

EXCELLENT SOWING

28
JUNE
2020

ED. LXVII.06.2020

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS



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Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

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PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

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Ps Iwan Adinugroho

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Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan
Ps Suzana Tahir

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Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

Mission & Evangelism Pastor

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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	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

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Macedonia	Eric, Alicia
Shiloh	Daniel, Clarissa

NEXT GEN

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



THE LORD IS CLOSE TO THE BROKENHEARTED AND SAVES THOSE WHO ARE CRUSHED IN SPIRIT

STORY CALISTA TJOAQUIN

Hi! I am Calista from Cool Moriah...(meriaaahh! Hehehe).

I came to Melb as a teen whose mom and dad are very supportive of her desire to pursue higher education in another country. So here I am! Just graduated and still... looking for a job that can fit me and I hope- will open my eyes and my thoughts, so much wider. Anyway, I want to share some of my experiences during this tough time with you guys ☺

The infamous pandemic, COVID-19, has certainly affected not only many but actually almost the whole entire world, including me. Plan A to plan D had already been arranged for different situations that might happen in the future, yet none of them seemed to work out. I think the best way to describe my situation right now, is the Indonesian proverb, "Bagai makan buah simalakama" which means no matter where I go, I think it can always be a wrong move.

The bad news is also literally everywhere, whether it be about financial crisis, increasing number of cases, etc. The fact that it has hurt so many people financially, mentally or maybe even spiritually, made me dwelled in deep sadness. It has shifted my focus and turned my eyes away from God and His goodness.

However, there was one thing that I learned in the past, to pray when you don't want to do it the most. I felt very empty, but I prayed

nonetheless. My current favourite chapter is Psalm 42 (there is also a really blessing song from the chapter by Tori Kelly). It is a confession of someone who was in a spiritual depression, and was very thirsty for God. The first few times I read it, I cried to God and asked for His mercy upon me. I kept saying that I really need Him and I thirst for His love. The Holy Spirit then reminded me that although my bones are dry and my soul is downcast, our Abba Father is faithful, He will always be our Savior and His grace is unending! God picked me up again and gave me peace, like He always does.

I think there can be a lot of unnoticed gaps opening up in our lives for the devils to sneak into, especially in these days. Thus, we have to watch and pray, for our flesh is weak but His Spirit is strong in us (Matt 26:41). I pray that besides of all these chaos, there will be restorations for broken hearts and relationships, there will be deliverance from bondages and our eyes will be opened for the greatest purpose that He has prepared for each and everyone of us!

PS. Wow! Now that I wrote all this while having so many thoughts in my mind since I had to summarize them compactly, I have received so much new energy! I am very excited for the next phase in my life with God holding my hand, and of course He is holding yours too :D



WEEKLY DEVOTION

28 JUNE

1 Kor 9-12

Ayat Renungan:
1 Kor 10:13

“Pencobaan-pencobaan yang kamu alami ialah pencobaan-pencobaan biasa, yang tidak melebihi kekuatan manusia. Sebab Allah setia dan karena itu Ia tidak akan membiarkan kamu dicobai melampaui kekuatanmu. Pada waktu kamu dicobai Ia akan memberikan kepadamu jalan ke luar, sehingga kamu dapat menanggungnya.”

29 JUNE

1 Kor 13-16

Ayat Renungan:
1 Kor 13:13

“Demikianlah tinggal ketiga hal ini, yaitu iman, pengharapan dan kasih, dan yang paling besar di antaranya ialah kasih.”

30 JUNE

2 Kor 1-4

Ayat Renungan:
2 Kor 3:17

“Sebab Tuhan adalah Roh; dan di mana ada Roh Allah, di situ ada kemerdekaan.”

01 JULY

2 Kor 5-7

Ayat Renungan:
2 Kor 6: 2

“Sebab Allah berfirman: “Pada waktu Aku berkenan, Aku akan mendengarkan engkau, dan pada hari Aku menyelamatkan, Aku akan menolong engkau.”
Sesungguhnya, waktu ini adalah waktu perkenanan itu; sesungguhnya, hari ini adalah hari penyelamatan itu.”

02 JULY

2 Kor 8-10

Ayat Renungan:
2 Kor 8:9

“Karena kamu telah mengenal kasih karunia Tuhan kita Yesus Kristus, bahwa Ia, yang oleh karena kamu menjadi miskin, sekalipun Ia kaya, supaya kamu menjadi kaya oleh karena kemiskinan-Nya.”

03 JULY

2 Kor 11-13

Ayat Renungan:
2 Kor 10:17

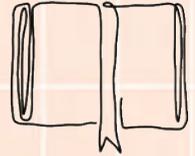
“Tetapi barangsiapa bermegah, hendaklah ia bermegah di dalam Tuhan.”

04 JULY

Rut 1-4

Ayat Renungan:
Rut 1:16

“Tetapi kata Rut: “Janganlah desak aku meninggalkan engkau dan pulang dengan tidak mengikuti engkau; sebab ke mana engkau pergi, ke situ jugalah aku pergi, dan di mana engkau bermalam, di situ jugalah aku bermalam: bangsamulah bangsaku dan Allahmulah Allahku””



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

-psalm 119:105-

MY REFLECTION TOWARDS A 'NEW NORMAL' LIFE

STORY ELVEIANA JOSEPH

How COVID-19 has shaped my life

Covid-19 has taught and shaped me to be fully surrendered to our creator, our God, Abba Father and be a selfless thinker person. Uncertain, one word that describes the impact of COVID-19. Literally everything in life now is very unpredictable. We never know when the virus gonna end and we never know when the economy will get better too. Many people losing their source of living and comfort zone. This COVID-19 affects not only our physical health but also our mental health. We might tend to worry about what's gonna happen tomorrow, next month or even next year. We tend to stress out when we lose the thing we used to have.

I've been there too, where I was so scared if I couldn't pay my rent, couldn't pay my bills, and couldn't have money for saving. I remembered I couldn't sleep for the whole night just thinking of the plans for tomorrow, next week, month ahead of me. I thought by making plans, it's gonna make me more happy and peaceful, but instead, it makes me worried and disappointed. Everyday I was so frustrated with myself because

everything I planned is not going smooth as what I planned.

I was using my own strength to plan out and try to control my life. My eyes were too fix with the virus, I keep thinking of the bad impact this virus give to my life. But I was wrong, whatever I did with my own



strength, it's not going to bring peace to my life. It reminded me that I should surrender to God and fix my eyes to God. One thing that I am being reminded also in this critical situation: It shows my true self, how selfish I am. I kept thinking of myself, me and I. I kept thinking of my own life and how to survive in this world. I never think of other people' life.

If we are in the movie now, I'm probably the selfish character that would never sacrifice for other people and will do anything to survive, what the point of surviving when we are surviving alone? It brings questions to myself, am I really Jesus's follower? Am I really the salt and light in this world? Do I really live as a Jesus reflection in this world? Am I really doing what Jesus did? He commanded us to serve one another. But what I did was worrying about my own life. Seriously, it hits me very hard tho. I'm so grateful that only by his mercy and grace I can receive this kind of reminder to my life.

God's grace in the COVID-19 restriction

My life routine is still the same, not much huge different. The only difference is my social life. I used to use my day off to hang out with my friends, especially with my COOL friends but now my life only at work or at home, or maybe sometimes going out alone to have my "me time" and my vlogging content. At first, I actually struggle with this online connection stuff, oh actually I still struggle with it! I don't really like online meeting, I don't like video call, I don't like phone call and I rarely reply text. I like to

“If I don't have Christ in my life, it will be a useless life.”

spend time with my friend face to face. But it's okay for now, still can endure with it. And still grateful tho for the technology!

My first week of the restriction was very tough for me, I was like a crazy child that was confused about what is happening to this world. It's so frustrating that I couldn't go out (see this my selfish side of me) and I used to go out. So, to adapt to the new normal was quite tough for me. I don't know what to do at home. For a few days, I keep playing with my phone, checking my Instagram, Facebook and all my social media. Until I realised how much time I wasted for unproductive activities, so I decided to fast for social media for few weeks. I spent those weeks to really connect with God, spent more time in bible study, praying and journaling.

I'm so grateful in those fasting days, God reveals so many things to me that I never think about before, He reveals more about Him to me and also reminds me again of my purpose and calling in life. Such a wonderful time that I could sit hours and hours to meet with Him, I never imagined that I could have that much time to connect with God. Also, actually, I'd prayed to God about this before the COVID restriction happened, prayer to have more time with Him more. I prayed this, weeks before the restriction. I told Him that I really want to rest because I'm super tired and just connect with Him but I couldn't have that much time as I'm so busy with my

jobs and other responsibilities and I don't want to take a break even tho I'm tired.

I don't want to take a break because I don't have a valid reason and as long I still can, I will never take a break (because I'm a type of person who likes to push myself and stubborn). And then amazingly, the week after, He answered my prayer. How? I got sick. So I couldn't work for the entire week, what a refreshing up and down week. God reminded and revealed to me so much things! See, Our Father cares for us and He knows our capacity, so grateful that I have amazing Abba Father!

Facing the new normal with a broader view

My personal life, I'm getting better though and getting used to the new normal. I'm the type of person who is easy going and easy to adapt to the changes, I rarely complain and mostly I will accept and try to take it positively. But again, sometimes I just wish I can play and hang out with my friends- especially my COOL friends without thinking about the social rules. Melbourne just felt so different without them in my life and I couldn't feel Melbourne as my home without spent time with them in Melbourne. Even tho we still meet in ZOOM but still, I felt different. Now my life in Melbourne only consists of work and 'me' time. But again, it's okay tho, things happen for a good reason.

Now, I'm more concern with the people that are not having a good life as we are. In this economic crisis, how's their life? Are they okay? Do they have food on their table today? Have they eaten? And how about the abandoned children? How are they gonna survive with life? And how about the people that are being abused at home? How many people depressed because of losing their jobs? People are dying every day. If we see outside of our world (I mean our life), you will be so grateful for what you are having right now.

A big question we should ask our self to, do they know God? We are having a very good life you know, we live comfortably and we know God! Those who don't know God are lost, who is gonna bring them to God if not us who have known God? Let's really pray for them and use what we have right now to bring them to God, so that in this situation, they can find God (the source of peace, joy and strength!). Sometimes, I really wish that I can go out and reach out and serve those people. But I thank God that I can still intercede and bring them to my prayers! Let's pray for them :)

Also, in this crisis, the ones who are affected the most is the country leaders, they need to make big decisions that will affect the future of the country. Let us pray for them for God's strength and wisdom so that they are healthy and be able to make wise decisions.

In this situation, I learnt to care and pray more for others.

Growing through the difficult season

In this difficult and uncertain time, I need to be extra careful of making decisions, from small to big decision. I learnt to be wiser and take a longer time to think of it. Most importantly, I need to ask God for every step and decision for my life. Now I became wiser spender, planner and also cleaner (haha). Every time I want to buy stuff, I will think a thousand times because I don't want to waste on something that is unnecessary in this crisis time. Every time I wanna go out with friends, I need to discuss with them and only meet if it is necessary, plus we need to always follow the social rules.

Compared to before COVID-19, I can meet any of my friends anywhere and anytime without thinking of the valid reason. Anyway, yeah life is not easy as before, it's very uncertain. Travel is limited, finding jobs is hard, meeting people is difficult. But we need to be so grateful that we live in a country that cares for the country and the people, that's why social, travel and other rules was made due to COVID-19. If the country leader didn't act, we're probably in a very worse situation right now. We might think it's hard for us to adapt to the new norm but it's harder for the country leaders to keep the country safe and strong in every aspect. Let's always be

grateful, we still can live (probably not good as before) but really be grateful of what you have right now and always seek Jesus in this difficult season. Let's grow in Him together!

Approaching life with a new perspective

Thanks for Covid-19, it's an eye-opener for me and a reminder of my life. A reminder that we are weak, fragile and we live in this world only for temporarily. Literally everyone can get infected of this virus, no one can run from it. Many people are questioning God of what's happening right now, why He didn't destroy the virus so no more people dying because of it and we could live back to normal. But hey, God let this happen because He cares for us.

See that in this season, we could have time more with Him. If we really have an intimate relationship with Him, we know what His heart's desires. He cares not only our life in this world but it's bigger than that, He cares about our life for eternity. Eternity has no end, it's forever. Temporary has due, it's will be over anytime. Which one would you choose, temporary or eternity?

Now my life perspective, I'm more about pursuing my eternity than this temporary life and choose to be grateful and enough for everything. What is the purpose of having plenty of money or friends and chasing for fame when I don't have Christ in my life? If I don't have Christ in my life, it will be a useless life and chasing things for danger. This new perspective of life makes

me put my time more on the things that I prioritise. Really, I'm so grateful this season.

Final words

During the first week of this lockdown due to Covid-19, I was reminded with this chapter: **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**.

Especially this verse: **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end

This reminds me of Him, our God. He is our Creator, He is our King, He is our Father, He is the author of the universe and everything! Who are we? We are His creations that were purchased by His blood to become His children. Imagine! The King is our Father! He deserves our submission and we should fear Him. This reminds me as well that He knows what He is doing, nothing happens without His control. This chapter reminds me of Him and who we are. I can imagine how small I am compared to Him, it's like me as small or probably smaller than the bacteria and God is bigger or bigger than the universe. When we try to shout and trying to give idea or explanation to God of what is happening right now with our limited way of thinking, it's just so funny, who are we compared to Him? He knows what He's doing and His plan is perfect. Think of His grace and mercy. Think beyond of this temporary life, think eternity.

MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



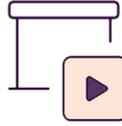
Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



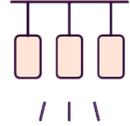
Raynaldo Ali

MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

SOUND



Steven Santika

USHER



Elbert Pranoto

TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

CARING



Felix Hariyadi

DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

DRAMA



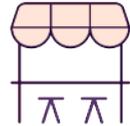
Jennifer Chandra

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**

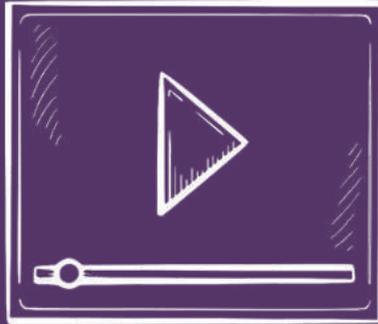
8.30 am

11.00 am

5.00 pm

You can go to the link below:

bicmelb.online.church



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