

CHARACTER BUILDING



12
APRIL
2020

ED. LXI.04.2020

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS



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Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

SENIOR PASTOR

Ps Djohan Handojo

PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

Associate Pastor

Ps Unggul Santika
Ps Iwan Adinugroho

Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan
Ps Suzana Tahir

Next Generation Pastor

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir

CONTACT US



Bethany International Church



office@bethanymelb.org.au



www.bethanymelb.org.au



[@bicmelbourne](https://www.instagram.com/bicmelbourne)



[+61396999077](https://wa.me/61396999077)

JOIN THE TEAM

We are inviting more writers to our ministry. If you enjoy reading, writing, listening to other people's stories, or simply want to know more about our ministry, you are more than welcome to contact us.

A heart to serve the church and the people through writing has been our main purpose of doing this ministry.

All of the testimonies, stories, or articles are written that we may see the goodness of God, the power of God, which leads to seeing more of His glory.

We always seek for improvement in our ministry. If you have any suggestions, feedbacks, critics, or if you have stories or testimonies you want to share with us, please do let us know.

Contact details:
Sonia 0424 181 612
Kevin Jingga 0413 345 433

HELLO *new comers!*

Welcome to Bethany International Church Melbourne.
So glad that you are here with us. We want to help make your
first experience at BIC Melbourne a great one!



GET CONNECTED

Christian journey shouldn't be alone because it is a community project. Join our Community of Love (COOL) every Friday 7PM!

LET US CONTACT YOU



Lastly, please enjoy a cup of coffee on us! 

▶▶▶ COOL LIST ◀◀◀

MAIN

Canaan
Ephratah
Berea - Bethesda
Bethlehem
Jordan
Horeb
Bethany
Bethel
Cana
Philadelphia - Pniel
Moriah
Ephraim
Ekklesia
Emmaus
Galilee
Gennesaret
Gilgal - Carmel
Hebron - Philippi
Zion
Eden

Kezia, Freddie
Steven, Henry
Romy
Felix, Fransisca
Sony, Wilfred
Ferry, Febria
Paulus, Erina
Christy, Elvina
Bobby
Dwi, Vero
Elve, Calista
Kevin L, Sonia
Edo, Ica
Fabian, Priska
Kevin Y, Corine
Reinetta, Albert
Erika, Mike
Yoseph, Rian
Monica, Raymond
Jennifer

FAMILY

Antioch
Tiberias
Doncaster
Jerusalem
Mt Hermon
Phillipi
Shekinah
Tabernacle
Westal

Andy, Iwan
Andre, Albert
Michael, Rudy
Edwin, Gerda
Lily, Unggul
Hariyanto, Ivan
Cynthia
Sandi
Michael

180 & NEXT GEN

Israel
Judah
Macedon
Jeremiah
Judea
Heaven
Shiloh

Catherine
Intan, Aldo
Eric, Fanie
Sinta
Valen
Ivan , Pauline
Daniel



‘CRISIS, WHAT CRISIS?’: MY SELF-REFLECTION IN THE MIDST OF COVID19 EMERGENCY

STORY NATALIA WIJAYA

“All employees to work from home for the next two weeks until further update” — this was told more than two weeks ago, and there is still no change as I am now entering the fourth week working from home.

Never did I imagine (I bet just like everyone else), the seriousness of the current international health crisis. I am very grateful that I can still have my full-time job, working from home together with my husband, who has also followed the same since last week. I have opted out my kids from school since the early state of emergency and been using the online study and homeschool material provided by the teachers. Now that they are in school term break, we are happy to have them with us at home (although we are definitely challenged to keep them busy and entertained, be creative without involving too much screen time – a real challenge for any parents!). I, in particular, however, still have concerns when the term break is over. Would it be safe for them to go to school again? We can only pray and surrender everything to God’s hands.

The first days I started working from home, I tried to keep updated with the news as much as I could. This, however, did not bring me any peace. It has made me uneasy and hard to focus on what was necessary. Quickly I made a conscious decision, to align my priorities and feed my mind with God’s words constantly (particularly early in the morning when I’m about to begin my day). It is important to know what’s going on around us. But if it only adds

worry and fear to our mind, it is not healthy, and we need to make conscious decisions to reverse our actions.

As I mentioned above, I am grateful that I can still work despite high numbers of redundancies and reduced working hours happening around. We can still do our grocery shopping and be able to hold our COOL (cell group) and Sunday service via online, though with imposed restrictions. Yes, our physical movement and social life have changed in considerable ways. But, as I ponder deeper, the only “sacrifice” we actually need to make, at the moment (by “staying at home”), only goes as far as restrictions and adjustments towards our self-convenience. Nothing changes in the way we pay our monthly mortgage or the amount of food available in our fridge and pantry (Praise the Lord). We are also well and healthy.

Being surrounded by this kind of situation while there are others “out there” who are experiencing worse can make us live in our own bubble! The biggest temptation for myself personally is to live my daily life with this kind of mentality: **“Crisis? What Crisis?”**. Despite living in the midst of a real one, and this can be deceiving! It is dangerous and deceitful as it tempts me to put my confidence in what I own (the blessings), rather than on the Giver of the blessings. Also, I need to be aware not to become complacent and only focus on “myself and my family”. There are many opportunities for us to be God’s hands and feet although we are bound by social distancing. Pray that His

Spirit will give us the heart and creative ways to assist for those in need (e.g. Around our own neighbourhood). These things have become my everyday personal reflection.

To close with, this verse has become my “rhema” since last week:

Psalm 90:12

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom”.

The Bible says “teach us”, why? Because it is something that human needs to study and learn time and time again (we are just like toddlers), that our days are not infinite. We make plans, we buy things, often forgetting this crucial truth in mind. That’s why we need to stay close with His Spirit, to abide in Him daily. The more we learn and the more our mind is transformed, the more we will be able to discern which lasts eternally, which lasts only a while while we are on earth.

May this closing verse be our prayer:

Psalm 86:11

“Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth. Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name”

This is not only a time of health, social, and economy crisis. This is a crisis in our spirituality. May we not become forgetful of who we really are, mere dust if it isn't because of God's grace sustaining our life and our loved ones.



WEEKLY DEVOTION

12 APRIL

Imamat 25-27

Ayat Renungan:
Roma 12:1

“Karena itu, saudara-saudara, demi kemurahan Allah aku menasihatkan kamu, supaya kamu mempersembahkan tubuhmu sebagai persembahan yang hidup, yang kudus dan yang berkenan kepada Allah: itu adalah ibadahmu yang sejati.”

13 APRIL

Lukas 1-3

Ayat Renungan:
Lukas 1:37

“Sebab bagi Allah tidak ada yang mustahil.”
38Kata Maria:
“Sesungguhnya aku ini adalah hamba Tuhan; jadilah padaku menurut perkataanmu itu.”

14 APRIL

Lukas 4-6

Ayat Renungan:
Lukas 4:18-19

“Roh Tuhan ada pada-Ku, oleh sebab Ia telah mengurapi Aku, untuk menyampaikan kabar baik kepada orang-orang miskin; dan Ia telah mengutus Aku untuk memberitakan pembebasan kepada orang-orang tawanan, dan penglihatan bagi orang-orang buta, untuk membebaskan orang-orang yang tertindas, untuk memberitakan tahun rahmat Tuhan telah datang.”

15 APRIL

Lukas 7-9

Ayat Renungan:
Lukas 7:23

“Dan berbahagialah orang yang tidak menjadi kecewa dan menolak Aku.”

16 APRIL

Lukas 10-12

**Ayat Renungan:
Lukas 11:9**

“Oleh karena itu Aku berkata kepadamu: Mintalah, maka akan diberikan kepadamu; carilah, maka kamu akan mendapat; ketoklah, maka pintu akan dibukakan bagimu.”

17 APRIL

Lukas 13-15

**Ayat Renungan:
Lukas 12:34**

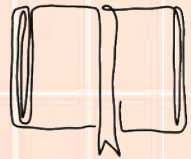
“Karena di mana hartamu berada, di situ juga hatimu berada.”

18 APRIL

Lukas 16-18

**Ayat Renungan:
Lukas 16:10**

“Barangsiapa setia dalam perkara-perkara kecil, ia setia juga dalam perkara-perkara besar. Dan barangsiapa tidak benar dalam perkara-perkara kecil, ia tidak benar juga dalam perkara-perkara besar.”



*Your word is a lamp for
my feet,
a light on my path*

Psalms 119:105

‘Scattered or Gathered, Church remains Church’

STORY JESSICA LESMANA



After stage three was implemented in Melbourne, the city's condition is getting better. The curve flattens, many people recover, and the death rate reduces.

However, during this Easter break, Police Minister Lisa Neville urged people to keep staying at home and warned that police will be patrolling around.

Looking at how the government refuses to relax the restrictions, this year's Easter is extremely different from the previous celebrations. There are no crowds. Church buildings are empty.

During this hard season, Jessica Lesmana testifies how God is still working even though, as a body of Christ, we are scattered around.

Q: What do you think of the world's or maybe Melbourne situation right now?

Ya keadaan ini gak pernah kita alami, something yang nunjukin kalo as much as we can plan, we have the power, there are things yang we can't control. Dan orang-orang emang reaksinya terhadap sesuatu yang mereka ga tau, ya pastinya bingung, karena itu something new. Well, we know people are not sovereign of what's happening in this world. I think this the time for people to see kalau Tuhan itu nyata. It's something that people need to take off their pride kalau kita itu gak all knowing.

Q: Why do you think it's important for us to take part in that?

Menurutku penting sih. Sebenarnya situasi di Melbourne sendiri, nambahnya udah ga terlalu banyak. Jadi sudah oke, preventionnya pretty good. Awal-awal kan mereka ga dengerin gitu, jadi tiap hari sempat ganti peraturan, karena orang ga nurut. Jadi memang kalau dikasih tahu ga mau, ya harus dihukum. They don't think of others. Aku merasa kalau kebanyakan orang don't care. Informasi yang kebanyakan kita dengar, yang muda muda pasti gapapa, kalo kamu punya immune system yang bagus pasti gapapa. Yang suffer bukan yang muda. Padahal yang kena banyak yang muda, tapi yang meninggal banyak yang tua. Ya ini my personal thought aja ya, jadi mereka kayak ga peduli gitu kelihatannya, 'aku masih muda anyway, gak bakal kenapa napa.' Ya ada that kind of attitude yang bikin mereka ga mau dengerin.

At the moment the most effective way yang kita bisa lakuin buat minimise the spreading of the virus ya by social distancing. Jadi avoid large gatherings, terus good personal hygiene. Jadi as a Christian, yang dibutuhkan oleh dunia saat ini bukan physical presence tpi our absence. Jadi kita itu sekarang loving our neighbours ya by keeping our distance. Itulah kenapa kita harus self isolate. Yang kedua, ya kita memang harus submit to government's authority.

Q: How does this situation and new rules affect your daily life? Are there any changes due to this?

Well, affecting daily life pasti iya, peraturan ada untuk melimit penyaluran itu. Karena ada social distancing, aku jadi lebih aware gitu. Aku jadi ga keluar rumah selain buat kerja, tapi aku juga travelling pakai mobil. Sampai di kantor semprot mobil pakai desinfektan spray. Jadi lebih ke arah hygiene aja sih.

Jam kerjaku masih normal si sekarang, tapi week to weeknya blom pasti gitu. Orang di kantor masih normal semua, orang di warehouse sama drivernya si yang kena effect. Karena banyak restoran tutup, misal biasanya delivery ke 100 restoran, ini tinggal tiga atau empat gitu. Untungnya sih, gak ada yang dipecat, tapi dikurangi shift, sama di rotate supaya adil gitu. Company juga buat bertahan perlu maintain pengeluaran mereka dengan keadaan yang sekarang. Ya itu lebih ke arah bisnis sih.

Kalo ke personal life lebih hygiene sih. Kalau

COOL, lebih gak ketemu anak-anak, biasa sering ketemu jadi ga ketemu.

Q: What have you learnt during the tough period of this pandemic?

Well, my own story, satu minggu sebelum pandemic ini, sebelum gereja ga bisa operate, aku itu ga ke gereja. Aku ke dokter, aku sama dokter disuruh di rumah, karena my immune system was very low. Jadi Aku lagi lemah gitu, gak boleh keluar. Waktu itu juga baru mulainya this corona thing kan. Aku kayak udah sedih banget, aku ga bisa ke gereja, dan aku denger dari beberapa leader kayak ada kemungkinan gereja udah ga bisa buka lagi. Aku follow gereja-greja di instagram, kayak gerejanya Timothy Keller gitu gitu udah pada tutup semua. Aku jadi kayak, 'this is my last sunday', aku udah ngerasa gitu. Jadi aku dari minggu itu udah online, waktu itu aku minta ijin Ko Budi buat streaming online. Tapi kan waktu itu yang preach Ko Dan, jadi aku masih berada di gereja kayak biasa, team PW juga masih live worship. Jadi meskipun streaming aku masih ngerasa oke.

Terus ternyata abis itu di decide kan next week nya bakal ga ada gereja. Aku udah merasa kehilangan banget, walau masih bisa online, tapi bakal yang beda aja, definitely beda gitu. Aku cuman takut bakal kayak nonton TV aja gitu. Terus ya udah, the first sunday, it feels different. Tapi, waktu service mulai, worship mulai, hal-hal yang tadi aku pikirin, online service itu kayak gimana, yang awalnya mikir ngga-ngga, jadi malah ngerasa grateful. Kayak kalau ditanya, lawatan Tuhan ada ga, ya masih ada gitu. Aku merasa aku itu limit Tuhan banget by thinking bakal gini gitu.

Aku di KOM kan ngajar topic church, aku

sering ngomong church itu bukan building, it's the body of Christ. Doesn't matter whether the church is scattered or gathered, it's still a church gitu. It's really depend on the heart of people, dan aku merasa the longing has been greater for me , kayak something yang kamu cannot wait to gather again. Aku ngerasa lewat ini, kita diajar kalau sunday service itu something yang kita ga perlu cari buildingnya, tapi something yang more than that. You can't limit god. Tiap minggu aku sunday service itu literally aku dirumah, tapi lawatan yang aku rasain itu sama. Tetap ngerasain Tuhan, and it's the most important thing sih menurutku.

Emang si ada beberapa cool leaders yang cerita gimana ya kalo misalnya waktu ini semua udah selesai, anak-anak jadi ga mau ke gereja, ya udah online aja. Memang ada bagian kita buat ngajarin mereka gitu, dan aku bilang lawatannya sama itu just because the current situation gitu. Kalo misalnya udah back to normal, aku ga bilang there's no power kalo you're being at home, tapi it's still something yang kita encourage to be in the church. Tapi with this current situastion pun, walau kita dibatasi, Tuhan itu ga berhenti bekerja. Tapi kita sebagai cool leader juga tetap harus berdoa buat anak-anak kita diluar sana.

Ya what I see towards sunday service, aku merasa when we coming back later, kita seharusnya ga take it for granted lagi. Ketika kita greet the usher, anak PW yang latihan bareng, even just miggel di kantin, itu something yang kadang we take for granted. Itu something yang kita bakal value lebih. So I think when it's back to normal, I hope semua jadi lebih eager, lebih zealous gitu with gatherings, bukan malah online aja lah, enak di rumah, lebih hemat waktu, ga usah travelling gitu. Aku berdoa buat gereja-gereja terutama

BIC, dan cool-cool yang ada gitu, supaya lebih bisa value the community.

Q: How do you stay connected as a community, during the social distancing measures?

Hmm cool, to be honest beda sih. Pas minggu pertama, kita juga ngeblank harus ngapain sebelum cool. Tapi, biar ga awkward, aku minta tolong beberapa anak buat ngomong gitu. Kita juga main game buat ice breaker. Game ini jadi way of communication, kadang kalo mereka ga jawab ya jadi awkward gitu, tapi ya gimana mesti dibiasakan. Harus get used to it.. for the time being, not too long.

Buat maintain the relationship juga memang lebih susah karena biasanya kita gampang banget buat ketemu, tapi sekarang kan kita ga bisa meet each other karena rules yang ada. Ada beberapa anak sih yang minta ketemu ngobrol, karena dia stress gitu. Ya aku bilang at the moment ga bisa, ayo zoom gitu. Kita juga mesti in a way ngajarin mereka buat submit to authority, rules yang government kasih ke kita.

The best that we can do ya check on them, show them that we care. Kadang random chat aja, ga usah yang nanya kok kamu ga datang cool, kalau aku lebih ke arah yang nanya "What you've been up to? Struggle nya apa? What do you feel?". People need someone who is ready to hear, instead of giving advice all the time. Be available, even though they didn't look for you, just let them know if they need something, you are there for them. Kita harus lebih aktif lagi. Kemarin anak-anak cool juga ide bikin games night. Bagus si jadi ga sendirian gitu, all the best we can do ya lewat zoom, soalnya kita juga perlu encourage anak-anak buat stay at home gitu.

Q: Any message or prayer for fellow believers?

Don't miss out the blessing that you're gonna get in the gathering. Doesn't matter whether it's online. Don't miss out the blessing yang Tuhan kasih, jangan karena online jadi ngerasa beda, well it is different. Tapi jangan sampai kita miss out the main point of this gathering. Kita diajarin gathering ini ga cuman sekedar kumpul-kumpul biasa. Dari social distancing ini kita diajarin, even when our cool, our church is scattered, the best thing is still the same, Tuhan masih bekerja, and don't miss out gitu. Karena this kind of blessing cuman bisa kita dapetin in this moment doang. And then I read some articles, if you're a Christian, you have to be grateful when you face hardship. There, you can see how mature you are, that hardship yang bakal membentuk kita, aku cuman merasa, this is not a coronavirus era, not a pandemic era, this is a church era.

Aku encourage tiap kita. Just because kita ga ketemu, bukan berarti kita gak cool. Tuhan tetap hadir kapanpun dimanapun. He wants us to be still in this moment. Zoom, internet is our greater blessing. Can't imagine if it is happening in 1980s gitu, jaman influenza. Ya I don't know. Even aku masih kok gini kok gitu, jadi aku mikir instead of mikir gitu, I should have been grateful with what we can get now. When we finish this moment, there is a lot of thing yang kita bisa sharing gitu. I hope at the end of that road, I can see growth, karena Tuhan berjanji tuhan yg kasih pertumbuhan.

Lastly, I encourage everyone to stay at home. Let's love our neighbour, it is God's command. And in this season, we love our neighbour by keeping our distance.



SHARE YOUR STORIES!

Hi Church!

We would love to know how you are doing during this self-isolation period. If you have any stories to tell, free time to write, you are welcome to share those with us!

We will publish them in our weekly bulletin.

So, let's encourage one another through our experiences.

Remember,
sharing is caring! :)

MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



Raynaldo Ali

MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

SOUND



Steven Santika

USHER



Elbert Pranoto

TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

CARING



Felix Hariyadi

DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

DRAMA



Jennifer Chandra

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Reinetta Tanujaya

HOSPITALITY



Tasmin Ifah

INTERCESSOR



Monica Haryanto

MISSION



Felix Chietra

MEDIA ART



Sonia Pranatha

COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Yolanda Tjong

PODCAST



Ravello Satria

YOUTH



Rio Susanto

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

**We invite you to join our
online service every Sunday**

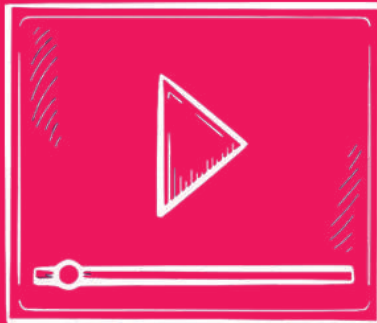
8.30 am

11.00 am

5.00 pm

You can go to the link below:

bicmelb.online.church



**Let's celebrate the Lord's Day
together!**