

A photograph of two men in prayer. One man, wearing a plaid shirt, has his hand on the shoulder of another man wearing a blue t-shirt. They are both looking down, and the background is dark with some bokeh light effects.


BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MELBOURNE

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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

FERVENT PRAYER LIFE



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

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Pentakosta yang Baru di Tahun Permulaan yang Baru!

*Khotbah Bapak Pdt. DR. Ir. Niko Njotorahardjo
Gandaria City, 2 September 2018*

Shalom Saudara yang dikasihi Tuhan,

Kita bersyukur atas penyertaan Tuhan selama 30 tahun ini, karena pada tanggal 4 September 2018 gereja kita GBI Jl. Jendral Gatot Subroto genap berumur 30 tahun! Gereja ini pada awalnya dimulai di Gedung Karsa Pemuda. Kalau boleh saya tahu; mungkin ada yang pada waktu itu hadir di Karsa Pemuda? Oh, ternyata cukup banyak! Luar biasa 30 tahun lalu mereka telah ada dalam ibadah di Gedung Karsa Pemuda!

Pada waktu itu yang hadir beribadah pertama sekitar 400 orang. Oleh kemurahan Tuhan setelah 30 tahun dari satu gereja sekarang menjadi \pm 1.100 gereja. Dari 400 orang sekarang sudah lebih dari 300.000 orang. Itu yang ada di dalam gereja kita sendiri. Selain itu kita diperkenankan oleh Tuhan untuk berjejaring dengan gereja-gereja lain. Jadi dengan jaringan tersebut maka pelayanan kita sudah bukan lagi meliputi ratusan ribu orang percaya, melainkan jutaan! Dan itu semua karena kemurahan Tuhan. Amin!

Jemaat yang dulu berada di Karsa Pemuda sekarang pindah ke JCC. Karena jemaat mula-mula dari gereja GBI Jl. Jendral Gatot Subroto ada di sini, maka kita merayakan ulang tahunnya di sini juga. Kemarin memang secara umum kita sudah merayakan di SICC – Sentul, tetapi hari ini kita merayakan dengan orang-orang yang dulu memang berjemaat di gedung Karsa Pemuda.

Saudara, DNA yang Tuhan berikan untuk gereja kita adalah **Restorasi Pondok Daud**. Itu dimulai dengan saya. Pada waktu Tuhan memanggil saya untuk menjadi hamba Tuhan, Dia tidak pernah berkata, “*Niko, Aku panggil engkau supaya jadi Pendeta!*” Jadi Tuhan memanggil saya untuk menjadi alat-Nya untuk merestorasi Pondok Daud. Ada 2 (dua) hamba Tuhan yang saya ingat pada waktu itu memberikan nubuatan tentang saya.

Pertama, Pdt. Schenk dari Belanda

Sekarang beliau sudah bersama dengan Tuhan. Saya ingat pada waktu di Surabaya, dia sedang akan berkhotbah dan saya yang memimpin pujian. Selesai memimpin pujian, saya melihat dia duduk di belakang saya, kemudian saya persilahkan dia dan saya duduk menggantikannya. Sampai di mimbar ketika dia sedang akan membuka Alkitab namun tiba-tiba tidak jadi, lalu dia melihat ke arah saya dan dia lari kepada saya lalu menumpangkan tangan kepada saya dan mulai bernubuat, *“Aku menetapkan engkau untuk menjadi alat-Ku untuk membawa umat-Ku masuk dalam hadirat-Ku!”* Saudara, saya tahu bahwa tugas saya untuk membawa Saudara semua masuk dalam hadirat Tuhan dan bertemu dengan Tuhan supaya Saudara hidup intim dengan Tuhan. Itu bagian saya! Karena itu dari dulu sampai dengan hari ini saya tidak akan lari dari panggilan itu dan pengurapan yang Tuhan berikan memang untuk itu.

Kedua, seorang hamba Tuhan yang bernama Pdt. Damaris Beliau juga sudah bersama dengan Tuhan sekarang. Beliau seperti bapak rohani saya. Ketika saya ada di Surabaya, tiba-tiba pada suatu pagi dia datang ke rumah saya tanpa memberitahukan terlebih dahulu. Dia datang ke rumah dan langsung berkata, *“Nik..Niko, kamu duduk sini.”* Saya lalu duduk dan bertanya, *“Ada apa om?”* *“Saya ini datang ke sini disuruh Tuhan untuk bicara sama kamu. Kamu harus fulltime. Siap tidak?”* *“Siap, om...”*, Saya siap saja, karena memang saya sedang tidak ada pekerjaan pada waktu itu dan sedang diproses berat. Pokoknya apa yang saya pegang, dalam tempo dua bulan pekerjaan saya yang tadinya sukses habis sama sekali, malah ditambahi hutang. Jadi pada waktu keadaan saya seperti itu, lalu tiba-tiba disuruh jadi fulltime tentu saya siap saja! Lalu dia berkata: *“Tetapi sebentar....begini, kamu harus tahu kalau kamu fulltime di bidang ini, kamu akan dipakai untuk merestorasi Pondok Daud. Kalau kamu fulltime, kamu adalah orang pertama di Indonesia yang fulltime di dalam bidang ini. Nah, kamu ini akan sama dengan saya! Saya ini orang pertama di Indonesia sebagai penginjil. Jadi waktu itu tidak ada orang yang kenal penginjil, demikian juga dengan kamu, tidak ada orang yang kenal dengan ‘Restorasi Pondok Daud’ itu apa. Kamu tahu tidak yang saya alami? Dapur saya sering tidak berasap!”*.

Wah, saya agak kaget juga! Waktu itu memang saya tidak punya kerjaan apa-apa tetapi untungnya dapur saya masih berasap. Kenapa dapurnya sampai tidak berasap?

“Jadi kalau saya berkeliling ke gereja-gereja, selesai khotbah, orang tidak kenal penginjil, yang kenal adalah gembala. Begitu sampai oleh pendetanya hanya diberikan jabatan tangan, ‘Terima kasih, Broer...!’...jadi makan angin!” Jadi dia tidak mendapatkan apa-apa dan itu sering begitu sehingga dapurnya sering tidak berasap! Di situ membuat saya berpikir juga dan dia katakan, *“Kamu juga bisa seperti saya lho!”*, tetapi puji Tuhan sampai hari ini dapur saya tetap berasap!

Mari sekarang kita baca **Kisah Para Rasul 15:15-18**, “Hal itu sesuai dengan ucapan-ucapan para nabi seperti yang tertulis: Kemudian Aku akan kembali dan membangunkan kembali pondok Daud yang telah roboh, dan reruntuhan-hanya akan Kubangun kembali dan akan Kuteguhkan, supaya semua orang lain mencari Tuhan dan segala bangsa yang tidak mengenal Allah, yang Kusebut milik-Ku demikianlah firman Tuhan yang melakukan semuanya ini, yang telah diketahui dari sejak semula.”

Saudara, Tuhan Yesus berjanji dan berkata, “Aku akan kembali...(sekarang Tuhan Yesus ada di sorga, tetapi Dia akan kembali! Tuhan Yesus akan datang kali yang kedua!)...dan Aku akan merestorasi pondok Daud!” Ayat ini bukan berarti; nanti tunggu Tuhan Yesus datang baru restorasi itu dimulai. Restorasi Pondok Daud itu sudah dimulai sejak sekarang, tetapi nanti pada waktu Dia datang, itu selesai secara sempurna. Untuk apa Tuhan Yesus merestorasi Pondok Daud? Dikatakan, “...supaya semua orang lain mencari Tuhan dan segala bangsa yang tidak mengenal Allah, yang Kusebut milik-Ku..”, itu artinya supaya terjadi penuaian jiwa besar-besaran sebelum kedatangan Tuhan Yesus untuk kali yang kedua.

Saudara, sejak semula sampai dengan hari ini yang ada di dalam hati saya dan gereja ini adalah **untuk menuai jiwa, untuk menyelesaikan Amanat Agung Tuhan Yesus**. Pegang ini baik-baik! Ini berlaku bagi kita semua; bukan hanya untuk saya!

“Karena itu pergilah, jadikanlah semua bangsa murid-Ku dan baptislah mereka dalam nama Bapa dan Anak dan Roh Kudus, dan ajarlah mereka melakukan segala sesuatu yang telah Ku-perintahkan kepadamu. Dan ketahuilah, Aku menyertai kamu senantiasa sampai kepada akhir zaman.” (Matius 28:19-20)

Sebetulnya yang namanya gereja itu harus menyelesaikan Amanat Agung Tuhan Yesus! Yang menjadi nomor satu adalah bagaimana supaya umat manusia diselamatkan. Kalau gereja itu punya motivasi lain selain ini, maka itu bukan gereja! Saya harus tegas! Bukan artinya hanya gereja ini saja, tetapi semua gereja harus seperti itu! Jadi yang dipentingkan adalah Amanat Agung Tuhan Yesus harus selesai. Harus selesai!

Saudaraku, kita diberikan alat oleh Tuhan visi: **“Restorasi Pondok Daud”**. Apa yang dimaksudkan dengan Restorasi Pondok Daud?

DEFINISI RESTORASI PONDOK DAUD

Masa 25 Tahun Pertama

Tuhan memberikan definisi tentang Pondok Daud; yaitu doa, pujian, penyembahan bersama-sama dalam unity siang dan malam. Bagaimana saya mendapatkan ini?

Tuhan memberikan pencerahan kepada saya bahwa Pondok Daud itu berupa sebuah tenda dan bukan bangunan permanen seperti gedung ini. Kemudian di tengahnya itu ada Tabut Allah dimana pada masa itu Tabut Allah adalah tempat Allah bersemayam. Lalu ada apa disekitarnya? Ada 12 orang yang memuji-muji Tuhan dan mereka itu berdoa, memuji dan menyembah Tuhan dalam unity siang dan malam. Bagaimana bisa saya katakan siang dan malam? Tadi saya katakan bahwa setiap tim berjumlah 12 orang. Nah, yang bertugas itu ada 288 orang, kalau 288 dibagi dengan 12 maka itu sama dengan 24, yang artinya bisa tiap jam bergantian; siang dan malam.

Karena itu pengertian yang Tuhan berikan kepada kita, definisi Pondok Daud 25 tahun pertama itu adalah **doa, pujian, penyembahan bersama-sama dalam unity siang dan malam**. Amin! Ini berbicara tentang kehidupan yang intim dengan Tuhan. Saya percaya di Indonesia sudah menyebar kemana-mana bahwa doa, pujian dan penyembahan itu memang dimulai di sini. Yang Tuhan berikan di sini itu sudah menyebar kemana-mana! Gereja-gereja tentang hal yang seperti ini sudah tahu semua, padahal dulu tidak tahu. Dengan itu, apa yang terjadi selama 25 tahun pertama? Terjadi penuaian jiwa yang luar biasa!

Memasuki 25 Tahun Kedua

Pada ulang tahun yang ke-25 yang kita rayakan di Yerusalem, Tuhan sempurnakan lagi definisi Restorasi Pondok Daud menjadi **prajurit-prajurit Tuhan yang gagah perkasa, yang mempunyai gaya hidup doa, pujian, penyembahan bersama-sama dalam unity siang dan malam dan yang melakukan kehendak Bapa pada zaman ini**.

Jadi sekali lagi, kalau kita bicara tentang Pondok Daud maka itu tidak akan terlepas dari Daud, sebab dia yang diberikan oleh Tuhan untuk membuat itu. Sebenarnya doa, pujian dan penyembahan itu adalah karakter daripada Daud. Daud adalah seorang prajurit yang gagah perkasa, begitu pula kita harus menjadi prajurit-prajurit Tuhan yang gagah perkasa, artinya kita harus selalu menang! Kita harus keluar sebagai pemenang atas dosa, daya tarik dunia, terhadap Iblis serta perbuatan daging. Ini yang Tuhan mau! Untuk itu kita harus mempunyai gaya hidup berdoa, memuji dan menyembah Tuhan bersama-sama dalam unity siang dan malam. Itu artinya kita hidup intim dengan Tuhan. Kalau Saudara hidup intim dengan Tuhan, Saudara pasti keluar sebagai pemenang! Dan kalau Saudara keluar sebagai pemenang karena hidup intim, Saudara pasti akan melakukan kehendak Tuhan pada zaman ini. Amin!

Sekali lagi saya mau katakan kepada Saudara, oleh karena kemurahan Tuhan dan oleh karena kehendak Tuhan maka DNA daripada gereja ini adalah Restorasi Pondok Daud. Pengertian tentang Restorasi Pondok Daud, awalnya saya mendapatkan secara profetik. Maksudnya apa?

Roh Kudus yang memberikan pencerahan kepada saya, tentang apa yang dimaksudkan dengan Restorasi Pondok Daud. Dan saya tahu bahwa belum tentu orang lain bisa mendapat pengertian yang sama seperti saya, tetapi saya tidak peduli, saya hanya bicara saja karena Tuhan sudah berikan! Dan yang terjadi kemudian adalah ada banyak tantangannya. Ada yang orang yang mengerti dan ada juga yang tidak tidak mengerti, ada yang acuh tak acuh, dan ada yang menyerang saya. Tetapi saya tidak peduli dan terus memperkatakan itu! Tetapi akhirnya mereka, ‘*maaf*’, bungkam, kenapa? Gara-gara penuaian jiwa-jiwa yang bertobat di tempat ini serta gereja-gereja yang ditanam itu begitu banyak. Haleluya! Sehingga mereka yang mau menyerang tadi agak diam, “*Ko’ bisa begini ya? ...ko’ bisa begini?*”

Saudara, saya tahu bahwa Tuhan pasti tidak biarkan begitu saja. Selanjutnya apa yang Tuhan kerjakan? Tanggal 28 April 2016 (2 tahun yang lalu) Restoration Tabernacle of David (RTOD) yang tadinya didapatkan secara profetik, Tuhan jadikan suatu disiplin ilmu; dimana kita diakui oleh Pentecostal Theological Seminary dari Church of God. Pada tanggal itu mereka memberikan **Chair** yang setara dengan Fakultas, sehingga namanya menjadi **The Niko Njotorahardjo Chair for the Restoration of the Tabernacle of David**. Camkan baik-baik, kalau ini namanya saya, artinya saya mewakili Saudara dan bukan pribadi saya sebab saya tanpa Saudara tidak akan ada ini. Nomor satu pasti Tuhan, tetapi kalau tanpa Saudara tidak akan ada ini. Karena itu saya selalu bicara bahwa saya mewakili Saudara. Coba kita renungkan, betapa baiknya Tuhan sebab kalau itu saya terima hanya secara profetik maka akan lemah untuk diajarkan di dunia. Dan yang luar biasa profesornya di bagian ini adalah French L. Arrington, Ph.D. yang masih cukup muda, umurnya baru 86 tahun! Beliau adalah orang yang ahli dalam Bahasa Gerika dan sebagai pengajar French L. Arrington ini dikenal di dunia. Tidak tanggung-tanggung Tuhan menjadikan Restorasi Pondok Daud seperti sekarang ini dan akan disebar ke seluruh dunia melalui **Pentecostal Theological Seminary**. Tuhan itu begitu luar biasa!

Saudara yang dikasihi Tuhan, sebelumnya gelar Doktor saya (*Honorary Doctor*) itu diberikan oleh Pentecostal Theological Seminary (PTS), juga ketua-ketua umum atau petinggi-petinggi dari Church of God termasuk Billy Wilson yang sekarang memimpin Empowered 21 Global, gelar doktornya pun dari PTS.

Tadi saya berbicara tentang *Chair dan Chair* ini tidak diberikan kepada banyak orang. Usia Church of God sudah lebih dari 130 tahun dan berada di 180 negara dan teritorial. Selama ini mereka hanya memberikan Chair kepada 5 orang. Dari 5 orang tersebut yang masih hidup hanya 2 orang termasuk saya, sedangkan 3 orang lainnya sudah meninggal. Jadi hanya tinggal James Hamilton dan saya. Di antara kelima orang tersebut ada yang bernama Robert E. Fisher; yang menjadi cikal-bakal dari Empowered21.

Dan yang lebih luar biasa lagi, saya terpilih untuk mewakili Saudara menjadi Council of Eighteen dari Church of God. Jadi Council of Eighteen itu adalah 18 penasehat. Bersama 5 orang dari Executive Committee, 23 orang ini adalah pemegang keputusan tertinggi dari Church of God di 180 negara dan teritorial. Tidak cukup di sini saja, tiba-tiba saya diangkat menjadi Board of Director (Board of Trustees) dari Pentecostal Theological Seminary; satu kedudukan yang tidak pernah saya pikirkan. Artinya sekali lagi, saya mewakili Saudara. Dengan saya ada di sana sebagai Board of Director (Board of Trustees), berarti keberadaan Chair tentang Restorasi Pondok Daud tadi itu akan menjadi lebih dahsyat lagi.

30 ADALAH ANGKA PERMULAAN YANG BARU

Gereja kita sekarang memasuki usia 30 tahun, dan Tuhan katakan bahwa angka 30 itu adalah angka permulaan yang baru. Kita sedang memasuki satu permulaan yang baru. Kenapa saya katakan bahwa angka 30 itu adalah angka permulaan yang baru?

- Tuhan Yesus mulai melayani pada umur 30
- Daud mulai menjadi raja pada umur 30.
- Yusuf menjadi orang kedua di Mesir pada umur 30

Berarti kita sedang memasuki **permulaan yang baru**. Artinya yang lama sudah berlalu, yang baru sudah datang!

Tuhan bicara kepada saya, bahwa semua yang telah terjadi selama 30 tahun yang sudah berlalu itu bukan apa-apa dibandingkan dengan hal-hal yang akan terjadi ke depan ini. Tuhan akan pakai Saudara dan gereja ini secara lebih dahsyat! Saudara, dalam **“Tahun Permulaan Yang Baru”** ini kita sedang memasuki **“Pentakosta yang baru”**, yaitu **“Pentakosta yang ketiga!”**

Pentakosta yang ketiga ini adalah pencurahan Roh Kudus yang luar biasa dahsyat yang dimulai dari Indonesia. Tuhan lepaskan itu di SICC dan itu akan bergerak ke bangsa-bangsa. Ini adalah masa penuaian jiwa yang terbesar dan yang terakhir sebelum Tuhan Yesus datang untuk kali yang kedua!

Dan Tuhan berikan tugas yang baru! Sekali lagi, seperti tadi Saudara sudah melihat nubuatan Cindy Jacob, kalau dikatakan saya itu berarti kita semua. Amin! Kita atau gereja ini ditunjuk sebagai **Messenger dari Pentakosta ketiga!**

Messenger dalam Bahasa Gerika-nya adalah **apostolos**, dalam Bahasa Inggrisnya adalah apostle dan dalam Bahasa Indonesianya adalah **rasul**. Jadi gereja ini akan diutus sebagai rasul, penerobos dengan otoritas kuasa dari Pentakosta ketiga. Sekali lagi, Pentakosta ketiga ini diperlukan untuk menyelesaikan Amanat Agung Tuhan Yesus dan saya percaya akan

selesai setelah ini! Amanat Agung Tuhan Yesus selesai, maka Tuhan Yesus datang dan kita ini dipakai untuk menerobos! Itu tugas baru kita, sehingga ketika saya diberikan jabatan apa pun, itu sama sekali tidak membuat saya berbangga hati sebab Tuhan sudah bicara kepada saya, “Niko, tugas utamamu adalah menjadi messenger dari Pentakosta ketiga. ***Jadi kalau Aku berikan kamu jabatan-jabatan apa saja, itu semua untuk mendukung tugas ini. Supaya Amanat Agung selesai!***.”

Amanat Agung Tuhan Yesus diselesaikan! Dan untuk itu Saudara juga bertanggung jawab. Amin!

Apa yang dilakukan oleh murid-murid Tuhan Yesus pada waktu Pentakosta pertama dan kedua di dalam menantikan pencurahan api Pentakosta pertama dan kedua?

- Dalam Pentakosta yang pertama jelas dikatakan dalam Alkitab dari **Kisah Para Rasul 1:14a**, ***“Mereka semua bertekun dengan sehati dalam doa bersama-sama,...”*** Ini adalah prinsip Restorasi Pondok Daud, yaitu doa, pujian, penyembahan bersama-sama dalam unity siang dan malam.
- Demikian pula dengan Pentakosta kedua di Azusa Street, William Seymour bersama rekan-rekannya yang lain, mereka berdoa berbulan-bulan seperti ini. Itu adalah juga Restorasi Pondok Daud!

Dan Saudara, di dalam menantikan Pentakosta ketiga yang mana Tuhan pilih kita, sebetulnya ini sudah dipersiapkan oleh Tuhan. Apakah Saudara sadar bahwa itu sudah dipersiapkan 30 tahun yang lalu! 30 tahun yang lalu dipersiapkan untuk hari ini melalui doa, pujian, penyembahan bersama-sama dalam unity siang dan malam. Melalui Restorasi Pondok Daud! Dan sekarang api Pentakosta ketiga sudah turun!

Saudara, Api Pentakosta Ketiga sudah turun, apa yang harus kita lakukan? Mari kita lihat dari Pentakosta pertama dan kedua, pada waktu api Pentakosta pertama turun, di dalam Alkitab ada tertulis apa yang dilakukan oleh murid-murid Tuhan Yesus. Apakah mereka berhenti berdoa?

“Oh sudah turun, wah sudah tidak perlu berdoa lagi!” NO! Dikatakan dalam Alkitab bahwa cara hidup jemaat berubah. Yang mereka lakukan tiap-tiap harinya adalah mereka suka berdoa, memuji dan menyembah Tuhan, suka baca Alkitab. Ini yang harus kita lakukan! Demikian juga dengan Pentakosta kedua, begitu api Pentakosta yang di Azusa Street turun, William Seymour setiap hari doanya sekitar 8 jam! Saya pernah ke kamarnya waktu itu di Bonnie Brae Street, tempat dimana dia terus berdoa selama 8 jam sehari dan juga rekan-rekan mereka yang lain terus hidup dalam doa. Antara tahun 1906-1915 api Tuhan turun dan itu menyebar sampai ke bangsa-bangsa. Demikian juga kita yang sudah memasuki Pentakosta ketiga dan Tuhan katakan, *“Aku sudah memberikan kepada kamu Restorasi Pondok Daud, kamu pakai itu lebih lagi! ...Lebih lagi! ...Lebih lagi!”*.

Saudara, kita bersyukur untuk tuntunan Tuhan selama 30 tahun bagi gereja ini. Gereja ini ada semua karena anugerah Tuhan. Amin!

EMPOWER

21

ASIA

as for us we
cannot help
speaking about
what we have
seen and heard

FIRE AND GLORY

The term “Third Pentecost” should be no stranger to the BIC’s members in Melbourne. On July 2018, a conference called “Empower 21 Asia” was held in Sentul International Convention Center (SICC) with the theme of “Fire and Glory”. This conference was magnificently utilized in declaring that the Third Pentecost was already beginning.

I really wanted to attend Empower 21 as I have never been to a large conference in Indonesia, let alone one that is hosted by our church. Despite few hindrances such as the uncertainty who would babysit my nephew, or where we would stay for 4 days, or whether or not I could get my leave request approved, by the grace of God my sister and I finally stepped our feet into SICC. It was amazing to be able to worship the Lord

and be in His presence with more than 12,000 believer from more than 30 countries who also love the same God. Ah, I’m sure that heaven must’ve been more beautiful than what I’ve felt at that moment.

On the third day, I went to the Next Generation Ministry area, as it was the only seminar that was vacant while others were all filled. The speaker there was Scott Wilson from Oaks Church, and he invited all participants to pray and prophecy through a simple set of instructions. Of course, he had discussed that the prophecies have to be according to God’s Words and should be of use to strengthen, rebuke and/or console the person we are praying for. We then formed groups of five: One would be prayed for, while the others pray for him/her and speak in tongues for twenty seconds. After that, we had to tell each other what we receive during our prayers.

Honestly, I felt rather out of place doing this amongst people that were accustomed to prophesying. To top it all, the messages I received during the prayer was slightly “odd” compared to other people. When others said, “Don’t harden your hearts”, I said, “Gold and Thread”; when others said, “Focus and don’t be afraid”, I said, “You will dance like David”. But in the midst of my doubts, it appears that one lady was crying she listened to my prayers. She then told me that she was a dancer - and that instantly made me feel goosebumps.



For her, my prayers had told her to refocus in dancing for God. As for me, her story was a sign that God was present and at work, utilising our prayers to prophecy and declaring His powers. I had learned that prophecies are not just given to pastors or servant of the Lord--it could be given to anyone by God. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to get to know her after that session, but she remains in my heart as an unnamed dancer. I pray that she will be able to fulfil her purpose in dancing and we can meet again in the latter future.

Coming back to Melbourne, my passion wanting to know God through the Bible has been increasing dramatically. So many things I have not discovered about Him and the tremendous wisdom that have been hidden in our humble Bible is yet to be found by us.

Through Empower 21, all delegations are empowered by the Holy Spirit to implement

the Great Commission: to go and make disciples from all parts of the world, as well as to baptise and teach them afterwards. Just like what God has said in Mark 16:15-18: signs of marvel and wonder will accompany us in our ministries and testimonies. Maybe for some of you; Third Pentecost is just a "slogan" but more than just a jargon, the most important thing is the passion to participate in the last season of harvest during the end of times.

I wish I could convey everything I felt in my heart so that everyone who reads this could fully understand about it. But written words do have its limits, or perhaps it is my storytelling that doesn't do it justice. Well, be that as it may, I hope that this story can inspire all of us to work harder in the fields of the Lord. I also hope that there would be more people to hear the Gospel of salvation; to know Jesus the Saviour and receive a life filled with victory.



The Heart of a Servant

Demak Panjaitan

Following our monthly theme of Fervent Prayer Life, we are going to know more about our sister, Demak Panjaitan, our pastor and an intercessor who has the heart for nations. It has been a privilege listening to her stories and truly understands it's all God's work and grace. There were a lot of surprises and had you known these five facts about her?

#1. Demak didn't start her ministry as an intercessor.

Previously prior to her ministry in Melbourne, she was a missionary who has travelled to nine different countries including Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, and Vietnam for church planting.

Her life as a missionary was beyond one's wildest dream, yet extraordinary. When she was not yet married, she would be given a one-way ticket to countries, and she would have to figure everything on her own. It was more extreme as she has limited English and knew nothing of Chinese, yet she was sent to Hong Kong and China for three years. By the grace of God and the power of prayer, Demak survived, and even befriended a local helper who cleaned her house. After discipling to that lady, now she is the pastor of the church. She has become a living witness of how God is able to work through people.

"If you want to experience God's miracle, you need to get out of your comfort zone, it's not inside the "building", but it's on "the street";" she added.

Demak credited her rough childhood with a workaholic mother and alcoholic father shaped her to be a tough missionary. Since she was young, she has been taken care of temporarily from one relative to another, so she is able to adapt to new places quickly. And adaptability is one of the most crucial skills to have as a missionary. Despite having every reason to be bitter about it, she chooses to be grateful.

"everything that God allows to happen in our life is not a coincidence," she said.



#2. And being a missionary wasn't her first calling either

In her youth, Demak attended GBI in Central Jakarta, and at first, she didn't know what her calling is. She didn't even know what was her talent so she was only supporting the ministry and her primary task was rolling the cables before and after the Sunday services finish.

Slowly, she started to be trusted as a COOL shepherd, but it was still a hard journey because after a year, the COOL only had one member. She almost gave up, but she was determined to try another year. One day in the second year, after a

after a big church event, 12 people suddenly joined her COOL. That very same 12 people eventually be the core members of her COOL, and within a year, the COOL multiplied into 14 COOLs, each with 20-30 members. She summarised this particular chapter of her life as:

"It's easy for God to send His people or to make someone believes, but the real process is for us to stay faithful in the very little things."

#3. She once had half of her face paralysed

She has cultivated a consistent prayer life since her youth. However, she fell into the trap of routines and merely only pray on that exact hour. It was until half of her face was suddenly paralysed. She reflected on her relationship with God, and she concluded: "Relationship without the heart is ritual". God indeed shook her old prayer routines and emphasised the importance of having the right heart.

"Prayer is not only in our bedroom, but keep praying even on the street, on the bus, university and workplace, it's our heart that matters", she added.

#4. A street sweeper was used by God to change her life

Despite being seen as always on fire, Demak experienced a stagnant stage in her life when she was in the Philippines. She was feeling trapped in the routines of shepherding

the congregation as she is no longer freely travelling to plant churches in nations as she did before her marriage with Gideon. On top of that, most of the people were only there temporarily and often moved to different countries after a short period of time.

One day, she was in the quiet bus station when suddenly God led her to notice about a humble sweeper was diligently sweeping. No one saw him yet he was doing his job wholeheartedly.

God spoke to her heart, “Demak, you are like that sweeper. The sweeper is not merely cleaning the bus station. He is preparing the pathway for the people who come here has a comfortable resting place before continuing their journey. The Philippines is a transit place, just like the bus station, and you are preparing My people for their next journey until they know and understand My calling for them.”

Her paradigm about her ministry has forever changed since then. She is no longer focusing on the quantity of the congregation, but Demak’s task was only to help the congregation to find their life’s calling by praying and counselling them.

#5. Her heart and mission is in sync with Bethany International Church Melbourne

When Demak arrived in Melbourne five years ago, she was surprised when she found out that our mission is “The House of Prayer for All Nation”. She is amazed at how God places her in a place that is in accordance with her highest callings, which is for the nations.

Demak didn’t see us, the congregation, as merely people who come to the church every week. She tries to share her passion as an intercessor and also see us as intercessors. Same with when she was a missionary. She saw people who she shepherded as missionaries as well. It’s not about what they do in life, it’s about the attitude of the heart.

It’s easy to see the main theme in all of her stories. It’s the importance of having the right heart while praying. How to have a right heart to pray, you might ask. The first step is she said “Ask God, ask Him to give us His heart. We never know we actually have it if we didn’t ask for it.” We can then feel the His heart and work accordingly according to the talent He has given. She is longing to see us have the same passion like God to pray. To have a fervent prayer life that closely resembles the Father’s heart and pray for the nations as we are The House of Prayer For All Nations.

They Smelled Like Christ

09 SEPT

Hot and dusty, Bob dismounted from the bus he had ridden to a city far from home. He was tired from a long day of travel and grateful that he would be able to have dinner with friends of friends who lived in the area. They welcomed him in, and he immediately felt a sense of peace. He felt at home, comfortable, safe, and valued.

Later, wondering why he had felt such peace in an unfamiliar place, Bob found an answer in 2 Corinthians. The apostle Paul describes people who follow God as having the “pleasing aroma of Christ.” “That’s exactly it!” Bob said to himself. His hosts had “smelled like” Christ.

When Paul says that God leads His people in Christ’s “triumphal procession” spreading the fragrance of His truth, he’s referring to a practice in the ancient world. Victorious armies would burn incense as they marched through the streets. For their supporters, the smell brought joy. In the same way, Paul says the people of God carry a pleasing fragrance to those who believe. It isn’t something we create on our own but something God gives as He leads us in spreading the knowledge of Him.

Bob is my dad, and that trip to a faraway town took place more than forty years ago, but he’s never forgotten it. He’s still telling the story of the people who smelled like Christ. Heavenly Father, thank You for leading Your people in triumph and spreading the fragrance of Your truth through us.

Read

2 Corinthians
2:14–17

Bible in a Year

Proverbs 6–7
2 Corinthians 2

*For we are to
God the pleas-
ing aroma of
Christ among
those who are
being saved.
-2 Corinthians
2:15*

By Amy Peterson

「Who smells like Christ to you?」

10 SEPT

Read

Jude 1:24–25

Bible in a Year

Proverbs 8–9

2 Corinthians 3

*To him who is
able to keep you
from stumbling.*

–Jude 1:24

By Arthur Jackson

How to Stand Firm

It was a cold, icy winter's day, and my mind was focused on getting from my warm vehicle to a warm building. The next thing I knew I was on the ground, my knees turned inward and my lower legs turned outward. Nothing was broken, but I was in pain. The pain would get worse as time went by and it would be weeks before I was whole again.

Who among us hasn't taken a spill of some sort? Wouldn't it be nice to have something or someone to keep us on our feet all the time? While there are no guarantees of surefootedness in the physical sense, there is One who stands ready to assist us in our quest to honor Christ in this life and prepare us to stand joyfully before Him in the next.

Every day we face temptations (and even false teachings) that seek to divert us, confuse us, and entangle us. Yet, it's not ultimately through our own efforts that we remain on our feet as we walk in this world. How assuring to know that when we hold our peace when tempted to speak angrily, to opt for honesty over deceit, to choose love over hate, or to select truth over error—we experience God's power to keep us standing (Jude 1:24). And when we appear approved before God when Christ returns, the praise that we offer now for His sustaining grace will echo throughout eternity (v. 25).

Father, thank You for Your constant care for our souls.

“*Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne (Edward Mote)*”

He Knows Our Names

11 SEPT

During a visit to the National September 11 Memorial in New York City, I quickly photographed one of the twin reflecting pools. Around these two pools, the names of the nearly 3,000 people who died in the World Trade Center attacks are etched into bronze panels. Later, while looking more closely at the photo, my eyes were drawn to the hand of a woman resting on a name. Many people come to this place to touch a name and remember someone they loved.

The prophet Isaiah reminded God's people of His unfailing love and concern for them, even though they had often turned away from Him. The Lord said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

In the 23rd Psalm, David wrote, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley [the valley of the shadow of death], I will fear no evil, for you are with me . . . Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (vv. 4, 6).

God never forgets us. No matter where we are or whatever our situation, He knows our names and holds us fast in His unfailing love.

Father in heaven, thank You for calling us by name and surrounding us with Your love, today and forever.

Read

Psalm 23:1–6

Bible in a Year

Proverbs 10–12

2 Corinthians 4

*Do not fear, for
I have redeemed
you; I have sum-
moned you by
name; you are
mine.*

-Isaiah 43:1

By David C. McCasland

“God knows our names and He holds us fast in His love.”

12 SEPT

Read
Proverbs
15:9–21

Bible in a Year
Proverbs 13–15
2 Corinthians 5

*A wise person
is hungry for
knowledge, while
the fool feeds on
trash.*

-Proverbs 15:14
NLT

By Poh Fang Chia

Is There Wi-Fi?

As I was preparing to go on a mission trip with some young people, the most frequently asked question was, “Is there Wi-Fi?” And I assured them there would be. So just imagine the wails and groans one night when the Wi-Fi was down!

Many of us become anxious when we’re separated from our smartphones. And when we do have our iPhones or Androids in our hands, we can be fixated on our screens.

Like many things, the internet and all that it allows us to access can become either a distraction or a blessing. It depends on what we do with it. In Proverbs we read, “A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash” (15:14 nlt).

Applying the wisdom of God’s Word to life, we can ask ourselves: Do we check our social networks compulsively throughout the day? What does that say about the things we hunger for? And do the things we read or view online encourage sensible living (vv. 16–21), or are we feeding on trash—gossip, slander, materialism, or sexual impurity?

As we yield to the work of the Holy Spirit, we can fill our minds with things that are “true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable” (Philippians 4:8 nlt). By God’s wisdom we can make good choices that honor Him.

*God, help me to use my time well and to fill my mind with
what is pure.*

「*What we let into our minds shapes the state of our souls.*」

What's in a Name?

13 SEPT

“Gip” Hardin, a Methodist preacher, named his son after the famous preacher John Wesley, reflecting Gip’s hopes and aspirations for his baby boy. John Wesley Hardin, however, tragically chose a different path than his ministry-minded namesake. Claiming to have killed forty-two men, Hardin became one of the most notorious gunfighters and outlaws of the American West of the late 1800s.

In the Bible, as in many cultures today, names hold special significance. Announcing the birth of God’s Son, an angel instructed Joseph to name Mary’s child “Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The meaning of Jesus’s name—“Jehovah saves”—confirmed His mission to save from sin.

Unlike Hardin, Jesus completely and thoroughly lived up to His name. Through His death and resurrection, He accomplished His mission of rescue. John affirmed the life-giving power of Jesus’s name, saying, “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31). The book of Acts invites everyone to trust Him, for, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). All who call on Jesus’s matchless name in faith can experience for themselves the forgiveness and hope He provides. Have you called on His name?

*Thank You, Father, for providing salvation through Your Son,
Jesus. I love You.*

Read

Matthew

1:18–25

Bible in a Year

Proverbs

16–18

2 Corinthians 6

*She will give
birth to a son,
and you are to
give him the
name Jesus.*

–Matthew 1:21

By Bill Crowder

“Jesus’s name is also His mission—to seek and to save that which was lost.”

14 AUG

Read

Isaiah 55:1–7

Bible in a Year

Proverbs

19–21

2 Corinthians 7

*Come, all
you who are
thirsty, come
to the waters;
and you who
have no money,
come, buy and
eat!*

-Isaiah 55:1

By Linda Washington

The Ultimate Satisfaction

As we distributed snacks for children at a Bible School program, we noticed a little boy who devoured his snack. Then he also ate the leftovers of the children at his table. Even after I gave him a bag of popcorn, he still wasn't satisfied. As leaders, we were concerned as to why this little boy was so hungry.

It occurred to me that we can be like that boy when it comes to our emotions. We look for ways to satisfy our deepest longings, but we never find what fully satisfies us.

The prophet Isaiah invites those who are hungry and thirsty to “come, buy and eat” (Isaiah 55:1). But then he asks, “Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?” (v. 2). Isaiah is talking about more than just physical hunger here. God can satisfy our spiritual and emotional hunger through the promise of His presence. The “everlasting covenant” in verse 3 is a reminder of a promise God made to David in 2 Samuel 7:8–16. Through David's family line, a Savior would come to reconnect people to God. Later, in John 6:35 and 7:37, Jesus extended the same invitation Isaiah gave, thus identifying Himself as the Savior foretold by Isaiah and other prophets.

Hungry? God invites you to come and be filled in His presence.

*Father, I long to know You more. Only You can satisfy my
deepest desires.*

“Only God will satisfy our spiritual hunger.”

Good for You?

15 AUG

Because I like dark chocolate, I once Googled “Is dark chocolate good for you?” I got a variety of results—some good, some bad. You can do the same for almost any food product. Is milk good for you? Is coffee good for you? Is rice good for you? There is a dizzying array of answers to these questions, so you have to be aware that the search itself may not be good for you. It may give you a headache!

But if you’re looking for something that’s one-hundred percent good for you all the time, can I recommend the Word of God? Listen to what it can do for the follower of Jesus who is seeking to build a relationship with God.

It can keep you pure (Psalm 119:9, 11).

It blesses you (Luke 11:28).

It makes you wise (Matthew 7:24).

It gives light and understanding (Psalm 119:130).

It helps you grow spiritually (1 Peter 2:2).

Our God is good: “The Lord is good to all,” says Psalm 145:9. And in His goodness, He’s provided those who love Him with a guide that helps us see how to enhance our relationship with Him. As we try to decide how to live in a world full of choices, praise God that He’s told us in Scripture what’s good for us. Let’s say with the psalm-writer: “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth” (Psalm 119:103).

God, thank You for leaving us Your inspired Word. Help us to read it carefully, interpret it correctly, and apply it enthusiastically in our lives.

Read

Psalm 119:65–
72

Bible in a Year

Proverbs

22–24

2 Corinthians 8

*You are good,
and what you
do is good;
teach me your
decrees.*

-Psalm 119:68

By Dave Branon

“God’s Word is the only sure foundation for life.”

Pray for Nation

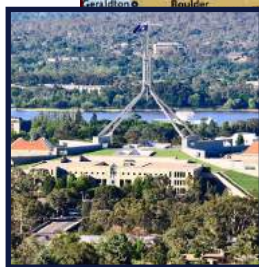
AUSTRALIA



Capital: *Melbourne*

Population: *24.1 million people*

Religion: *Majority Islam and Chritian*



3 main prayer focus:

1. A Stable Federal Government with a Godly Response from the New Prime Minister to the Issues of Faith, Freedom, Family and Life
2. Block the Queensland Government's Efforts to Decriminalise Abortion
3. Decision in the High Court Against Exclusion Zones around Abortion Clinics

For these three additional days of Prayer, Fasting & Repentance, we look to Jesus who said to His disciples that “with man this is impossible but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26) . To help you to prepare for this time, here are some guidelines on Christian fasting from the National Day of Prayer and Fasting. Here also is an article on repentance from the National Day of Repentance in the USA. Right now they are supporting us at Day 26 of 40 Days of Repentance .

You might like to start the three days with this Prayer of Confession, Repentance and Forgiveness .

Firstly, we continue to stand amazed at the unexpected appointment of Scott Morrison, a committed Christian, as our new Prime Minister. Please pray that God will use Scott Morrison as our new Prime Minister, Josh Frydenberg as his Deputy, and his newly appointed cabinet to restore confidence in our Federal Government.

Pray that Scott Morrison will be inspired to articulate a vision for Australia. Pray that

godly decisions will be made to stem the tide of unrighteousness and reverse the effects of ‘progressive’ politics.

We thank God for a wonderful March for Life on Saturday coordinated by Cherish Life Queensland. An estimated crowd of 5,000-6,000 enthusiastic marchers took part.

Queenslanders really care about this issue. Two Galaxy polls conducted in May 2016 and August 2018 clearly show that Queenslanders are firmly against abortion.

Please pray for the Health Committee as they review submissions. Their report will be due by 12 October and the parliamentary debate and subsequent vote on the Bill to decriminalise abortion is scheduled for the sitting week starting on 16 October.

Please pray that the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 will be defeated in the Queensland Parliament. You can also use this Prayer for the Protection of Unborn Babies in Queensland which addresses twelve spiritual strongholds.

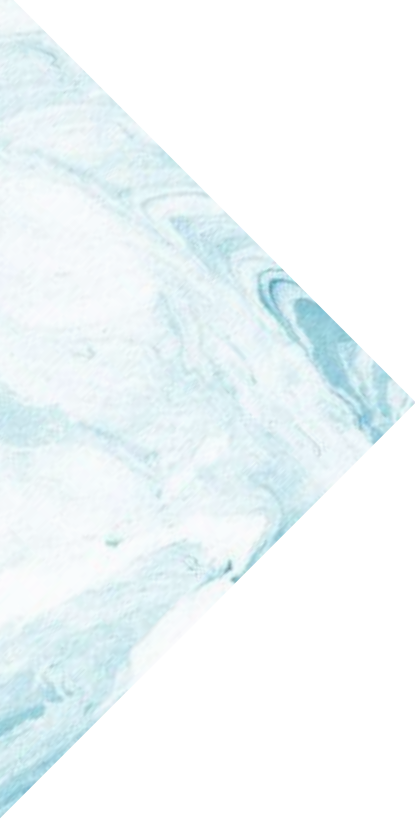
Finally, Graham Preston and Kathleen Clubb will appear in the High Court on October 9 to 11 to defend what they believe are their rights to pray, offer words of encouragement and display pro-life messages outside abortion clinics.

Please pray for their legal team as they argue against the 150-metre exclusion zones around abortion clinics in Tasmania and Victoria. By using Bob Brown’s High Court Protest precedent they hope to prove these unconstitutional. This could have a bearing on the situation in Queensland.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ... so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” (Ephesians 6:10,13)



NOTES



COOL

Community of Love

MAIN

<i>Berea-Bethesda</i>	Ika, Mareta	<i>Ephratah</i>	Steven, Henry
<i>Bethlehem</i>	Felix, Fransisca	<i>Galilee</i>	Kevin, Reinetta
<i>Bethany</i>	Paulus, Erina	<i>Gilgal</i>	Jessica, Mike
<i>Bethel</i>	Christy, Erika	<i>Hebron-Philippi</i>	Yoseph, Rian
<i>Cana</i>	Bobby, Vissy	<i>Horeb</i>	Ferry, Nyssa
<i>Canaan</i>	Kezia, Freddie	<i>Jordan</i>	Sony, Wilfred
<i>Carmel</i>	Rio, Cinthya	<i>Moriah</i>	Andy, Novi
<i>Eden</i>	Jennifer, Jessen	<i>Philadelphia</i>	Dwi, Alicia
<i>Ekklesia</i>	Tabita, Edo	<i>Pniel</i>	Ribka, Vero
<i>Emmaus</i>	Fabian, Priska	<i>Zion</i>	Monica, Raymond

FAMILY

<i>Antioch (West)</i>	Andy, Iwan
<i>Tiberias (West)</i>	Andre, Albert
<i>Doncaster (East)</i>	Michael, Rudy
<i>Jerusalem (East)</i>	Edwin, Gerda
<i>Mt Hermon (East)</i>	Lily, Unggul
<i>Phillipi (East)</i>	Hariyanto, Ivan
<i>Shekinah (East)</i>	Cynthia
<i>Tabernacle (East)</i>	Sandi
<i>Westal (East)</i>	Michael Moeidjiantho

180

<i>Ephesians</i>	Ivan, Anjani
<i>Israel</i>	Timothy, Adela
<i>Judah</i>	Friska, Hendy
<i>Judea</i>	Valen, Charles
<i>Macedonia</i>	Priscilla Kezia
<i>Nain</i>	Sylvia, Alicia

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

Workers' Prayer Meeting
Saturday, 15 September, 10 AM, BIC
Joint Cool with Ps. Harry Setiono "Kingdom of God Culture"
Friday, 28 September, 7 PM



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Bethany International Church Melbourne