

BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MELBOURNE

OCTOBER EDITION

ROMANS 12:1-2

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.

WORSHIPPING LIFE



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

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Roh Kudus Mengajar Kita Untuk Berdoa

“Demikian juga Roh membantu kita dalam kelemahan kita; sebab kita tidak tahu, bagaimana sebenarnya harus berdoa; tetapi Roh sendiri berdoa untuk kita kepada Allah dengan keluhan-keluhan yang tidak terucapkan. Dan Allah yang menyelidiki hati nurani, mengetahui maksud Roh itu, yaitu bahwa Ia, sesuai dengan kehendak Allah, berdoa untuk orang-orang kudus.”

(Roma 8:26-27)

Kata “*kelemahan*” dalam ayat diatas berasal dari kata bahasa Yunani ἀσθένεια (astheneia) yang artinya kelemahan (tubuh atau pikiran); oleh implikasi penyakit; kelemahan moral.

Harus jujur diakui, keadaan kita sebagai manusia tidak selalu dalam kondisi yang prima; kuat secara fisik, mental maupun kerohanian. Sebab dalam dunia nyata yang kita jalani dalam keseharian kita, selalu kita diperhadapkan dengan berbagai terpaan ‘badai’ persoalan-persoalan kehidupan;

- baik yang menyerang secara fisik (kondisi cuaca, keadaan alam, wabah penyakit, pekerjaan yang terlalu berat, kesibukan yang menghabiskan banyak waktu dan tenaga),
- secara mental (persoalan yang harus dipecahkan atau dicarikan jalan keluarnya datang silih berganti, dimana kadang terasa berat untuk kita tanggung), serta
- secara rohani (suatu kondisi dimana kita merasa ‘kering’, ‘kesendirian’ dan ‘jauh dari Tuhan’), dimana umumnya ini merupakan dampak dari kelemahan secara fisik dan mental ditambah dengan disiplin rohani yang kendor dalam berdoa, memuji dan menyembah Tuhan serta membaca Firman Tuhan.

Seringkali dalam kondisi yang seperti ini kita menjadi ‘serba salah’. Mau berdoa rasanya ada tekanan dan tidak tahu bagaimana harus berdoa serta apa yang harus didoakan. Sehingga hal itu membuat kita terlarut dalam pikiran yang kalut. Kondisi seperti itu sangat mengganggu dan tidak mengenakan. Puji Tuhan, dalam kondisi yang seperti ini Roh Kudus membantu kita dalam kelemahan kita! Saat-saat dimana kita tidak tahu bagaimana harus berdoa, Roh Kudus berdoa untuk kita kepada Allah dengan keluhan-keluhan yang tidak terucapkan.

“In the same way the Spirit helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”
(Roman 8:26 – NASB)

Keadaan tertekan didalam kelemahan kita seringkali terjadi karena ada sesuatu yang kita rasakan tetapi sulit diungkapkan dengan kata-kata, bahkan kita juga bingung kepada siapa kita harus mengungkapkannya. Dalam pada itulah Roh Kudus bersyafaat untuk kita dengan keluhan-keluhan (groanings). Kapan Roh Kudus bersyafaat untuk kita secara demikian? Tentu kita tidak dapat menyelami pekerjaan Roh Kudus karena Dia Allah yang tidak dibatasi oleh apapun, namun demikian, saat kita berdoa dengan berbahasa roh secara intens baik dalam penyembahan maupun dalam doa saat kita tidak tahu lagi bagaimana caranya berdoa, disitulah juga Roh Kudus menyampaikannya kepada Allah.

Dan yang sangat luar biasa adalah doa yang disampaikan oleh Roh Kudus pasti didengar dan dijawab oleh Allah? Mengapa kita bisa begitu yakin?

1. Firman Tuhan mengatakan: *“Dan Allah yang menyelidiki hati nurani, mengetahui maksud Roh itu”* artinya doa yang disampaikan adalah doa yang berasal dari hati nurani yang murni, jauh lebih murni daripada doa kita sendiri.

Sebab baik disadari atau tidak, beberapa orang dari antara kita berdoa dengan begitu banyak *“bumbu-bumbu”* yang tidak perlu, hanya sekedar *‘pemanis kata’* yang disampaikan dengan anggapan bahwa dengan memberikan *‘pemanis kata’* dapat membujuk Tuhan untuk mengabulkan doanya.

Ingat **Yakobus 4:3** *“Atau kamu berdoa juga, tetapi kamu tidak menerima apa-apa, karena kamu salah berdoa, sebab yang kamu minta itu hendak kamu habiskan untuk memuaskan hawa nafsumu.”*

2. Firman Tuhan menambahkan: *“...bahwa Ia, sesuai dengan kehendak Allah, berdoa untuk orang-orang kudus.”* Bayangkan betapa dahsyatnya doa tersebut. Doa-Nya sesuai dengan kehendak Allah dan doa yang didoakan adalah untuk orang-orang kudus. Orang-orang kudus yang dimaksud dalam bahasa aslinya adalah *ἅγιος (hagios)* yang artinya suci, murni, tidak bercacat secara moral dan agama, dikuduskan secara seremonial tentunya melalui pengorbanan Kristus diatas kayu salib.

Roma 8:26 ini sangat luar biasa, ini adalah sebuah penghiburan bagi kita umat percaya. Kristus telah menjadi pengantara untuk kita yang telah mendamaikan kita dengan Bapa (**2 Korintus 5:19; Ibrani 2:17**), Kristus juga yang telah mengutus Roh Kudus (**Yohanes 16:7**) yang menjadi pengantara kita dalam kelemahan-kelemahan kita berdoa kepada Allah. Ingin mengalami pengalaman yang supranatural ini? Beri diri kita dibaptis oleh Roh Kudus dan hidup senantiasa penuh dengan Roh Kudus. Ingat 3 (tiga) fokus utama kita seperti yang telah disampaikan berulang-ulang oleh Gembala Sidang/Pembina kita: Hadirat Tuhan, Pengurapan dan Bahasa Roh! Tuhan Yesus memberkati. Amin (AR)

The Power of Prayer

Ephesians

Anjani Elsa Ulita

Meet Anjani, or better known as Angie, the creative leader and worship leader of BIC's Next Generation and the leader of 180 COOL Ephesians. You can easily find her through her beautiful voice when she ministers as a worship leader or singer in 180 / Next Generation service, and she is also the person behind every creative poster in 180's social media. When she first set her foot at BIC Melbourne 6 years ago, she only thought of church as a Sunday routine. But clearly, God has a greater purpose for her.

She was immediately invited to join 180 service as soon as she arrived at BIC. At one service, the pastor told them to come to the front and receive the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Angie decided to open her heart and let the Holy Spirit do wonders in her life, and so she experienced a personal encounter with God. From a mere churchgoer, Angie began to minister as a singer and joined COOL 180 soon after. From that moment on, her life changed by 180 degree.

From then on, Angie continued her journey with God together with the 180 community. Year after year, the Holy Spirit worked in her life in revealing her gifts, her calling, and her life vision through many encounters. She realised that one of her gifts is caring for other people, hence she decided to use it for God's glory through COOL. She described COOL as home away from home, and considers her COOL members as her family here in Melbourne, who are always there for her through thick and thin. After 2 years, she was appointed to be one of the COOL leaders. She shared that "unity in prayer and worship is one of the central aspect of a COOL. God wants us to have a fellowship life with one another". Angie believed that although she has experienced a personal encounter with God, she would not grow spiritually as much as she is now had she not be a part of COOL. Her fellow COOL members and leaders did not only help her during hard times, but during any time and any season, they would gather to share the words of God with each other, and thus help each other to grow in Christ together.



Through COOL, Angie also found the ministry that she always has a passion for. Aside from ministering in the church, Angie has always had the desire to reach out further to the communities outside church. Yet she wasn't sure how and where to go. Her COOL introduced her to 'evangelical ministry', where she and her COOL members would set out to various places and venturing to various neighborhoods, meeting people from different nationalities, cultures, and background. They would pray before they depart, asking God for directions of where to go and who God wants them to pray for.

Her very first evangelical ministry was at a suburban restaurant that serves food to homeless people. She went there in a group of eight, where they introduced themselves as the "community that loves God who wants to offer prayers & blessings". When they first asked if anyone wants to be prayed for, the whole restaurant broke out in laughter. They started to get embarrassed, but three people raised their hands. She and her friends started to pray for the three people, and God started to work through them. A few seconds after they finish praying, the three people who suffered from eye and muscle pain were healed immediately! Right away the whole restaurant raised their hands and asked to be prayed for too. God worked miraculously in each individual at that moment, and in the end almost everyone was healed during that event! Praise God!

At the end of the day, when we surround ourselves with the right community and come to God with a humble and willing heart, God will open any path for you to fulfill His plans and purposes through your life. In the end, Angie didn't just find a community here at BIC, but she found her life calling as well.

30 SEPT

Read
Ephesians
3:1–12

Bible in a Year
Isaiah 9–10;
Ephesians 3

*This mystery
is that through
the gospel the
Gentiles are
heirs together
with Israel.*
Ephesians 3:6

By Dave Branon

Unlocking a Mystery

When I came home from work one day and saw a pair of lady’s high-heel shoes next to the driveway, I was sure I knew whose they were. So I put them in the garage to give to my daughter Lisa when she returned to the house to pick up her children. But when I checked with Lisa, I found they didn’t belong to her. In fact, no one in our family claimed them, so I put them back where I’d found them. The next day, they were gone. Mysterious.

Did you know that the apostle Paul wrote of a mystery in his letters? But the mystery he described was so much more than some kind of “whodunit.” In Ephesians 3, for example, Paul spoke of a mystery that “was not made known to people in other generations” (v. 5). This mystery is that, while in the past God revealed Himself through Israel, now, through Jesus, Gentiles—those outside of Israel—could be “heirs together with Israel” (v. 6).

Think about what this means: all who trust Jesus as Savior can love and serve God together. We can all equally “approach [Him] with freedom and confidence” (v. 12). And through the church’s unity the world will see God’s wisdom and goodness (v. 10).

Praise God for our salvation. It unlocks for us the mystery of unity as people of any and all backgrounds become one in Jesus.

*Thank You, Jesus, for the unity all believers can enjoy in You.
Help us to serve together as equal members of Your body.*

「*Unity in Christ breaks down barriers and builds the church.*」

For Our Friends

01 OCT

In Emily Bronte’s novel *Wuthering Heights*, a cantankerous man who often quotes the Bible to criticize others is memorably described as “the wearisomest self-righteous Pharisee that ever ransacked a Bible to rake [apply] the promises to himself and fling the curses to his neighbours.” It’s a funny line; and it may even bring particular people to mind. But aren’t we all a bit like this—prone to condemn others’ failures while excusing our own?

In Scripture some people amazingly did the exact opposite; they were willing to give up God’s promises for them and even be cursed if it would save others. Consider Moses, who said he’d rather be blotted out of God’s book than see the Israelites unforgiven (Exodus 32:32). Or Paul, who said he’d choose to be “cut off from Christ” if it meant his people would find Him (Romans 9:3).

As self-righteous as we naturally are, Scripture highlights those who love others more than themselves. Because ultimately such love points to Jesus. “Greater love has no one than this,” Jesus taught, than “to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). Even before we knew Him, Jesus loved us “to the end” (13:1)—choosing death to give us life.

Now we are invited into the family of God, to love and be loved like this (15:9–12). And as we pour into others Christ’s unimaginable love, the world will catch a glimpse of Him.

Lord, thank You for showing us what it means to love. Help us to love like You.

Read

John 15:5–17

Bible in a Year

Isaiah 11–13;
Ephesians 4

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

John 15:12

By Monica Brands

「*When we love Christ, we love others*」

02 OCT

God's Brand

Scooping up the smallest children, a frantic maid raced out of the flaming house. As she ran, she called loudly to five-year-old Jacky.

But Jacky didn't follow. Outside, a bystander reacted quickly, standing on the shoulders of a friend. Reaching into the upstairs window, he pulled Jacky to safety—just before the roof caved in. Little Jacky, said his mother Susanna, was “a brand [stick] plucked from the burning.” You might know that “brand” as the great traveling minister John Wesley (1703–1791).

Susanna Wesley was quoting Zechariah, a prophet who provides valuable insight into God's character. Relating a vision he had, the prophet takes us into a courtroom scene where Satan is standing next to Joshua the high priest (3:1). Satan accuses Joshua, but the Lord rebukes the devil and says, “Is this not a brand [burning stick] plucked from the fire?” (v. 2 nkjv). The Lord tells Joshua, “I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you” (v. 4).

Then the Lord gave Joshua this challenge—and an opportunity: “If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house” (v. 7).

What a picture of the gift we receive from God through our faith in Jesus! He snatches us from the fire, cleans us up, and works in us as we follow His Spirit's leading. You might call us God's brands plucked from the fire.

Father, we give You our thanks for rescuing us and making us right with You. We humbly ask for Your Spirit's guidance as we serve You today.

Read
Zechariah
3:1–7

Bible in a Year
Isaiah 14–16;
Ephesians 5:1–16

*I have taken
away your sin,
and I will put fine
garments on you.*
Zechariah 3:4

By Tim Gustafson

“God rescues us because He loves us; then He equips us to share His love with others.”

Asking for Help

03
OCT

Her email arrived late in a long day. In truth, I didn't open it. I was working overtime to help a family member manage his serious illness. I didn't have time, therefore, for social distractions.

The next morning, however, when I clicked on my friend's message, I saw this question: "Can I help you in any way?" Feeling embarrassed, I started to answer no. Then I took a deep breath to pause. I noticed then that her question sounded familiar—if not divine.

That's because Jesus asked it. Hearing a blind beggar call out to Him on the Jericho Road, Jesus stopped to ask this man, named Bartimaeus, a similar question. Can I help? Or as Jesus said: "What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51).

The question is stunning. It shows the Healer, Jesus, longs to help us. But first, we're invited to admit needing Him—a humbling step. The "professional" beggar Bartimaeus was needy, indeed—poor, alone, and possibly hungry and downcast. But wanting a new life, he simply told Jesus his most basic need. "Rabbi," he said, "I want to see."

For a blind man, it was an honest plea. Jesus healed him immediately. My friend sought such honesty from me too. So I promised her I'd pray to understand my basic need and, more important, I'd humbly tell her. Do you know your basic need today? When a friend asks, tell it. Then take your plea even higher. Tell God.

Lord, I am needy. I want to share my heart with You now. Help me to humbly receive the help of others also.

Read

Mark 10:46–52

Bible in a Year

Isaiah 17–19;
Ephesians
5:17–33

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.
Mark 10:51

By Patricia Raybon

「God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble」

04 OCT

Courageous Stand

Read

Ephesians
6:10–18

Bible in a Year
Isaiah 20–22;
Ephesians 6

*Our struggle
is not against
flesh and
blood, but
against the
rulers, against
the authorities,
against the
powers of this
dark world.*
Ephesians 6:12

By Bill Crowder

Teresa Prekerowa was just a teenager when the Nazis invaded her native Poland at the dawn of World War II. This was in the beginnings of the Holocaust when her Jewish neighbors began to disappear—arrested by the Nazis. So Teresa and other Polish countrymen risked their lives to rescue those neighbors from the Warsaw ghetto and the Nazi purge. Teresa would become one of the premier historians of the war and the Holocaust, but it was her courage to stand against the tide of evil that would list her with the Righteous Among the Nations at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem.

Courage is needed to stand against evil. Paul told the church at Ephesus, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil” (Ephesians 6:12). Clearly this unseen opposition is more than any of us can face alone, so God has given us the necessary spiritual resources (the “full armor of God”) to enable us to “stand against the devil’s schemes” (v. 11).

What might that courageous stand involve? It may be working against injustice or intervening on behalf of someone you know who is vulnerable or victimized. Whatever form the conflict may take, we can have courage—our God has already provided what we need to stand for Him and against evil.

「*God enables us to stand for Him.*」

Better Than Ever

05
OCT

The story is told of a group of salmon fishermen who gathered in a Scottish inn after a long day of fishing. As one was describing a catch to his friends, his arm swept across the table and knocked a glass against the wall, shattering it and leaving a stain on the white plaster surface. The man apologized to the innkeeper and offered to pay for the damage, but there was nothing he could do; the wall was ruined. A man seated nearby said, “Don’t worry.” Rising, he took a painting implement from his pocket and began to sketch around the ugly stain. Slowly there emerged the head of a magnificent stag. The man was Sir E. H. Landseer, Scotland’s foremost animal artist.

David, Israel’s illustrious king who penned Psalm 51, brought shame on himself and his nation by his sins. He committed adultery with the wife of one of his friends and engineered the death of that friend—both deeds worthy of death. It would seem his life was ruined. But he pled with God: “Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me” (v. 12).

Like David we have shameful acts in our past and the memories that accompany them, recollections that taunt us in the middle of the night. There’s so much we wish we could undo or redo. There is a grace that not only forgives sin but also uses it to make us better than before. God wastes nothing.

Lord, I’ve failed You again. Please forgive me again. Change me. Turn me around. Teach me to follow Your ways.

Read

Psalm 51:9-13

Bible in a Year

Isaiah 23–25;
Philippians 1

*Restore to me
the joy of your
salvation and
grant me a
willing spirit,
to sustain me.*
Psalm 51:12

By David H. Roper

“*God has both an all-seeing eye and all-forgiving heart.*”

06 OCT

Twinkle

Read
Philippians
2:14–16

Bible in a Year
Isaiah 26–27;
Philippians 2

*Shine among
them like stars
in the sky as
you hold firmly
to the word of
life.*
Philippians
2:15–16

By Elisa Morgan

“Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” is an English lullaby. Its lyrics, originally a poem by Jane Taylor, capture the wonder of God’s universe where stars hang “up above the world so high.” In the rarely published later stanzas, the star acts as a guide: “As your bright and tiny spark lights the traveler in the dark.”

In Philippians, Paul challenges believers in Philippi to be blameless and pure as they “shine . . . like stars in the sky” while offering the good news of the gospel to all around them (2:15–16). We wonder how we can shine like stars. We often feel inadequate and struggle to think our “light” is bright enough to make a difference. But stars don’t try to be stars. They just are. Light changes our world. And it changes us. God brought physical light into our world (Genesis 1:3); and through Jesus, God brings spiritual light into our lives (John 1:1–4).

We who have God’s light in us are to shine in such a way that those around us see light and are drawn to its source. As effortlessly as a star hanging in the night sky, our light makes a difference because of what it is: Light! When we simply shine, we follow Paul’s directive to “hold firmly to the word of life” in a world in deep darkness, and we draw others to the source of our hope: Jesus.

Dear God, may Your light shine out of the very cracks of our beings as we hold out the Word of life to others.

Pray for Nation

CONGO



Capital: *Kinshasa*

Population: *78,7 million people*

Religion: *Majority Christian*



1. Gereja Tuhan di DR Kongo akan berjalan dalam terang Kristus dan mengabarkan berita damai dan kasih di setiap tempat di negeri ini. Allah akan memakai gerejaNya untuk menyatakan kebesaran dan kemuliaanNya di DR Kongo

2. Berdoa untuk pemilu yang akan datang di bulan Desember. Tidak ada pemimpin yang tidak berasal dari Allah. Tuhan berikan pemimpin yang tepat untuk membawa bangsa Kongo keluar dari segala krisis yang ada. Dijauhkan dari kekacauan, kecurangan dan perpecahan, sehingga kondisi setiap tempat di Kongo tetap terjaga baik.

3. Berdoa untuk virus Ebola yang menyerang negeri ini. Belas kasihan Tuhan tercurah. Dihalaukanlah setiap virus yang ada dari negeri ini, di dalam nama Tuhan Yesus. Bangsa Kongo disembuhkan dan dipulihkan.

4. Biarlah bangsa Kongo dapat berkata **“Aku mau bersyukur kepada Tuhan dengan segenap hatiku, aku mau menceritakan segala perbuatanMu yang ajaib, aku mau bersukacita dan bersukaria karena Engkau, bermazmur bagi namaMu ya Mahatinggi”** (Mazmur 9:2-3).



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

Marriage Preparation Class

Every Sunday, 11 AM

Baptism Class

30 September - 14 October, 1PM

Water Baptism

Sunday, 28 October



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