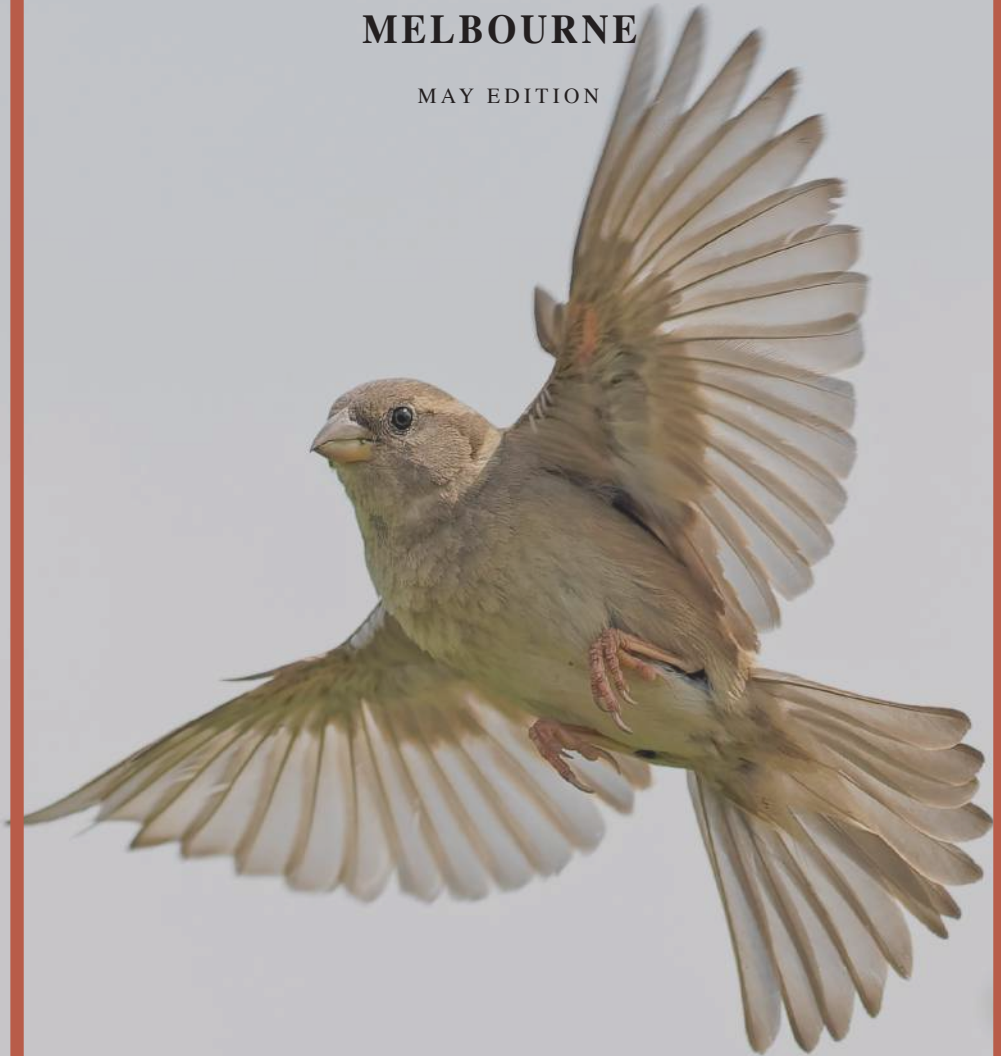


**BETHANY INTERNATIONAL CHURCH
MELBOURNE**

MAY EDITION



**KINGDOM OF GOD AND
HOLY SPIRIT**



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



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My Witnesses

“Tetapi kamu akan menerima kuasa, kalau Roh Kudus turun ke atas kamu, dan kamu akan menjadi saksi-Ku di Yerusalem dan di seluruh Yudea dan Samaria dan sampai ke ujung bumi.”

Kisah 1:8, TB

Ketika kita lahir baru, itu bukan hanya tentang jaminan keselamatan yang kita peroleh di dalam Kristus, tetapi juga mengandung suatu penugasan dan tujuan hidup kita di atas muka bumi ini. Melalui kelahiran baru di dalam Kristus, kita dimampukan untuk menghasilkan buah-buah kelahiran baru, yaitu karakter Ilahi, otoritas, melayani dan bersaksi. Sebagaimana seorang bayi manusia mewarisi DNA orang tuanya, demikian juga kita yang telah mengalami kelahiran baru juga mewarisi “DNA” dari Kristus, yaitu bagaimana Ia menunjukkan karakter-karakter yang luar biasa, berjalan dalam kuasa Roh Kudus, melayani jiwa-jiwa yang datang kepada-Nya dan menyaksikan kebesaran, kasih, dan keadilan Bapa. Bila kita mengklaim bahwa kita telah lahir baru di dalam Dia, maka kita juga harus menghasilkan buah-buah kelahiran baru, dan salah satunya adalah kita menjadi saksi-saksi bagi Kristus. Bersaksi artinya menceritakan mengenai Kristus dan bagaimana Tuhan telah berkarya dalam kehidupan pribadi kita.

Menjadi saksi adalah hal yang dimintakan oleh Tuhan Yesus kepada kita yang percaya kepada-Nya. Tuhan Yesus menekankan akan hal tersebut melalui, **Mat 28:18-20** dan **Mrk 16:15-18**, yaitu:

Yesus mendekati mereka dan berkata: *“Kepada-Ku telah diberikan segala kuasa di sorga dan di bumi. Karena itu pergilah, jadikanlah semua bangsa murid-Ku dan baptislah mereka dalam nama Bapa dan Anak dan Roh Kudus, dan ajarlah mereka melakukan segala sesuatu yang telah Kuperintahkan kepadamu. Dan ketahuilah, Aku menyertai kamu senantiasa sampai kepada akhir zaman.”*

Matius 28:18-20

“Lalu Ia berkata kepada mereka: “Pergilah ke seluruh dunia, beritakanlah Injil kepada segala makhluk. Siapa yang percaya dan dibaptis akan diselamatkan, tetapi siapa yang tidak percaya akan dihukum. Tanda-tanda ini akan menyertai

orang-orang yang percaya: mereka akan mengusir setan-setan demi nama-Ku, mereka akan berbicara dalam bahasa-bahasa yang baru bagi mereka, mereka akan memegang ular, dan sekalipun mereka minum racun maut, mereka tidak akan mendapat celaka; mereka akan meletakkan tangannya atas orang sakit, dan orang itu akan sembuh.”

Markus 16:15-18

Perintah-perintah tersebut dikenal dengan istilah Amanat Agung. Saat kita memperhatikan **Matius 28:16** maka kita mengerti bahwa hal itu diutarakan Tuhan Yesus selama beberapa waktu sebelum kenaikan-Nya ke sorga sebagaimana ditulis dalam **Kisah Para Rasul 1:9**. Hal yang sangat menarik adalah bahwa sesaat sebelum Ia naik ke sorga, kembali Ia mengingatkan bahwa kita harus menjadi saksi-Nya dan itu bisa dilakukan hanya dengan kuasa Roh Kudus. (**Kisah Para Rasul 1:8**)

Mengapa menjadi saksi bagi Kristus demikian penting bagi Tuhan dan juga bagi kita? Selain karena kita harus menghasilkan buah kelahiran baru, dari ketiga ayat yang sudah kita baca diatas, kita juga akan memahami mengapa hal tersebut demikian penting.

ARTI BERSAKSI

Ada beberapa makna dari bersaksi yaitu:

1. Menyatakan Bahwa Tuhan Yesus Berkuasa

Kehidupan manusia di atas muka bumi ini tidak luput dari pergumulan maupun penderitaan. Tuhan Yesus datang ke bumi untuk membawa kabar baik, jawaban dan jalan keluar dari semua hal itu (**Lukas 4:17-21**). Bagaimana Ia melakukannya? Dengan kuasa yang tidak berasal dari dunia ini, bukan dengan kekuatan manusia, tetapi dengan kuasa-Nya yang jauh melampaui apapun juga. Dengan kebangkitan-Nya dari kematian dan mengalahkan maut, Tuhan Yesus berkuasa atas segala sesuatu (**Matius 28:18**) dan dengan kuasa itu juga maka kita yang percaya kepada-Nya memiliki otoritas ilahi. Tuhan Yesus memberikan kuasa itu kepada kita (**Matius 28:19-20**) untuk pergi memberitakan Injil kepada semua orang dan melanjutkan pelayanan yang telah Ia kerjakan sebelumnya (**Markus 16:17-18**).

Saat kita menceritakan tentang Kristus kepada orang lain, kita bukan hanya menjelaskan siapa Dia tetapi juga apa yang Ia telah perbuat dalam hidup kita; bagaimana hadirat dan kuasa-Nya mengubah hidup kita. Kita menceritakan kuasa-Nya yang bekerja dalam kita dan sekarang melalui kita hal itu juga tersedia untuk semua orang yang kepadanya kita bersaksi.

Kita bersaksi bukan untuk mengagungkan kisah hidup kita, tetapi agar mereka pun dapat mengalami keagungan Tuhan dalam hidup mereka sendiri. Saat mereka mengalami sendiri kuasa Tuhan bekerja dalam mereka, itu akan menarik mereka untuk percaya dan menyerahkan hidupnya kepada Kristus.

Buah Dari Kepenuhan Roh Kudus

Melakukan Amanat Agung tidak mungkin dilakukan dengan kekuatan sendiri. Seandainya pun hal itu dilakukan dengan kekuatan sendiri, hasilnya tidak maksimal; tidak sesuai dengan apa yang Tuhan kehendaki. Tuhan Yesus menegaskan hal ini dalam **Kisah 1:8** bahwa Roh Kudus yang turun atas kita akan menjadikan kita saksi-Nya. Disini kita melihat suatu korelasi antara Amanat Agung dengan pencurahan Roh Kudus, yaitu bahwa Amanat Agung hanya bisa dikerjakan dan diselesaikan dengan kuasa Roh Kudus. Pencurahan Roh Kudus memiliki tujuan misiologis, yaitu memungkinkan orang-orang percaya melanjutkan pelayanan Tuhan Yesus di atas muka bumi bahkan sampai ke seluruh pelosoknya.

Orang percaya membutuhkan pencurahan Roh Kudus. Sebagai orang yang telah lahir baru kita harus menjadi saksi sebagai tanda buah kelahiran baru. Untuk menjadi saksi kita harus dipenuhi oleh Roh Kudus. Tanpa Roh Kudus tidak mungkin menjadi saksi Kristus sebagaimana yang Tuhan kehendaki. Lukas menunjukkan secara konsisten di dalam Kisah Para Rasul bahwa ketika orang-orang percaya dipenuhi oleh Roh Kudus, hal itulah yang membuat mereka menjadi saksi-saksi yang luar biasa dan memenangkan banyak jiwa-jiwa bagi Tuhan.

3. Hati Yang Merindukan Pertobatan Jiwa-jiwa

Satu benang merah lagi yang bisa kita tarik dari ketiga ayat yang sudah kita pelajari di atas adalah bahwa pertobatan dan keselamatan jiwa-jiwa adalah hal yang terutama dalam hatinya Tuhan. Semua kuasa dan otoritas yang diberikan-Nya kepada kita adalah bukan untuk diri kita sendiri melainkan untuk membawa jiwa-jiwa kepada-Nya. Inilah hati Tuhan yang selalu Ia ungkapkan semenjak Perjanjian Lama hingga Perjanjian Baru.

Semua yang Ia lakukan, semua yang Ia kerjakan, semua yang Ia nantikan adalah keselamatan jiwa-jiwa. Itu yang ada di dalam pikiran-Nya, itu yang ada dalam hati-Nya. Jika kita sadar bahwa inilah yang penting bagi-Nya dan jika kita mengklaim bahwa hati kita terpaut kepada-Nya, maka kita pasti akan bersaksi bagi-Nya. Tidak mungkin kita katakan kita dekat dengan hati Tuhan jika tidak pernah bersaksi; tidak mempedulikan keselamatan jiwa-jiwa.

Bersaksilah! Itulah yang Tuhan inginkan dari anak-anak-Nya yang telah menerima keselamatan daripada-Nya. (CS)

The heart of Christ is longing for repentance and salvation of all human being.

Small but Significant

05
MAY

The day started out like any other, but it ended as a nightmare. Esther (not her real name) and several hundred women were kidnapped from their boarding school by a religious militant group. A month later all were released—except for Esther who refused to deny Christ. As my friend and I read about her and others who are being persecuted for their faith, our hearts were moved. We wanted to do something. But what?

When writing to the Corinthian church, the apostle Paul shared about the trouble he experienced in the province of Asia. The persecution was so severe that he and his companions “despaired of life itself” (2 Corinthians 1:8). However, Paul was helped by the prayers of believers (v. 11). Though the Corinthian church was many miles away from the apostle, their prayers mattered and God heard them. Herein lies an amazing mystery: the sovereign One has chosen to use our prayers to accomplish His purpose. What a privilege!

Today we can continue to remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith. There’s something we can do. We can pray for those who are marginalized, oppressed, beaten, tortured, and sometimes even killed for their belief in Christ. Let’s pray for them to experience God’s comfort and encouragement and to be strengthened with hope as they stand firmly with Jesus.

Who can you commit to praying for by name this week? When have you experienced God’s faithfulness during a time of persecution?

In prayer, we cast ourselves at the feet of divine power.

Read

2 Corinthians
1:8-11

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 19–20;
Luke 23:1–25

*On him we
have set our
hope that he
will continue to
deliver us, as
you help us by
your prayers.
2 Corinthians
1:10–11*

By Poh Fang Chia

06

MAY

Read

Isaiah 55:1-6

Bible in a Year

1 Kings 21–22;

Luke 23:26–56

*Give ear and
come to me;*

listen, that you

may live.

Isaiah 55:3

By David H. Roper

Come and Get It!

I peeked over the grape-stake fence that encloses our backyard. There I saw folks running, jogging, walking, and shuffling around the track that surrounds the park behind our home. I used to do that when I was stronger, I thought. And a wave of dissatisfaction washed over me.

Later, while reading the Scriptures, I came across Isaiah 55:1, “Come, all you who are thirsty,” and I realized again that dissatisfaction (thirst) is the rule, not the exception in this life. Nothing, not even the good things of life, can fully satisfy. If I had strong legs like a Sherpa (mountain-climbing guide), there would still be something else in my life that I’d be unhappy about.

Our culture is always telling us in one way or another that something we do, buy, wear, spray on, roll on, or ride in will give us endless pleasure. But that’s a lie. We can’t get complete satisfaction from anything in the here and now, no matter what we do.

Rather, Isaiah invites us to come again and again to God and the Scriptures to hear what He has to say. And what does He say? His love for David of old is “everlasting” and “faithful” (v. 3). And that goes for you and me as well! We can “come” to Him.

In what ways are you thirsty? How can knowing God is faithful help you today?

*Whom have we, Lord, but Thee, soul thirst to satisfy?
Exhaustless spring! The waters free! All other streams are dry.* Mary Bowley

Someone Who Leads

07
MAY

Who do you think of when you hear the word mentor? For me, it's Pastor Rich. He saw my potential and believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. He modeled how to lead by serving in humility and love. As a result, I am now serving God by mentoring others.

The prophet Elijah played a critical role in Elisha's growth as a leader. Elijah found him plowing a field and invited him to be his protégé after God told him to anoint Elisha as his successor (1 Kings 19:16, 19). The young mentee watched his mentor perform incredible miracles and obey God no matter what. God used Elijah to prepare Elisha for a lifetime of ministry. Toward the end of Elijah's life, Elisha had the opportunity to leave. Instead, he chose to renew his commitment to his mentor. Three times Elijah offered to release Elisha from his duties, yet each time he refused, saying, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you" (2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6). As a result of Elisha's faithfulness, he too was used by God in extraordinary ways.

We all need someone who models what it means to follow Jesus. May God give us godly men and women who help us grow spiritually. And may we too, by the power of His Spirit, invest our lives in others.

Who are mentors that are currently building into you or who have built into your life? Why is it vital for us to mentor others in Jesus?

Father God, thank You for placing people in our lives to challenge and encourage us. Help us to do the same for others.

Read

2 Kings 2:1-6

Bible in a Year

2 Kings 1-3;

Luke 24:1-35

*As surely as the
Lord lives and
as you live, I
will not leave
you.*

2 Kings 2:6

By Estera Piroasca Escobar

08 MAY

Bowl of Tears

Read
Psalm 55:4-19

Bible in a Year
2 Kings 4-6;
Luke 24:36-53

*As for me, I
call to God,
and the Lord
saves me.*
Psalm 55:16

By Bill Crowder

In Boston, Massachusetts, a plaque titled “Crossing the Bowl of Tears” remembers those who braved the Atlantic to escape death during the catastrophic Irish potato famine of the late 1840s. More than a million people died in that disaster, while another million or more abandoned home to cross the ocean, which John Boyle O’Reilly poetically called “a bowl of tears.” Driven by hunger and heartache, these travelers sought some measure of hope during desperate times.

In Psalm 55, David shares how he pursued hope. While we’re uncertain about the specifics of the threat he faced, the weight of his experience was enough to break him emotionally (vv. 4-5). His instinctive reaction was to pray, “Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest” (v. 6).

Like David, we may want to flee to safety in the midst of painful circumstances. After considering his plight, however, David chose to run to his God instead of running from his heartache, singing, “As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me” (v. 16).

When trouble comes, remember that the God of all comfort is able to carry you through your darkest moments and deepest fears. He promises that one day He Himself will wipe away every tear from our eyes (Revelation 21:4). Strengthened by this assurance, we can confidently trust Him with our tears now.

What causes you to want to run away? What’s your instinctive reaction when trouble comes?

Father, when life feels overwhelming, give me strength. Give me Your presence and comfort, for without You, I’m lost.

The Best Strategy for Life

09
MAY

As we watched my daughter's basketball game from the bleachers, I heard the coach utter a single word to the girls on the court: "Doubles." Immediately, their defensive strategy shifted from one-on-one to two of their players teaming against their tallest ball-holding opponent. They were successful in thwarting her efforts to shoot and score, eventually taking the ball down the court to their own basket. When Solomon, the writer of Ecclesiastes, grapples with the toils and frustrations of the world, he too acknowledges that having a companion in our labors yields "a good return" (4:9). While a person battling alone "may be overpowered, two can defend themselves" (v. 12). A friend nearby can help us up when we fall down (v. 10).

Solomon's words encourage us to share our journey with others so we don't face the trials of life alone. For some of us, that requires a level of vulnerability we're unfamiliar or uncomfortable with. Others of us crave that kind of intimacy and struggle to find friends with whom to share it. Whatever the case, we mustn't give up in the effort.

Solomon and basketball coaches agree: having teammates around us is the best strategy for facing the struggles that loom large on the court and in life. Lord, thank You for the people You put in our lives to encourage and support us.

*Who has helped you through a difficult time? Who could use your support and encouragement? How will you help them?
God gives us friends to help face life's battles.*

Read

Ecclesiastes
4:1-12

Bible in a Year

2 Kings 7-9;
John 1:1-28

Though

*one may be
overpowered,
two can defend
themselves.*

Ecclesiastes
4:12

By Kirsten Holmberg

10 MAY

Read

Hebrews 13:1-8

Bible in a Year

2 Kings 10–12;

John 1:29–51

*Keep on loving
one another as
brothers and
sisters.*

Hebrews 13:1

By Mike Wittmer

Minister of Loneliness

Following her husband's death, Betsy has spent most days in her flat, watching television and boiling tea for one. She's not alone in her loneliness. More than nine million Brits (15 percent of the population) say they often or always feel lonely, and Great Britain has appointed a minister of loneliness to find out why and how to help.

Some causes of loneliness are well known: We move too often to put down roots. We believe we can take care of ourselves, and we don't have a reason to reach out. We're separated by technology—each of us immersed in our own flickering screens.

I feel the dark edge of loneliness, and you may too. This is one reason we need fellow believers. Hebrews concludes its deep discussion of Jesus's sacrifice by encouraging us to meet together continually (10:25). We belong to the family of God, so we're to love "one another as brothers and sisters" and "show hospitality to strangers" (13:1–2). If we each made an effort, everyone would feel cared for.

Lonely people may not return our kindness, but this is no reason to give up. Jesus has promised to never leave nor forsake us (13:5), and we can use His friendship to fuel our love for others. Are you lonely? What ways can you find to serve the family of God? The friends you make in Jesus last forever, through this life and beyond.

Who needs your friendship? How might you serve someone in your church or neighborhood this week?

The family of God is intended to be the answer to loneliness.

The Lord Will Provide

My anxiety increased throughout the summer between my undergraduate and graduate programs. I love to have everything planned out, and the idea of going out of state and entering graduate school without a job made me uncomfortable. However, a few days before I left my summer job, I was asked to continue working for the company remotely. I accepted and had peace that God was taking care of me.

God provided, but it was in His timing, not mine. Abraham went through a far more difficult situation with his son Isaac. He was asked to take his son and sacrifice him on a mountain (Genesis 22:1–2). Without hesitation, Abraham obeyed and took Isaac there. This three-day journey gave Abraham plenty of time to change his mind, but he didn't (vv. 3–4).

When Isaac questioned his father, Abraham replied, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering" (v. 8). I wonder if Abraham's anxiety grew with each knot he tied as he bound Isaac to the altar and with every inch he raised his knife (vv. 9–10). What a relief it must have been when the angel stopped him! (vv. 11–12). God did indeed provide a sacrifice, a ram, caught in the thicket (v. 13). God tested Abraham's faith, and he proved to be faithful. And at the right time, to the very second, God provided (v. 14).

What answer to prayer has been long in coming? When have you seen God provide at just the right moment?

Thank You, Lord, for Your provision. Help me to trust that You will provide, even when it seems I've been waiting for so long.

11 MAY

Read

Ecclesiastes

4:1-12

Bible in a Year

2 Kings 13–14;

John 2

So Abraham

called that

place The Lord

Will Provide.

Genesis 22:14

By Julie Schwab

Pray for Nation

AUSTRALIA



Capital: *Canberra*

Population: *24.6 million people*

Religion: *Christian*



1. Pray that God would rule over this election that righteous leaders would be elected to govern this nation in truth and justice because, “When the righteous are in authority the people rejoice.” Proverbs 29:2

2. Pray God’s blessing upon all our current parliamentarians and leaders, including their families and all the candidates of all the parties standing for this federal election. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

3. Pray for a multiplication of prayer and unity across the Body of Christ in Australia that people will wake up to the dangers facing our nation and respond in prayer. Ephesians 5:14

4. Pray for a Spiritual Awakening for Australia, Revival and Transformation for our nation and the proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. John 3:16

“And now I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken... The Lord is long suffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving the iniquity and transgression (of the nation) ... Pardon the iniquity of this people I pray, according to the greatness of your mercy... Then God said, ‘I have pardoned according to your word’.” Numbers 14:17-20



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



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Bethany International Church Melbourne