

# EXCELLENT COMMUNITY



**09**  
**AUGUST**  
**2020**

ED.LXXVIII.08.2020

*Bethany International Church*  
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

## FOUNDING PASTOR

Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

## SENIOR PASTOR

Ps Djohan Handojo

## PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

## Associate Pastor

Ps Unggul Santika  
Ps Iwan Adinugroho

## Next Generation Pastor

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

## Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

## Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan  
Ps Suzana Tahir

## Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

## Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

## Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir

## CONTACT US

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# Foreword

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Community of Love. Cell group. Small group. Family Altar. There are a lot of names to call a small group of people who decided to grow together in their Christian life. The Bible says in Romans 12:5, "In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." We are not called to live a solitude life and distancing ourselves from other people. Rick Warren in his book 'The Purpose Driven Life' said that our relationship with God is personal but God never intended it to be private. We are created for a fellowship and a family.

Some might think that COOL is a platform to showcase our holy life and all of the members compete to win who is the most holy or have a perfect life. In reality, COOL is a safe home to confess our weaknesses, sins and failures. We can be just the way we are without being afraid of being judged or mocked. At the end of the day we are all broken and sinful people who need Christ to save our life.

John Piper once said that sanctification is a community project. A cell group (COOL – Community of Love) is a classroom to learn how to love and care for one another. A place to practice unselfishness and grace. In the process to be Christ-like, we support, encourage and edify one another because it is a long and difficult journey. More than fifty times, the New Testament used the phrase one another or each other; such as love each other, pray to one another, forgive each other, bear each other burdens and these cannot be done

if we live like a hermit who isolate themselves from other people. We often assume we have lived a holy life while our character is indeed untested.

Encouragement:

## Commitment

Community requires commitment. We will not get any benefit in a community if we are a passive spectator. The Bible says in Acts 2:42, "They committed themselves to the teaching of apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers." It is not an attitude of 'as long as I want or can' but we dedicate ourselves despite good or bad times. Attend all weekly gatherings and be on time. Get to know one another and contribute your thoughts when possible.

## Have fun!

Though COOL is delivered through Bible teaching, the essence of COOL is also a fellowship. We ought to enjoy each other's company and share life together. We might share restaurant recommendations or go on a road trip. Sharing the good news of a new baby or a marriage proposal. Discuss current affairs or sports. It's a place where we can shed tears of grief and joy.

So, have you joined our COOL yet? If not, please join us. If you are so blessed with your COOL, ask many other people who have not joined to be in your COOL.

# 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	Kezia, Freddie
Ephratah	Steven, Henry
Berea - Bethesda	Romy
Bethlehem	Felix, Fransisca
Jordan	Sony, Wilfred
Horeb	Ferry, Febria
Bethany	Paulus, Erina
Bethel	Christy, Elvina
Cana	Bobby
Philadelphia - Pniel	Dwi, Vero
Moriah	Elve, Calista
Ephraim	Kevin L, Sonia
Ekklesia	Edo, Ica
Emmaus	Fabian, Priska
Galilee	Kevin Y, Corine
Gennesaret	Reinetta, Albert
Gilgal - Carmel	Erika, Mike
Hebron - Philippi	Yoseph, Rian
Zion	Monica, Raymond
Eden	Jennifer

## FAMILY

Antioch	Andy, Iwan
Tiberias	Andre, Albert
Doncaster	Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem	Edwin, Gerda
Mt Hermon	Lily, Unggul
Phillipi	Hariyanto, Ivan
Shekinah	Alice
Tabernacle	Sandi
Westal	Michael

## 180

Macedonia	Eric, Alicia
Shiloh	Daniel, Clarissa

## NEXT GEN

Judea	Valentina, Sylvio
Judah	Aldo, Kezia M.
Israel	Catherine, Jerry
Jeremiah	Sinta, Kevin W.
Heaven	Pauline



# Unity - Grow - Reach

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STORY JENNIFER CHANDRA

Did you know that we have three visions for our Community of Love? Before we dive into what are they, it is necessary to address the importance of vision. It is our clear guidance and destination where we want to go as a community. Secular New York Bestselling author Stephen R. Covey suggested one of seven habits of highly effective people is having the end goal in mind. It means to start with a clear understanding of our destination and mind every step in the right direction.

Clearly, as a COOL, we are not a mere weekly group meeting or another activity to fulfil our weekend plan. We are gathering in a Christian community so that we are changing our inner being to be like Jesus and make other people pursue the same thing. We are making Jesus' disciples out of this world.

So, here are the three visions of our COOL

## **Unity of heart**

We should separate the meaning of unity and uniformity. During the 2018 Opening Ceremony of Asian Games in Jakarta, one of the highlights was Aceh traditional dance which involved 1,600 dancers from 18 local schools. We are so amused how precise movement and timing it was and clearly it required thousands of hours to practice. Though it looks unison, this is not what COOL unity that we after. We don't have to wear uniforms to be unity or have the same hairstyle. We might have different taste of favourite food or fashion.

Our background family and economy might different too.

But we are one family. We know each other; not just knowing the name or which university that we go but further than that, we know each others' stories, how a person's background and personality and experiences that shape him or her.

Build a caring and nurturing environment where people are comfortable showing who they are and everybody is so supportive of them like a family. In other words, we are reflecting the love of Christ through a community. And most importantly, we have the same one point of reference which is our Lord Jesus.

BIC, as a transitory church where a lot of COOL members come and go, has challenges to conquer. It is not easy to have unity of heart when you don't know the person, in which it might happen, as we get to know new souls every semester. Not that we complain, because it is always a pleasure to get another person you can grow together with. All in all, a community need to put an effort to tear the wall of unfamiliarity.

## **Growing together**

### **2 Peter 3:18**

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Like a baby grows into adulthood or a tiny sprout

grows into a big tree and bears many fruits for many. We should be growing, expanding, increasing, developing and transforming into our goal which is to know and become like Christ Jesus.

Check ourselves and our community whether we have these evidences:

1. Changing appetite – You have a holy desire in you to disregard our old sinful life. This includes more desire to pray and read the Bible; to fulfil the law which written in our heart and not grief the Spirit
2. Battling tension inside of us – There is a raging war inside us to obey God or our selfish desire, holy grief of our sin which will always lead to repentance.
3. Good works and fruit – A living faith will always produce good works and fruit to bless others. All of this result are there to glorify our God.

Collectively as a community, we support and help each other to grow together. That is why the word ‘together’ is there. It is not a competition and racing become the best in the group nor collecting esoteric knowledge to boast our Bible proficiency. As we love and care for one another; we should also put others first and carry each other burdens.

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## **Reaching out**

### **Matthew 28:19**

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

Reaching out does not mean just bringing people to church. We ought to call and make disciples, be fishers of men just like how Jesus called Peter. The devils know Jesus and they tremble, it is clearly not enough for people to just know about Jesus. People need to submit the Lordship of Jesus and give their life to Christ as saviour.

We like to recommend a good movie or give advice to someone because we want other people to experience what we had. When we have the ultimate answer to this life, aren't we having the urge to tell people about our Jesus? Out of the outburst of joy and responsibility, we must share Jesus in everything that we do. A community must have this goal in mind, which is sharing the gospel to more and more people.

Lastly, these three things are not a step by step recipe book - like step two have to start after we finish step one - sometimes it happens simultaneously or even in an unending mixture of the cycle. But as we know our God is the God of chairis (timing) and season, we know we are riding in this Christian journey with Him, enjoying all the perfect plan that He has prepared for us as a community.

# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 09 AUGUST

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1 Tawarikh 1-3

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Tawarikh 16:10

“Bermegahlah di dalam nama-Nya yang kudus, biarlah bersukahati orang-orang yang mencari Tuhan!  
11Carilah Tuhan dan kekuatan-Nya,”

## 10 AUGUST

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1 Tawarikh 4-6

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Tawarikh 16:11

“Carilah Tuhan dan kekuatan-Nya, carilah wajah-Nya selalu!”

## 11 AUGUST

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1 Tawarikh 7-10

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Tawarikh 16:15

“Ia ingat untuk selama-lamanya akan perjanjian-Nya, akan firman yang diperintahkan-Nya kepada seribu angkatan,”

## 12 AUGUST

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1 Tawarikh 11-14

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Tawarikh 16:29

“Berilah kepada Tuhan kemuliaan nama-Nya, bawalah persembahan dan masuklah menghadap Dia! Sujudlah menyembah kepada Tuhan dengan berhiaskan kekudusan.”



## 13 AUGUST

1 Tawarikh 15-18

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Tawarikh 16:8

“Bersyukurlah kepada Tuhan, panggillah nama-Nya, perkenalkanlah perbuatan-Nya di antara bangsa-bangsa!”

## 14 AUGUST

1 Tawarikh 19-22

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Tawarikh 16:9

“Bernyanyilah bagi-Nya, bermazmurlah bagi-Nya, percakapkanlah segala perbuatan-Nya yang ajaib!”

## 15 AUGUST

1 Tawarikh 23-26

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Tawarikh 17:27

“Kiranya Engkau sekarang berkenan memberkati keluarga hamba-Mu ini, supaya tetap ada di hadapan-Mu untuk selamanya. Sebab apa yang Engkau berkati, ya Tuhan, diberkati untuk selamanya.”

*“your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path”*

psalm 119:105

# True love

STORY EDO SEBASTIAN

We see love in many different forms in all aspects of our lives – such forms include affection, familial, romantic, and selfless love. However, these forms of love may be transactional. We may love someone/ something, simply because of the value possessed by that person or object. For instance, for those of us in a relationship, the root of us falling in love might have been due to what we perceived as “plus value” provided by our significant other – for example, we might have determined that he or she was attractive. However, this pales in comparison to one form of love: Unconditional Love, which is the love bestowed upon us from God as described in **John 3:16**. Now that we are aware of this “true” love, it is important that we are able to pass on and share the love we have received from God with our partner, friends and family.

In a Christian community, it is essential that we have love. Paul, in his letter to the members of the church in Corinth (**1 Corinthians 13:1 – 13**) mentioned the importance of love; in particular, in Verse 13,

he stated that among faith, hope and love, love is the greatest. Despite this statement, faith still represents a crucial foundation of our Christian community, as it is only through faith can we truly understand God’s love. Thus, to build our faith, we need to study the Word of God every day.

However, our faith should not exist in a form that is only confined to ourselves and the people that we know. Our faith should be outwardly visible, through how we love others – as this is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, working in our lives. If we choose not to dispense and spread this love, how can the people in our community start believing in God? For me personally, love is a sign that God exists in our life. Thankfully, we have “*Communities of Love*” in our church where we can experience firsthand God’s love through the care provided by our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Having understood how crucial and important love is, we now need to know what loving one another means within the context of our community. Let us go through

the Gospel to see how God's love for us has been described. It is the story of the cross that we have heard many times, and I believe that most of us know that God's love is unconditional. He loved us even before we knew Him, and He sacrificed His life at the cross for our salvation. I believe that it is important for us to reflect and allow the story of the Gospel to sink deep into our minds for us to truly comprehend the magnitude of such a monumental sacrifice. God relinquished everything – including His own Son, to save us from death. From Jesus' perspective, He lost His status (from a King to a servant) in the process of giving us a gift we needed – salvation. This is despite many of us previously being unaware that we required salvation. This, in turn, further emphasises the notion that the love of God is unconditional – that He would give up His one and only son to save us all. Personally, for me, this is the perfect example and the single definition of loving one another that we should follow - the unconditional love found only in Christ.

I understand that showing unconditional love to others is a challenging task. There are many instances in which we feel that it is not conducive for us to love our brothers and sisters, and we may try to actively avoid doing so. I believe in situations such as these, we need to take a step back, pray and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. Having said this,



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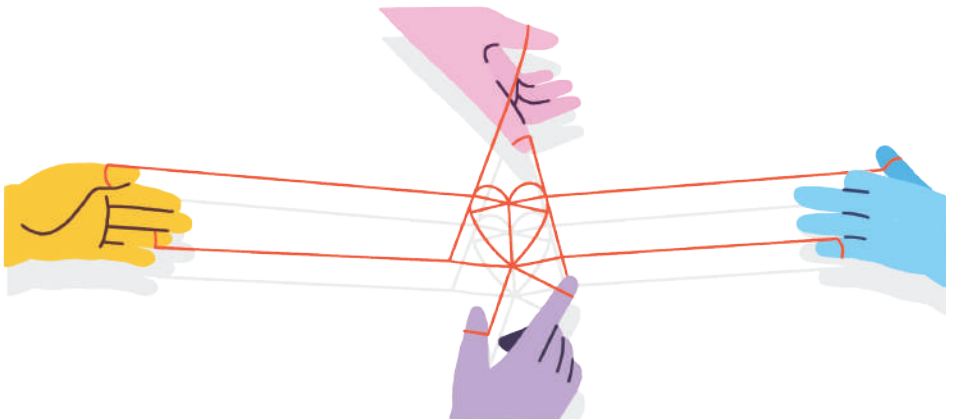
that there is one challenge which I believe most of us will encounter – that is, seeing one of our own COOL members slowly distancing themselves from God. The most common dilemma is how we can rebuke this person while simultaneously showing our love to them. To this, I believe that we can follow an example from 1 Timothy 4:2.

In this chapter, Paul wanted to warn Timothy that people, instead of following the teachings of God, would begin to abandon their faith and follow the deceit and lies taught by demons. With salvation at stake for these people – had Paul not warned Timothy, it was likely that many would have been steered away from the truth of God. As such, I believe that by rebuking Timothy, Paul was able to demonstrate a form of love and care. Hence, rebuking represents a tangible form of love being manifested; this, in turn, could be an action we need to take, should we see our brothers and sisters beginning to sway away from God.

In addition, rebuking our brothers and

sisters may sometimes be an inward reflection for ourselves. We choose to draw attention to, and care for the challenges or struggles of others, without realising that we ourselves may be in the same position. Paul mentioned in **Romans 3:23** that all of us have come short of the glory of God because of sin. From the moment Adam and Eve disobeyed God, mankind fell into sin. Living in a broken world, all of us have the tendency to sin. As such, even though we may need to rebuke others, it is important for us to remember that individually, we are all still imperfect. Therefore, I believe that it is crucial for us to have routine self-reflection in our daily lives to not only remind us of our sins, but more importantly, to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that has gifted us the salvation.

In conclusion, I believe that one form of true love can be seen in the purpose of a Christian community is to have other believers around us, ensuring that there are “watchdogs” that prevents us from falling into sin and swaying from God.



# 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**

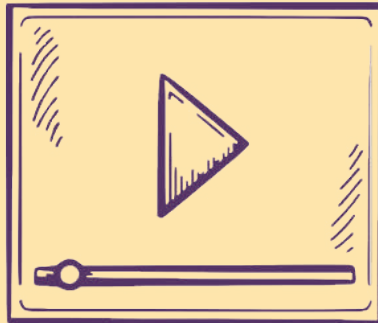
**8.30 am**

**11.00 am**

**5.00 pm**

**You can go to the link below:**

**[bicmelb.online.church](https://bicmelb.online.church)**



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