


BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH MELBOURNE

APRIL EDITION

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 JOHN 4:7-10

KINGDOM POWER

The background of the image is a sunset over a rocky landscape. The sky is filled with warm orange and yellow hues, with some light clouds. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of rocky terrain are visible. On the right side, a large, dark cross stands on a rocky outcrop, its silhouette clearly defined against the bright sunset. The entire image is framed by a green border that forms a large 'X' shape, dividing the scene into four quadrants.

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



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Damailah Indonesiaku!

Shalom Saudara yang dikasihi Tuhan, saya digerakkan oleh Tuhan untuk mengurapi Saudara. Sebelumnya ada sesuatu yang ingin saya katakan kepada Saudara. Ketika memasuki tahun 2019, ada 3 hal yang Tuhan katakan kepada kita untuk dilakukan, yaitu:

1. Hidup menurut Firman Tuhan
2. Banyak berdoa, memuji dan menyembah Tuhan dalam unity siang dan malam. Artinya, hidup intim dengan Tuhan, bergaul erat dengan Tuhan.
3. Harus berharap dan hanya mengandalkan Tuhan.

Bukan berharap kepada manusia atau kekuatan sendiri.

Kalau Saudara hidup menurut Firman Tuhan maka hidup Saudara akan berbahagia dan penuh dengan damai sejahtera. Saya percaya setiap orang, termasuk yang di luar sana; pasti yang mereka cari itu adalah kebahagiaan. “Saya ingin damai, saya ingin bahagia, saya ingin tenang!”, tetapi mereka mencarinya dengan bermacam-macam cara. Ada yang melalui kekayaan, kekuasaan, popularitas, dan macam-macam lainnya, tapi tidak ada satu pun yang merasakan damai sejahtera dan berbahagia, sebab Firman Tuhan dengan jelas berkata dari Yesaya 48:18, “Sekiranya engkau memperhatikan perintah-perintah-Ku, maka damai sejahteramu akan seperti sungai yang tidak pernah kering, dan kebahagiaanmu akan terus berlimpah seperti gelombang-gelombang laut yang tidak pernah berhenti, ...”.

Kalau Saudara ingin berbahagia, ingin hidup penuh dengan damai sejahtera, maka caraya hanya dengan memperhatikan perintah-perintah Tuhan. Amin!

Selanjutnya, berdoalah bagi kesejahteraan kota, negara dan bangsa kita seperti yang tertulis dalam Yeremia 29:7,

“Usahakanlah kesejahteraan kota ke mana kamu Aku buang, dan berdoalah untuk kota itu kepada TUHAN, sebab kesejahteraannya adalah kesejahteraanmu.”

Berdasarkan ayat ini, saya mau katakan sesuatu kepada Saudara bahwa kita harus berdoa untuk kota dan negara Indonesia di mana kita tinggal. Sebab kesejahteraan kota dan negara Indonesia di mana kita tinggal itu adalah kesejahteraan kita semua.

Saya ingat pada tanggal 21 Januari yang lalu, ketika saya sedang berada di lantai 9, di ruangan kerja saya di SICC, tokoh-tokoh dari JDN, TCI dan My Home datang kepada saya. Kami sedang berbincang-bincang tentang keadaan negara. Dan kami melihat memang pada waktu itu suhu politik sedang meninggi dan tidak ada jalan lain, kita harus berdoa! Tetapi berdoanya bagaimana dan bentuk doanya seperti apa tidak ada yang tahu pada waktu itu, tetapi kita putuskan untuk berdoa. Pada waktu itu saya ingat Pak Daniel Pandji saya tunjuk, “Anda yang nanti memimpin dan doa apa saja yang nanti Tuhan akan kasih kepada kita.”

Selesai itu dari lantai 9 kami turun ke lantai 5. Nah, di lantai 5 itu memang ada meeting dari International Prayer Council. Ini adalah meeting dunia dimana International Prayer Council ada di bawah John Robb. Di situ ada seorang wanita Amerika Selatan bernama Yanira yang sudah saya kenal sejak tahun 2011. Dia adalah anggota dari International Prayer Council dan dia datang kepada saya, “Ps. Niko, saya tadi malam bermimpi.” Saya bertanya, “Oh ya? Apa mimpinya?” Dia menjawab, “Saya bermimpi tentang Indonesia. Saya sepertinya berada di bangunan kaca yang tinggi. Saya sedang duduk dan memperhatikan Indonesia, indahnya Indonesia. Dan tiba-tiba ada awan gelap, ada ombak besar yang siap untuk menyapu Indonesia!” Dan dia terkejut! Ketika dia melihat-lihat itu, lalu memandang ke kanan, tiba-tiba dia melihat ada sebuah gunung dan ada sebuah bangku berwarna hijau dan Cindy Jacob sedang duduk di bangku itu. Cindy Jacob saat itu sedang menikmati kasih Tuhan Yesus untuk Indonesia. Yanira sebetulnya ingin menghampiri Cindy Jacob, tetapi tiba-tiba Cindy Jacob yang datang kepadanya dan berkata kepada Yanira, “Peran dan tugas Indonesia itu adalah untuk akhir zaman!” Wow, Indonesia! Kemudian Cindy Jacob ini menunjuk kepada awan gelap dan ombak yang besar, dia katakan, “Ini semua akan sirna, asal ada kesatuan hati!”

Saudara, perhatikan kata “kesatuan hati”, ini pesan yang sangat kuat! Mari perkatakan bersama saya, “KESATUAN HATI!” Setelah saya diberitahu akan hal itu, tiba-tiba mata saya seperti terbuka apa yang harus kita lakukan. Akhirnya diputuskan pada waktu itu, bahwa tanggal 7 Maret (bertepatan hari libur) akan ada doa bersama-sama. Indonesia akan berdoa! Dengan pusatnya ada di SICC pada tanggal 7 Maret tersebut dan Tuhan berpesan kepada saya begitu kuat, “Kamu ajak terutama anak-anak muda untuk datang!”

Jadi Saudara, itu yang terutama untuk anak-anak muda dari jam 1 - jam 5 sore. Kemudian diteruskan dari Aras Nasional bersama-sama dengan 555 kota, kabupaten dan mancanegara. “555”, angka 5 itu adalah angka kasih karunia dan ada 3 itu adalah sesuatu yang luar biasa. Saudara yang dikasihi Tuhan, saya percaya dari 555 itu Tuhan akan menunjukkan kasih karunia Tuhan untuk Indonesia. Ini belum pernah terjadi sebelumnya karena tidak pernah sebanyak itu, tetapi hari itu terjadi!

Saudara, saya melihat belasan ribu anak-anak muda datang dan anak-anak muda yang seumur itu datang dengan jumlah yang sebesar, belum pernah terjadi di Indonesia! BELUM! Hanya pada waktu itu, ketika Tuhan sudah memberitahu saya, “Kalau kamu sudah melihat nanti anak-anak muda berdoa, itu artinya dimulainya atau kebangkitan dari Generasi Yeremia!”

Ketika saya melihat mereka berdoa tiba-tiba Tuhan berkata kepada saya, “Sekarang kamu deklarasikan! ...”, Akhirnya pada tanggal 7 Maret 2019, 2 kali saya deklarasikan, yaitu pada doa sesi pertama dan sesi kedua. Saya terus deklarasikan, “Tanggal 7 Maret 2019, dimulainya kebangkitan Generasi Yeremia!”.

Generasi Yeremia itu adalah generasi anak-anak muda yang berkobar dalam Api Roh Kudus, penuh Roh Kudus, cinta mati-matian kepada Tuhan Yesus, mereka tidak kompromi terhadap dosa dan akan melayani bangsa ini seperti yang belum pernah terjadi sebelumnya. Kalau boleh saya lihat, adakah Generasi Yeremia di sini? Wow, luar biasa! Dan Tuhan memang berjanji, dengarlah Generasi Yeremia, “Engkau akan melanda dunia!” Dengarlah anak-anak muda, itu dari Indonesia! Perhatikan baik-baik! Ini ada sesuatu yang luar biasa, ketika saya deklarasikan bahwa anak-anak muda, Generasi Yeremia di Indonesia itu yang akan melanda dunia. Entah bagaimana caranya, saya tidak tahu atau mungkin dunia mendengar apa yang sedang terjadi di Indonesia.

Indonesia berdoa, “Damailah Indonesiaku! Damailah Indonesiaku!” Saudara, ternyata itu tidak hanya sampai tanggal 7 Maret saja dan selesai, tetapi untuk kita dilanjutkan dengan doa puasa dari 30 Maret - 20 April 2019. Apakah Saudara ikut? Ada berapa banyak yang ikut? Saudara, saya mau beritahu, “Ikut!” meskipun baru mulai sekarang! “Oh saya sudah terlambat!” TIDAK! Ikut, percaya! Ikut! Saya mau tanya apakah Saudara mau melihat ‘Damailah Indonesiaku?’ Ada berapa banyak yang mau melihat? Amin!

Ada 2 hal yang Saudara harus lakukan, yaitu:

1. Turut Doa Puasa Dengan Sungguh-sungguh

Nanti Saudara akan merasa berbeda. Orang yang tidak berdoa puasa itu biasanya akan melihat situasi yang ada dengan kebingungan. Begitu Saudara berdoa puasa, lihat saja! Engkau akan tenang dan Saudara tahu bahwa Indonesia ini di tangan Tuhan. Saudara nanti akan tahu, apa pun atau mau apa saja, “Saya percaya Tuhan, damailah Indonesiaku!”

2. JANGAN GOLPUT!

Jangan lupa tanggal 17 April Saudara harus datang ke TPS dan mengambil bagian dalam Pilpres dan Pilleg tersebut

Saya mau tanya adakah jemaat di tempat ini yang tanggal itu pergi keluar negeri? Puji Tuhan tidak ada! Saya mendengar bahwa ada 13 juta orang yang pergi keluar, entah benar atau tidak, karena itu diumumkan. Dan 2,4 jt-nya adalah orang Kristen! Saya bilang itu keterlaluan! Mereka tidak tahu apa yang sebenarnya terjadi di Indonesia. Kalau mereka mau melihat ‘Damailah Indonesiaku!’, rencana itu pasti mereka batalkan, “Saya mau ke TPS, saya tidak mau golput! Damailah Indonesiaku!”

Khotbah Bapak Pdt. DR. Ir. Niko Njotorahardjo
JCC - 7 April 2019

28

APR

God's Retirement Plan

Read
Exodus 3:1–10

Bible in a Year
1 Kings 3–5;
Luke 20:1–26

*The angel
of the Lord
appeared to
[Moses] in
flames of fire
from within a
bush.*
Exodus 3:2

By Ruth O'Reilly-Smith

Archaeologist Dr. Warwick Rodwell was preparing to retire when he made an extraordinary discovery at Lichfield Cathedral in England. As builders carefully excavated part of the floor of the church to make way for a retractable base, they discovered a sculpture of the archangel Gabriel, thought to be 1,200 years old. Dr. Rodwell's retirement plans were put on hold as his find launched him into an exciting and busy new season.

Moses was eighty years old when he made a fiery discovery that would forever alter his life. Though the adopted son of an Egyptian princess, he never forgot his Hebrew lineage and raged at the injustice he witnessed against his kinsmen (Exodus 2:11–12). When Pharaoh learned that Moses had killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew, he planned to have him killed, forcing Moses to flee to Midian, where he settled (vv. 13–15).

Forty years later, when he was eighty, Moses was tending his father-in-law's flock when "the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up" (3:2). In that moment, God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery (vv. 3–22).

At this moment in your life, what might God be calling you to do for His greater purpose? What new plans has He placed in your path?

What do you learn from Moses and his calling from God? Why is it vital to be open to something new He's doing in your life?

Understanding Life's Trials

29 APR

My friend's father received the dreaded diagnosis: cancer. Yet, during the chemo treatment process, he became a believer in Jesus and his disease eventually went into remission. He was cancer free for a wonderful eighteen months, but it returned—worse than before. He and his wife faced the reality of the returned cancer with concern and questions but also with a faithful trust in God because of how He saw them through the first time.

We won't always understand why we're going through trials. This was certainly the case for Job, who faced horrendous and unexplainable suffering and loss. Yet despite his many questions, in Job 12 he declares that God is mighty: "What he tears down cannot be rebuilt" (v. 14) and "to him belong strength and insight" (v. 16). "He makes nations great, and destroys them" (v. 23). Throughout this extensive list, Job doesn't mention God's motives or why He allows pain and suffering. Job doesn't have the answers. But still despite everything, he confidently says, "to God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his" (v. 13).

We may not understand why God allows certain struggles in our lives, but like my friend's parents, we can put our trust in Him. The Lord loves us and has us in His hands (v. 10; 1 Peter 5:7). Wisdom, power, and understanding are His!

What struggle are you going through? How does it help to know that God is with you?

Read

Job 12:13–25

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 6–7;

Luke 20:27–47

*To God belong
wisdom*

and power;

counsel and

understanding

are his.

Job 12:13

By Julie Schwab

30 APR

Of Saints and Sinners

Read

Luke 22:54–62

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 8–9;

Luke 21:1–19

The third time

[Jesus] said to

*him, “Simon
son of John, do
you love me?” .*

. . [Peter] said,

*“Lord, you
know all things;
you know that I*

love you.”

John 21:17

By Remi Oyedele

Before she followed in the footsteps of John the Baptist by living in the desert, Mary of Egypt (c. ad 344–421) spent her youth pursuing illicit pleasures and seducing men. At the height of her sordid career, she journeyed to Jerusalem in an attempt to corrupt pilgrims. Instead, she experienced deep conviction of her sins and thereafter lived a life of repentance and solitude in the wilderness. Mary’s radical transformation illustrates the magnitude of God’s grace and the restoring power of the cross.

The disciple Peter denied Jesus three times. Only hours before the denials, Peter had declared his willingness to die for Jesus (Luke 22:33), so the realization of his failure was a crushing blow (vv. 61–62). After Jesus’s death and resurrection, Peter was fishing with some of the disciples when Jesus appeared to them. Jesus gave Peter a chance to declare his love for Him three times—one for each of his denials (John 21:1–3). Then, with each declaration, Jesus charged Peter to care for His people (vv. 15–17). The result of this stunning display of grace was that Peter played a key role in building the church and ultimately gave his life for Christ.

A biography of any one of us could begin with a litany of our failures and defeats. But God’s grace always allows for a different ending. By His grace, He redeems and transforms us.

In what ways have you experienced God’s transforming grace? How can you express His grace toward others?

Biblical Prescription

01
APR

Greg and Elizabeth have a regular “Joke Night” with their four school-age children. Each child brings several jokes they’ve read or heard (or made up themselves!) during the week to tell at the dinner table. This tradition has created joyful memories of fun shared around the table. Greg and Elizabeth even noticed the laughter was healthy for their children, lifting their spirits on difficult days.

The benefit of joyful conversation around the dinner table was observed by C. S. Lewis, who wrote, “The sun looks down on nothing half so good as a household laughing together over a meal.”

The wisdom of fostering a joyful heart is found in Proverbs 17:22, where we read, “A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” The proverb offers a “prescription” to stimulate health and healing—allowing joy to fill our hearts, a medicine that costs little and yields great results.

We all need this biblical prescription. When we bring joy into our conversations, it can put a disagreement into perspective. It can help us to experience peace, even after a stressful test at school or a difficult day at work. Laughter among family and friends can create a safe place where we both know and feel that we’re loved.

Do you need to incorporate more laughter into your life as “good medicine” for your spirit? Remember, you have encouragement from Scripture to cultivate a cheerful heart.

Almighty God, thank You for the gift of joy to fill our hearts.

Read

Proverbs 17:19-22

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 10–11;

Luke 21:20–38

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 17:22

By Mike Wittmer

02

APR

Praying the Distance

Read

Luke 18:1-8

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 12–13;

Luke 22:1–20

Devote

yourselves to

prayer, being

watchful and

thankful.

Colossians

4:2

By James Banks

Kevin wiped a tear from his eye as he held out a slip of paper for my wife, Cari, to read. He knew Cari and I were praying for our daughter to return to faith in Jesus. “This note was found in my mother’s Bible after her death, and I hope it encourages you,” he said. At the top of the note were the words, “For my son, Kevin.” Below them was a prayer for his salvation.

“I carry this with me in my own Bible today,” Kevin explained. “My mother prayed for my salvation for more than thirty-five years. I was far away from God, and I’m a believer now.” He looked intently at us and smiled through his tears: “Never give up praying for your daughter—no matter how long it takes.”

His words of encouragement made me think of the introduction to a story Jesus told about prayer in the gospel of Luke. Luke begins with the words, “Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18:1).

In the story, Jesus contrasts an “unjust judge” (v. 6) who answers a request merely because he doesn’t want to be further bothered, with a perfect heavenly Father who cares deeply for us and wants us to come to Him. We can be encouraged whenever we pray to know that God hears and welcomes our prayers

Who’s constantly in your prayers for salvation? How does it help to know of others’ stories of answered prayer?

Beyond the Neighborhood

03
APR

In the summer of 2017, Hurricane Harvey brought devastating losses of life and property to the Gulf Coast of the US. Many people provided food, water, clothing, and shelter for those in immediate need.

The owner of a piano store in Maryland felt prompted to do something more. He considered how music could bring a special kind of healing and sense of normalcy to people who had lost everything. So he and his staff began to refurbish pre-owned pianos and to make inquiries to see where the need was the greatest. That spring, Dean Kramer and his wife, Lois, began the long trek to Houston, Texas, driving a truck filled with free pianos to give to grateful families, churches, and schools in the ravaged area.

We sometimes assume the word neighbor means someone who lives nearby or at least is someone we know. But in Luke 10, Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan to teach that our love for our neighbors shouldn't have barriers. The man from Samaria freely gave to a wounded stranger, even though the man was a Jew, part of a people group at odds with the Samaritans (vv. 25–37).

When Dean Kramer was asked why he gave away all those pianos, he explained simply: “We’re told to love our neighbors.” And it was Jesus who said, “There is no commandment greater” (Mark 12:31) than to love God and our neighbor.

In what way are you limiting your understanding of the word neighbor? How might God be urging you to expand the borders of your “neighborhood”?

Read

Luke 10:25-37

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 14–15;

Luke 22:21–46

*Love your
neighbor as
yourself.*

Mark 12:31

By Cindy Hess Kasper

04

APR

More Than Just Waiting

Read

Acts 1:4-11

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 16–18;

Luke 22:47–71

[Jesus] gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.”

Acts 1:4

By Peter Chin

Police charged a woman with reckless driving after she drove off the street and onto the sidewalk and back because she didn't want to wait for a school bus dropping off students! While it's true that waiting can make us impatient, there are also good things to do and learn in the waiting. Jesus knew this when He told His disciples to “not leave Jerusalem” (Acts 1:4). They were waiting to “be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (v. 5).

As they gathered in an upper room, likely in a state of excitement and anticipation, the disciples seemed to understand that when Jesus told them to wait, He didn't say for them to do nothing. They spent time praying (v. 14); and informed by Scripture, they also chose a new disciple to replace Judas (v. 26). When they were joined together in worship and prayer, the Holy Spirit descended upon them (2:1–4).

The disciples hadn't simply been waiting—they'd also been preparing. As we wait on God, it doesn't mean doing nothing or impatiently rushing forward. Instead we can pray, worship, and enjoy fellowship as we anticipate what He'll do. The waiting prepares our hearts, minds, and bodies for what's to come.

Yes, when God asks us to wait, we can be excited—knowing that we can trust Him and the plans He has for us!

Do you find yourself in a season of waiting? How can you see this as a season of preparation instead?

Pray for Nation

ROMANIA



Capital: *Bucharest*

Population: *19,5 million people*

Religion: *Orthodox Christian*



1. Pray for the revival of this nation which is predominantly Orthodox Christian. There is thirst and hunger for God in every services. The truth of God's word will be the light and lamp of their lives.

2. Pray for those who are still controlled by the communist way of thinking in this nation. The mercy of God come upon them. God soften their heart so they could receive the total freedom from every bounded of communism and its teaching.

3. Praise the Lord for the growth of the Evangelical Churches in this country. God empowered them so there will be a spiritual renewal in the life of every Christian in this nation.

4. Romania is one of the countries that has the largest abortion rate in the world. Praying the root causes of this such as the use of drugs, prostitution and pornography is destroyed in the name of the Lord Jesus. Young people there are saved.



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, BIC

EVENTS

Shepherd Meeting

Thursday, 25 April



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Bethany International Church Melbourne