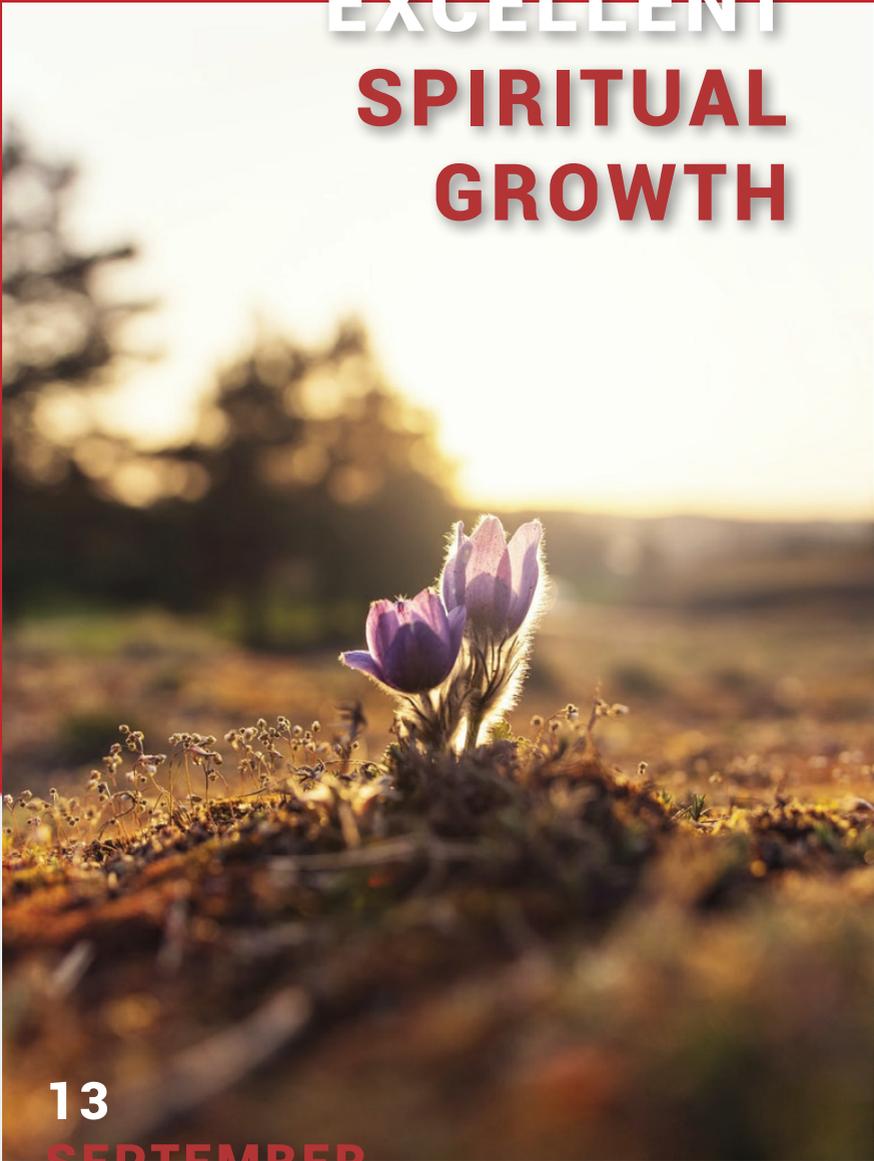


# EXCELLENT SPIRITUAL GROWTH



13

SEPTEMBER  
2020

ED. LXXXIII. 09. 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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Bethany International Church



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## Foreword

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Now that we have been made new, born again to be the children of God and that we have an unshakable hope in Christ, we should become who we're supposed to be, to bring our life to be conformed to this new identity found in Christ.

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:1-3)

As a new creation, we should desire the Word of God: the very Word that brought us into this newness. Then we can taste and see that the Lord is good through the Gospel that we read. The purpose is clear, so that we could grow — growing towards our salvation.

Christian life is a dynamic process — we were born, then we drink (the Word), therefore we grow, and we arrive at salvation. The drinking and growing is not optional, it is essential and it doesn't undermine our assurance of salvation — the unshakable hope. Our assurance does not lie in the fact that once we believe we are automatically saved, but it is in God's power that produces our faith that leads to salvation.

Knowing this truth of how good our God is, we'll realise how much we need to grow spiritually. It is not optional and it is not accidental. God gives the growth, but we should also work for it, out of our love and gratitude to Him.

This month we will discuss what it means to grow in the fullness of Christ, in faith, in wisdom and in godliness. We hope that all of us, who have been made new by His blood, will have this great longing to grow, to grow more like Christ and in the knowledge of Him.

# 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



# Journey of faith

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STORY LUSI TJONG

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." (Hebrew 11:1).* Faith is about two aspects: confidence and assurance in God. Confidence in God's character - he is who he says he is, and assurance of God's promises - he will do what he says he will do. As a believer, many times we still face doubt in life, doubt in God's timing, doubt about life decisions, doubt about things that we have done, etc. The truth is, the Bible has everything that we need to know about faith, from the Word itself and the testimony of believers. Simply, in Hebrew chapter 11, we see names which are considered as "heroes of faith". We can learn from them and gain wisdom from their story, however, there is much more than that. Those "heroes of faith" are listed as the witnesses of faith, portraying how God has worked in their life. God's faithfulness in their life is a constant encouragement for us. It reminds us that we do not struggle alone, and we are not the first to struggle with the problems we face. Thus, the Bible says, *"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."* (Hebrew 12:1-2).

Now, how does one have faith? *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard*

*through the word about Christ." (Romans 10:17).* Furthermore, it is written, *"You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone." (James 2:24).* Let's be clear that we are not justified by what we do in any way. True faith always results in deeds, but the deeds do not justify us. Only faith can bring us salvation, and active obedience demonstrates that our faith is genuine. Hence, faith and action are hand-to-hand. *"As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead." (James 2: 26).*

## My journey of faith

I came to Australia in early 2020 with confidence that life is waiting for me. At that time, my goal was to get PR before the end of 2020. I felt confident because prior to my arrival, my ex-boss promised me a position in the company, which was working well for me because I needed the working experience to improve my chance to be invited for the Australian permanent residency (PR).

However, pandemic hits the world, it changes everything, including my plans. After waiting for two months, I still did not get a clear answer from my ex-boss, the company pretended that the conversation we had ever happened. So, I decided to

move on. I am currently living in so many uncertainties; one of them is waiting for my Australian PR, hence not knowing where I would live in the next four months due to my visa limitation.

But the amazing thing is that there is still joy in my heart, there is still faith, not faith that God will grant the PR, but faith that God is faithful, faith that God is with me, faith that he never leaves me nor forsakes me. In my struggles, he is present, and I am more than grateful for his daily grace that sustains my life. Indeed, God is good and his love endures forever!

*"I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.*

*Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:*

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."*

**(Lamentations 3:19-24)**



# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 13 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 9-12

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 12:13

“Tetapi pada Allahlah hikmat dan kekuatan, Dialah yang mempunyai pertimbangan dan pengertian.”

## 14 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 13-16

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 14:1-2

“Manusia yang lahir dari perempuan, singkat umurnya dan penuh kegelisahan. Seperti bunga ia berkembang, lalu layu, seperti bayang-bayang ia hilang lenyap dan tidak dapat bertahan.”

## 15 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 17-20

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 17:9

“Meskipun begitu orang yang benar tetap pada jalannya, dan orang yang bersih tangannya bertambah-tambah kuat.”

## 16 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 21-24

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 22:29

“Karena Allah merendahkan orang yang angkuh tetapi menyelamatkan orang yang menundukkan kepala!”

## 17 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 25-28

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 28:28

“tetapi kepada manusia Ia berfirman: Sesungguhnya, takut akan Tuhan, itulah hikmat, dan menjauhi kejahatan itulah akal budi.”

## 18 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 29-32

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 32:8

“Tetapi roh yang di dalam manusia, dan nafas Yang Mahakuasa, itulah yang memberi kepadanya pengertian.”

## 19 SEPTEMBER

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Ayub 33-36

Ayat Renungan:  
Ayub 34-14-15

“jikalau Ia menarik kembali Roh-Nya, dan mengembalikan nafas-Nya pada-Nya, maka binasalah bersama-sama segala yang hidup, dan kembalilah manusia kepada debu.”

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

psalm 119:105

# Unifying love of Christ

BY JENNIFER CHANDRA



Have you heard that some people are introvert/extrovert or melancholic/phlegmatic? Recently there have been a lot of various popular personality tests. Myers-Briggs said you might be an ENFP and others are ISTJ, or your personalities are numbered in the Enneagram matrix. Christians around the world are experiencing God's creativity in how He shapes people. Our personalities are unique. We enjoy different things. The idea of walking up to a group of new people and joining in their conversation energises me. But some other people prefer to avoid the awkwardness of meeting new people and are afraid of running out of conversation topics.

Much of this personality test research has been helpful to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our personality. This tool can enable us to better relate to those unlike you. However, the dangerous thing is we view them as an infallible declaration of who we are - especially when our weaknesses can be used as an excuse for sin. We should be aware that the Spirit is at work in us to transform us to be like Jesus.

## Our identity is secured in Christ

By acknowledging our differences, we know that all of our beings are fearfully and wonderfully made. Being secure in who we are in Christ is of the utmost importance. The foot shouldn't be jealous because it's not a hand, nor should it try to be a hand (1 Cor. 12:12). He has given us the body of Christ with each member equipped for good works.

If you have a tendency to compare yourself with others, we should know there is no ranking in the body of Christ. We can celebrate those whose gifts are different than ours. Avoid ungodly jealousy or unhelpful comparison which leads us to anger and unproductivity.

## Our friendships are united by the blood of Christ

We have a tendency to bond a friendship with those who are like us and build a social club of similar hobbies, background, interest or personalities. But if Christian friendships are only the product of ease, we fail to display the supernatural work of the Spirit. The unlikely friendships are the testimony of the unifying love of Christ. The church is called to be more than what is expected by society.



**if Christian friendships are only the product of ease, we fail to display the supernatural work of the Spirit.**



Our friendships shouldn't always make sense to the world. They should grab the world's attention and make them wonder why in the world we love each other. The unifying bond of our Savior blood should transcend beyond the natural. All of us are called to love one another so the world may know that we are His disciples.

### **Our relationships are built on the love of Christ**

Therefore, community within the church is essential to our spiritual protection. We cannot fight for our sanctification alone. Sin is destructive and most of the time is deceiving. We need friends—and need to be friends—willing to speak the truth in love, and so display the rescuing love of Christ.

Sometimes we're tempted to withhold speaking truth in love because we fear

conflict. We'd rather rescue ourselves from discomfort than demonstrate Christ's love to a friend struggling with sin. Or maybe we often are tempted to let the spirit of self-righteousness come in our way and judge our brothers and sisters. We should be sensitive to those who struggle in ways we don't understand. We must fight against pride, which always inflates others' sin, shrinks our own, and assumes we're in the right all the time.

We must be gracious, kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving, just as Christ has been to us (Eph. 4:32). We should pursue reconciliation and love one another as Christ to all of us.

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34–35).



# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



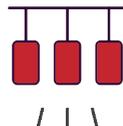
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



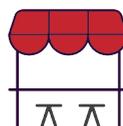
Jennifer Chandra

## 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**

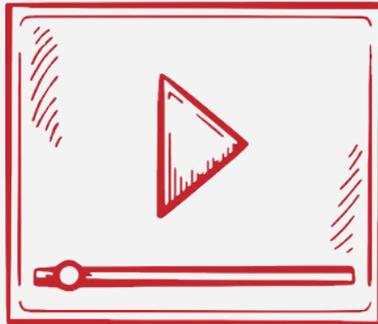
**8.30 am**

**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!**