentakosta pertama kali terjadi, 3000 orang bertobat dan menjadi percaya, itulah “panen raya” jiwa-jiwa yang pertama. Tentunya puncak dari Pentakosta akan kembali terjadi panen raya jiwa-jiwa yang jauh lebih besar lagi, demikian besar dan dahsyatnya sehingga orang Israel yang sekarang menjadi tegar dan tidak percaya akan bertobat dan menerima Yesus sebagai Tuhan, Mesias dan Juruselamat mereka (Yoel 2:27,32).

Kebenaran ini sangatlah penting bagi kita. Sebagai orang percaya, kitalah yang mengalami pencurahan Roh Kudus ini. Tuhan tidak hanya memberikan kuasa kepada orang-orang tertentu saja, tetapi kepada semua orang yang percaya. Jadi tidak ada orang percaya yang bisa berkata bahwa bagi mereka cukup sekedar rajin datang ke gereja untuk beribadah, tanpa mau terlibat dalam pelayanan.

Dalam Perjanjian yang baru, setiap orang percaya dapat menerima seluruh kepenuhan Roh Kudus dan dapat dipakai Tuhan secara spesial dan dengan cara yang ajaib. Pekerjaan Tuhan tidak terbatas hanya kepada para “hamba Tuhan” saja, tetapi untuk seluruh jemaat. Memang ada beberapa jawatan khusus (Ef 4:11) namun fungsinya adalah untuk memperlengkapi orang-orang kudus untuk dapat melayani Tuhan (Ef 4:12). Jadi sebenarnya gereja adalah tempat di mana jemaat dilatih hingga akhirnya dapat melayani di tempat mereka masing-masing.

Pentakosta adalah suatu era yang luar biasa. Kasih karunia dan kuasa Tuhan tercurah untuk dunia ini. Namun ingatlah era ini tidaklah untuk selama-lamanya. Suatu saat Tuhan akan datang kembali. Kita orang percaya memiliki pengharapan bahwa kita akan bertemu dengan Tuhan dan tinggal bersama dengan dia untuk selama-lamanya. Sementara kita menantikan hal tersebut, jika kita masih ada di dunia ini, kita diberikan kuasa untuk melayani Tuhan, menjadi saksi melalui perjalanan kehidupan kita bersama Tuhan sehingga banyak orang dapat diselamatkan. Ingatlah akan keluarga, saudara dan teman-teman kita yang membutuhkan keselamatan yang kekal dari Tuhan. Kita bisa melakukannya bukan dengan kekuatan kita sendiri tetapi dengan kuasa dari Sorga. Amin. (PT)

Era Pentakosta

english translation

There are seven Jewish festivals according to Judaism. Few of them have to be celebrated in Jerusalem, these are Passover, Seven Weeks festival (Shavout) and Feast of Tabernacles. Near the end period of Jesus' ministry on the earth, he went down to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover with other Jews. The Jews celebrate the Passover to commemorate God's redemption over the Israelites from the slavery in Egypt symbolised by the blood of lamb on their doorpost (Exodus 12). Jesus was also then became the lamb of Passover (1 Cor 5:7) whose blood was shed to redeem all humans from the slavery of sin through his sacrifice on the cross.

There were many Jews witnessed Jesus' death on the cross when they gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Most of them even joined the crowd shouted "Crucify Him!" (John 19:15, Acts 2:23). Three days later on the Sunday when the Jews was about to bring their First Fruits offering (Lev 23:10-11), Jesus rose from the death. Jesus became the first who rose from the death amongst the believers (1 Cor 15:20, 23). Fifty days later the same Jews returned to Jerusalem to celebrate the Seven Weeks festival (Lev 23:17). The Hellenist Jews called the Seven Weeks Festival in their language "Pentecost", which means fifty or specifically referring to seven weeks since Passover. The Jews celebrated Pentecost as a celebration of great harvest and at the same time also to remember the day when the Torah were presented to the Israelites at the Mount Sinai. Israelites often call Pentecost as "shimchath torah" or Joy of Torah. While thousand years earlier God introduced Torah to the Israelites, on the same day that time, God released the other spiritual blessing to the human race, which is the outpouring of Holy Spirit to all human.

When the outpouring of Holy Spirit happened at the first time to 120 Jesus' disciples at the upper room in Jerusalem, the entire people in Jerusalem were bewildered. They heard a sound like the blowing of a violent wind and made them come together to find out the source of this sound (Acts 2:6).

They saw what seemed to be the tongues of fire rest upon the disciples and they began declaring the wonders of God (Acts 2:11) in the original language of the Jews and the converts to the Judaism (Acts 2:6-11). Because the disciples were from Galilea, which is a smaller town compared to Jerusalem, the crowd was perplexed of what they saw and heard, some even made fun of them and said they had too much wine. Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and started teaching with the power of Holy Spirit to the crowds. “These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy” (Acts 2:15-18)

Peter started his teaching by quoting the scroll of Prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-31). Joel prophesied before God’s coming there will be a period when He will pour to his Spirit to all humankind. The Old Testaments recorded the work of Holy Spirit, but not too all humankind, only to selective people for specific purpose and certain time,

1. Joseph was filled by the Spirit of God that he interpreted Pharaoh’s dream (Gen 41:38)
2. Bezalel was filled by the Spirit of God to make artistic design of the holy temple (Ex 31:3)
3. Joshua was filled by the Spirit of God to accompany Moses (Num 21:18)
4. Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson was filled by the Spirit of God to act as judges (Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:5)
5. Saul was filled by the Spirit of God to minister as a king (1 Sam 10:9-10), even though later God departed from Saul when he disobeyed God’s commandments (1 Sam 18:12),
6. David was filled by the Spirit of God that he could minister his duties as a hero, psalmist and a king (1 Sam 16:13)

In the beginning, the Jews who witnessed the Pentecost could not comprehend the average people who were not from the priesthood and prophetically gifted could also be filled by the Spirit of God like the Old Testaments people. The disciples were average, uneducated, not expert in teaching the scribes or even religiously active. In his prophesy, Prophet Joel saw there will be a new covenant between God and the human when the Spirit of God is poured upon all humankind, children, young & old men, male of female.

Pentecost has bookmarked the history as a beginning of a new season, when God is working through all of those who believe in Him. Also through Pentecost, the first church was established. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he left the last message to his disciples “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8). The reason of the outpouring of Holy Spirit so all believers, which are those who believe in Him also possess the power to spread the gospel of salvation, this is the season we are in.

If we paid close attention to the prophesy made by Prophet Joel we would also notice the outpouring of the Holy Spirit leads to the day of the Lord's coming (Joel 2:31, Joel 2:1). This was also addressed in Peter's preaching, “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.” (Acts 2:17). Even Jesus promised the outpouring of Holy Spirit leading to His second coming (Acts 1:6-7). When Jesus ascended to heaven, even the angels warned the disciples of Jesus' coming (Acts 1:11). Pentecost season started when Jesus ascended to heaven and ended when he returned to earth for the second time. When the first Pentecost took place, 3000 people repented and became believers, which referred as the first “great harvest” of souls. The culmination of Pentecost will result in greater harvest of souls. Resulting to the unbelieving Jews will repent and acknowledge Jesus as their Lord, Messiah and their Saviour (Joel 2:27,32).

This truth is crucial to all of us. Especially as a believer, we will experience this outpouring of Holy Spirit. God does not grant the power only to specific people, but to those who believe. Therefore, there will be no believers who feel satisfied by just attending the Sunday services without being involved in the ministry.

In the New Testaments, all believers can receive the wholeness of the Holy Spirit and used by God in his special and miraculous way. God does not only work through “ministers”, but also through every believer. There are few specific ministries (Eph 4:11) but the purpose to equip God’s holy people in their ministries (Eph 4:12). Therefore, church is just a place where all believers are trained so all become able to minister/ serve in their own place.

Pentecost is a great season. God’s grace and power is available for this world. However, remember this season will not last forever. One day God will return to the earth. As a believer, we have a hope to meet and live with God forever. In the meantime, we are waiting for this to happen while on this earth, we are given the power to serve Him. We are called to be His witnesses through our life journey with God so many people may believe in Him. Remember your family, relatives or friends who need this eternal salvation from God. We can be the witness not by our own strength but by the power from the higher place. Amen.

Totally Available Radically Obedient

Rudy Nurtanaya

Ada pepatah tak kenal maka tak sayang. You might know his name or you might have seen him but let us know him even better now.

Apart from Next Generation pastor, a passionate musician and a loving husband and father, Rudy Nurtanaya or people usually call him brother Rudy has been faithfully serving the Lord and has recently dedicated to serve full time for the body of Christ here at BIC.

Although Ps. Rudy was raised in Christian family and went to Sunday School, he just experienced God personally when he was in grade 5. After his water baptism, he desired to be able to speaking in tongue. He asked his pastor to pray for him and within a couple seconds he started to speak in tongue.

“Holy Spirit was for everyone who were diligently seeking Him and loved Him. I was sobbing as my heart (is filled with) full of joy, and I felt His love. It’s really hard to explain that feeling. I was overwhelmed with God’s love.”

That was a pivotal point in Ps. Rudy’s life and since then he started to share about Jesus to everyone at his school. As in Act 1:8, the same power drives you to share about His love to everyone and did not feel ashamed to share about Him to everyone.

As the church grew in maturity, Ps. Rudy saw the movement in BIC demographic with more families and children. There are challenges for children in Sunday School who grew up in Melbourne to move to Main Service. Language, cultural and age gaps were some of the concerns for those teenagers.

However by the grace of God, initiated by Ps.Djohan and Ps. Betty Handojo, 180° Teens English Service was born in 2008.

With a motto of “Making Change”, 180° Teens wants to raise up and equip a God fearing people. God is not waiting for people to reach a certain age before using them, however He is seeking those who are willingly give their lives for His glory.

A decade later, Ps. Rudy's ministry has been widen to Next Generation which include Kids Army For Jesus (2-12 years old), 180° youth (grade 7-12) and Next Generation Service (young adults).

“Our heart in 180° Teens is to see a generation SAVED, TRANSFORMED, and then EMPOWERED to fulfil their mandate from God; He is not waiting for people to reach a certain age before using them, however He is seeking those who are willingly wanting to give their lives for His glory.” said Ps Rudy.

Everybody is called differently. When Ps. Rudy was in Bible College, one of his assignment was to create a timeline and recognised God's moment in his life. Looking back to his life journey and he remembered every moment and realised about God's calling in his life.





It was reaffirm at April 2018, when Ps Brian Pickering was teaching at BIC about prayer and he had shared two points. “Totally available and radical obedient” These words resonates in Ps. Rudy’s heart and he only can say “Yes Lord, here I am send me”. Despite the challenges that all of us may face, Ps Rudy reminds us that those challenges present in our lives are opportunities to go to the next level of Faith.

We are called not to be just a listener but also a doer of His Words. Our lives should be like a good tree, which continues produce the fruits and become blessing for people. Our lives are not for our own enjoyment but to please Him. Life is an opportunity to serve God who has given us everything. Let’s start to serve Him with your gifts! You are called to serve Him in the right time, the right place, and in this season.

Living in Your Sanctuary

Bernard Larso and Sandra Loie

You may know this couple well or that you may have seen them together on BIC stage leading worship, or just casually spot them at every corner of BIC really. Bernard Larso and Sandra Loie are two of BIC workers in the Worship and Music ministry. Bernard is serving as BIC's music director and Sandra is serving as a worship leader as occasionally does vocal training for singers and choir. While we may know their worship ministry, we may not know them well and the journeys they had to venture on. This is an interview for us to know more and well about them.

Their journey to Melbourne is one that did not start with a smooth sailing process but faith-filled. Started with the faith planted in them by their mentor, an intercessor who shared God's vision with them in the area of Worship.

"God has given us the vision to come to Australia to restore the praise and worship here and in many nations," said Sandra.

Therefore with that faith and vision that they had, they decided to leave everything behind in Indonesia to obey God's calling for them. Arriving in Melbourne, in an unknown land, they had to rely on God to guide them through in their everyday lives and needs.

Sandra had then realized that prior coming to Australia, she and her husband was serving God out of their abundance, and when they reside in Melbourne they served the Lord in their lacking. Which made her ponder, "Would we continue to serve God despite of our lacking?".

“Through all of the struggles that we had to go through, God showed us that in Australia we stepped into a new dimension of knowing the Lord deeper and revelation that God is our Jehovah Jireh, El-Shaddai, God of (doing the) impossibilities,” said Sandra.

Sandra shared her struggle when she first came to Australia, whenever she was in doubt, feeling like she had better off being back home at her comfort zone, Bernard as her husband and leader of their home always encouraged her in her weakest point and vice versa. They had both learned through the hard process that they need to trust God and wait upon Him for His Words to come alive in their lives.

“Learn to wait upon the Lord - while we are waiting there will be revelations about God and His visions. If we cannot learn to wait on the Lord we will get Ishmael, that is when we try to “help” the Lord when we things do not seem to move in our lives. Trying to do the things only God can do will not lead us to God’s best result,” said Bernard.



As a couple they had witnessed the grace and favor that God granted to their lives through the visa process, their careers, and their struggles to come to pass by His grace.

Through journeying this struggle and journey of faith with God, God gave Sandra the wisdom to write songs which she had never done before. One of her songs, Living in Your Sanctuary, talks about living to honor God and when we have nothing left, what else is there to chase? To chase something that seems to be impossible--God reminds her that her life is to honor God.

Singing the song and meditating on God's word in front of her luggage- God reminded her of all the things she went through and to look at where she is now she knew that it is truly His grace and strong hands that carried her through.

"Living in Your Sanctuary this is where I'm meant to be" talks about our habitat being in God's presence, and never want to flee from Him. When we are away from Him, we are like a fish on shore gasping for breath as dry land isn't the place fishes reside in. As we said before that we have a vision that God puts in our heart in praise and worship, we feel it all the more we need to be near in His presence, dwell in His sanctuary," said Sandra.

Bernard also reminds the church to never shut down the engine. The engine that runs from Monday through-out Saturday needs to be charged and fueled everyday before, especially workers to come to serve God with empty (motor) on Sunday.

"Especially those serving on the stage, we need that personal worship with God from Monday-Saturday, otherwise on Sunday we are only pumping out from an engine that is not filled up to the brim," said Bernard.

He also added that we need to learn to agree with the Word of God. Bernard through his experience and encounter with the Lord had learn how to be brave enough not to see things and be courageous enough to do it as God tells us to do even though we may not see it.

Both Bernard and Sandra had shared their experience in their family of God too, COOL. They see and experience the importance of being planted in a community such as COOL that can and will be there in the times of needs or plenty.

"Be planted in a COOL as we can encourage and strengthen one another. We are very grateful that the Lord has given us brothers and sisters who were there to strengthen and support us from the time we first attended BIC church."

One body in Christ

Tiberias

Adi Hendrawan

I firstly joined COOL (at that time we still called it as “FA” – Family Altar) in 2005 at Southbank.

In 2010, I moved to Indonesia with my fiancée, got married and stayed for two years before we decided to return to Australia with our then 15-months old first daughter. In Indonesia we also went to FA because we know it is important to have a community of believers sharing God’s words and fellowshiping with one another.

Back in Melbourne, having changes in our demographics and lifestyle (from young adults to family, and from living in the City to suburb area), we started coming to FA Point Cook family. After two years the leaders began to see a need for a second family COOL in Point Cook (at that time with kids 5 years old and younger), and we have the privilege to be the earliest part of this COOL which is now called as COOL Tiberias Point Cook.

For me personally, COOL is a place where I can know and learn more about God with other fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Through sharing the word of God and hearing testimonies from other COOL members I have learnt more of God’s characters, His promises, and His wills in order to my life be aligned with God’s plans.

Moreover, as one big family in Christ we can share our life experiences too with other members, like challenges in family’s life eg. children’s characters and behavior, workplace issues, marriage, and more. We are so blessed knowing that we are not alone, as others may have experienced similar things too. We offer support, encourage, and pray for one another.





To have COOL as my “second family” also means that it is a place where I can serve God and people as one body of Christ (Joshua 24:15). Each COOL member has different character and spiritual maturity. As iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17), I am often taught to get intimate and depend on Holy Spirit. Through this process I believe God’s purpose for me is to be transformed more to be like Christ.

In an era where individualism is getting more apparent, my desires and prayers for our COOL are that we can grow spiritually as well as winning souls for Christ TOGETHER. Jesus will come for the second time soon, let us “set our mind on things above, not on earthly things” (Colossians 3:2).

Planted in His heart

Judah

Hendy Teo

Do you recognise this busy face during Winter Camp? You might have seen and heard him calling the campers to be on time to eat and to sessions. This is Hendy, the vice-leader for young adults' sessions at our camp. However, if you asked him three years ago, he wouldn't imagine that he would be one of the Next Generation leaders, COOL leaders, or even as the vice-leader for a big event like Winter Camp. Because four years ago, he wasn't a Christian yet.

Born in a non-Christian family, the only time he knew about Jesus was because he went to a Christian school in Jakarta, Indonesia. He knew basic knowledge about Christianity but didn't truly understand.

When he first arrived in Melbourne, one of his university friends invited him to his COOL. He didn't know why, but he just tagged along. However, on his first COOL experience, he directly felt something is different about this meeting, especially during the praise and worship session when people started to speak in tongue. The COOL members were also very warm and welcoming, which encouraged him to come to the following week.

It was until one Sunday when he had a personal encounter with Jesus during an altar call. His life was radically changed after that day. He then joined Winter Camp 2014 where he started to have a commitment to be serious with God. It was not an easy journey, but by grace, he made it here.

Fast forward to 2018, Hendy has transitioned from member to leader and was trusted to be one of Judah's shepherds through a year of preparation. He emphasised the importance of being planted in COOL for his spiritual growth.



The leaders were also his best mentors in shaping his characters. Since his spiritual life was started from zero, he was taught how to worship and pray. His COOL friends also became his support buddies whom they share the habit to remind each other about prayer meetings, COOL, and church events. They were also growing together through discussion.

He embraces the culture in 180/Next Gen COOL where almost everyone knows each other. The close-knit community is so precious, so new people can easily feel belong and adapt quickly. The culture of free worship unites the members despite coming from different cultural backgrounds.

He is genuinely grateful that one university friend who persistently invited him to COOL, which was the starting point of his journey of faith. Now, his life has changed by 180 degrees.

The beauty of God's family

Moriah Cool

Andy Maslan and Yohana Adrian

This is COOL Moriah, a COOL group that is mostly (if not all) comprised of university students. Most of the members in this COOL have a lot of things in common: moving to a new country to study, away from their family, which can be daunting and lonely at first. But this young couple, Andy Maslan and Novi Mayasari, have shared the struggle of being miles away from home once, and so now they have the passion to take care after these young adults who are unfamiliar with this new place they live in.

Andy and Novi was called to become a leader of COOL Moriah in 2016, a COOL that is specifically located in Monash University, Clayton. The group would gather for a fellowship in a member's door room every Friday night back then, but as time goes by, this group is blessed with many members who were just looking for a place they can feel like their at home.

"COOL is a spiritual family that God has called us to be in. It is where we do life together. It is a God given family while we are away from our earthly family. This is where we share our weaknesses so that others can support us. It is also where we share our triumphs where others will be encouraged. It is the place where we grow as Christian, to become mature in Christ." Andy said.

Andy also mentioned that the challenge in COOL is to build and maintain the unity, ensuring that no one is left out of the group. Because a COOL is like a family, he said that it is important that every member can learn to reach to others, even if it requires them to step out of their comfort zone. Becoming a shepherd has its joys and sorrows.



He said that it's exciting to be able to see children of God walking in God's calling and living their unique destinies that God has given them.

It's joyful to see that their lives are spent for God and His Kingdom. But there's always the sorrow when he has to see some members walk away from God.

"It breaks our hearts to see their lives wasted living in conformance to the world. This is what brings us to our knees in prayer. Being able to see our prayers answered gives so much joy." But this is where he said the importance of a shepherd.

A shepherd needs to be able to give them Godly vision, to show them that there is more in their Christianity walk, breaking the mindset of "I've seen this before, there is nothing new". Inspiring them to live their lives to the fullest to Christ, and not resorting to mediocracy. Godly vision and zeal for His Kingdom go hand in hand.

"Our lives as shepherd is an open epistle. They can see our actions, words, faith and hopefully be inspired to do the same and even greater." he said.

more from Yohana Adrian..

Maybe you have seen her as a singer during Sunday Service, or perhaps even know her adventurous tale of how she got to Melbourne.

Yohana (people called her Yoan) came to Melbourne in February 2017. She came here because she wanted to pursue her dream of becoming a patisserie chef, and thus she came here to study patisserie. You may ask, “her story is not that adventurous at all! I also come to Melbourne to study.” Well, here’s the interesting part: her decision to come here meant that she had to be away from her husband, who is in Seoul, for two years.

That commitment to come to Melbourne meant a lot of adjustment for her, because she had to leave her life in South Korea. But Yoan knew one thing for sure, that when she came to this city she needed to find a community.

“Wherever I was, be it in Jakarta or Seoul, I’ve always had a community. When I came here, the first thing I did was to come to this church and joined a COOL.”

She joined COOL Moriah because in the first few months she lived in Melbourne, she used to live in a suburb near Clayton, and so the nearest COOL was Moriah. After a few months of being in the group, she felt that her spirituality was growing.

“We were able to share to one another, and support one another. I was taught by God to have a passion towards younger people.” She said.

Yoan explained that before this she couldn’t stand people with immature attitude. Especially when she came to COOL Moriah, where most of the members were 5 to 6 years younger than her, which for her was a bit hard for her to work with. However, after time, she felt that she had the desire to be like a “Big Sister” for her members, where she looked and took care after them.

When asked about the important of a COOL, she reiterated once again that life in Melbourne could feel very lonely if you have no community and no one to share your life - whether it is your struggle, or joys - with.

“Joining a COOL is more than just hanging out and going out with your friends, a COOL is a place where we can be who we are 100%, so it is important that we can learn to support and accept one another.”

WINTER CAMP 2018

*cause the fire
won't mean a
thing
if it ends right
here with me*

On Fire!

Despite the breeze in the morning, approximately 200 members of BIC church made their way to PGL Campaspe Downs for On Fire Winter Camp.

This year's Winter Camp was featuring speakers who share the passion of the truth as well as for the youth. Our speakers were such as Ps. Betty Handojo, Ps. Daniel Projogo, Ps. Rudy Nurtanaya, Ps. Jakoep Ezra, Harmony Ezra, Ps. Dave Edgar and Ps. Shane Cooks speaking in the kids camp. This year's camp was more than just another camp, we witnessed lives transformed as God spoke to every individuals according to their needs.

During the camp there was faith restored, hope restored and visions from God reaffirmed.





Most importantly, God's presence was so tangible that many encountered Him, through the manifestation of deliverance as well as the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

This camp has once reminded all of us the need to go back to our First Love, to never lose that flame in our hearts when we first heard and fell in love with Jesus Christ. Staying in love with Jesus is equally important as to relay the flame or the torch burning in our hearts to those who are still lost. Because the fire will not mean a thing when it ends with us. Ps. Dave reminds us to never stop sowing and planting the seeds for the people around us despite us not seeing any result,

Holy Spirit will be our Advocate and help all of us to understand. Having our lives transformed leads to a renewal of our thoughts and lives everyday. Being sanctified is a daily progress, and Harmony Ezra reminds us that we must pray for our souls to be rooted in the truth, able to say yes to the truth daily.

Winter Camp this year reminds us grace and mercy of God that He gives to everyone. BIC members left PGL Campaspe Downs not only with a transformed heart, but also flame burning inside our hearts that we no longer can contain for ourselves but to share it with the lost ones.

See you in Winter Camp 2019!

There is something extra special from BIC Winter Camp this year, it is the first time families, young adults, and kids joined in one camp! We didn't intend to go at first though. Parents must've known bringing children to a church retreat has a "special challenge". They can't even sit still during regular Sunday service! However, praise the Lord we changed our mind, we knew God must've prepared something special for us, and special it truly was!

Ps. Jakoeb Ezra and Betty Handojo as the speakers in the family sessions have blessed us with God's words, and we gained many practical truth to be applied in family life that glorifies God's name. One that is the most revealing to me is particularly the last session we had on Saturday morning. Ps. Jakoeb shared with us his amazing life stories, involved many heartbreaks over acute illnesses in the life of his loved ones. What amazed me was, his testimony is different than others I often heard. God has brought major breakthroughs for his wife and children, but not yet to the point of total healing. The sickness and pain are still part of their life.

I see nowadays "Christianity" is more presented as a mean to have a comfortable life while living in this world. The COST in following Jesus (Matt 16:24), endurance in TRIALS (James 1:2), and how we have to live in OBEDIENCE under God's authority (1 Pet 1:16) are not that "popular". God's promises in the Bible are often used only to claim blessings on this earth. What happened with the "set on our mind on eternal things" point-of-view?

I have JOY when His Spirit started to revealing this truth to me. But I also secretly experienced other opposite emotion, FEAR. I'm afraid of life trials, including sickness and death (of loved ones).

Ps. Jakoeb's testimonies came in the right time. God sees the unseen, including the fears I kept only to my own self. And He wants me to SURRENDER them to His hands. "There is no fear in perfect love" - 1 John 4:18.

That secret fear has proven that what I know with my head does not necessarily go together with what I believe in my heart. After that session I confessed my fears to my spiritual mentors, and I received joy and relief. I believe His Spirit will continue to reveal His truth personally to me, as I let His perfect love takes away my fears bit by bit.

*I am simply thankful He has used this moment from Winter Camp to touch my heart and direct my life to a deeper and intimate walk with Him!
"Trust God's heart when you cannot trace His hands"*

Blessed Beyond Measure

Valerie Setiono

My first winter camp experience: I am blessed beyond measure!

Grateful for this wonderful team called OVERFLOW where each members are overflowing with His abundant love and we just had a lot of fun in each other company! And I'm also very grateful for everyone that make these 3 days of camp unforgettable for me, I know that it would not be the same without each and everyone of you.

To be able to serve God and to worship Him together with these amazing people of Christ was truly a privilege. It was such a great experience to know new people, to know their stories, and to be able to pray for each other.

Most importantly, I want to thank my daddy Jesus for everything. I now know the reason why it seems like everything is not working according to what I want, and it's because that's not what God wants for me. Turns out my definition of good and his definition of good is different, and his good is way better and more beautiful than mine.

So I learned to align my plans with His plans, to match my desire with His. And I believe everything that I do will be glory to His name alone. I am truly thankful for His overwhelming presence during the winter camp. I saw people's heart being changed, I saw life that is surrendered to God, and I feel so blessed to be able to taste and see that He is so so good in everyone's life.

Thank you God for this fire in my heart that can never be quenched. I pray that all of us won't keep this fire by ourselves, because really, it's too much for us to contain it alone! So I surrender my life, Lord, use me, I'm ready to spread this fire until you'll see this world return and your first love love you first.



Testimonies

Hard Mysteries

05 AUG

As my friend and I went for a walk, we talked about our love for the Bible. She surprised me when she said, “Oh, but I don’t like the Old Testament much. All of that hard stuff and vengeance—give me Jesus!”

We might resonate with her words when we read a book like Nahum, perhaps recoiling at a statement such as, “The Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath” (Nahum 1:2). And yet the next verse fills us with hope: “The Lord is slow to anger but great in power” (v. 3).

When we dig more deeply into the subject of God’s anger, we understand that when He exercises it, He’s most often defending His people or His name. Because of His overflowing love, He seeks justice for wrongs committed and the redemption of those who have turned from Him. We see this not only in the Old Testament, as He calls His people back to Himself, but also in the New, when He sends His Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

We may not understand the mysteries of the character of God, but we can trust that He not only exercises justice but is also the source of all love. We need not fear Him, for He is “good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him” (v. 7).

Father God, You are good. You are loving and You are merciful. Help me to understand more fully some of the mysteries of Your redeeming love today.

Read

Nahum 1:1-7

Bible in a Year

Psalms 68-69

Romans 8:1-21

*The Lord is
slow to anger
but great in
power.*

- Nahum 1:3

「God’s justice and mercy intersect at the cross.」

06 AUG

Read

Romans 9:1-5

Bible in a Year

Psalm 70-71

Romans 9:1-15

*Encourage the
disheartened,
help the weak,
be patient with
everyone.*

1 Thessalonians
5:14

The Joy of Giving

It was a dreary week. I had been feeling lethargic and listless, although I couldn't figure out why.

Near the end of the week, I found out that an aunt had kidney failure. I knew I had to visit her—but to be honest, I felt like postponing the visit. Still, I made my way to her place, where we had dinner, chatted, and prayed together. An hour later, I left her home feeling upbeat for the first time in days. Focusing on someone else rather than myself had somehow improved my mood.

Psychologists have found that the act of giving can produce satisfaction, which comes when the giver sees the recipient's gratitude. Some experts even believe that humans are wired to be generous!

Perhaps that's why Paul, when encouraging the church in Thessalonica to build up their faith community, urged them to "help the weak" (1 Thessalonians 5:14). Earlier, he had also cited Jesus's words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). While this was said in the context of giving financially, it applies as well to the giving of time and effort.

When we give, we get an insight into how God feels. We understand why He's so delighted to give us His love, and we share in His joy and the satisfaction of blessing others. I think I'll be visiting my aunt again soon.

Father, You have made me to give to others just as You have given to me. Teach me to give so that I can truly reflect Your character and be more like You today.

「*The giver is the best recipient*」

When the Bottoms Drops Up

07
AUG

During the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, more people were looking for work than there were jobs available. I was one of those job seekers. After nine anxious months, I landed employment as a copywriter. But the company soon fell on bad times and I was jobless again.

Ever been there? It seems like the worst is over when suddenly the bottom drops out on you. The widow at Zarephath could relate (1 Kings 17:12). Due to a famine, she was preparing the last meal for herself and her son when the prophet Elijah requested a bite to eat. She reluctantly agreed and God provided a continuous supply of flour and oil (vv. 10–16).

But then her son fell ill. His health declined until he stopped breathing. The widow cried out, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” (v. 18).

At times, we may want to respond like the widow—wondering if God is punishing us. We forget that bad things can happen in this fallen world.

Elijah took the concern to God, praying earnestly and honestly for the boy, and God raised him up! (vv. 20–22).

When the bottom drops out on us, may we—like Elijah—realize that the faithful One will not desert us! We can rest in God’s purposes as we pray for understanding.

Read

1 Kings 17:15-24

Bible in a Year

Psalms 17:15-24

Romans 9:1-15

*Let us then
approach God’s
throne of grace
with confidence,
so that we may
receive mercy
and find grace
to help us in our
time of need.*

-Hebrews 4:1

“*God is good in both the good times and the bad.*”

08 AUG

Read

Romans 9:1-5

Bible in a Year

Psalms 74-76

Romans 9:16-33

*My heart's desire
and prayer to
God for the Isra-
elites is that they
may be saved.*

-Romans 10:1

Dedicated to Love

As a convert to Jesus Christ, Nabeel Qureshi has written books to help his readers understand the people in the religion he left. His tone is respectful, and Qureshi always displays a heart of love for his people.

Qureshi dedicated one of his books to his sister, who has not yet put her faith in Jesus. The dedication is brief, but powerful. “I am begging God for the day that we can worship him together,” he wrote.

We get a sense of that kind of love as we read Paul’s letter to the church in Rome. “My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief,” he said, “for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them” (Romans 9:2–3 nlt).

Paul loved the Jewish people so much that he would have chosen separation from God if only they would accept Christ.

He understood that by rejecting Jesus, his people were rejecting the one true God. This motivated him to appeal to his readers to share the good news of Jesus with everyone (10:14–15). Today, may we prayerfully dedicate ourselves to the love that aches for those close to us!

Father, we ask You to fill our hearts with Your love for others. We hold _____ up to You and beg for them to see the truth about Your Son Jesus.

“We must love those for whom Christ died as well as those in whom Christ lives.”

A Good Daddy

09 AUG

When our son, Xavier, was younger, business trips often pulled my husband away from home. Though his father called often, there were rough nights when the calls alone didn't comfort Xavier. To help soothe our son when he felt he needed his dad, I'd pull out our photo albums as he prepared for bedtime. I'd point out the images that showed them spending time together and ask, "Do you remember this?"

Memory after memory encouraged our son, who often said, "I have a good daddy."

I understood Xavier's need to be reminded of his father's love when he couldn't see him. Whenever I'm going through tough or lonely times, I too long to know I'm loved, especially by my heavenly Father.

David proclaimed his deep yearning for God as he hid from his enemies in the desert (Psalm 63:1). Remembering his personal encounters with God's limitless power and satisfying love led him to praise (vv. 2–5). Through his most difficult nights, David could still rejoice in his dependable Father's loving care (vv. 6–8).

During our dark times, when we feel as if God's not there for us, we need reminders of who God is and how He's demonstrated His love. Reflecting on our personal experiences with Him, as well as His actions recorded in Scripture, can affirm the countless ways our good Abba Father loves us.

Lord, thanks for demonstrating Your endless love to Your people, in our lives and through the words You preserved in Scripture.

Read

Psalms 63

Bible in a Year

Psalms 77-78

Romans 10

*On my bed I
remember you;
I think of you
through the
watches of the
night.*

-Psalm 63:6

“Remembering God’s works, which reveal His character, reassures us of His love.”

10 AUG

Read

Lamentations
3:49-58

Bible in a Year

Psalm 79-80
Romans 11:
1-18

*I called on
your name,
Lord, from the
depths of the
pit.
-Lamentations
3:55*

A Hopeful Lament

To visit Clifton Heritage National Park in Nassau, Bahamas, is to revisit a tragic era in history. Where the land meets the water, stone steps lead up a cliff. Slaves brought to the Bahamas by ship in the eighteenth century would ascend these steps, often leaving family behind and entering a life of inhumane treatment.

At the top, there is a memorial to those slaves. Cedar trees have been carved into the shapes of women looking out to sea toward the homeland and family members they've lost. Each sculpture is scarred with marks of the slave captain's whip.

These sculptures of women mourning what they've lost remind me of the importance of recognizing the injustices and broken systems in the world, and lamenting them. Lamenting does not mean that we are without hope; rather, it's a way of being honest with God. It should be a familiar posture for Christians; about forty percent of the Psalms are psalms of lament, and in the book of Lamentations, God's people cry out to Him after their city has been destroyed by invaders (3:55).

Lament is a legitimate response to the reality of suffering, and it engages God in the context of pain and trouble. Ultimately, lament is hopeful: when we lament what is not right, we call ourselves and others to be active in seeking change.

And that's why the sculpture garden in Nassau has been named "Genesis"—the place of lament is recognized as the place of new beginnings.

「We can trust God to bring something new out of our seasons of lament」

That Smiling Man

11
AUG

Going to the grocery store isn't something I particularly enjoy. It's just a mundane part of life—something that has to be done.

But there is one part of this task I've unexpectedly come to look forward to: checking out in Fred's lane. Fred, you see, turns checkout into show time. He's amazingly fast, always has a big smile, and even dances (and sometimes sings!) as he acrobatically flips (unbreakable) purchases into a plastic bag. Fred clearly enjoys a job that could be seen as one of the most tedious around. And for just a moment, his cheerful spirit brightens the lives of people in his checkout lane.

The way Fred does his job has won my respect and admiration. His cheerful attitude, desire to serve, and attention to detail all line up well with the apostle Paul's description of how we are to work in Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

When we're in relationship with Jesus, any job we have to do gives us an opportunity to reflect His presence in our lives. No task is too small . . . or too big! Tackling our responsibilities—whatever they may be—with joy, creativity, and excellence gives us an opportunity to influence those around us, no matter our job.

Lord, help me to tackle everything on my plate today with grace, enthusiasm, and joy, knowing that my attitude may affect others in ways I'm not even aware of.

Read

Colossians
3:18-23

Bible in a Year

Psalm 81-83
Romans 11:19-36

Whatever

*you do, work
at it with all
your heart,
as working
for the Lord,
not for human
masters.*

-Colossians
3:23

"The best way to do satisfying work is to do it for the Lord."

Pray for Nation

NOTES

SINGAPORE



Capital: *Singapore*

Population: *5.7 million people*

Religion: *Buddhist*



1. Berdoa agar setiap siasat dan kubu yang dibangun oleh keangkuhan bangsa Singapore untuk menentang akan Allah, dirubuhkan. Dan menawan segala pikiran bangsa ini dan menaklukkannya kepada Kristus.
2. Sebagai agama nomor dua terbesar di bangsa ini, berdoa agar anak-anak Tuhan terus memancarkan kasih dan terang Kristus baik di market place, sekolah, universitas bahkan dipemerintahan, sehingga bilangan orang-orang benar ditambahkan di bangsa ini.
3. Biarlah terjadi kebangkitan rohani di negeri ini, melalui anak-anak muda baik yang di market place maupun di sekolah. Anak-anak muda Singapura bangkit dan dipakai Tuhan untuk mengubahkan negeri ini, menjadi bangsa yang allahnya adalah Tuhan Yesus Kristus.
4. Bersyukur untuk kegerakan doa bersama Gereja-gereja Tuhan yang ada di Singapore untuk terjadinya transformasi di bangsa ini. Tuhan memberkati pertemuan doa bersama yang akan diakakan pada bulan Oktober tahun ini.





DOAKU UNTUK INDONESIA
BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
18 AUGUST 2018 4-6PM

NOTES



NOTES



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

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Woman of Impact Community

Tuesday 10.30 AM, at BIC

EVENTS

Prayer Concert and Drama Musical for Indonesia
Saturday, 18 August, at 4pm at BIC



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Bethany International Church Melbourne