

A woman with long dark hair is shown in profile, holding a baby wrapped in a white cloth. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of light spots, suggesting an outdoor setting at dusk or dawn. The entire image is framed by a teal border.

**BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH  
MELBOURNE**

JANUARY EDITION

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

**JOHN 3:3**

**NEW BIRTH IN THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD**



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

Th  
Sle

# *table of* CONTENT

DEVOTIONAL FROM JAKARTA	01-04
2018 HIGHLIGHT	05
DEVOTIONAL	06-12
PRAYER FOR NATION	13
CHURCH SCHEDULE	15



# *Hiduplah Oleh Roh*

*“Maka berbicaralah ia, katanya: “Inilah firman TUHAN kepada Zerubabel  
bunyinya:*

*Bukan dengan keperkasaan dan bukan dengan kekuatan,  
melainkan dengan roh-Ku, firman TUHAN semesta alam.”*

**(Zakharía 4:6)**

Roh Kudus adalah sumber kekuatan kita. Kita adalah anak-anak Allah yang telah lahir baru dari Roh Allah, dirancang Tuhan untuk hidup selaras dengan kehendak Tuhan. Manusia rohani kita selalu mengingini apa yang berasal dari Tuhan, sehingga hidup kita dapat mencerminkan Tuhan dan menghadirkan kenyataan Yesus melalui hidup kita. Kuasa Roh Kuduslah yang mengerjakan perwujudannya dalam hidup kita. Gaya hidup serupa Kristus dibangun dalam kita oleh karya Roh Kudus.

Ketika Tuhan berkata: “Bukan dengan keperkasaan dan bukan dengan kekuatan, melainkan dengan roh-Ku, ...” Dia menghendaki agar kita hidup oleh kuasa Roh Kudus. Itulah hidup oleh Roh Kudus yaitu menghadirkan karakter Kristus. Kita menghidupi gaya hidup yang senantiasa mengandalkan Roh Kudus. Firman Tuhan inilah yang memilah, antara hidup oleh kekuatan dan kemampuan manusiawi, atukah kita hidup oleh kemampuan Roh Allah. Tuhan memperingatkan kita untuk jangan bersandar kepada kekuatan manusia. Bukan dengan kekuatan atau keperkasaan kita, melainkan oleh kemampuan Roh Allah. Hiduplah oleh Roh.

Kontras dari ‘hidup oleh Roh’ adalah ‘hidup menurut daging’; yaitu mengikuti hawa nafsu kedagingan. Hidup oleh Roh akan menghasilkan buah Roh, yaitu kasih, sedangkan hidup oleh daging menghasilkan ‘buah daging’, yaitu melawan Tuhan dan melakukan yang jahat. Tuhan menginginkan kita berbuah Roh, dan buah yang ketika ‘dimakan’ terasa manisnya oleh banyak orang. Seharusnya keinginan natural kita sebagai anak-anak Allah adalah menghasilkan buah Roh. Kerinduan itu sudah tertanam di hati kita sejak kita lahir baru oleh Roh Kudus menjadi anak Allah.

Karena itu kita harus membangun persahabatan dengan Roh Kudus. Kita harus mengenal dan mengalami Roh Kudus semakin mendalam. Roh Kudus adalah sumber kita yang memberikan hidup Illahi, hikmat, pengertian, kekuatan, keberanian bagi kita untuk hidup setiap hari dalam kehendak-Nya. Dialah kekuatan kita untuk menyelesaikan panggilan-Nya atas hidup kita.

### **Dalam Aliran Sungai Roh Kudus**

Roh Kudus digambarkan dalam Alkitab sebagai sebuah sungai. Kita harus mengikuti gerakan aliran sungai Roh Kudus. Aliran itu harus terus mengalir di dalam hati kita, dan membuat hidup kita terus bergerak di dalam aliran-Nya.

Dalam **Yohanes 7: 37-39**, Tuhan berbicara bahwa aliran Roh Kudus mengalir di hati orang percaya. Aliran kehidupan itu kemudian mengalir keluar dari hidup kita sebagai Roh Kudus dan karya Roh Kudus yang memberkati orang lain. Aliran Roh Kudus di dalam kita membuat kita dikenyangkan dengan damai sejahtera dan hikmat Allah. Hidup kita menjadi bermakna dan menyentuh kehidupan orang lain dengan kebaikan-Nya. Orang di sekitar kita merasakan atmosfer kedamaian ketika bersinggungan dengan hidup kita. Kata-kata yang berisi hikmat Allah menjadi jiwa dan nyawa dari ucapan kita, sehingga orang lain dibangun dan dikuatkan. Itulah aliran Roh yang mengalir dari dalam roh kita. Kita membawa keluar aliran air hidup yang menyentuh orang lain yang membutuhkan kebaikan Tuhan. Bukan oleh kekuatan kita, melainkan oleh Roh Kudus yang ada di dalam kita.

### **Roh Pewahyuan**

Roh Kudus adalah Roh yang mewahyukan Yesus (**Efesus 1:19**), sehingga kita memiliki pengenalan akan Kristus dengan pemahaman surgawi. Mengenal Kristus di kedalaman hati dan memahami rancangan-Nya dengan pertolongan Roh Kudus. Pengenalan akan Kristus, dan keinginan hati kita untuk menjadi serupa Kristus bersumber dari Roh Kudus. Dia mewahyukan Kristus dan kebenaran-Nya kepada kita. Hidup dalam pewahyuan Kristus dan pengenalan yang mendalam membuat kuasa Roh Kudus leluasa berkarya dalam hidup kita.

Pengenalan Kristus oleh pewahyuan Roh Kudus membuat kita mengikuti gaya hidup Kristus. Kita menjadi orang yang berbeda dengan dunia. Perilaku kita makin selaras dengan surga, dan kontras dengan keduniawian. Apa yang dicintai dunia bukan lagi kesukaan kita. Apa yang disukai Tuhan menjadi hal yang utama dalam hidup kita, walaupun ditentang oleh dunia. Yesus menjadi model dan gaya hidup kita oleh karya Roh Kudus.

Sebagaimana kehadiran Kristus di bumi untuk menghadirkan Kerajaan Allah, maka oleh Roh Kudus kita menjadi orang-orang yang menghadirkan Kerajaan Allah. Yaitu kebenaran, damai sejahtera dan sukacita oleh karya Roh Allah dan kuasa-Nya. (**Roma 14: 17; 1 Korintus 4: 20**).

### **Pikiran Kerajaan Allah oleh Roh Kudus**

Tuhan mau agar didalam hidup ini; kita mengutamakan Kerajaan Allah, maksudnya memmanifestasikan Kerajaan Allah dalam hidup kita.

*“... datanglah Kerajaan-Mu, jadilah kehendak-Mu di bumi seperti di sorga.”*  
*Matius 6:10*

*“Tetapi carilah dahulu Kerajaan Allah dan kebenarannya, maka semuanya itu akan ditambahkan kepadamu.”* **Matius 6:33**

Kerajaan Allah bukanlah hal-hal jasmaniah, melainkan kebenaran surgawi yang penuh damai dan sukacita oleh Roh Kudus (**Roma 14:17**). Roh Kuduslah yang membuat kita memahami dan mengalami Kerajaan Allah. Ketika Kerajaan Allah dan Sang Raja menjadi pusat pikiran dan fokus kita, maka pikiran Kerajaan Allah akan terbangun dalam kita. Pola pikir kita dibangun menjadi selaras dengan pikiran Kristus. Ketika mengalami perjumpaan dengan Sang Raja, maka kita menerima pikiran-Nya menjadi pikiran kita.

Di dalam penyembahan kita kepada Tuhan dan perenungan akan firman-Nya, maka pikiran Kristus meresap ke dalam pengertian dan menjadi pemikiran kita yang baru.

- Pikiran kita semakin terbuka terhadap perkara-perkara yang diatas.
- Kita semakin peka akan kehadiran Roh Kudus.
- Pikiran kita diperkaya dan terus dialiri dengan pewahyuan tentang siapakah Dia sesungguhnya.
- Hidup kita mengekspresikan kehadiran Roh Kudus yang hidup didalam kita - kepada orang-orang disekitar kita.

### **Hidup Dalam Hadirat-Nya**

Seorang yang telah masuk ke dalam perhentian di hadirat Tuhan, akan beralih dari yang tadinya bersumber kepada diri sendiri menjadi bersumber kepada Roh Kudus.

*“Sebab barangsiapa telah masuk ke tempat perhentian-Nya, ia sendiri telah berhenti dari segala pekerjaannya, sama seperti Allah berhenti dari pekerjaan-Nya. Karena itu baiklah kita berusaha untuk masuk ke dalam perhentian itu, supaya jangan seorangpun jatuh karena mengikuti contoh ketidaktaatan itu juga.”*

**Ibrani 4: 10, 11**

Adalah pilihan dan keputusan kita untuk masuk ke dalam perhentian dan terus menerus tinggal dalam hadirat-Nya. Kita memutuskan untuk menyangkal dan menyalibkan keinginan manusiawi, agar dipenuhi dengan kehendak Allah dan keinginan yang Ilahi.

Keinginan kita ditundukkan untuk selaras dengan keinginan Tuhan. Bukan melakukan dengan cara manusia, melainkan menurut cara Tuhan. Bukan menurut waktu dan agendanya sendiri, melainkan menurut waktu Tuhan, seturut agenda Tuhan. Semuanya dilakukan dengan kekuatan Roh Kudus. Maka Roh Kudus menguasai karena yang luas dalam hidup kita ketika kita sedang berada dalam hadirat Tuhan. Dialah mendominasi hidup kita, sehingga kita sepenuhnya dikendalikan oleh Roh Allah.

Karena itu teruslah mengejar untuk tenggelam dalam hadirat-Nya, dan di dalam hadirat-Nya mengerjakan kita tugas yang Tuhan berikan untuk kita selesaikan. Kita akan mendapati bahwa diri kita sedang bekerja dengan hati yang rest, penuh damai sejahtera.

Jika kita telah melakukan ini, maka kita akan melihat buahnya, yaitu Allah bisa berbuat banyak menjamah dan mengubah hidup orang lain melalui kehidupan kita. Itu semua bisa terjadi karena Dia mendapati kita sebagai pijakan-Nya di bumi untuk melakukan semua itu. Amin. (MG)

# BIC 20th Anniversary

## Child Dedications



## Water Baptisms



## Good Friday



## Prayer Concert



## Wintercamp "On Fire"



## Christmas Celebration



## KOM Graduation





# 13 JAN

## *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.

### *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

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

# 14

## JAN

## *Hope's Sure Foundation*

*Read*

Hebrews  
11:1–6

*Bible in a Year*  
Genesis 33–35;  
Matthew 10:1–20

*My God  
will meet all  
your needs  
according to  
the riches of  
his glory in  
Christ Jesus.*  
Philippians  
4:19

By James Banks

Lessons on faith can come from unexpected places—like the one I learned from my 110-pound, black Labrador retriever, “Bear.” Bear’s large metal water bowl was located in a corner of the kitchen. Whenever it was empty, he wouldn’t bark or paw at it. Instead, he would lie down quietly beside it and wait. Sometimes he would have to wait several minutes, but Bear had learned to trust that I would eventually walk into the room, see him there, and provide what he needed. His simple faith in me reminded me of my need to place more trust in God.

The Bible tells us that “faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). The foundation of this confidence and assurance is God Himself, who “rewards those who earnestly seek him” (v. 6). God is faithful to keep His promises to all who believe and come to Him through Jesus.

Sometimes having faith in “what we do not see” isn’t easy. But we can rest in God’s goodness and His loving character, trusting that His wisdom is perfect in all things—even when we have to wait. He is always faithful to do what He says: to save our eternal souls and meet our deepest needs, now and forever

*Almighty Father, thank You for Your faithfulness to always take care of me. Help me to trust You and to rest in Your perfect love today.*

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

# *A Song in the Night*

15  
JAN

My father's life was one of longing. He longed for wholeness, even as Parkinson's disease gradually crippled more and more of his mind and body. He longed for peace, but was tormented by the deep pain of depression. He longed to feel loved and cherished, but often felt utterly alone.

He found himself less alone when he read the words of Psalm 42, his favorite psalm. Like him, the psalmist knew a desperate longing, an unquenched thirst for healing (vv. 1–2). Like him, the psalmist knew a sadness that felt like it never went away (v. 3), leaving times of pure joy merely a distant memory (v. 6). Like my dad, as consuming waves of chaos and pain swept over him (v. 7), the psalmist felt abandoned by God and asked, “Why?” (v. 9).

And as the words of the psalm washed over him, assuring him he was not alone, my father felt the beginnings of a quiet peace enter in alongside his pain. He heard a tender voice surrounding him, a voice assuring him that even though he had no answers, even though the waves still crashed over him, still he was dearly loved (v. 8).

And somehow hearing that quiet song of love in the night was enough. Enough for my dad to quietly cling to glimmers of hope, love, and joy. And enough for him to wait patiently for the day when all his longings would finally be satisfied (vv. 5, 11).

*Lord, we know that You have carried all our suffering and will one day turn it around into resurrection life. Still, there is so much healing that we wait and long for. As we wait for that morning, help us to rest in Your song of love in the night.*

*Read*

Psalm 42:1–11

*Bible in a Year*

Genesis 36–38;

Matthew 10:21–42

*If we hope for  
what we do  
not yet have,  
we wait for  
it patiently.*

Romans 8:25

By Monica Brands

“*While we wait for the morning, we can rest in God’s song of love in the night.*”

# 16 JAN

*Read*

Ruth 1:11–18

*Bible in a Year*

Genesis 39–40;

Matthew 11

*Your people will*

*be my people*

*and your God*

*my God.*

Ruth 1:16

By Peter Chin

## *Sharing More Than Stuff*

“But I don’t want to share!” wailed my youngest child, brokenhearted that he would have to part with even one of his many LEGO pieces. I rolled my eyes at his immaturity, but truthfully, this attitude is not limited to children. How much of my own life, and really all of human experience, is marked by a stubborn resistance to freely and generously give to others?

As believers in Jesus, we’re called to share our very lives with one another. Ruth did just that with her mother-in-law, Naomi. As a destitute widow, Naomi had little to offer Ruth. And yet Ruth connected her own life to her mother-in-law’s, vowing that they would press on together and that not even death would separate them. She said to Naomi, “Your people will be my people and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16). She freely and generously gave to the older woman—showing love and compassion.

While sharing our lives in this way can be difficult, we should remember the fruit of such generosity. Ruth shared her life with Naomi, but later she bore a son, the grandfather of King David. Jesus shared His very life with us, but was then exalted and now reigns at the right hand of the Father in heaven. As we generously share with one another, we can be confident that we will experience greater life still!

*Jesus, as we share our lives with others, may we reflect  
Your loving heart.*

*Welcome to Peter Chin! Meet all our authors at [odb.org/](http://odb.org/)  
all-authors.*

# What Can't You Give Up?

17  
JAN

“What’s one thing you can’t give up?” the radio host asked. Listeners called in with some interesting answers. Some mentioned their families, including a husband who shared memories of a deceased wife. Others shared they can’t give up on their dreams, such as making a living in music or becoming a mother. All of us have something we treasure dearly—a person, a passion, a possession—something we can’t give up.

In the book of Hosea, God tells us that He won’t give up on His chosen people Israel, His treasured possession. As Israel’s loving husband, God provided her with everything she needed: land, food, drink, clothing, and security. Yet like an adulterous spouse, Israel rejected God and sought her happiness and security elsewhere. The more God pursued her, the further she drifted away (Hosea 11:2). However, though she had hurt Him deeply, He would not give her up (v. 8). He would discipline Israel so as to redeem her; His desire was to re-establish His relationship with her (v. 11).

Today, all God’s children can have the same assurance: His love for us is a love that will never let us go (Romans 8:37–39). If we’ve wandered from Him, He yearns for us to return. When God disciplines us, we can be comforted that it’s a sign of His pursuit, not of His rejection. We are His treasure; He won’t give up on us.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for Your love that never gives up on me. Help me to love You wholeheartedly.*

*Read*

Hosea 11:8–1

*Bible in a Year*

Genesis 41–42;

Matthew 12:1–23

*[Nothing]*

*will be able  
to separate  
us from the  
love of God.*

Romans 8:39

By Poh Fang Chia

“A child of God is always welcomed home.”

# 18 JAN

## *Worshiping with Questions*

*Read*

Psalm 13

*Bible in a Year*

Genesis 43–45;  
Matthew 12:24–50

*I trust in your  
unfailing  
love; my heart  
rejoices in your  
salvation.*

Psalm 13:5

By Arthur Jackson

It's not uncommon during a long (or short!) trip for someone in a group of travelers to ask, "Are we there yet?" or "How much longer?" Who hasn't heard these universal queries coming from the lips of children and adults eager to arrive at their destination? But people of all ages are also prone to ask similar questions when wearied because of life challenges that never seem to cease.

Such was the case with David in Psalm 13. Four times in two verses (vv. 1–2), David—who felt forgotten, forsaken, and defeated—lamented "How long?" In verse two, he asks, "How long must I wrestle with my thoughts?" Psalms that include lament, like this one, implicitly give us permission to worshipfully come to the Lord with questions of our own. After all, what better person to talk to during prolonged times of stress and strain than God? We can bring our struggles with illness, grief, the waywardness of a loved one, and relational difficulties to Him.

Worship need not stop when we have questions. The sovereign God of heaven welcomes us to bring our worry-filled questions to Him. And perhaps, like David, in due time our questions will be transformed into petitions and expressions of trust and praise to the Lord (vv. 3–6).

*Lord, thank You that I don't have to stop worshiping when I have questions; I can worship You with my questions.*

## *The Beauty of Love*

# 19 JAN

The “Jarabe Tapatío,” also known as the Mexican hat dance, celebrates romance. During this upbeat dance, the man places his sombrero on the ground. At the very end, the woman grabs the hat and both hide behind it to seal their romance with a kiss.

This dance reminds me of the importance of faithfulness in marriage. In Proverbs 5, after talking about the high cost of immorality, we read that marriage is exclusive. “Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well” (v. 15). Even with ten couples dancing the Jarabe on stage, each person focuses on his or her partner. We can rejoice in a deep and undivided commitment to our spouse (v. 18).

Our romance is also being observed. The dancers, while they are enjoying their partner, know someone is watching. In the same way, we read, “For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths” (v. 21). God wants to protect our marriages, so He’s constantly watching us. May we please Him through the loyalty we show to each other.

Just like in the Jarabe there is a rhythm to follow in life. When we keep the beat of our Creator by being faithful to Him—whether we are married or unmarried—we find blessings and joy

*Dear Lord, You know all my ways. Help me to honor You in my relationships with others.*

*Read*

Proverbs 5

*Bible in a Year*

Genesis 46–48;  
Matthew 13:1–30

*May your*

*fountain*

*be blessed.*

Proverbs 5:18

By Keila Ochoa

▮ *Faithfulness brings joy* ▮

# Pray for Nation

## ISRAEL



Capital: *Jerusalem*

Population: *8,7 million people*

Religion: *Jewish*

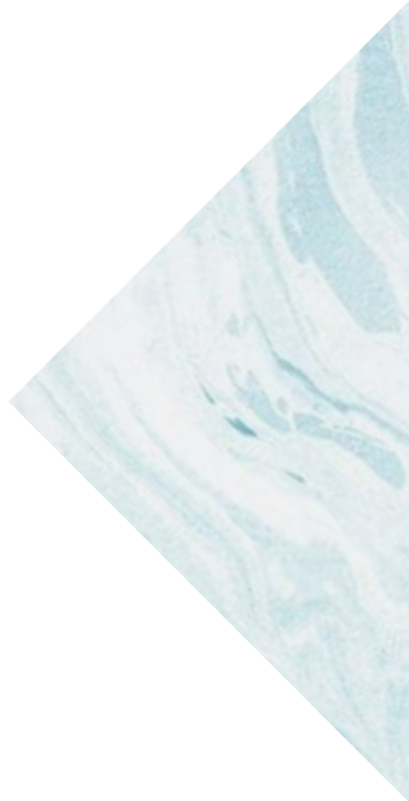


1. As the bird fluttering to protect his nest, so God will protect Israel from every threat and attack from those who want the destruction of this nation.
2. Pray for Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister. The Lord keeps strengthening his heart and other leaders' hearts so that they will not compromise with peace plans that are against God's will for the future of this nation.
3. The year of God's favor has come to the nation of Israel and the Arabs, so that there will be a restoration of the relationship between the two nations who are descendants of Abraham. God loves these two nations and wants them to be saved.
4. Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion. When God brings back the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad (Psalm 53 : 6).





# NOTES



# 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**

*Women of Impact Community*

Tuesday 10:30 AM, at BIC



+61396999077



[www.bethanymelb.org.au](http://www.bethanymelb.org.au)



@bicmelbourne



Bethany International Church Melbourne