

EXCELLENT COMMUNITY



**16
AUGUST
2020**

ED.LXXIX.08.2020

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

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PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

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Ps Iwan Adinugroho

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Foreword

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
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



Sharpening One Another Towards One Purpose

STORY NATALIA WIJAYA

I wasn't the youngest by age when I first joined COOL in 2005. I was the youngest among all though, in terms of my Christian journey and spiritual growth. I remember others were so caring, supportive, and patience in shepherding me throughout my early years in knowing and finding more about Christ. I was nurtured more than I nurtured others.

Along the years as I grow and rooted deeper in Christ, I learn "giving" is a virtue that simply cannot be set apart in Christian life.

As His Spirit works in me, He gives me desire to give (rather than just "waiting to be fed and served") and He equips me to do His good works. Sometimes they are out of my comfort zone but when I walk in obedience the end result always brings me joy because I know I have fulfilled His calling and purpose in me.

Nonetheless, obstacles are still present in the process of growing godly character in a community (even within a Christian community). I have personally experienced in the past the hurtful feeling of being let down by others; it is harder when the person is within our own COOL or others closest to us.

We often heard the wording "*as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another*" (Proverbs 27:17).

I like to imagine the sharpening process as soldiers preparing themselves for a great battle; a battle that not only last for hours, but could take months and years.

Each soldier sharpens another's weapon in the course of preparation and amidst the battle whenever the opportunity allows them to.

HOWEVER, they don't use their weapon to attack the fellow soldiers. They use their weapons to battle together more effectively. They use them for a greater purpose: attacking and defeating the enemy.

In our Christian journey our REAL ENEMY is not our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, but the devil and the power of sin!

We are *united by this purpose*, and to carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). As we are sharpened by others, by God's grace, we will use our sharpness not to against our own brothers and sisters in Christ.

When His Spirit reveals this truth to us and we allow Him to transform our mind and heart, we will see that the sharpening process is actually humbling and beneficial to our spiritual growth.

We will be able to use this process as an *opportunity to grow to be more like Christ*.

We will be stronger and fitter in our longer

journey as Christians. We will not become so easily offended by people's remarks, we will appreciate other's criticism and will be more inclined to see their good intention in correcting us (regardless the way they deliver it may not meet our expectation).

I still learn hard to respond better from time to time especially when under pressure though. I still often fail, but I also observe and take a mental note that it helps not to react within the first few seconds or minutes, rather to put guard on my mouth, calm myself, pray about it and asking God to give me a better view of the situation.

Last but not least, sharpening is never an easy process. Rather than causing us stress by our failures, use our moments of weakness to draw closer to Christ and towards daily repentance.

We do have hope because Jesus has delivered and redeemed us from our sins at the cross, and through His resurrection, He's given us NEW LIFE and NEW HEART to be able to think and behave differently. God's words have the power to renew and transform our mind (Romans 12:2, 2 Timothy 3:16-17), therefore it is very important to abide daily in Him.

When we reach a higher level of growth, we know it is because of His Spirit working in our heart. In Him, we find power to forgive and love others. Nothing to be proud of in us other than His faithfulness.

Let us use our sharpening process in the community for God's greater purpose and glory, by the power of His Spirit working in each of us.

In Jesus' mighty name, amen.



WEEKLY DEVOTION

16 AUGUST

1 Tawarikh 27-29

Ayat Renungan:
1 Tawarikh 29:11

“Ya Tuhan, punya-Mulah kebesaran dan kejayaan, kehormatan, kemasyhuran dan keagungan, ya, segala-galanya yang ada di langit dan di bumi! Ya Tuhan, punya-Mulah kerajaan dan Engkau yang tertinggi itu melebihi segala-galanya sebagai kepala.”

17 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 1-4

Ayat Renungan:
1 Tawarikh 29:12

“Sebab kekayaan dan kemuliaan berasal dari pada-Mu dan Engkaulah yang berkuasa atas segala-galanya; dalam tangan-Mulah kekuatan dan kejayaan; dalam tangan-Mulah kuasa membesarkan dan mengokohkan segala-galanya.”

18 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 5-8

Ayat Renungan:
2 Tawarikh 7:14

“dan umat-Ku, yang atasnya nama-Ku disebut, merendahkan diri, berdoa dan mencari wajah-Ku, lalu berbalik dari jalan-jalannya yang jahat, maka Aku akan mendengar dari sorga dan mengampuni dosa mereka, serta memulihkan negeri mereka.”

19 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 9-12

Ayat Renungan:
2 Tawarikh 12:14

“Ia berbuat yang jahat, karena ia tidak tekun mencari Tuhan.”

20 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 13-16

Ayat Renungan:
2 Tawarikh 16:9a

“Karena mata Tuhan menjelajah seluruh bumi untuk melimpahkan kekuatan-Nya kepada mereka yang bersungguh hati terhadap Dia.”

21 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 17-20

Ayat Renungan:
2 Tawarikh 20:6

“dan berkata:
“Ya Tuhan, Allah nenek moyang kami, bukankah Engkau Allah di dalam sorga? Bukankah Engkau memerintah atas segenap kerajaan bangsa? Kuasa dan keperkasaan ada di dalam tangan-Mu, sehingga tidak ada orang yang dapat bertahan melawan Engkau.”

22 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 21-24

Ayat Renungan:
Filipi 1:21-22

“Karena bagiku hidup adalah Kristus dan mati adalah keuntungan. Tetapi jika aku harus hidup di dunia ini, itu berarti bagiku bekerja memberi buah. Jadi mana yang harus kupilih, aku tidak tahu.”

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

psalm 119:105

Sanctification through a Gospel community

STORY KEVIN JINGGA

“I want to do it, but I don’t do it; instead, what I don’t want to do it, yet I still do it.”

As believers, we experience the way Apostle Paul described his ‘life of tension’ in Romans 7. All of us, at one point, cry out to God, “What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?”

This is certainly my experience, too after I came to know Christ. The struggles which I never experienced before become so real and intense. The war within the old man and new creation in my soul has begun and will always exist in this temporal world.

However, I did not understand this nor know how to handle it. I always thought the inner conflict is a peculiar notion of life that not many people understood. Christianity often looks great. Everyone seems to get their life pretty smooth. Even with a little bumpy road, sometimes it seems heroic rather than humbling.

“What about me?” I thought. It is definitely a terrible way to judge myself - by comparing it to someone else. But it also shows that

we are often surrounded by unrealistic expectation in living out our Christian life.

Nevertheless, I always thank God for my brothers and sisters in the community. They have always faithfully encouraged me and taught me the Word of God and showed me the truth during my difficult times.

I once thought about whether it even makes a difference whether I share my weaknesses or struggles with other people or not. It often leads me to live and fight in isolation.

The truth is, what I learnt about myself (and perhaps all human being) is that we are all prideful, whether we admit it or not. By nature, we want to achieve something. We want to become ‘somebody’. However, we know deep in our heart, we fall short of what we want to become. That’s why today’s post-modernism advice that says, “be the person you want to be”, will never deliver let alone satisfy.

In fact, when I fail to meet the standard, guilt and shame always follow. Guilt says you broke the law (what I do), shame whispers

you're supposed to be better than this (what I am). It is hard to live and fight like this alone. I need help. It is indeed a humbling experience, but a liberating one.

I once read a quote and found it quite encouraging in my weakness.

It says, "The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him.... The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother."

Often, my feelings are subjective. Even if I have already understood the Gospel, I do not always have a clear mind to think right, never mind a pure heart. It is clearly not a good time to be isolated. A lot of times, I desperately need the word of Christ to be spoken to me.

The only way to be set free from the guilt and shame is truly knowing and experiencing the Gospel. And the beauty of believers' fellowship is we get to experience the Gospel deeper.

We get to love one another, encourage one another, and strengthen one another in our lowest moment of life. How precious is our Gospel community! We will not find anything like this in another place.

“ **There is no one ever that has enough of the Gospel.**”



Sometimes I wish the problem of sin can be solved and eradicated in one night. But it does not work that way, at least not for me.

But I also know it is not the end. It is a life-long journey towards Christlikeness. An already, but not yet journey. In this case, already sanctified, but not yet.

Therefore, it is even becoming more crucial for us to keep reminding and showing the Gospel towards one another in our fellowship. There is no one ever that has enough of the Gospel.

I think it is worthwhile to ponder this famous quote, which I believe, reflects our Christian journey.

*I am not what I ought to be,
I am not what I want to be,
I am not what I hope to be in another world;
but still I am not what I once used to be,
and by the grace of God I am what I am*

sanctification is a community project

I once told that sanctification is a community project, and I am blessed by the brothers and sisters I have in Christ, to truly experience that.

Without the saint's communion, there is no chance for me to run this race of faith and persevere in pursuing holiness. Without the fellowship with my brothers and sisters, I would not experience the grace of God that brought me to where I am today.

This lockdown period may separate us physically, but may it not separate us spiritually. I hope this period even encourages us all the more to carry each other's burden.

I hope all of us experience the beauty of our Gospel-centred community.



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

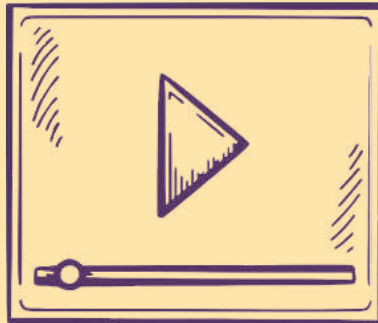
"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

**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!**