

**BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
MELBOURNE**

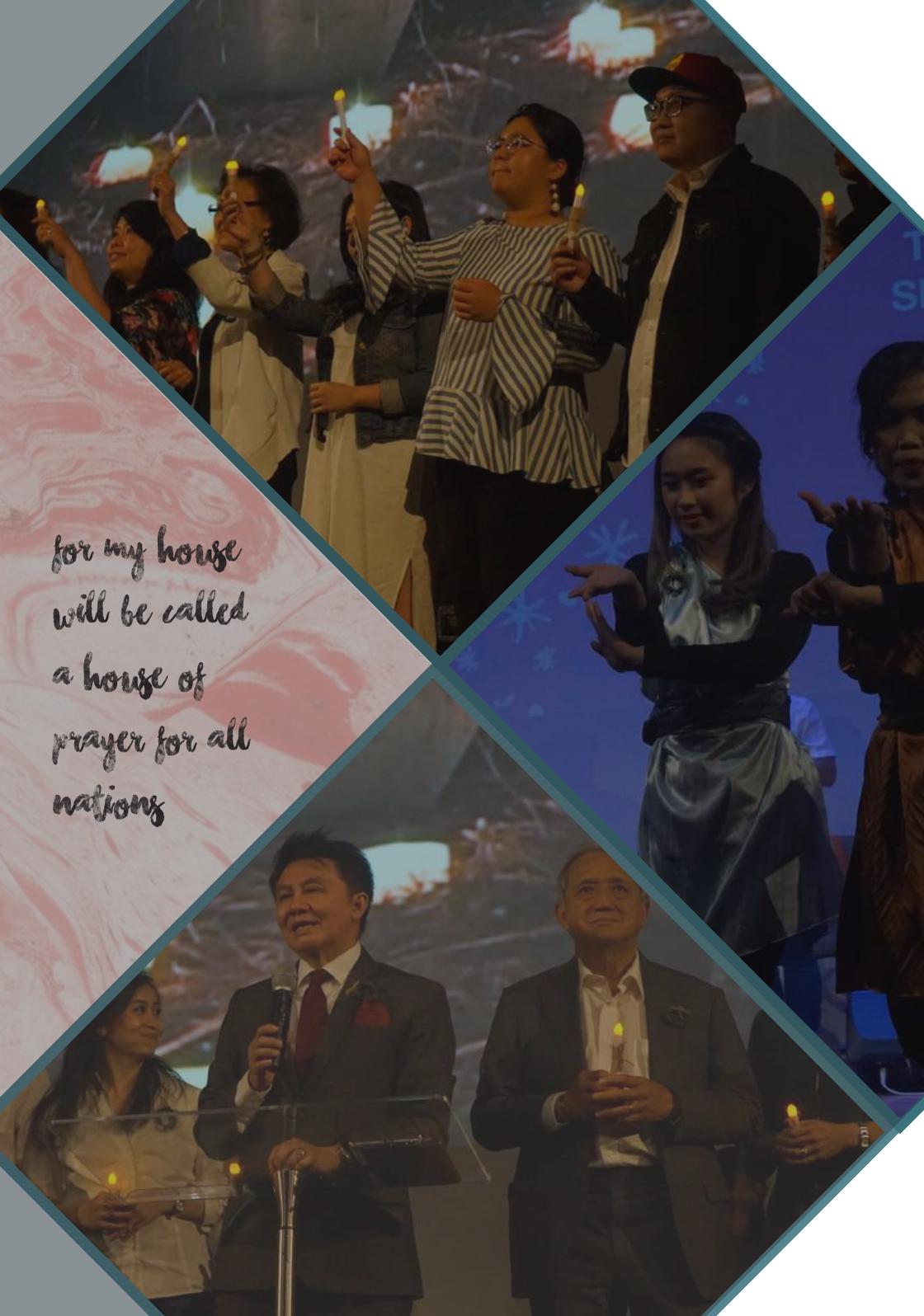
JANUARY EDITION

***NEW BIRTH
IN THE
KINGDOM OF GOD***

*Jesus replied, "Very truly I
tell you, no one can see the
kingdom of God unless they
are born again*

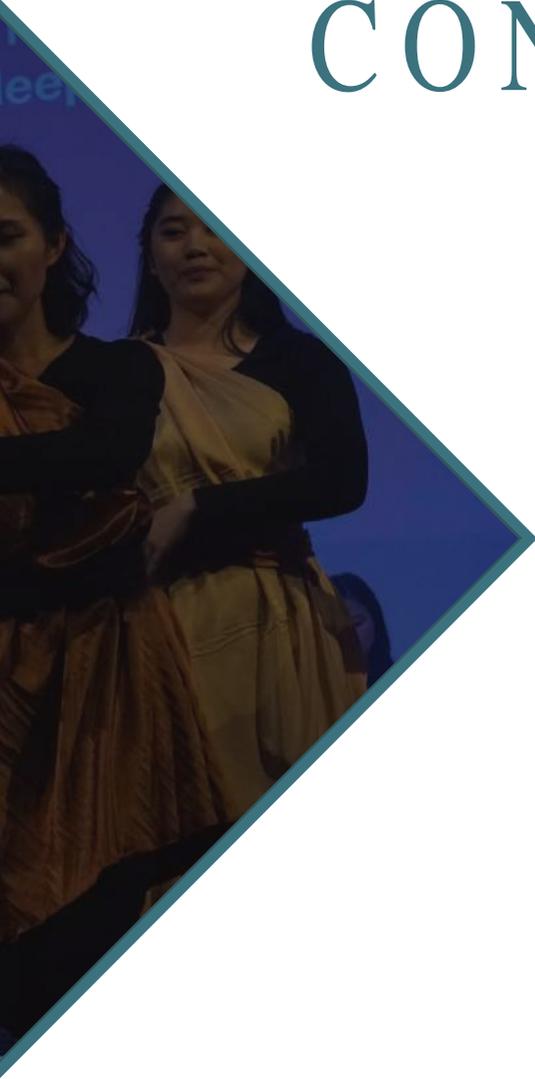
JOHN 3:3





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

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Holy Spirit and the Next Generation

Pekerjaan Tuhan yang besar akan terwujud ketika ada orang-orang yang memberi respon terhadap panggilan-Nya. Tentu saja Tuhan dapat bekerja dan menyelesaikan pekerjaan-Nya tanpa campur tangan manusia, namun dalam Alkitab kita melihat bahwa Tuhan memakai orang-orang untuk melakukan pekerjaan-Nya. Apakah ini ada kaitan dengan **Kejadian 1:28**

*“Allah memberkati mereka, lalu Allah berfirman kepada mereka:
“Beranakcuculah dan bertambah banyak; penuhilah bumi dan
taklukkanlah itu, berkuasalah atas ikan-ikan di laut dan burung-burung di
udara dan atas segala binatang yang merayap di bumi.”*

Tuhan memberikan kuasa kepada manusia yang diciptakan-Nya untuk menguasai bumi, sehingga dalam pelaksanaan tugas-tugas di bumi, Tuhan mengikutsertakan manusia.

Manusia yang jatuh ke dalam dosa dengan akibat kekal yang mengerikan, menjadi concern Allah. Allah bertindak untuk menyelamatkan dengan cara yang luar biasa dan di atas imajinasi manusia. Allah menjadi manusia! Yesus mengambil rupa manusia dengan tujuan mati di kayu salib, sehingga dengan darah-Nya yang tercurah menebus manusia dari dosa. Tuhan Yesus sudah melakukan itu di salib, setelah sebelumnya memuridkan beberapa orang untuk memberitakakan apa yang diajarkan dan dilakukan Yesus.

Di Loteng Yerusalem

Murid-murid menerima pencurahan Roh Kudus di Yerusalem tidak lepas dari rencana Tuhan mengutus mereka. Tuhan melibatkan murid-murid atau Gereja untuk menyebarkan keselamatan kepada semua orang berdosa. Untuk itu mereka akan menerima Roh Kudus yang memberi kuasa. Tuhan menyuruh mereka untuk tinggal di Yerusalem sampai waktunya genap. Dan pada hari perayaan Pentakosta mereka menerima pencurahan Roh Kudus. Proses menerima baptisan Roh Kudus, sudah dinubuatkan oleh nabi Yoel.

“Kemudian dari pada itu akan terjadi, bahwa Aku akan mencurahkan Roh-Ku ke atas semua manusia, maka anak-anakmu laki-laki dan perempuan akan bernubuat; orang-orangmu yang tua akan mendapat mimpi, teruna-terunamu akan mendapat penglihatan-penglihatan. Juga ke atas hamba-hambamu laki-laki dan perempuan akan Kucurahkan Roh-Ku pada hari-hari itu.” (Yoel 2:28-29).

Orang-orang Israel yang hidup setelah menerima nubuat itu senantiasa merindukan peristiwa tersebut. Mereka ingin menjadi orang-orang yang masuk dalam rencana Tuhan yang besar.

Murid-murid adalah orang-orang Israel yang kemudian dipanggil menjadi murid Tuhan. Dengan latar belakang dan motivasi masing-masing, mereka menerima panggilan untuk mengikut Tuhan. Dan pada akhirnya itu, merekalah yang mendapat penganapan dari nubuatan nabi Yoel tersebut. Mereka menerima Roh Kudus sesuai dengan janji Tuhan Yesus.

Lebih Jauh Dengan Nubuatan Nabi Yoel

Dalam nubuatan tersebut dinyatakan beberapa pihak yang akan menerima pencurahan Roh yaitu :

- Anak laki-laki
- Anak perempuan
- Orang tua
- Teruna-teruna
- Hamba laki-laki
- Hamba perempuan

Jika kita melihat nubuatan itu dari sisi usia, didapati ada dua kelompok usia yaitu orang muda dan orang tua. Dalam hal ini orang tua disebut satu kali dan sisanya lebih merujuk pada orang-orang muda. Kelompok yang lebih muda mendapatkan porsi yang lebih besar. Hal ini dapat dilihat bahwa Tuhan akan memakai banyak generasi muda untuk melakukan pekerjaan-Nya.

Orang Muda

Setiap generasi memiliki orang-orangnya. Pada generasi pertama, Yesus banyak memanggil orang-orang muda untuk mengikuti-Nya. Tuhan ingin melatih murid-murid dan dalam jangka waktu yang lama mereka dapat melayani-Nya. Orang muda dipilih untuk melakukan pekerjaan yang besar dan juga penting. Kekuatiran bahwa mereka tidak sanggup melakukannya ditutup dengan pelatihan. Yesus melatih murid-murid cukup intensif selama 3,5 tahun dan membaptis mereka dengan Roh Kudus. Generasi pertama harus segera melakukan pemuridan dengan pola yang Tuhan lakukan kepada generasi berikutnya.

Peranan orang muda sebagai generasi penerus sangat strategis. Generasi muda akan melakukan bagiannya pada masanya. Mereka sedapat-dapatnya melakukan Amanat Agung sehingga dapat terwujud pada generasinya.

“Dan Injil Kerajaan ini akan diberitakan di seluruh dunia menjadi kesaksian bagi semua bangsa,

sesudah itu barulah tiba kesudahannya.” **Matius 24:14**

Di samping itu, mereka juga harus mempersiapkan generasi berikutnya untuk melakukan hal itu. Mereka akan melakukan dalam tuntunan Roh Kudus atas hidup mereka.

Pada masa ini, masa penuaian yang terbesar, peran orang-orang muda semakin terlihat penting. Orang-orang muda harus menjadi ujung tombak pekabaran Injil. Jangan biarkan orang muda tenggelam dalam kesibukan yang diakibatkan teknologi yang semakin canggih dengan tujuan yang tidak jelas. Teknologi justru dipakai untuk mempercepat pelaksanaan Amanat Agung Tuhan Yesus.

Mengapa Orang Muda?

1. Komunikasi Yang Efektif

Kita tahu bahwa, jumlah penduduk bumi di setiap generasi semakin bertambah, terjadi multiplikasi. Jumlah penduduk muda bertambah dengan sangat signifikan. Perbedaan usia yang cukup jauh, membuat gaya komunikasi orang tua berbeda dengan orang muda. Orang-orang tua sulit berkomunikasi secara efektif dengan generasi yang lebih muda. Diperlukan orang yang dapat membawa pesan keselamatan kepada mereka dengan bahasa yang dapat dimengerti. Dalam hal ini orang-orang muda menduduki peran yang strategis. Orang muda yang terlatih dan diurapi mudah menjangkau anak muda yang lain.

2. Semangat Yang Tinggi

Tuhan juga memakai orang muda karena semangatnya yang tinggi. Orang muda adalah kelompok orang yang memiliki semangat juang untuk mencapai sesuatu. Ketika orang tua yang memiliki mimpi mengenai revival menularkan mimpi itu, maka anak muda memiliki semangat untuk mewujudkannya. Mereka memiliki tenaga dan waktu untuk menjadikan mimpi itu menjadi kenyataan.

3. Idealisme Yang Besar

Orang muda memiliki potensi yang luar biasa. Ketika orang muda ada di tangan yang keliru mereka bisa menjadi orang-orang yang mengerikan. Sebaliknya ketika mereka dimuridkan dengan baik dan diurapi Roh Kudus, mereka akan menjadi alat di tangan Tuhan yang efektif. Mereka memiliki idealisme dan berusaha mewujudkannya. Saat ini yang dibutuhkan mereka adalah bimbingan yang tepat dalam Firman Tuhan.

Orang muda adalah generasi penentu. Kehilangan orang muda berarti kehilangan kemenangan di masa yang akan datang. Memiliki generasi muda yang handal berarti memiliki harapan di masa mendatang. Menangani generasi muda harus dilakukan dengan serius. Mereka akan membawa dan meningkatkan kemenangan yang sudah kita dimiliki di generasi kita. Generasi muda harus ditangani dengan baik dan dibimbing dalam pengurapan Roh Kudus. Tuhan akan memakai mereka dengan luar biasa. Tuhan memberkati. (RD)

“Newness” or “Oneness”?

Ps. Daniel Prajogo

New Year’s Day always gives us a sense of “newness” in our mind, but in reality, it is just another day. Somehow January 1 always feels rather special, we often have the inclination to start afresh on New Year’s Day. This is the time where people like to talk about a new resolution, a new plan, and other new things. Therefore, we also like to come up with a resolution or slogan for the year ahead according to what we wish to pursue or achieve. Having a slogan or resolution is basically a good idea in the sense that it gives us a sense of purpose in life. Having a new year resolution also gives a sense of excitement as we look forward to experience something new! However, we also have seen that many resolutions fail and produce very little results, if not nothing at all. There could be at least two potential pitfalls with a resolution, no matter how good it is.

First, we could be too focused on the wording of the resolution rather than on its implementation. We always try to create a catchy phrase which gives a sense of WOW! We may put it on the wall, recite it, but often we have no clear idea how to implement it. As a result, the resolution becomes nothing but a rhetorical slogan. Therefore, by the end of the year, we often have no way of evaluating what we have achieved because we have no clear idea what must be achieved or how to achieve them. Instead of carefully and deeply thinking about the meaning of our resolution, we take a short-cut by creating hypes and euphoria in our mind. We might even treat the resolution as a “mantra” which can materialise itself if we recite it repeatedly. This, of course, is a proven recipe for failure, because while we may recite the resolution fluently, we have no idea what it actually means, let alone put it into practice.

**“ARE YOU READY TO WALK A LONG JOURNEY WITH THE LORD
AND PURSUE ONE THING THAT HE HAS SET FOR YOU?”**



The second pitfall of having a yearly resolution is that we could become obsessed with “newness” because we are bored by the old. Usually we set a new resolution at the beginning of the year, and towards the end of the year, we begin the process all over again, searching for another new resolution for the following year. As a result, we keep changing our resolution every year, living by a short-lived resolution which produces nothing tangible. We all know that making something great always takes time, but we often deceive ourselves by expecting a great and lasting outcome from a quick and easy process.

We keep changing the resolution simply because we refuse to learn about the suffering of persistence and perseverance; instead, we choose to come up with new things that are fashionable or following the new trend out there. It is no wonder that resolutions only make us love hypes and euphoria, but not disciples who are committed to learning seriously and persistently. We need to be aware that living by what is in fashion will trap us with its glitter, and before too long, we might find ourselves recycling the old stuff, “repackaging the old product with a new label”. After all, “nothing is new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9). We then end up walking in circular route. We try many new things but never produce anything; wasting our life just to search resolution after resolution.

So, is there anything better than “newness”? Yes. Let us consider “oneness” – which means focusing only on one thing. The Bible gives examples of people who were driven by “oneness” in their lives. Why did King David become such a great worshipper who enjoyed a deep intimacy in his relationship with God? Because he was resolved to focus on just one thing in all years of his life, not only for a year. He sang in his psalm, “ONE THING I ASK FROM THE LORD, THIS ONLY DO I SEEK: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.” (Psalm 27:4)

What made the Apostle Paul thrive in his life and ministry? Listen to what he said: “But ONE THING I DO: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14). He evidently did not pursue his goal as a one-year resolution, but a lifetime vision.

Let us make a personal reflection. How many resolutions have we made until this year? How much our life has been changed by those words? If the answer is not much, or even nothing, perhaps it is the time that we consider to change our way of life; moving away from fashioning on many things to persevering on one thing.

Are you ready to walk a long journey with the Lord and pursue ONE thing that He has set for you? It is not going to be easy as we will have to fight one enemy within us: boredom. However, even non-Christians know that one of the key traits of success is to embrace boredom. They know that many boring things can be extremely valuable; so, they persevere until they have extracted from them the full value and benefits. As Christians, how much more should we live this way?

2018 in Photos

Child Dedications



Water Baptisms



BIC 20th Anniversary



Good Friday



Prayer Concert



Wintercamp "On Fire"



Christmas Celebration



KOM Graduation



07
JAN

An Ordinary Man

William Carey was a sickly boy, born to a humble family near Northampton, England. His future didn't look too bright. But God had plans for him. Against all odds, he moved to India, where he brought incredible social reforms and translated the Bible into several Indian languages. He loved God and people, and accomplished many things for God.

David, son of Jesse, was an ordinary young man, the youngest in his family. He was seemingly an insignificant shepherd on the hills of Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:11–12). Yet God saw David's heart and had a plan for him. King Saul had been rejected by God for disobedience. While the prophet Samuel mourned Saul's choices, God called Samuel to anoint a different king, one of Jesse's sons.

When Samuel saw the handsome, tall Eliab, he naturally thought, "surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord" (v. 6). However, God's strategy to select a king was much different than Samuel's. In fact, God said no to each of Jesse's sons, except the youngest one. Selecting David as king was definitely not a strategic move from God's part, or so it seemed at first glance. What would a young shepherd have to offer his community, let alone his country?

How comforting to know that the Lord knows our hearts and has His plans for us.

Dear Lord, thank You that You care more about my heart's attitude toward You than my outward beauty, possessions, or achievements.

Read

1 Samuel

16:1-7

Bible in a Year

Genesis 18-19;

Matthew 6:1-18

*People look at
the outward
appearance,
but the Lord
looks at the
heart.*

1 Samuel 16:7

By Estera Piroasca Escobar

「*God's priority is your heart.*」

An Alternative to Worry

08
JAN

A law-abiding, honest man received a voicemail that said, “This is officer _____ from the police department. Please call me at this number.” Immediately the man began to worry—afraid that somehow he had done something wrong. He was afraid to return the call, and he even spent sleepless nights running through possible scenarios—worried that he was in some kind of trouble. The officer never called back, but it took weeks for the worry to go away.

Jesus asked an interesting question about worry: “Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” (Matthew 6:27). Perhaps this can help us rethink our tendency to worry, because it suggests that it doesn’t help the situation we’re concerned about.

When problems are on the horizon for us, maybe we can try the following two-step approach: Take action and trust in God. If we can do something to avoid the problem, let’s try that route. We can pray for God to guide us to an action we should take. But if there’s nothing we can do, we can take comfort in knowing that God never finds Himself in such a predicament. He can always act on our behalf. We can always turn our situation over to Him in trust and confidence.

When it feels like time to worry, may we turn to the inspired words of King David, who faced his own share of difficulties and worries, but concluded: “Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you” (Psalm 55:22). What a great alternative to worry!

Father, You know what faces me today. I am turning my cares over to You. Please strengthen me and help me to trust You with the struggles I face.

Read

Matthew 6:25-34

Bible in a Year

Genesis 20-22;

Matthew 6:19-34

*Can any one of
you by worrying
add a single
hour to your
life?*

Matthew 6:27

By Dave Branon

▣ *What worries do you need to give to God today?* ▣

09 JAN

Read

John 6:
47-51, 60-66

Bible in a Year
Genesis 23-24;
Matthew 7

*From this
time many of
his disciples
turned back
and no longer
followed him.*
John 6:66

By Anne Cetas

What Kind of Savior is He?

Last year, friends and I prayed for healing for three women battling cancer. We knew God had the power to do this, and we asked Him to do so every day. We'd seen Him work in the past and believed He could do it again. There were days in each one's battle where healing looked like it was a reality, and we rejoiced. But they all died that fall. Some said that was "the ultimate healing," and in a way it was. Still the loss hurt us deeply. We wanted Him to heal them all—here and now—but for reasons we couldn't understand, no miracle came.

Some people followed Jesus for the miracles He performed and to get their needs met (John 6:2, 26). Some simply saw Him as the carpenter's son (Matthew 13:55–58), and others expected Him to be their political leader (Luke 19:37–38). Some thought of Him as a great teacher (Matthew 7:28–29), while others quit following Him because His teaching was hard to understand (John 6:66).

Jesus still doesn't always meet our expectations of Him. Yet He is so much more than we can imagine. He's the provider of eternal life (vv. 47–48). He is good and wise; and He loves, forgives, stays close, and brings us comfort. May we find rest in Jesus as He is and keep following Him.

Thank You, Jesus, that You are the kind of Savior we need. Wrap us in Your love and bring us confident rest in You.

Our Welcoming God

10

JAN

Our church meets in an old elementary school, one that closed in 1958 rather than obey a US court order to integrate (the act of having African-American students attend schools previously attended by only Caucasian students). The following year, the school reopened and Elva, now a member of our church, was one of those black students who were thrust into a white world. “I was taken out of my safe community, with teachers who were part of our life,” Elva recalls, “and placed in a scary environment in a class with only one other black student.” Elva suffered because she was different, but she became a woman of courage, faith, and forgiveness.

Her witness is profound because of how much evil she endured at the hands of some members of a society that denied the truth that every human being, regardless of race or heritage, is loved by God. Some members of the early church struggled with this same truth, believing that certain people were, by birth, loved by God while others were rejected. After receiving a divine vision, however, Peter stunned everyone who would listen with this astounding revelation: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right” (Acts 10:34–35).

God opens His arms wide to extend love to everyone. May we do the same in His power.

*Consider your neighborhood, your family, and your social sphere. Where do you find a temptation to exclude others?
Why?*

Read

Acts 10:34-38

Bible in a Year

Genesis 25-26;

Matthew 8:1-17

God does

not show

favoritism.

Acts 10:34

By Winn Collier

▣ *We're tempted to push others away, but God's arms are open wide.* ▣

11

JAN

Read

Ephesians
3:16-21

Bible in a Year
Genesis 27-28;

Matthew 8:18-34

*I pray that you
... [will] grasp
how wide and
long and high
and deep is the
love of Christ.*

Ephesians
3:17-18

By Elisa Morgan

Infinite Dimensions

I lay still on the vinyl-covered mat and held my breath on command as the machine whirred and clicked. I knew lots of folks had endured MRIs, but for claustrophobic me, the experience required focused concentration on something—Someone—much bigger than myself.

In my mind, a phrase from Scripture—“how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:18)—moved in rhythm with the machine’s hum. In Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian church, he described four dimensions to God’s love in order to stress the unending parameters of His love and presence.

My position while lying down for the MRI provided a new image for my understanding. Wide: the six inches on either side of where my arms were tightly pinned to my body within the tube. Long: the distance between the cylinder’s two openings, extending out from my head and feet. High: the six inches from my nose up to the “ceiling” of the tube. Deep: the support of the tube anchored to the floor beneath me, holding me up. Four dimensions illustrating God’s presence surrounding and holding me in the MRI tube—and in every circumstance of life.

God’s love is ALL around us. Wide: He extends His arms to reach all people everywhere. Long: His love never ends. High: He lifts us up. Deep: He dips down, holding us in all situations. Nothing can separate us from Him! (Romans 8:38–39).

What situations cause you to question God’s love? How will you choose to trust Him?

▮ *Dear God, help us pause to ponder Your multidimensional love for us!* ▮

Jesus Is Right Behind You

12 JAN

My daughter was ready for school a little earlier than usual, so she asked if we could stop by the coffee shop on our way. I agreed. As we approached the drive-thru lane, I said, “Do you feel like spreading some joy this morning?” She said, “Sure.”

We placed our order, then pulled up to the window where the barista told us what we owed. I said, “We’d like to pay for the young woman’s order behind us too.” My daughter had a huge smile on her face.

In the grand scheme of things, a cup of coffee may not seem like a big deal. Or is it? I wonder, could this be one way we carry out Jesus’s desire for us to care for those He called “the least of these”? (Matthew 25:40). Here’s a thought: How about simply considering the person behind us or next in line a worthy candidate? And then do “whatever”—maybe it’s a cup of coffee, maybe it’s something more, maybe something less. But when Jesus said “whatever you did” (v. 40) that gives us a great deal of freedom in serving Him while serving others.

As we drove away we caught the faces of the young woman behind us and the barista as she handed over the coffee. They were both grinning from ear to ear.

Lord, help me not to overthink serving others. Sometimes the small, simple things mean more than I’ll ever know. And help me to remember that whatever I do for others, I’m doing for You.

Read

Matthew

25:37-40

Bible in a Year

Genesis 29-30;

Matthew 9:1-17

In those

days Caesar

Augustus

issued a

decree that a

census should

be taken of the

entire Roman

world.

Luke 2:1

By John Blase

▮ *We serve Christ when we serve people.* ▮

13

JAN

Read

1 Thessalonians
5:11-18

Bible in a Year

Genesis 31-32;
Matthew 9:18-38

*Always strive
to do what is
good for each
other and for
everyone else.*

1 Thessalonians
5:15

By Xochitl Dixon

Plight of the Crawdads

When my cousin invited me to join him to fish for crawdads (crayfish), I couldn't help but be excited. I grinned when he handed me a plastic pail. "No lid?"

"You won't need one," he said, picking up the fishing rods and the small bag of chicken chunks we'd use for bait.

Later, as I watched the small crustaceans climbing over one another in a futile attempt to escape the almost-full bucket, I realized why we wouldn't need a lid. Whenever one crawdad reached the rim, the others would pull it back down.

The plight of the crawdads reminds me how destructive it is to be selfishly concerned about our own gain instead of the benefit of a whole community. Paul understood the need for uplifting, interdependent relationships when he wrote to the believers in Thessalonica. He urged them to "warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak," and "be patient with everyone" (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

Commending their caring community (v. 11), Paul spurred them toward even more loving and peaceful relationships (vv. 13–15). By striving to create a culture of forgiveness, kindness, and compassion, their relationships with God and others would be strengthened (vv. 15, 23).

The church can grow and witness for Christ through this kind of loving unity. When believers honor God, committing to lift others up instead of pulling them down with words or actions, we and our communities thrive.

**How will you build up others in your community?
What care and compassion have you received from believers in Jesus?**

Pray for Nation INDONESIA



Pray for God’s anointing and glory through many of the natural disaster that happened so that:

Psalm 30:11-12, “...you removed my sackcloth of my nation Indonesia and clothed me with joy”.

- The biggest soul harvest in Indonesia for God’s glory
- All of His people and His church are ready to harvest the souls
- The prevalence of harvests in every province in Indonesia that is ready to harvest
- Hunger and thirst in Indonesia and the fear of Jesus Christ name - the Third Pentacost
- The birth of Jeremiah generation in Indonesia {the courageous generation to be different for His Kingdom}

Prayer points for National/Presidential Election:

1. Pray that there will be peace and safety during the presidential election 2019 in every provinces and districts.
2. For God to raise up a nation leader who has the integrity as a statesman who has the courage to be different and to strive change for the better.
3. For God to bless KPU (General Election Commission); the leaders and all of the staffs. Pray for wisdom, integrity and accuracy, and fear of the Lord in the midst of the Election process.
4. Pray that every voter gets to use their right to vote. They will be voting from the right heart and attitude.
5. Pray that every elite politician, every political party in Indonesia and every citizen of Indonesia will support the Presidential Election in 2019 safely, orderly, and clean from corruption.



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

Women of Impact Community

Tuesday 10:30 AM, at BIC



+61396999077



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Bethany International Church Melbourne