

# EXCELLENT SOWING

21  
JUNE  
2020

ED. LXVI.06.2020

*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

## 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

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Bethany International Church



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[www.bethanymelb.org.au](http://www.bethanymelb.org.au)



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## 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  
Alice  
Sandi  
Michael

## 180

Macedonia  
Shiloh

Eric, Alicia  
Daniel, Clarissa

## NEXT GEN

Judea  
Judah  
Israel  
Jeremiah  
Heaven

Valentina, Sylvio  
Aldo, Kezia M.  
Catherine, Jerry  
Sinta, Kevin W.  
Pauline



# THE CHEERFUL GIVER

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STORY JULIUS NJOTOWIJOYO

I was visiting a church in Indonesia, and as the custom in most churches in Indonesia, they use an envelope for the offering. I saw **2 Corinthians 9:7** written on the envelope: *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”*. Wow, this is different! (I thought). In other churches I’ve visited, I would find **Malachi 3:10 – 11** being quoted on the offering envelope which lures people to give because of the promise of blessings or the fear of the devourer that destroys the fruit of our soil.

Before we go on to learn what lessons we can draw from **2 Corinthians 9:7**, it is worth asking ourselves this question: What motivates us when we give (our money) to God and others? Is it the promise of blessings and fear of punishment or because God has already given His best, His only begotten Son for us, and because we love God and we love others?

## God loves the cheerful (hilarious) giver

The Greek word for cheerful is *hilaros*, from which we derive our English word *hilarious*. It pleases the LORD when we give to Him and others out of joy, rather than out of duty. That is why the previous sentence says that we are not to give reluctantly or under compulsion. This principle does not just apply to giving, but also to anything that we do for God and others. **Psalms 100:2** says, *“Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”*. To the Pharisees, Jesus said, *“This people honours*

*me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”* (**Matthew 15:8 – 9**). When we give merrily, it shows that God is our treasure, not money.

## The Generous Church

(2 Corinthians 8:1 – 4)

In the previous chapter, Paul gave an example of the Macedonian church that gave generously and cheerfully, even beyond their means, although they were in a severe test of affliction and they were extremely poor (**2 Cor. 8:2**), they were begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the saints (**2 Cor. 8:4**).

One of the major ministries of Paul’s third missionary journey was the taking up of a special *“relief offering”* for the poor Christians in Judea. Even though the Macedonian church was extremely poor, but they did not want to miss out to be a blessing for other poor Christians! Sometimes people think that only if they are rich, they can give, or if what they earn is not enough for themselves, then they cannot be a blessing for others. Of course, we must be wise with our finances, but the Macedonian church is a living example of what it means to be generous to others, no matter what the circumstances are. It is not the amount that the Lord sees, but the heart. Remember the story of a widow’s offering in **Mark 12:41 – 44**.

The call to be generous is especially relevant

for the church right now where many people are suffering the economic consequences of the pandemic. Let us be the channel of God's blessing to people who have been financially impacted by the pandemic, especially for the household of faith (**Galatians 6:10**).

## **Cultivating a Generous Heart**

Now, the question is, how do we cultivate a generous heart, while we are still naturally selfish? We often think, *"What about my needs?"* when it comes to giving to God and others. The following are three things we can do to cultivate a generous heart:

**1. Remember the gospel – 2 Corinthians 8:9** says *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."* This text has been abused by the prosperity preachers, but when we read this text in context, we know that when Paul encourages the Corinthians to be generous in giving, he encouraged them with the gospel, the news of how God, in Christ, has forgiven all their trespasses and cancelled their record of debts so that they could be spiritually rich (having the righteousness of Christ). Therefore, I could not agree more with Pastor Timothy Keller that the gospel is not just the ABCs of Christianity, but it is the A – Z of Christianity. It is the fuel that empowers Christians in their faith journey.

**2. Faith in God's promises** – I also believe that when we give to God and others, we will not lack in our needs. I am sure that we have all experienced God's provisions in the past. Listen to the promises of God in **2 Corinthians 9:8 – 11**: *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."* He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God". The last verse (verse 11) is wonderful, that God will enrich us in every way to be generous, and at the end, God gets the glory! Paul says in **Romans 11:36**: *"For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."*

**3. Enough for ourselves, abundant for others – the one godly trait that we must cultivate if we want to be generous is contentment.** Being content with what we have, so we can be the channel of God's blessings for others. John Piper writes, *"Why does God bless us with abundance? So we can have enough to live on, and then use the rest for all manner of good works that alleviate spiritual and physical misery. Enough for us; abundance for others"*.

# WEEKLY DEVOTION

21 JUNE

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Hakim 7-9

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Kor 4:20

“Sebab Kerajaan Allah bukan terdiri dari perkataan, tetapi dari kuasa.”

22 JUNE

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Hakim 10-12

Ayat Renungan:  
Hakim-hakim  
10:16

“Dan mereka menjauhkan para allah asing dari tengah-tengah mereka, lalu mereka beribadah kepada Tuhan. Maka Tuhan tidak dapat lagi menahan hati-Nya melihat kesukaran mereka.”

23 JUNE

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Hakim 13-15

Ayat Renungan:  
Roma 11:36

“Sebab segala sesuatu adalah dari Dia, dan oleh Dia, dan kepada Dia: Bagi Dialah kemuliaan sampai selama-lamanya!”

24 JUNE

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Hakim 16-18

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Kor 8:6

“namun bagi kita hanya ada satu Allah saja, yaitu Bapa, yang dari pada-Nya berasal segala sesuatu dan yang untuk Dia kita hidup, dan satu Tuhan saja, yaitu Yesus Kristus, yang oleh-Nya segala sesuatu telah dijadikan dan yang karena Dia kita hidup.”



**25 JUNE**

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**Hakim 19-21**

**Ayat Renungan:  
1 Kor 10:31**

**“Aku menjawab:  
Jika engkau  
makan atau jika  
engkau minum,  
atau jika engkau  
melakukan  
sesuatu yang  
lain, lakukanlah  
semuanya itu  
untuk kemuliaan  
Allah.”**

**26 JUNE**

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**1 Kor 1-4**

**Ayat Renungan:  
1 Kor 2:9**

**“Tetapi seperti  
ada tertulis:  
“Apa yang tidak  
pernah dilihat  
oleh mata, dan  
tidak pernah  
didengar oleh  
telinga, dan yang  
tidak pernah  
timbul di dalam  
hati manusia:  
semua yang  
disediakan Allah  
untuk mereka  
yang mengasihi  
Dia.””**

**27 JUNE**

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**1 Kor 5-8**

**Ayat Renungan:  
1 Kor 6:20**

**“Sebab kamu  
telah dibeli dan  
harganya telah  
lunas dibayar:  
Karena itu  
muliakanlah  
Allah dengan  
tubuhmu!”**



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

*-psalm 119:105-*

# PRINCIPLES OF STUDYING

STORY BELINSHA YOUZCHALVEEN

Hi everyone, my name is Belle and I graduated from Honours in Psychology last December. I am here today to share with you a few stories on the topic of studying 😊

## **How do you relate your study to your Christian life?**

To me, being a student is a domain within Christian living, rather than a dichotomy separate to my Christian life. My role as a student in the university is no different than my role as a child in a family, as a friend in a community group, or as a co-worker in an organisation. All of these roles and domains are part of my Christian life. And so, doing my best as a student is living out my calling in where God has chosen to place me.

## **What do you do when your responsibility as a student clashes with religious 'obligation'? (For example, how do you prioritise between exam and COOL?)**

I think this depends on the urgency of the assignment and one's own commitment to attending COOL. For me, I have committed to put in my best effort for every assessment I am tasked with, and a commitment to attend COOL every Friday. Of course, I have experienced moments of temptation

to skip COOL in order to study or work on assignments. While this requires wisdom on a case-by-case basis, I also know that humans are experts in making excuses.

For instance, I knew that the time I was willing to give up for COOL could easily be compensated by waking up a few hours earlier in the weekday to study, or by reducing those '15-minutes-turned-one-hour' Youtube breaks during the day 😊. So if I ever catch myself in this situation, I try not to buy into my own excuse and discipline myself to come to COOL as that is what I have committed to do.

However, there were also times where I had to miss COOL due to the urgency of the assignment. I remember during my Honours year I had to skip once or twice, because the workload towards the end of thesis submission was too much. So again, I always have to ask the Holy Spirit to give me the wisdom in making these decisions.

One rule of thumb I found is that if I am feeling 'tempted' in the first place, it is usually an indication that I can afford to come to COOL and should make time for it. Because, the times where I truly cannot make it to COOL, I did not experience this kind of

temptation or dilemma in my mind. I think once we are honest with ourselves, the next step is to discipline ourselves and put into practice what we have committed to do in our hearts. We also need to ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, guidance and strength to obey.

**How do you manage stress and anxiety in your study? How do we differentiate our ambition with idols? How do you glorify God through study?**

I don't think there is a particular formula or 'How-To' guide for some of these questions, and I too am still learning. But to share with you some of my experience on this...I believe that each person has a different calling, capability, passion, etc.- all of which are given and supplied by the Lord. Like the parable of the talents, we are all responsible for nurturing whatever we have been trusted with.

So the principle I hold onto the most in my studies is to put in my best for every assessment I am tasked with. I give my best for every essay, exam or any form of assessment given. Abiding by this principle and knowing that everything else is out of my control (in God's hands), has somewhat shielded me from unnecessary stress and prevented me from idolizing my studies.

If I do well, then praise God. I remind myself that every gift and capability come from Him, and that I cannot boast about anything (1 Cor 4:17 - For who makes you different from anyone else? What do you have that you did not receive?

“We are all responsible for nurturing whatever we have been trusted with.”



And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?)

In the same way, I don't beat myself up or let my (lack of achievement) determine my identity when I don't do well. Nor do I get stressed or disappointed over an unsatisfactory grade because I know I have given my all. I know that when I have done my best and that door remains closed, God has something better in store for me. Whether it be the learning process or anything else for that matter. It may be a little out of context, but I believe that in all things God works for the good (**Rom 8:28**), even when things appear bleak.

### **What have you learnt by being a Christian student in a secular world?**

I think being a Christian in a liberal university setting definitely sets up an opportunity to testify, and also a challenge to practice honesty and integrity. What I mean by this is, there is often a stigma towards religion and in particular, Christianity. People might look at you differently or react differently once you profess your faith. Naturally, it was hard for me to open up to my friends at first. Eventually, I thought that if my friends can share about the board games they play during the weekend, the sports they subscribe to, the restaurants they like, why can't I share what I do on Friday nights and Sundays? Is that not what genuine friends do after all?

So, I constantly learn to share my experience as-is, not necessarily preaching but never avoiding the subject either. I know that the Holy Spirit can eventually grow the seeds that we plant, even if we have only mentioned church or Jesus' name. These conversations tend to go deeper over time. One of my uni friends told me that from our little talks, she actually started coming to church again after seven years and is even joining weekly Bible study now. Praise God!

### **Do you have any advice for students during this exam period?**

Give it nothing short of your best! If the outcome is good, all glory to God. If the outcome seems bad, all glory to God too because we know that he can use every circumstance for our good. If you lack wisdom, ask God for wisdom, who gives generously to all without finding fault (**James 1:5**). If you're feeling uneasy, ask God for peace. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guide your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:6-7). I believe the Holy Spirit will guide us through all the seasons in our life- including this exam season!

Thank you for reading and I hope it blesses you for upcoming exam preparations. God bless 😊

# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



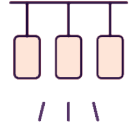
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



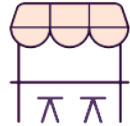
Jennifer Chandra

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Reinetta Tanujaya

## HOSPITALITY



Tasmin Ifah

## INTERCESSOR



Monica Haryanto

## MISSION



Felix Chietra

## MEDIA ART



Sonia Pranatha

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN



Yolanda Tjong

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

## PODCAST



Ravello Satria

## YOUTH



Rio Susanto

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

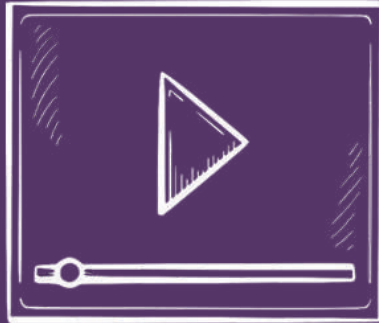
**8.30 am**

**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!**