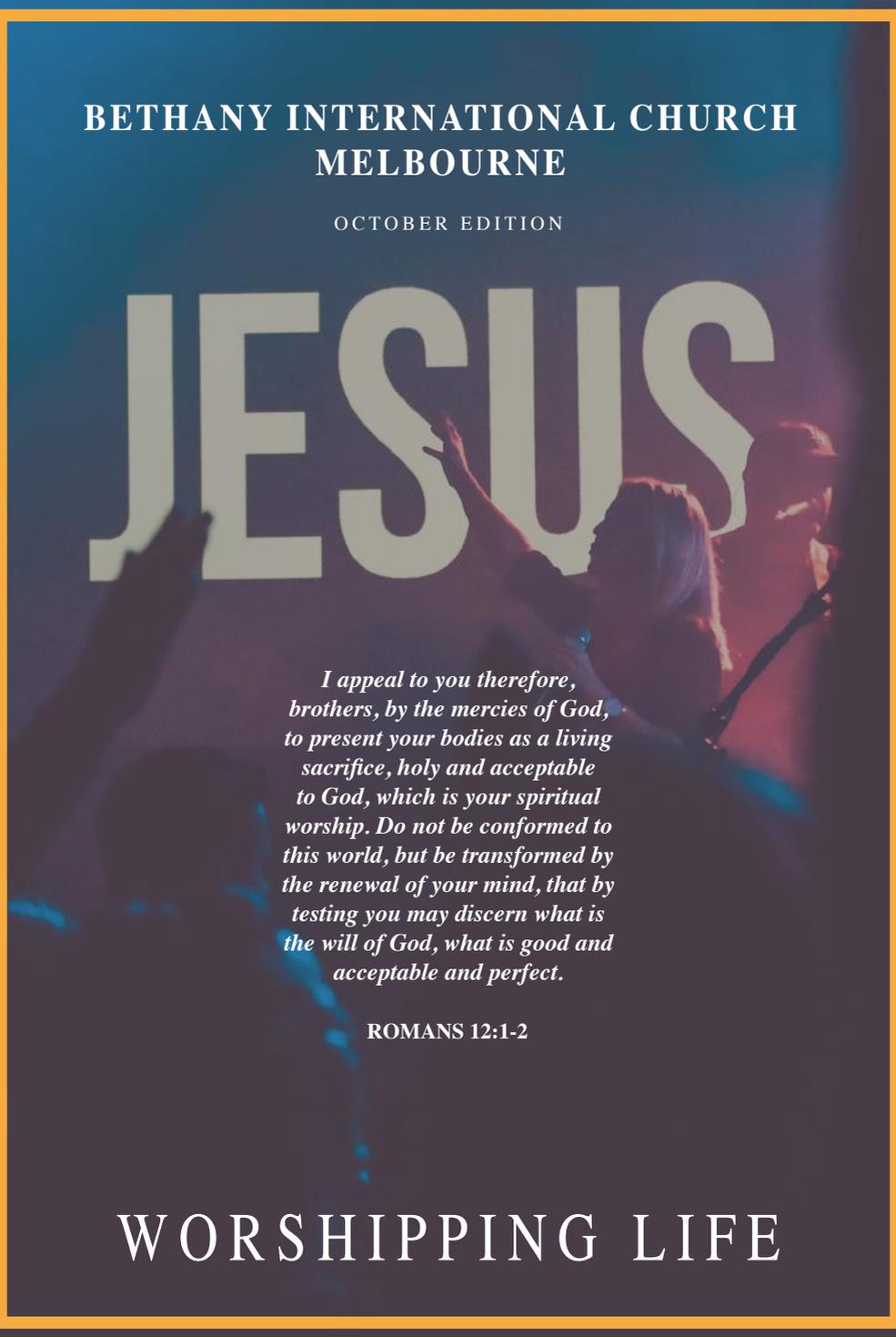


BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MELBOURNE

OCTOBER EDITION

JESUS



I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

ROMANS 12:1-2

WORSHIPPING LIFE



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

table of CONTENT

DEVOTIONAL FROM JAKARTA	01-04
COOL TESTIMONY	05-08
DEVOTIONAL	09-15
PRAYER FOR NATION	16
CHURCH SCHEDULE	17



Preaching The Gospel: The Pentecostal Way

“Dan Injil Kerajaan ini akan diberitakan di seluruh dunia menjadi kesaksian bagi semua bangsa, sesudah itu barulah tiba kesudahannya .”

Matius 24:14

“Sebab aku mempunyai keyakinan yang kokoh dalam Injil, karena Injil adalah kekuatan Allah yang menyelamatkan setiap orang yang percaya, pertama-tama orang Yahudi, tetapi juga orang Yunani. Sebab di dalamnya nyata kebenaran Allah, yang bertolak dari iman dan memimpin kepada iman, seperti ada tertulis:

“Orang benar akan hidup oleh iman.”

Roma 1:16-17

Dunia kekristenan pada masa kini terbagi menjadi 3 keluarga besar yaitu: Dunia Roma Katolik, Dunia Protestan, dan Dunia Ortodoks yang mencakup sepertiga jumlah manusia di muka bumi. Sampai pada saat ini agama Kristen masih merupakan jumlah terbesar dari semua agama yang ada. Dua kelompok dari Dunia kekristenan memiliki ciri yang sama yaitu keutamaan pemberitaan Injil sebagai salah satu alasan keberadaan Gereja di muka bumi ini. Mereka adalah Dunia Katolik dan Dunia Protestan. Bagi Dunia Katolik, semangat misi adalah hal yang menyelamatkan gereja Katolik dari kemunduran atau bahkan kepunahan yang mengancamnya paska reformasi di Eropa.

Semakin banyak negara-negara di Eropa berubah dari mayoritas Katolik menjadi memeluk protestanisme yang dibarengi dengan peningkatan kualitas sumber daya manusia, ekonomi, politik, dan militer, maka gereja Roma Katolik membentuk ordo-ordo misi dengan tujuan memberitakan iman Katolik melampaui batas-batas benua Eropa menuju Asia Selatan, Timur Jauh, Samudera Pasifik, bahkan ke DUNIA BARU. Hal itu menuai hasil yang luar biasa. Benua Amerika Latin hari ini adalah 80 % penganut iman Katolik, sebagian dari negara-negara di pantai timur Afrika, dan di Asia, Filipina, Timor Leste adalah negara-negara dengan mayoritas penganut Katolik.

Di dunia Protestan meskipun terlambat hampir 2 abad, namun semangat misi yang lahir dimulai dengan pelayaran William Carey ke India tahun 1799 telah merevolusi wajah dunia sampai pada masa kini. Dunia Protestan bukanlah suatu blok yang masif (sangat besar) dan monolit (bongkahan batu yang besar); di dalamnya terdapat banyak faksi dan golongan. William Carey, Hudson Taylor, dan David Livingstone adalah contoh misi individual yang lahir dari api kegerakan metodisme, meskipun William Carey sendiri tidak pernah secara resmi memutuskan hubungan dengan gereja Anglikan tetapi ia hampir dapat dikatakan 100% melakukan pelayanan misi di India terlepas dari struktur gereja di Inggris. Di dalam misi Protestan juga terdapat usaha-usaha penginjilan yang dilakukan oleh gereja-gereja di negara-negara di Eropa. Usaha misi gereja reformed Belanda di Indonesia adalah contoh utama kasus ini.

Semua hal diatas tidak dapat disangkal karena sangat berperan di dalam meletakkan dasar penginjilan di benua Asia dan Afrika. Hal ini sangatlah berharga di mata Tuhan dan generasi orang percaya pada saat inipun tidak dapat melupakan kontribusi para pelopor Injil ini. Hal yang sangat jelas adalah usaha-usaha penterjemahan Alkitab ke dalam bahasa-bahasa yang kemudian berkembang menjadi bahasa-bahasa utama yang di pakai di Asia. Sebagai contoh bahasa Bengali, bahasa Urdu, bahasa Hindi di India, bahasa mandarin (The Chinese Union Version) sangat berjasa membentuk bahasa mandarin modern, bahasa Korea, bahasa Vietnam, dan bahasa Melayu.

Namun tidak dapat disangkal bahwa ledakan perkabaran Injil terjadi setelah benua Asia dilanda kebangunan rohani. Kebangunan Rohani Azusa Street 1906 menjadi pemicu dari beberapa kebangunan rohani setempat yang terjadi di Pyongyang (1907), India barat laut (1910), Shandong (1917). Api pentakostalah yang akhirnya memberdayakan usaha penginjilan yang kali ini bukan hanya dilakukan oleh satu atau dua orang penginjil yang terpanggil saja tetapi seluruh gereja Tuhan diberdayakan untuk menjadi saksi-saksi Kristus. Orang - orang Pentakosta memiliki suatu kacamata khusus di dalam melihat usaha misi dan penginjilan. Mereka melihat penginjilan sebagai bukti nyata dan ekstensi seseorang yang telah dipenuhi dengan kuasa Roh Kudus. Dengan sederhana dapat dikatakan bahwa seseorang yang mau menjadi saksi (menginjil) haruslah seorang yang dipenuhi terlebih dahulu oleh kuasa Roh Kudus dan seorang yang dipenuhi oleh kuasa Roh Kudus tidak mungkin tidak menjadi saksi Kristus.

ADA 2 ALASAN UTAMA SESEORANG DAPAT MENJADI SAKSI KRISTUS

1. Kepenuhan Roh Kudus

Kepenuhan Roh Kudus di dalam diri orang percaya akan terus menerus membawa “kehadiran” Tuhan Yesus di dalam diri orang percaya.

Itulah sebabnya didalam khotbah-Nya terakhir pada malam sebelum Yesus ditangkap, Ia memberikan penjelasan panjang lebar tentang peranan Roh Kudus bagi orang percaya. Salah satunya adalah Ia akan menyertai mereka sampai kepada kesudahan zaman. Dengan kata lain Roh Kudus membawa kehadiran Tuhan di dalam kehidupan para rasul-Nya, bahkan mereka yang menjadi percaya kepada Yesus karena pemberitaan para Rasul. Roh Kudus akan membuat mereka mampu “merasakan” kehadiran Tuhan Yesus. Tanpa hal ini, di dalam kekristenan hanya tersisa ajaran Tuhan Yesus.

Meskipun tidak dapat disangkal bahwa ajaran Tuhan Yesus memang luar biasa tetapi kekristenan akan menjadi tidak berbeda dengan agama atau filosofi yang ada dunia pada saat itu. Murid-murid Plato pun masih menyimpan dan memelihara ajaran Plato, tetapi mereka tidak dapat mengklaim bahwa mereka disertai oleh Plato senantiasa di dalam menjalani seluruh kesulitan hidup.

Itulah sebabnya untuk menjadi saksi Kristus, orang harus terus menerus diperbaharui pengalamannya dengan Kristus.

2. Kuasa Roh Kudus

Untuk menjadi saksi Kristus seseorang harus dipenuhi dengan Kuasa. Yesus menetapkan kedua belas murid-Nya yang selalu bersama-sama dengan Dia untuk “menjadi Rasul-Nya” kata Apostolos yang seringkali diterjemahkan sebagai “messenger atau Rasul” sebenarnya mengacu kepada seorang duta besar Romawi yang diutus untuk mendirikan sebuah koloni baru bagi Roma dengan disertai Legiun Romawi, korps pegawai negeri Roma, meterai senat Romawi sebagai bukti otoritasnya.

Hal inilah yang menjadi titik penekanan istimewa kaum Pentakosta. Banyak terjadi kesalahpahaman dengan pengertian bahwa kuasa Allah terletak pada Injil Yesus Kristus. Mereka sering mengutip Roma 1:16. Tetapi jika kita melihat konteks ayat tersebut dikatakan disana bahwa Injil adalah Kuasa Allah bagi mereka yang percaya. Dengan kata lain bagi mereka yang belum percaya; Injil belum dapat menunjukkan kuasanya.

a. Pertama-tama yang harus dilihat adalah Injil (bahasa Yunani “εὐαγγέλιον” atau “Euaggelion”) memiliki arti kabar baik. Menurut etimologi kata “εὐαγγέλιον” dalam bahasa Yunani seringkali menunjuk kepada kabar baik mengenai Raja sebagai penguasa kota (Polis) dan hal-hal yang berkenaan dengan kehidupannya;

Menurut etimologi kata “εὐαγγέλιον” dalam bahasa Yunani seringkali menunjuk kepada kabar baik mengenai Raja sebagai penguasa kota (Polis) dan hal-hal yang berkenaan dengan kehidupannya;

- Raja baru saja menang perang,
- Raja baru saja mendapatkan keturunan yang baru,
- Raja baru saja sembuh dari sakit.

Di dalam konteks itulah kita harus mengartikan kata kabar baik yaitu “Kabar Baik” mengenai Yesus yang adalah Raja yang sedang datang bersama dengan kerajaan-Nya. Bukan kabar baik menurut apa yang kita inginkan. Dengan melihat pengertian ini, jelaslah kita mengerti bahwa tidak semua orang mengakui Yesus sebagai raja mereka.

b. Barulah kita dapat mengerti, Paulus mengajarkan bahwa pemberitaan Injil tidak terlepas dari konteks peperangan rohani. Kerajaan kegelapan tidak akan rela melepaskan orang-orang dari cengkramannya dengan begitu saja.

“Jika Injil yang kami beritakan masih tertutup juga, maka ia tertutup untuk mereka, yang akan binasa, yaitu orang-orang yang tidak percaya, yang pikirannya telah dibutakan oleh ilah zaman ini, sehingga mereka tidak melihat cahaya Injil tentang kemuliaan Kristus, yang adalah gambaran Allah.” 2 Kor 4:3-4

Yesus mengajarkan, jika kita ingin menjarah perbendaharaan seorang kuat, kita harus mengikat orang kuat itu terlebih dahulu baru kita dapat merampas segala miliknya. (Mat 12:29; Mrk 3:27)

Itulah sebabnya sama seperti tugas dari Apologetika ialah untuk menyingkirkan keraguan dan penolakan mental/intelektual seseorang sebelum pemberitaan Injil maka demonstrasi kuasa Roh Kudus dengan tanda-tanda ajaib dengan mujizat menduduki peran yang sama secara praktikal.

Apologetika bukanlah Injil. Demikian pula demonstrasi kuasa Roh Kudus bukanlah Injil itu sepenuhnya. Kesembuhan fisik tidak dapat menyelamatkan seseorang dari dosa. Mujizat tidak menyelamatkan seseorang dari dosa. Hanya Injillah yang dapat menyelamatkan seseorang dari dosa. Namun, seringkali mujizat, kesembuhan, dan kuasa Roh Kudus diperlukan sebagai pembuka jalan untuk mata hati orang atau komunitas dicelikkan untuk mereka melihat Injil kemuliaan Allah. (AL)

God's Gracious Hands Knit Us Together

Pniel

Veronika Lianto, Ribka Kusnadi, Margaret Lim, Steffi Sunarto

COOL Pniel was established from the multiplication of St Kilda's cool about 15 years ago. In 1999, COOL Windsor was established by 4 members, who persistently prayed for growth in their COOL members. COOL Windsor then changed their name to St Kilda. From St Kilda, there were 4 other COOLs that were born by God's grace; they were St Kilda 2, St Kilda 3, St Kilda 4 and St Kilda 5. Truly, St Kilda's COOLs by God's grace were the result of persistent prayers that were interceded by the members. St Kilda 2 was then led by Veronika Lianto and Ribka Kusnadi, which they were asked to pray and choose a new name for their COOL. After praying they came to conclusion [with the leading of God's Word] to choose the name Pniel--the place where Jacob encountered God (Genesis 32:30), as they believe that everyone needs a refreshed personal encounter with God. Therefore, St Kilda 2 is now called Pniel.

Veronika has been attending St Kilda 2 since 2003/2004 from a high school student until today as a mom of a 3-year old daughter. Despite few years break due to studying overseas, she then served as COOL shepherd until today. When she was appointed as a shepherd, on the first day she was ministering, she recalled the prayer that was said over her.

"...when God chose [me] to serve as a shepherd, God Himself would be the One who equips and leads, I guess that is the promise that I hold on to and has sustained me in my years of ministering as a shepherd until today," said Vero.

As Pniel is entering her sweet 16th birthday next year, Veronika recalled the fond memories she had with this COOL from the humble beginning. She has seen how God has always come through and carried COOL members in His loving grace until today. There are joyful but also tearful times, but in all of that moments she sees God's grace and His hand that always carry them through. Vero also emphasized that the experiences as a COOL shepherd/leader cannot be the the anchor that one can rely to, but rather one must always follow and be obedient to God's guidance.



“We cannot rely on our own experiences as a shepherd no matter how long we have been serving as one, because COOL’s dynamic changes and only God who knows what He has in store for the COOL during the season. That is why we need to cling closer to God through prayers, personal relationship with Him to have God’s wisdom on how to handle COOL,” she added.

Ministering or leading a COOL is not like a secular job where we can rely on our previous experiences, but rather as a COOL leader, one must always rely on God.

For Ribka Kusnadi, Pniel is a family where she was born again as a Christian, the place where she grows in her knowledge about God and experienced God’s transforming power. For her, Pniel is where she is sowing the Seed that was first sowed into her. However, her journey did not start with a sweet beginning like the said above. When Ribka first came to BIC and joined COOL, she was one of those members who have thousands of reasons not to come to Friday meetings. Even when she came to COOL, she would only sit quietly and not speak a single word.

“I thank God that my COOL leaders did not give up on me, they [still] showed that they cared for me and eventually I could open up to be who I am, and I feel so blessed to have a family that can support and edify my faith even in the midst of struggles,” said Ribka. Ribka was then trained and raised as one of the leaders in Pniel. In the beginning of her journey, she was struggling as she didn’t have any leadership prior to this which made her cling on to Jesus even more believing that He will equip her for this role.

“Most [of] the times, I feel unworthy and unsuitable to be a leader, but by His grace, I learn to put my confidence only in Jesus and not in myself,” said Ribka. In this journey as a shepherd, there are many challenges as it requires her to deny herself, to sacrifice her comfort, time and to love selflessly. However, her strength is being renewed every time she is reminded of the sacrifice Jesus had done for her.

“If Jesus is willing to sacrifice His Deity, His comfort, His LIFE for sinners, then I too should joyfully serve my brothers and sisters who are sinners just like me,” she added. Ribka encourages people to be planted in a COOL to grow their faith because the journey of faith is not an easy one and we need each other to be reminded to persevere, to have faith, to endure joyfully, to repent, to pray and to love.

Steffi Sunarto and Margaret Lim have been attending COOL Pniel for few years and they have experienced the power of community’s love in their journey of faith. Margaret has been attending Pniel since the first time she arrived Melbourne and for her, COOL is a family where we can help one another, listening to their joy and sorrows, a reliable community, encouraging, caring and edifying one another in everything especially in her journey with God.

“The members in this community has brought joy into my life when I was weary and tired, this community was the one that lifted up my spirit,” Margaret said.

COOL has become a place where she grows to understand deeper about God through the discussions held at the meetings. Through the members, she has been encouraged to learn and dig deeper about God’s words in her personal time and to constantly seek God’s truth. She has also been encouraged to spread the gospel and the Word of truth to her friends who have yet to come to know Christ.

Steffi Sunarto also shared with us that COOL Pniel is like her family to whom she can share her struggles with and to encourage one another according to God's Words. COOL has been a place where she can learn a deeper understanding about God's Words and to dive deeper into the Sunday's sermon through discussion.

"...In COOL people share their experience(s) with God and their thoughts on the Words as well, and that encourages me to learn the Words everyday and to build an intimate relationship with God," said Steffi. For her, COOL is significant in every believer's journey of faith as community that can support one another in our spiritual journey, especially in molding and growing us to be more like Jesus everyday.

COOL Pniel has seen and tasted the grace of God from the beginning until today. A Community that was born out of God's grace is being sustained by His unending and relentless grace everyday.

The anchor of COOL Pniel is the vision God had for them, so they pray that every member in their COOL will encounter God personally in a deeper level everyday.



21 OCT

My Real Face

Read

1 Timothy
1:12–17

Bible in a Year
Isaiah 62–64;
1 Timothy 1

*I thank Christ
Jesus our Lord,
who has given
me strength, that
he considered
me trustworthy,
appointing me
to his service. 1
Timothy 1:12*

By Xochitl Dixon

For years, feelings of unworthiness and shame over my less-than-godly past had an adverse impact on every aspect of my life. What if others discovered the extent of my blemished reputation? Though God helped me muster up courage to invite a ministry leader to lunch, I strived to seem perfect. I scrubbed my house spotless, whipped up a three-course meal, and donned my best jeans and blouse.

I rushed to turn off the front-yard sprinklers. Twisting the leaking nozzle, I screamed when a gush of water drenched me. With towel-dried hair and smeared makeup, I changed into dry sweat pants and a T-shirt . . . just in time to hear the doorbell. Frustrated, I confessed my morning's antics and motives. My new friend shared her own battles with fear and insecurity stemming from guilt over past failings. After we prayed, she welcomed me to her team of God's imperfect servants.

The apostle Paul accepted his new life in Christ, refusing to deny his past or let it stop him from serving the Lord (1 Timothy 1:12–14). Because Paul knew Jesus's work on the cross saved and changed him—the worst of sinners—he praised God and encouraged others to honor and obey Him (vv. 15–17).

When we accept God's grace and forgiveness, we're freed from our past. Flawed but fiercely loved, we have no reason to be ashamed of our real faces as we serve others with our God-given gifts.

Lord, thanks for eliminating our shame and insecurities as You use us to serve You, no matter what our life looked like before You saved us.

「*God accepts us as we are, and changes us as we serve Him in love.*」

22 OCT

Treasure in a Pumpkin

As a young mother, I was determined to document my daughter's first year of life. Each month, I took photos of her to illustrate how she had changed and grown. In one of my favorite pictures, she is gleefully sitting in the belly of a hollowed-out pumpkin I purchased from a local farmer. There she sat, the delight of my heart, contained in an overgrown squash. The pumpkin withered in the ensuing weeks, but my daughter continued to grow and thrive.

The way Paul describes knowing the truth of who Jesus is reminds me of that photo. He likens the knowledge of Jesus in our heart to a treasure stored in a clay pot. Remembering what Jesus did for us gives us the courage and strength to persevere through struggles in spite of being "hard pressed on every side" (2 Corinthians 4:8). Because of God's power in our lives, when we are "struck down, but not destroyed," we reveal the life of Jesus (v. 9).

Like the pumpkin that withered, we may feel the wear and tear of our trials. But the joy of Jesus in us can continue to grow in spite of those challenges. Our knowledge of Him—His power at work in our lives—is the treasure stored in our frail clay bodies. We can flourish in the face of hardship because of His power at work within us.

Dear Father, thank You for putting Your truth into my heart and life. Help me to bear up under the challenges I face with Your power. May others see Your work in my life and come to know You too..

Read

2 Corinthians
4:7–18

Bible in a Year

Isaiah 65–66;
1 Timothy 2

*We have this
treasure in
jars of clay to
show that this
all-surpassing
power is from
God and not
from us.*

2 Corinthians
4:7

By Kirsten Holmberg

▮ *God's power is at work within us* ▮

23 OCT

Choosing the Trail

Read
Matthew
7:13–14

Bible in a Year
Jeremiah 1–2;
1 Timothy 3

*Small is the
gate and
narrow the
road that leads
to life, and only
a few find it.*

Matthew 7:14

By David C. McCasland

I have a beautiful autumn photograph of a young man on horseback in the Colorado mountains as he contemplates which trail ahead to follow. It reminds me of Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken." In it, Frost ponders two pathways that lie before him. Both are equally inviting, but he doubts he will return to this place again, and he must choose one. Frost wrote, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

In Jesus's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7), the Lord told His listeners, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (7:13–14). On our journey through life, we face many choices about which road to travel. Many pathways seem promising and attractive but only one is the pathway of life. Jesus calls us to travel the road of discipleship and obedience to God's Word—to follow Him instead of the crowd.

As we ponder the road ahead, may God give us wisdom and courage to follow His way—the road of life. It will make all the difference for us and those we love!

Lord, as we go through this day, give us eyes to see the narrow road that leads to life and the courage to follow it.

「Choose to walk the road of life with Jesus」

Impossible to Hold

24 OCT

Swimming with friends in the Gulf of Mexico, Caitlyn encountered a shark, which grabbed her legs and pulled at her body. To counter the attack, Caitlyn punched the shark in the nose. The predator unclenched its jaws and swam away in defeat. Although its bite caused multiple wounds, which required over 100 stitches, the shark was unable to keep Caitlyn in its grasp.

This story reminds me of the fact that Jesus delivered a blow to death, ending its power to intimidate and defeat His followers. According to Peter, “It was impossible for death to keep its hold on [Jesus]” (Acts 2:24).

Peter said these words to a crowd in Jerusalem. Perhaps many of them had been the ones yelling out, “Crucify him!” to condemn Jesus (Matthew 27:22). As a result, Roman soldiers fastened Him to a cross where He hung until they confirmed He was dead. Jesus’s body was carried to a tomb where it stayed for three days until God resurrected Him. After His resurrection, Peter and others spoke and ate with Him, and after forty days they watched Him ascend into heaven (Acts 1:9).

Jesus’s life on Earth ended amidst physical suffering and mental anguish, yet God’s power defeated the grave. Because of this, death—or any other struggle—lacks the ability to keep us in its grip forever. One day all believers will experience everlasting life and wholeness in God’s presence. Focusing on this future can help us find freedom today.

Dear Jesus, Your victory over death gives me hope! I praise You as the resurrected One who died so that I could have eternal life.

Read

Acts 2:22–36

Bible in a Year

Jeremiah 3–5;
1 Timothy 4

It was

*impossible for
death to keep
its hold on
[Jesus].*

Acts 2:24

By Jennifer Benson Scholdt

“The grip of the grave is no match for the power of God.”

25
OCT

Where Is Peace?

“Do you still hope for peace?” a journalist asked Bob Dylan in 1984. “There is not going to be any peace,” Dylan replied. His response drew criticism, yet there’s no denying that peace remains ever elusive.

About 600 years before Christ, most prophets were predicting peace. God’s prophet wasn’t one of them. Jeremiah reminded the people that God had said, “Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people” (Jeremiah 7:23). Yet they repeatedly ignored the Lord and His commands. Their false prophets said, “Peace, peace” (8:11), but Jeremiah predicted disaster. Jerusalem fell in 586 bc.

Peace is rare. But amid Jeremiah’s book of dire prophecies we discover a God who loves relentlessly. “I have loved you with an everlasting love,” the Lord told His rebellious people. “I will build you up again” (31:3–4).

God is a God of love and peace. Conflict comes because of our rebellion against Him. Sin destroys the world’s peace and robs each of us of inner peace. Jesus came to this planet to reconcile us to God and give us that inner peace. “Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” wrote the apostle Paul (Romans 5:1). His words are among the most hope-filled ever written.

Whether we live in a combat zone or dwell in a serene neighborhood with nary a whisper of war, Christ invites us into His peace.

God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. C. S. Lewis

Read

Jeremiah 8:8–15

Bible in a Year

Jeremiah 6–8;

1 Timothy 5

We have peace

with God

through our

Lord Jesus

Christ.

Romans 5:1

By Tim Gustafson

「*God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. C. S. Lewis*」

The Great Crescendo

26 OCT

My parents taught me to love all sorts of music—from country to classical. So my heart beat rapidly as I walked into the Moscow Conservatory, one of Russia’s great music halls, to hear the Moscow National Symphony. As the conductor drove the musicians through a masterful Tchaikovsky piece, themes developed that gradually built to a powerful crescendo—a profound and dramatic musical climax. It was a magical moment, and the audience stood to roar its approval.

The Scriptures move toward the most powerful crescendo of history: the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the moments following Adam and Eve’s fall into sin in the garden of Eden, God promised that a Redeemer would come (Genesis 3:15), and throughout the Old Testament that theme moved forward. The promise rang out in the Passover lamb (Exodus 12:21), the hopes of the prophets (1 Peter 1:10), and the longings of the people of God.

First John 4:14 confirms where that story had been going: “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.” How? God accomplished His promised rescue of His broken world when Jesus died and rose again to forgive us and restore us to our Creator. And one day He will come again and restore His whole creation.

As we remember what God’s Son has done for us, we celebrate the great crescendo of God’s grace and rescue for us and His world—Jesus!

*Father, Your Son has impacted Your world like nothing else.
I’m grateful He has come for my rescue and will come again to
restore Your world.*

Read

1 John 4:14–21

Bible in a Year

Jeremiah 9–11;

1 Timothy 6

*The Father has
sent his Son to
be the Savior
of the world.*

1 John 4:14

By Bill Crowder

「Celebrate the gift of Jesus!」

27 OCT

Unexpected Kindness

Read

Ephesians 2:1–10

Bible in a Year

Jeremiah 12–14;
2 Timothy 1

*For we
are God's
handiwork,
created in*

*Christ Jesus to
do good works.*
Ephesians 2:10

By Amy Boucher Pye

My friend was waiting to pay for her groceries when the man in front of her turned around and handed her a voucher for £10 (\$14) off her bill. Short on sleep, she burst into tears because of his kind act; then she started laughing at herself for crying. This unexpected kindness touched her heart and gave her hope during a period of exhaustion. She gave thanks to the Lord for His goodness extended to her through another person.

The theme of giving was one the apostle Paul wrote about in his letter to gentile Christians in Ephesus. He called them to leave their old lives behind and embrace the new, saying that they were saved by grace. Out of this saving grace, he explained, flows our desire to “do good works,” for we have been created in God’s image and are His “handiwork” (2:10). We, like the man at the supermarket, can spread God’s love through our everyday actions.

Of course, we don’t have to give material things to share God’s grace; we can show His love through many other actions. We can take the time to listen to someone when they speak to us. We can ask someone who is serving us how they are. We can stop to help someone in need. As we give to others, we’ll receive joy in return (Acts 20:35).

Dear Father, You created us in Your image, and we rejoice that we can share Your love and life. Help us to see the opportunities to give to others today.

「We’ve been created to share God’s love through giving His gifts」

Pray for Nation

PERU



Capital: *Lima*

Population: *32,6 million people*

Religion: *Majoritu Catholic*



1. God released the Peruvians from every strong religious and cultural bondage which has related with the Incas believe, so that the veil which prevented them from knowing the Lord Jesus will be lifted up so they will believe in Him.

2. God continues to move and empower the Evangelical Churches in Peru to preach and teach the truth of God's word to the majority of this nation that is still bound by traditional and religious believe.

3. Peru still needs a lot of teachers and also pastors who have enough knowledge of God's word to mentor young generation leaders in this country. Through them let be born the generation who are militant and ready to make spiritual breakthroughs in this country.

4. Deal bountifully with the people of Peru, O Lord, so that they may live and keep Your word (Ps. 119: 17). Amen.



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

23 October with Lydia Pinarsinta (from Jakarta)

30 October with Ps Herry Kho

no fellowship on November 6th (due to Melbourne Cup Day)

EVENTS

Water Baptism

Sunday, 28 October, 2 PM



+61396999077



www.bethanymelb.org.au



@bicmelbourne



Bethany International Church Melbourne