

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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Yerusalem, Los Angeles, Sentul City

“Dengarkanlah, hai saudara-saudara yang kukasihi! Bukankah Allah memilih orang-orang yang dianggap miskin oleh dunia ini untuk menjadi kaya dalam iman dan menjadi ahli waris Kerajaan yang telah dijanjikan-Nya kepada barangsiapa yang mengasihi Dia?” (Yakobus 2:5)

Hati Allah ialah untuk menjangkau seluruh umat manusia di dalam klaster budaya dimana manusia itu hidup. Sama seperti ikan yang tidak bisa hidup di luar dari air, demikian pula manusia memerlukan konteks budaya untuk mendukung kehidupannya, baik secara fisik, identitas korporat maupun ekspresi jiwanya. Firman Tuhan sangat jelas mengatakan bahwa Israel dipilih bukan karena mereka bangsa yang paling besar atau paling hebat, sebaliknya mereka adalah bangsa yang paling tegar tengkuk (**Ulangan 9:6-13**). Inilah yang kita sebut prinsip “*mission in action*”.

Sebetulnya seseorang atau suatu bangsa yang dipilih Tuhan bukanlah suatu pernyataan tentang kehebatan orang atau bangsa tersebut. Hal itu justru merupakan pernyataan misi bahwa orang atau bangsa tersebut dituntut lebih untuk bisa menyampaikan kasih Allah sampai kepada semua klaster Budaya. Bangsa Israel dipilih untuk menjadi penerima hukum-hukum Allah supaya dengan melihat interaksi mereka dengan Allah, semua bangsa di muka bumi akan melihat dan mengenal Allah yang benar.

Firman Tuhan mencatat kegagalan bangsa Israel di dalam melaksanakan misi tersebut. Mereka cenderung lupa akan tugas dan tanggung jawab mereka bahkan melupakan Tuhan yang memberikan panggilan kepada mereka yang disertai dengan berkat-berkat-Nya. Untung Allah tidak pernah melupakan panggilan-Nya. Ia tetap memakai bangsa Isarel karena masih ada ‘orang-orang tersisa’ yang setia kepada Tuhan.

Oleh karena ‘orang-orang tersisa’ yang setia kepada rencana Tuhan seperti Maria dan Yusuf yang dipakai di dalam suatu tugas mulia untuk melahirkan Mesias secara fisik. Rencana penebusan Allah akhirnya digenapi. Tuhan Yesus menyelesaikan rencana penebusan yang digariskan oleh Bapa dengan kematian dan kebangkitan-Nya. Selanjutnya Ia memberikan perintah kepada murid-murid untuk menunggu di Yerusalem sampai mereka dipenuhi dengan janji Bapa, yaitu Roh Kudus yang akan memberikan mereka kuasa dari tempat yang maha tinggi.

1. Loteng Atas Yerusalem

Tempat ini memainkan peranan yang cukup signifikan dalam minggu-minggu terakhir dalam pelayanan Tuhan Yesus di muka bumi ini. Di tempat inilah Tuhan Yesus melakukan perjamuan malam terakhir dan menginstitusikannya. Di tempat ini jugalah Ia membasuh kaki murid-murid-Nya. Di dalam **Markus 14:13; Lukas 22:10** Yesus menyuruh dua orang murid-Nya untuk berjumpa dengan seorang laki-laki yang membawa kendi berisi air dan menyuruh mengikuti orang tersebut.

Kemungkinan besar orang tersebut adalah anggota sekte Eseni, karena pada zaman itu tidak ada laki-laki membawa kendi berisi air di muka umum, kecuali kaum Eseni karena mereka hampir semuanya tidak menikah. Secara tradisi tempat ini dimiliki oleh kaum Eseni. Kaum Eseni mendedikasikan diri mereka untuk suatu pengharapan apokaliptik, yaitu menantikan kedatangan Mesias. Kemungkinan besar Yohanes Pembaptis berasal dari kelompok mereka.

Jadi dari loteng atas kita dapat melihat urutan-urutan peristiwa seperti mengharapkan kedatangan Sang Mesias, unity diantara murid-murid Tuhan Yesus, dan dengan latar belakang ini mereka memilih tempat itu sebagai wahana untuk menantikan pencurahan janji Bapa.

Secara sosiologis Yerusalem pada abad pertama adalah salah satu dari kota-kota besar di dalam kekaisaran Romawi. Diperkirakan pada waktu itu Yerusalem memiliki penduduk lebih dari 100.000 jiwa. Mengapa Allah dalam kedaulatannya memilih Yerusalem dan Loteng Atas sebagai tempat pencurahan Roh kudus pertama kali yang menandakan dimulainya era baru dalam Perjanjian Baru? Jawabannya adalah selain **kedaulatan Tuhan, faktor-faktor sosiologis** memainkan peranannya seperti **berkumpulnya bangsa-bangsa** dan **orang-orang Yahudi perantauan** pada hari Raya Paskah dan Pentakosta. Tersedianya murid-murid awal Tuhan Yesus yang akan menjadi fasilitator, **berkumpulnya orang-orang** banyak dimana mereka akan menjalankan kehidupan korporat sebagai gereja mula-mula selama kurang lebih dua tahun (**Kisah Para Rasul 2-8**).

Tidak ada sesuatu yang secara rohani “istimewa” tentang loteng atas tersebut setelah pencurahan Roh Kudus pertama kali. Pencurahan Roh Kudus terjadi di tempat-tempat lain, dan setelah terjadi penganiayaan terhadap gereja mula-mula jemaat di Yerusalem tersebar kecuali para Rasul, jadi mengapakah Allah memilih Yerusalem dan Loteng Atas sebagai tempat pertama pencurahan Roh Kudus ke atas segala makhluk? Jawabannya dapat dilihat dari berbagai faktor, salah satunya adalah kedekatan Raja Daud yang kuburnya berada di dekat loteng atas. Tradisi Yahudi mengatakan bahwa Raja Daud lahir dan meninggal pada hari pentakosta, juga apa yang terjadi di dalam kehidupan Tuhan Yesus terutama di dalam minggu terakhir-Nya di muka bumi selain juga faktor sosiologis yang membuat logistik lahirnya gereja mula-mula dapat diakomodasi di Yerusalem.

2. Azusa Street, Los Angeles California

Awal abad ke-20 adalah masa yang amat menarik di dalam sejarah dunia. Pada periode itulah Amerika Serikat menjadi negara yang membentang diantara dua samudera yaitu Samudera Atlantik dengan kota-kota di pantai timur Amerika dan California di pantai barat. Gold Rush yang dimulai tahun 1849 membuat orang-orang meninggalkan pantai timur dan berbondong-bondong menuju California dan pada saat yang sama imigrasi besar-besaran ke Amerika mulai mencapai puncaknya bukan hanya dari negara-negara Eropa tetapi juga Amerika latin dan Asia. Los Angeles pada tahun 1906 adalah “Melting Pot” dari hampir semua bangsa yang ada di dunia. Sejarah mencatat bahwa kebangunan rohani Azusa Street yang dipimpin oleh William Seymour mayoritas diikuti oleh orang-orang non kulit putih, karena William Seymour adalah seorang berkulit hitam secara alami pengikut terbesar pengikut William Seymour adalah African – American. Golongan kedua adalah kaum berbahasa Spanyol Hispanik dan diikuti oleh orang-orang Tionghoa dari provinsi Guang Dong yang datang ke Amerika untuk mencari emas tetapi ternyata mereka tidak mendapatkan emas namun bekerja untuk menggali jalur kereta api yang menghubungkan California dengan daerah barat. Jika sekarang kita pergi di persimpangan jalan Bonnie Brae dan Azusa kita masih melihat rumah Pendeta William Seymour yang sekarang dipelihara sebagai tempat peringatan kejadian kebangunan rohani Azusa Street. Gudang tempat William Seymour berkhotbah sudah tidak ada lagi, sekarang menjadi pusat kebudayaan Jepang di Los Angeles. Kebangunan Rohani Azusa Street pun dicatat hanya terjadi selama tiga tahun, tetapi dampaknya menyebar ke seluruh dunia dan mencapai

Indonesia pada tahun 1923 di Cepu Jawa Timur. Meskipun kebangunan rohani Azusa Street hanya terjadi selama 3 tahun (1906-1909), namun dampaknya menyebar ke seluruh dunia; Eropa, Afrika dan terutama Asia.

3. Sentul City, Bogor – Jawa Barat

Pada waktu Tuhan menyuruh hamba-Nya untuk mendirikan kompleks SICC sebetulnya kebutuhan yang dirasakan pada saat itu hanyalah untuk menampung kegiatan doa pengerja bulanan yang sudah mencapai jumlah antara 7.000 – 8.000 orang /bulannya. Di dalam proses pembangunan jemaat GBI Gatot Subroto diproses oleh Tuhan untuk naik di dalam level unity dan Tuhan mulai menyatakan tujuannya untuk tempat ini yang akan menjadi “*Healing Center*” dan “*Miracle Center*”. Tempat yang akan membawa dampak bagi transformasi Indonesia dan bangsa-bangsa. Tempat ini juga telah didedikasikan untuk menyambut hadirat kemuliaan Tuhan. Sepanjang perjalanan sejarah gedung ini makin jelas terlihat bahwa Tuhan telah menyiapkan kompleks ini untuk menjadi loteng atas abad ke-21 dengan memperhitungkan faktor-faktor sosiologis sebagai berikut:

- Kemudahan untuk mengakses Indonesia bagi bangsa-bangsa di sekitarnya terutama bagi bangsa-bangsa di Benua Asia.
- Kesaksian Transformasi Indonesia yang meskipun masih jauh dari sempurna tapi dapat menginspirasi bangsa-bangsa lain untuk menyongsong karya Roh Kudus di negeri mereka juga.
- Biaya hidup yang masih dikatakan murah untuk ukuran benua Asia sehingga memudahkan bagi bangsa-bangsa yang ingin berkunjung untuk mendapatkan ‘api’ Roh Allah.

Tuhan sanggup memakai apa yang awalnya terlihat biasa menjadi sesuatu yang luar biasa. Ketika kerinduan hati Tuhan akan dinyatakan, yang diperlukan adalah orang-orang yang memiliki hati seperti murid-murid pada gereja mula-mula, mereka yang bersedia dipakai Tuhan untuk mewujudkan rencana-Nya. Adanya benang merah antara rencana Tuhan dengan faktor-faktor pendukung dari pihak manusia dan bangsa, jika hal itu bertemu, akan menghasilkan suatu revival yang dahsyat. (AL)

26 AUG

Unfrozen

At a roundtable discussion about reconciliation, one participant wisely said, “Don’t freeze people in time.” He observed how we tend to remember mistakes people make and never grant them the opportunity to change.

There are so many moments in Peter’s life when God could have “frozen” him in time. But He never did. Peter—the impulsive disciple—“corrected” Jesus, earning a sharp rebuke from the Lord (Matthew 16:21–23). He famously denied Christ (John 18:15–27), only to be restored later (21:15–19). And he once contributed to racial divisions within the church.

The issue arose when Peter (also called Cephas) had separated himself from the Gentiles (Galatians 2:11–12). Only recently he associated freely with them. But some Jews arrived who insisted that circumcision was required for believers in Christ, so Peter began avoiding the uncircumcised Gentiles. This marked a dangerous return to the law of Moses. Paul called Peter’s behavior “hypocrisy” (v. 13). Because of Paul’s bold confrontation, the issue was resolved. Peter went on to serve God in the beautiful spirit of unity He intends for us.

No one needs to remain frozen in their worst moments. In God’s grace we can embrace each other, learn from each other, confront each other when it’s necessary, and grow together in His love.

Lord, draw us close to You today, so that we may also be closer to each other. Protect Your church’s unity. Give us understanding where there is distrust. Heal us where we are divided.

Read

Galatians 2:11–
16

Bible in a Year

Psalm 119:89–
176

1 Corinthians 8

When Cephas

came to

Antioch, I

opposed him

to his face.

Galatians 2:11

By Tim Gustafson

“If we confront someone, we should have one goal in mind: restoration, not embarrassment.”

Serve Continually

27
AUG

When educational psychologist Benjamin Bloom, researching how to develop talent in young people, examined the childhoods of 120 elite performers—athletes, artists, scholars—he found that all of them had one thing in common: they had practiced intensively for long periods of time.

Bloom’s research suggests that growing in any area of our lives requires discipline. In our walk with God, too, cultivating the spiritual discipline of regularly spending time with Him is one way we can grow in our trust in Him.

Daniel is a good example of someone who prioritized a disciplined walk with God. As a young person, Daniel started making careful and wise decisions (1:8). He also was committed to praying regularly, “giving thanks to God” (6:10). His frequent seeking of God resulted in a life in which his faith was easily recognized by those around him. In fact, King Darius described Daniel as a “servant of the living God” (v. 20) and twice described him as a person who served God “continually” (vv. 16, 20).

Like Daniel, we desperately need God. How good to know that God works in us so that we long to spend time with Him! (Philippians 2:13). So let us come every day before God, trusting that our time with Him will result in a love that will overflow more and more and in a growing knowledge and understanding of our Savior (1:9–11).

Father, I thank You for the privilege of serving You. Help me to spend regular time with You in order to grow in my knowledge of You.

Read

Daniel

6:10–22

Bible in a Year

Psalms 120–122

1 Corinthians 9

*Has your God,
whom you serve
continually, been
able to rescue
you?*

Daniel 6:20

By Keila Ochoa

Time with God transforms us

28
AUG

Learning to Trust

When I was a teenager I sometimes challenged my mother when she tried to encourage me to have faith. “Trust God. He will take care of you,” she would tell me. “It’s not that simple, Mom!” I would bark back. “God helps those who help themselves!”

But those words, “God helps those who help themselves” are nowhere to be found in Scripture. Instead, God’s Word teaches us to depend on Him for our daily needs. Jesus tells us, “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” (Matthew 6:26–27).

Everything we enjoy—even the strength to earn a living and “help ourselves”—are gifts from a heavenly Father who loves us and values us beyond our ability to fathom.

As Mom neared the end of her life, Alzheimer’s disease robbed her of her creative mind and memories, but her trust in God remained. She lived in our home for a season, where I was given a “front-row seat” to observe God’s provision for her needs in unexpected ways—ways that helped me see she had been right all along. Instead of worrying, she entrusted herself to the One who promised to take care of her. And He showed Himself faithful.

Loving Lord, please help me to trust You to take care of me today, tomorrow, and forever!

Read

Matthew 6:25–34

Bible in a Year

Psalms 123–125

1 Corinthians

10:1–18

*Every good
and perfect
gift is from
above, coming
down from the
Father of the
heavenly lights,
who does not
change like
shifting shad-
ows.*

James 1:17

By James Bank

「*Don't worry about tomorrow—God is already there.*」

You Love Me?

29 AUG

As a teenager, I went through the typical season of rebellion against my mother’s authority. My father died before I entered adolescence, so my mom had to navigate these turbulent parenting waters without his help.

I recall thinking that Mom didn’t want me to ever have any fun—and maybe didn’t even love me—because she frequently said no. I see now that she said no to activities that weren’t good for me precisely because she loves me.

The Israelites questioned how much God loved them because of their time in captivity in Babylon. But that captivity was God’s correction for their continued rebellion against Him. So now, God sent the prophet Malachi to them. His opening words from the Lord were, “I have loved you” (Malachi 1:2). Israel replied skeptically, inquiring as to how God has loved them, as if to say, “Really?” But God, through Malachi, reminded them of the way He had demonstrated that love: He had chosen them over the Edomites.

We all go through difficult seasons in life. We may be tempted to question God’s love for us during those times. Let’s recall the many ways He’s shown us His unfailing love. When we stop to consider His goodness, we find that He is indeed a loving Father.

Lord, You have shown tender care for me over the course of my life. You’ve been present with me in difficult seasons. Help me to always remember Your love.

Read

Malachi 1:1–5

Bible in a Year

Psalms 126–
128

1 Corinthians
10:19–33

*How have you
loved us?*

Malachi 1:2

By Kirsten Holmberg

“Our heavenly Father corrects us and comforts us.”

30 AUG

Read

Luke 6:46–49

Bible in a Year

Psalms 129–

131

1 Corinthians

11:1–16

*When a flood
came, the
torrent struck
that house but
could not shake
it, because it
was well built.*

Luke 6:48

By Amy Boucher

The House on the Rock

After living in their house for several years, my friends realized that their living room was sinking—cracks appeared on the walls and a window would no longer open. They learned that this room had been added without a foundation. Rectifying the shoddy workmanship would mean months of work as builders laid a new foundation.

They had the work done, and when I visited them afterwards, I couldn't see much difference (although the cracks were gone and now the window opened). But I understood that a solid foundation matters.

This is true in our lives as well.

Jesus shared a parable about wise and foolish builders to illustrate the folly of not listening to Him (Luke 6:46–49). Those who hear and obey His words are like the person who builds a house on a firm foundation, unlike those who hear but ignore His words. Jesus assured His listeners that when the storms come, their house would stand. Their faith would not be shaken.

We can find peace knowing that as we listen to and obey Jesus, He forms a strong foundation for our lives. We can strengthen our love for Him through reading the Bible, praying, and learning from other Christians. Then when we face the torrents of rain lashing against us—whether betrayal, pain, or disappointment—we can trust that our foundation is solid. Our Savior will provide the support we need.

Lord God, I want to build my house on a rock. Help me to know that my solid foundation rests in You, with Your Word giving me wisdom and strength.

「Hearing and obeying Jesus gives our lives a strong foundation」

Call for Help

31 AUG

After five deaths and fifty-one injuries in elevator accidents in 2016, New York City launched an ad campaign to educate people on how to stay calm and be safe. The worst cases were people who tried to save themselves when something went wrong. The best plan of action, authorities say, is simply, “Ring, relax, and wait.” New York building authorities made a commitment to respond promptly to protect people from injury and extract them from their predicament.

In the book of Acts, Peter preached a sermon that addressed the error of trying to save ourselves. Luke, who wrote the book, records some remarkable events in which believers in Christ were speaking in languages they did not know (Acts 2:1–12). Peter got up to explain to his Jewish brothers and sisters that what they were witnessing was the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy (Joel 2:28–32)—the outpouring of the Spirit and a day of salvation. The blessing of the Holy Spirit was now visibly seen in those who called on Jesus for rescue from sin and its effects. Then Peter told them how this salvation is available for anyone (v. 21). Our access to God comes not through keeping the Law but through trusting Jesus as Lord and Messiah.

If we are trapped in sin, we cannot save ourselves. Our only hope for being rescued is acknowledging and trusting Jesus as Lord and Messiah.

Have you called on Jesus to rescue you from your sin?

Read

Acts 2:14–21

Bible in a Year

Psalms 132–

134

1 Corinthians

11:17–34

Everyone who

calls on the

name of the

Lord will be

saved.

Acts 2:21

By Marvin Williams

“*Rescue comes to those who call on Jesus for help.*”

01 SEPT

Read

Matthew

18:1–10

Bible in a Year

Psalms 135–136

1 Corinthians 12

*See that you
do not despise
one of these
little ones. For
I tell you that
their angels in
heaven always
see the face
of my Father
in heaven.*

Matthew 18:10

By Tim Gustafson

Officer Miglio's Heart

Back at the police station, Officer Miglio slumped wearily against a wall. A domestic violence call had just consumed half his shift. Its aftermath left a boyfriend in custody, a young daughter in the emergency room, and a shaken mother wondering how it had come to this. This call would wear on the young officer for a long time.

“Nothing you could do, Vic,” said his sergeant sympathetically. But the words rang hollow. Some police officers seem able to leave their work at work. Not Vic Miglio. Not the tough cases like this one.

Officer Miglio's heart reflects the compassion of Jesus. Christ's disciples had just come to Him with a question: “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (Matthew 18:1). Calling a small child to Him, He told His disciples, “Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (v. 3). Then He gave a stern warning to anyone who would harm a child (v. 6). In fact, children are so special to Him that Jesus told us, “Their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven” (v. 10).

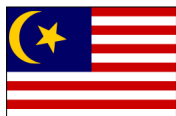
How comforting, then, that Jesus's love for children is connected to His love for us all! That's why He invites us, through childlike faith, to become His sons and daughters.

Remind us always, Lord, to love children as You love them, even as we come to You with the trusting faith of a small child.

“Our earthly families may fail us, but our heavenly Father never will.”

Pray for Nation

MALAYSIA



Capital: *Kuala Lumpur*

Population: *32 million people*

Religion: *Majority Islam*



1. Sekalipun kelihatannya mustahil untuk Injil diberitakan di Malaysia, Tuhan akan menyatakan kebesaranNya dan kedaulatanNya atas bangsa ini. Suara kebenaran akan di dengar oleh setiap telinga di bangsa ini dan mereka yang percaya akan diselamatkan.
2. Bersyukur jika cabang gereja-gereja BCM di Malaysia semakin berkembang ke kanan dan ke kiri. Tuhan pakai BCM untuk menyatakan kebesaran dan kemuliaan Tuhan di negeri ini.
3. Roma 13:1 katakan tidak ada pemerintah yang tidak berasal dari Allah dan pemerintah-pemerintah yang ada ditetapkan oleh Allah. Berdoa untuk pemerintahan Malaysia yang baru. Tuhan berikan kesatuan dan hikmat kepada para pemimpin bangsa ini, untuk membawa Malaysia masuk dalam perubahan ke arah yang lebih baik.
4. Kesatuan doa Gereja-gereja di Malaysia biarlah semakin kuat dan menyala-nyala bagi pembaharuan yang ada, khususnya kehidupan Gereja di sana. Lawatan Tuhan terjadi dan nama Tuhan di tinggikan di Malaysia.



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, 8 September, at 11 AM at BIC

Bethany International Church
HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS



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