



**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”*

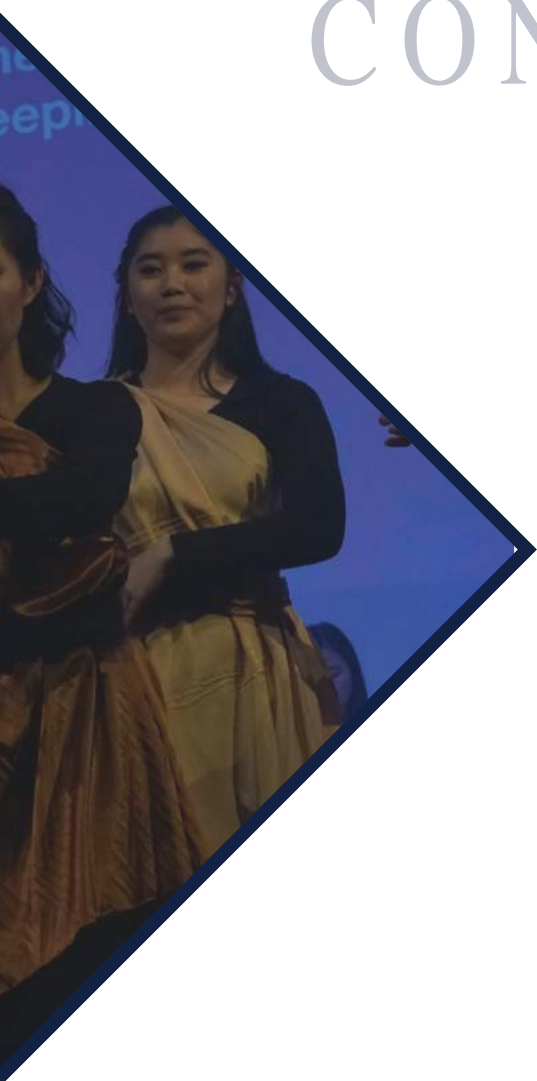
JOHN 3:3

**NEW BIRTH IN THE
KINGDOM OF GOD**



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

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Generasi Yeremia

Generasi Pemenang Di Akhir Zaman

Kita sudah memasuki tahun yang baru, Tahun 2019 adalah “Tahun Kelahiran Yang Baru”. Ada banyak hal yang baru yang belum pernah kita lihat dan alami sebelumnya akan Tuhan lakukan di tahun yang baru ini. Salah satunya adalah Tuhan sedang melahirkan satu generasi yang baru di akhir zaman ini, yakni Generasi Yeremia. Tuhan sedang membangkitkan satu generasi yang luar biasa, yang berjalan dalam otoritas dan pengurapan Tuhan untuk berdiri tegak bahkan berani melawan arus guna melakukan setiap perintah dan kehendak-Nya, persis seperti Tuhan memakai nabi Yeremia pada zamannya.

Ketika mempelajari kitab Yeremia, kita menemukan ada 3 hal yang harus kita lakukan jika ingin berjalan dalam pengurapan Yeremia dan menjadi bagian dari Generasi Yeremia. Pengurapan Yeremia ini bukan hanya milik orang muda, tetapi bagi siapapun yang mau hidup taat seperti Yeremia. Yeremia memang dipanggil sejak muda tetapi dipakai Tuhan sampai masa tuanya bahkan sampai ia dipanggil Tuhan.

TELADAN DAN FIRMAN YANG DISAMPAIKAN OLEH NABI YEREMIA

1. Hidup Mengandalkan Tuhan (Yer. 17:5-7)

Firman Tuhan dengan jelas berkata bahwa terkutuklah orang yang mengandalkan manusia atau mengandalkan kekuatannya sendiri. Kalau Alkitab berkata sedemikian kerasnya maka satu hal yang pasti, yaitu bahwa Tuhan mau supaya kita selalu mengandalkan Dia, kalau kita ingin diberkati dan dipakai oleh Tuhan. Mengapa harus demikian? Karena segala sesuatu yang baik itu berasal dari Dia dan kita harus sungguh-sungguh menyadarinya, supaya segala hormat, pujian dan syukur hanya layak diberikan kepada Tuhan. Sedikitnya ada 3 ciri orang yang hidupnya mengandalkan Tuhan:

a. Mempercayai Tuhan dalam Segala Hal

Bukti pertama kita mengandalkan Tuhan adalah kita selalu percaya bahwa apapun yang terjadi dalam hidup ini, baik atau tidak baik, susah atau senang, selalu ada dalam rencana dan kontrol Tuhan di dalamnya. Sehingga kita tidak mudah bersungut-sungut dan menyalahkan siapapun atau apapun. Kita percaya bahwa Tuhan pasti punya rencana yang indah dalam hal apapun untuk mendatangkan kebaikan bagi setiap orang yang mengasihi Dia. (Roma 8:28)

b. Mengakui Tuhan dalam Segenap Jalan Hidup Kita

Artinya selalu melibatkan Tuhan dalam setiap aspek kehidupan kita.

Selalu mencari Tuhan dan wajah-Nya, memohon berkat dan perkenanan-Nya. Kita harus sadar bahwa tanpa Tuhan kita tidak bisa apa-apa. Kita perlu Dia tiap saat, kita perlu melibatkan Tuhan dalam segala hal yang kita kerjakan, kalau kita ingin berhasil dan beruntung. (Amsal 3:6)

c. Berharap Hanya Kepada Tuhan

Orang yang mengandalkan Tuhan akan selalu berharap dan bersandar hanya kepada Tuhan. Kekuatan kita terbatas, manusia bisa mengecewakan, tetapi Tuhan tidak pernah mengecewakan; bahkan kuasa-Nya tidak terbatas. Maz. 118:8 yang adalah ayat tengah dari Alkitab menunjukkan kepada kita akan hal ini. Dialah sumber kehidupan, Dia adalah pusat, sebab itu biarlah mata kita hanya tertuju kepada Tuhan, karena hanya Dia sumber pertolongan kita. Ketika raja Yosafat dan bangsa Israel tidak berdaya karena dikepung oleh 3 bangsa lain yang sangat banyak jumlahnya, mereka cuma bisa berharap kepada Tuhan. Dalam keterbatasan dan ketidakmampuannya, mereka berseru kepada Tuhan dan Tuhan datang menyelamatkan mereka. (2 Taw. 20:1-30). Memasuki di tahun yang baru ini, marilah kita lebih mengandalkan Tuhan dan percayalah bahwa Tuhan akan memberkati kita.

2. Hidup Dalam Pertobatan (Yer. 18:6-10)

Dalam ayat-ayat tersebut di atas kita mengerti satu hal bahwa pertobatan selalu mendatangkan berkat Allah dalam hidup kita. Sesuatu yang buruk yang sedang menimpa atau akan menimpa kita, seketika Tuhan bisa jauhkan dan hindarkan kalau kita BERTOBAT di hadapan Dia. Mungkin selama ini kita mengerti bahwa bertobat itu berhenti berbuat dosa. Itu prinsip yang umum, yang dunia pahami. Alkitab mengajarkan bahwa bertobat artinya bukan hanya berhenti berbuat dosa, tetapi juga berbalik dan berjalan kearah yang benar. Artinya: 'bertobat' sama dengan 'berubah', dan melakukan apa yang benar di mata Tuhan.

Jadi kesimpulannya: Pertobatan melahirkan perubahan. Sebaliknya, tidak ada perubahan tanpa pertobatan. Bertobat bukan hanya berhenti, tetapi berbalik. Berubah hidup. Dan perubahan itu akan bisa terlihat dan dirasakan orang lain. Waktu Zakheus bertobat, dia bukan hanya berhenti berbuat jahat, tetapi dia berubah dan menjadi berkat bagi banyak orang. Pertobatannya menghasilkan perubahan yang dinikmati oleh banyak orang dan tentunya memuliakan nama Tuhan. Bertobat artinya kita berbalik dan hidup dalam kebenaran. Karena kebenaran itu yang akan memerdekakan kita. Sebenarnya, banyak masalah terjadi dalam hidup ini bukanlah karena setan atau orang lain, tetapi karena sifat, karakter, atau karena mulut kita sendiri. Tetapi jika kita mau mengalami perubahan, marilah kita bertobat.

Kita sudah dan sedang memasuki tahun yang baru, Tahun 2019 adalah ‘Tahun Kelahiran yang Baru’. Di hadapan Tuhan, setiap hari adalah hari yang baru. DIA mau melakukan sesuatu yang baru setiap hari bagi kita. Syaratnya? Miliki hidup yang selalu baru tiap hari. Berubah setiap hari, sebab ada berkat yang baru dan mujizat yang baru, namun kita harus menerimanya dengan hati yang baru dan hidup yang baru. Setiap hari taburlah yang baik. Taburlah kebenaran. Jangan menabur dalam daging sebab hal itu hanya akan menuai kebinasaan.

Yeremia hidup pada zaman yang sangat bobrok dalam kehidupan bangsa Israel, bahkan sejujurnya, saking bobroknnya bangsa itu, sampai Yeremia matipun tidak ada orang Israel yang bertobat. Itu sebabnya mereka dihukum Tuhan dengan dibiarkan-Nya bangsa itu dihancurkan dan penduduknya dibuang ke Babel. Kehidupan Yeremia adalah gambaran kehidupan kita di akhir zaman ini. Dunia tidak akan lebih baik, dunia sedang menuju kepada kehancuran dan penghukuman. Tapi orang-orang yang hidup takut akan Tuhan, yang hidup dalam kebenaran akan diluputkan dan diselamatkan oleh Tuhan, persis seperti Yeremia. Yeremia dibebaskan oleh Raja Nebukadnezar atas perintah Tuhan. Wow luar biasa!

Hari-hari ini adalah hari-hari yang jahat. Iblis tahu bahwa waktunya sudah sangat singkat. Itu sebabnya dia ingin menjatuhkan banyak anak Tuhan, dia ingin menghancurkan kehidupan banyak keluarga anak-anak Tuhan. Sebab itu kita harus berjaga-jaga. Kita sedang menghadapi peperangan rohani yang terbesar di akhir zaman ini. Sebagai contoh kalau kita lihat gerakan LGBT sekarang semakin meluas. Semakin banyak orang yang jatuh dalam dosa-dosa seperti ini. Itu sebabnya kita harus berhati-hati. Tidak ada orang yang lahir sebagai seorang yang lesbian, gay, biseksual, dll. Hal itu itu terjadi dalam perjalanan hidup orang itu, bagaimana pergaulan dan lingkungan sekitarnya yang kemudian membuat dia jatuh dan terikat dengan dosa itu. Sebab itu kita harus perhatikan sungguh-sungguh bagaimana pergaulan kita. Apalagi anak-anak muda. Perhatikan sekeliling kita, jangan sampai menjadi jerat bagi kita untuk hidup dalam dosa. Kita harus hidup benar dan kudus kalau mau diselamatkan dari angkatan yang bengkok ini.

Generasi Yeremia adalah generasi yang tidak berkompromi dengan dosa. Mari kita mengasihi TUHAN dengan bukti nyata, bukan cuma sebatas ucapan bibir, tetapi hidup dalam takut dan hormat akan Tuhan.

3. Setia Sampai Akhir (Yer. 20:9-11)

Kalau kita baca kehidupan Yeremia, maka dalam dia menjalani panggilannya sebagai Nabi Tuhan, ternyata hidupnya sangat sulit. Dia ditolak, dibenci, dianiaya, dia pernah dipenjara, dipasung, dipukuli bahkan pernah diasingkan ke Mesir,

tetapi itu semua tidak menggoyahkan hatinya untuk tetap setia mengikut dan melayani Tuhan. Pada akhirnya dia menerima upah keselamatan dari Tuhan. Pada akhirnya dia menerima upah keselamatan dari Tuhan. Sebelum kedatangan Tuhan Yesus yang kedua kali, Alkitab berkata akan datang masa-masa yang sukar. (2 Tim. 3:1) Akan ada pemurnian, akan ada banyak tantangan dan guncangan. Tetapi Alkitab juga berkata bahwa orang benar akan hidup oleh iman. (Ibrani 10:38)

Sebab itu kita harus memiliki iman yang kuat. Tuhan mau kita bertahan sampai pada kesudahan. Jangan sampai kita memulai dengan roh tetapi mengakhiri dengan daging. Kita yang sudah lahir baru, kita sudah memulai dengan roh, biarlah mengakhiri dengan roh juga. Kita mencapai garis finish dan mengakhiri pertandingan iman dengan baik dan berjumpa dengan Tuhan; muka dengan muka. Itu artinya kita jadi Pemenang. Sebab hanya pemenang yang masuk sorga. Ada upah dan mahkota yang menanti jika kita tetap setia sampai akhir dan jadi pemenang. Mencari orang pintar banyak, mencari orang baik banyak, tetapi tidak banyak orang yang setia. Hidup kita pasti jadi kesaksian kalau kita setia. Sebaliknya, hidup kita menjadi tertawaan kalau mudah berubah setia. Sebab itu jadilah suami/ isteri yang setia, jadilah pelayan Tuhan yang setia, jadilah karyawan yang setia, pemimpin yang setia. Jadi anak Tuhan harus setia!

Jangan terlalu mudah berkata cerai, undur/lari dari pelayanan, terlalu mudah melupakan Tuhan ketika badai datang dalam hidup. Ingat, Tuhan itu setia, DIA mau kita juga setia sampai akhir. Caranya:

a. Jangan Menyerah Kepada Dunia

Jangan kalah dengan keadaan.

b. Percaya akan janji Tuhan

Miliki pengharapan yang kuat akan janji Tuhan.

c. Percaya akan penyertaan dan pembelaan Tuhan

Ingatlah akan janji Tuhan dalam 2 Kor. 4:17:

“Sebab penderitaan ringan yang sekarang ini, mengerjakan bagi kami kemuliaan kekal yang melebihi segala-galanya, jauh lebih besar dari pada penderitaan kami.” Kalau kita bertahan sampai akhir, jadi pemenang, kita akan menerima upah dan akan memerintah bersama dengan Tuhan.

“Dan barangsiapa menang dan melakukan pekerjaan-Ku sampai kesudahannya, kepadanya akan Kukaruniakan kuasa atas bangsa-bangsa;” Wahyu 2:26

“Barangsiapa menang, ia akan Kududukan bersama-sama dengan Aku di atas takhta-Ku, sebagaimana Akupun telah menang dan duduk bersama-sama dengan Bapa-Ku di atas takhta-Nya.” Wahyu 3:21 (MK)

God's grace in His timing

Andy and Novi

We have been so blessed by the work of God in Andy and Novi's lives, and as a church we have been blessed too by their ministries. While it is sad that they have left Melbourne to Indonesia for good, we believe God will guide them through the vision that He has given to them. Below is the written testimony from Andy and Novi about their life and the amazing grace that God has been working in their family.

Andy and Novi

A: Hi everyone, I am Andy and this is my wife Novi and these are our twins, Grace & Joshua. Just want to share a bit about what God has done in our life and how these two babies came about.

In 2015, we were about to decide to go back to Indonesia for good, but after praying about it, seems like God put in our heart to stay in Melbourne still.

At that time, we had been trying to have children for 2-3 years without any success.

N: After we decided to stay in Melbourne in that 2015, God gave us a baby in the following year. We were very very happy as it was somehow a lonely season for us since many people that are close to us had gone back for good.

The happiness only lasted 3 months because I had a miscarriage on the 13th week.

We were very broken-hearted and it takes awhile for God to deal personally with me and Andy and healed our heart from the grief.

N: For me personally, it was a long process of healing & surrender, because I was quite angry with God and kept questioning why it would happen. I remember a moment where God asked me which was more important, is it still the Lord or my desire to have a child. Pondering on so many things He had done in my life, I realized that it's not possible that my Father would have a bad intention toward us His children. I finally surrendered my desire to the Lord and decided He is more important than my desire to have a child. He is still Lord and the First in my life.

A: Then from early 2017 till end of year, came lots and lots of God's promises about children into our life. It's too many to be seen as coincidence. At times God would speak through prophetic words from pastors who knew nothing about us, or our friends would suddenly approach us at random occasions saying they got a dream about us having baby.

N: Mid 2017, I was pregnant again, only to find the miscarriage happened again after 5 weeks pregnant. It was only then our doctor got worried and referred us to a gynaecologist to find out our problems. More to our surprise, we finally found out why we wouldn't be able to have children for so long. After all blood tests, sperm test etc, we found out that both of us had problems. I had a genetic translocation in my DNA that causes all these miscarriages, and Andy had a 95% weak sperm that caused us to wait too long when trying for a baby. Both geneticist and gynaecologist made a conclusion that it was impossible for us to have healthy children naturally. They said if we still want to try naturally, high chance the baby might have problems. Thus they recommended an IVF.

After hearing about this, we were pretty shocked and speechless. But somehow I had an understanding that God allowed second miscarriage to happen to reveal that we are not capable of having children unless God do something.

N: Really thanked God that all this truth about our physical condition was revealed after He had given us so many promises and dreams at the beginning of the year, otherwise I think I would be so shattered.

A: We were still contemplating whether to wait to conceive naturally or to have an IVF instead, because we believe God can also use IVF to give us children.

We really prayed about it and the Lord reminded us about the story of Abraham & Sarah, how God gave promise of descendants and they ended up using human's way to have a child, Ishmael. And He gave us a verse Hebrews 11:11 that we have been holding onto for several years without knowing that God's promise would be that literal, that the verse is not just simply about faith.

We then decided to not use IVF and just wait and trust God's timing, since having children was no longer our main focus, but be faithful in everything He entrusted in our life.

A: Who would think that I would be pregnant again at exactly 1 month before end of year! And when we had the first scan and saw 2 heartbeats, we were even more teary. These 2 babies came out full term and healthy. What is impossible for men is possible for God! God is so good, faithful and never late. We thank Him for all this process He allowed to happen in Melbourne, shaping our faith to be more mature in Him.

27
JAN

Read

Esther 4:5–14

Bible in a Year

Exodus 16–18;
Matthew 18:1–20

*For such a
time as this.*

Esther 4:14

By Lisa Samra

Righteous Among the Nations

At Yad Vashem, the Holocaust museum in Israel, my husband and I went to the Righteous Among the Nations garden that honors the men and women who risked their lives to save Jewish people during the Holocaust. While looking at the memorial, we met a group from the Netherlands. One woman was there to see her grandparents' names listed on the large plaques. Intrigued, we asked about her family's story.

Members of a resistance network, the woman's grandparents Rev. Pieter and Adriana Müller took in a two-year-old Jewish boy and passed him off as the youngest of their eight children from 1943–1945.

Moved by the story, we asked, "Did the little boy survive?" An older gentleman in the group stepped forward and proclaimed, "I am that boy!"

The bravery of many to act on behalf of the Jewish people reminds me of Queen Esther. The queen may have thought she could escape King Xerxes's decree to annihilate the Jews around 475 bc because she had concealed her ethnicity. However, she was convinced to act—even under the threat of death—when her cousin begged her to not remain silent about her Jewish heritage because she had been placed in her position "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

We may never be asked to make such a dramatic decision. However, we will likely face the choice to speak out against an injustice or remain silent; to provide assistance to someone in trouble or turn away. May God grant us courage.

Are there those you need to speak up for? Ask God about the timing.

▮ *Father, thank You for Your heart for those who are oppressed and vulnerable. Help us to be sensitive to Your guidance to know when to act* ▮

The Mood Mender

28
JAN

As I waited at the train station for my weekly commute, negative thoughts crowded my mind like commuters lining up to board a train—stress over debt, unkind remarks said to me, helplessness in the face of a recent injustice done to a family member. By the time the train arrived, I was in a terrible mood.

On the train, another thought came to mind: write a note to God, giving Him my lament. Soon after I finished pouring out my complaints in my journal, I pulled out my phone and listened to the praise songs in my library. Before I knew it, my bad mood had completely changed.

Little did I know that I was following a pattern set by the writer of Psalm 94. The psalmist first poured out his complaints: “Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve. . . . Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will take a stand for me against evildoers?” (Psalm 94:2, 16.) He didn’t hold anything back as he talked to God about injustice done to widows and orphans. Once he’d made his lament to God, the psalm transitioned into praise: “But the Lord has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge” (v. 22).

God invites us to take our laments to Him. He can turn our fear, sadness, and helplessness into praise.

*Lord, I pour out my heart to You. Take my hurts and my anger,
and grant me Your peace.*

Read

Psalm 94:2, 16–23

Bible in a Year

Exodus 19–20;

Matthew 18:21–35

When

*anxiety was
great within
me, your
consolation
brought me
joy.*

Psalm 94:19

By Linda Washington

“Praise has the power to lighten our heaviest burden.”

29

JAN

Read

Isaiah 64:1–8

Bible in a Year

Exodus 21–22;

Matthew 19

*Oh, that you
would rend the
heavens and
come down.*

Isaiah 64:1

By Winn Collier

Rip the Heavens

In a recent conversation, where a friend shared with me that she'd abandoned her faith, I heard a familiar complaint: How can I believe in a God who doesn't ever seem to do anything? This gut-wrenching question appears for most of us at one point or another, as we read of violence in the news and as we carry our own heartbreak. My friend's distress revealed her intense need for God to act on her behalf, a longing we've all likely felt.

Israel knew this terrain well. The Babylonian Empire overwhelmed Israel, crushing them with an iron fist and turning Jerusalem into smoldering rubble. The prophet Isaiah put words to the people's dark doubt: Where is the God who's supposed to rescue us? (Isaiah 63:11–15). And yet from precisely this place, Isaiah offered a bold prayer: God, "rend the heavens and come down" (64:1). Isaiah's pain and sorrow drove him not to pull away from God, but to seek to draw closer to Him.

Our doubts and troubles offer a strange gift: they reveal how lost we are and how much we need God to move toward us. We see now the remarkable, improbable story. In Jesus, God did rip the heavens and come to us. Christ surrendered His own ripped and broken body so that He could overwhelm us with His love. In Jesus, God is very near.

What questions or doubts do you have to talk with God about?

「*God, I like to pretend I can manage my life, that I can arrive at the answer. But I can't. I need You. Would You rip the heavens and come down?*」

Algae and Diatoms

30
JAN

“What’s a diatom?” I asked my friend. I was leaning over her shoulder looking at pictures on her cell phone she had taken through a microscope. “Oh, it’s like algae, but it’s harder to see. Sometimes you need a drop of oil on the lens or they have to be dead to see them,” she explained. I sat amazed as she scrolled through the pictures. I couldn’t stop thinking about the intricate detail God put into life that we can only see with a microscope!

God’s creation and works are endless. In the book of Job, one of Job’s friends, Elihu, points this out to Job as he struggles through his loss. Elihu challenges his friend, “Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God’s wonders.

Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes his lightning flash? Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who has perfect knowledge?” (Job 37:14–16). We, as humans, can’t begin to understand the complexity of God and His creation.

Even the parts of creation we can’t see reflect God’s glory and power. His glory surrounds us. No matter what we’re going through, God is working, even when we can’t see it and don’t understand. Let’s praise Him today, for “He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted” (Job 5:9).

Lord, thank You for the detail You put into creation and for being at work even when we can’t see it.

Read

Job 37:14–24

Bible in a Year

Exodus 23–24;

Matthew 20:1–16

Stop and

consider

God’s

wonders.

Job 37:14

By Julie Schwab

“God is always working.”

31 JAN

Adopted

Read

Galatians 4:1–7

Bible in a Year

Exodus 25–26;

Matthew 20:17–34

*God sent his
Son . . . that we
might receive
adoption
to sonship.
Galatians 4:4–5*

By Mike Wittmer

I'm glad when a philanthropist builds an orphanage for homeless children. I'm thrilled when that person gives even more and adopts one of them. Most orphans would be delighted merely to have a patron. But then to learn the sponsor isn't content merely to help me but also wants me. How must that feel?

If you're a child of God you already know, because it's happened to you. We couldn't complain if God had merely loved us enough to send His Son that we might "not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). It would be enough for us. But not for God. He "sent his Son . . . to redeem" us, not as an end in itself, but "that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4–5).

The apostle Paul refers to us as "sons" because in his day it was common for sons to inherit their father's wealth. His point is that now everyone who puts their faith in Jesus, whether man or woman, becomes a "son" of God with equal and full rights of inheritance (v. 7).

God does not merely want to save you. He wants you. He has adopted you into His family, given you His name (Revelation 3:12), and proudly calls you His child. You could not possibly be loved more, or by anyone more important. You aren't merely blessed by God. You are the child of God. Your Father loves you.

Father, what a privilege to call You this! Thank You for saving me, and for wanting me

Deeper Love

01
FEB

When they first met, Edwin Stanton snubbed US president Abraham Lincoln personally and professionally—even referring to him as a “long-armed creature.” But Lincoln appreciated Stanton’s abilities and chose to forgive him, eventually appointing Stanton to a vital cabinet position during the Civil War. Stanton later grew to love Lincoln as a friend. It was Stanton who sat by Lincoln’s bed throughout the night after the president was shot at Ford’s Theater and whispered through tears on his passing, “Now he belongs to the ages.”

Reconciliation is a beautiful thing. The apostle Peter pointed followers of Jesus there when he wrote, “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). Peter’s words cause me to wonder if he was thinking of his own denial of Jesus (Luke 22:54–62) and the forgiveness Jesus offered him (and us) through the cross.

The deep love Jesus demonstrated through His death on the cross frees us from the debt for our sins and opens the way for our reconciliation with God (Colossians 1:19–20). His forgiveness empowers us to forgive others as we realize we can’t forgive in our own strength and ask Him to help us. When we love others because our Savior loves them and forgive because He has forgiven us, God gives us strength to let go of the past and walk forward with Him into beautiful new places of grace.

Read

1 Peter 4:7-11

Bible in a Year

Exodus 27–28;

Matthew 21:1–22

God

demonstrates

his own love

for us in this:

While we were

still sinners,

Christ died

for us.

Romans 5:8

By James Banks

02 FEB

Restored

Read

1 Peter 2:1–10

Bible in a Year

Exodus 29–30;

Matthew 21:23–46

*I will repay you
for the years
the locusts have
eaten.*

Joel 2:25

By Kirsten Holmberg

A 2003 infestation of Mormon crickets caused more than \$25 million in lost crops. The crickets came in such numbers that people couldn't so much as take a step without finding one underfoot. The grasshopper-like insect, named for attacking the crops of the Utah pioneers in 1848, can eat an astounding thirty-eight pounds of plant material in their lifetimes, despite being merely two to three inches long. The impact of infestations on farmers' livelihoods—and the overall economy of a state or country—can be devastating.

The Old Testament prophet Joel described a horde of similar insects ravaging the entire nation of Judah as a consequence for their collective disobedience. He foretold an invasion of locusts (a metaphor for a foreign army, in the minds of some Bible scholars) like nothing previous generations had seen (Joel 1:2). The locusts would lay waste to everything in their path, driving the people into famine and poverty. If, however, the people would turn from their sinful ways and ask God for forgiveness, Joel says the Lord would “repay [them] for the years the locusts have eaten” (2:25).

We too can learn from Judah's lesson: like insects, our wrongdoings eat away at the fruitful, fragrant life God intended for us. When we turn toward Him, and away from our past choices, He promises to remove our shame and restore us to an abundant life in Him.

What can you ask God's forgiveness for today?

Pray for Nation

AUSTRALIA



Capital: *Canberra*

Population: *24,9 million people*

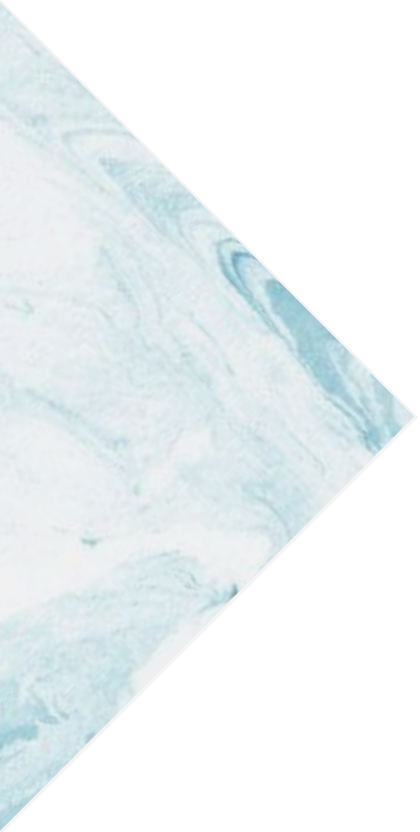
Religion: *Christian*



1. Australia often experiencing dry seasons and this also describes the life of the nation's spirituality. Let us pray for the rain of the Holy Spirit that will bring life to the growth of this nation's faith.
2. Pray for the believers in Australia to grow stronger and deeper in the knowledge of the Word of God, so they will not easily shaken by the influence of strong secularism in this nation. Strengthen the weak hand and the unsteady knee oh Lord.
3. Pray for the government of this nation to be filled with the spirit of fear of God so as not to compromise on things contrary to the truth of the word of God in every decision taken.
4. It will take place in the last days that the Australians will say: Let us ascend into the mountain of God, into the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us about His ways and that we may walk on it (Micah 4: 2).



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

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<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)

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(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



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Bethany International Church Melbourne