

THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

BULLETIN

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WHY DO WE
SING AT CHURCH?

IS CORPORATE
MEETING
NECESSARY?

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

Vision

To be a "House of Prayer for all nations" - Isaiah 56 :7b

Mission

A praying and witnessing church who have a close personal relationship with The Lord, to change the world for the glory of the Lord.



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Mission & Evangelism Pastor

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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 — Adel, Patricia
Cana — Bobby
Philadelphia - Pniel — Dwi, Vero
Moriah — Elve, Calista
Ephraim — Sonia, Kendrew
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
Gethsemane — Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem — Hestu
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 — Sintia, Kevin W.
Heaven — Pauline



Why do we sing at church?

By Valerie Setiono

Praise and worship sessions have always been considered as an essential part of a Sunday service at church. For me, it would not be a complete church service if I missed out on the praise and worship session. I love how all congregation sing together in one heart to worship our great God. The sound of the whole room singing together is so beautiful, it never fails to touch my heart. But have you ever wondered, what exactly is the purpose of singing? How important is it to sing together at church?

The Scripture mentions several times about singing, in which God called us to sing for three principal reasons: to help us *praise, pray and proclaim*.

Singing is an integral part of praise.

In Psalm 96, it is written:

“Sing to the Lord new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his

salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.” (v. 1-4)

God’s heart for us to sing our praise to Him is apparent in these Psalm and many other Psalms, which is also known as the book of songs. In fact, there are over 400 references to singing and 50 direct commands to sing in the Bible. In the New Testament, twice we were called to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to one another (Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16). Even Jesus Himself sings hymns on the night before his crucifixion (Matthew 26:30). Since we worship a God who sings, He wants us to be like Him.

No, singing is not the only way to praise God, but it drives us to give our heartfelt, utmost praise and

adoration to Him, since it does not always come naturally for most people. The songs that we sing at church would have been made with the most appropriate melodies with the purpose to portray God's glory, which make it easier for us to express our praise to Him. God gave us music to serve the Word. Most of the time it is hard for us to express our praise with just words. He deeply desires our praise, and He wants us to praise Him with a whole heart (Psalm 9:1, 86:2, 138:1), so when we sing wholeheartedly, God is pleased by our songs and by our hearts. We have to remind ourselves that God, who have held nothing from us, even His only Son, have to receive more than just the leftover of our attention. He deserves our wholehearted praise, and it should be our greatest joy to give it to Him.

Singing also is a form of prayer.

Large proportions of the Psalms are prayers and many of these prayers were sung. By singing our

prayers, we can engage emotionally with the truths that we are saying in our prayers. It connects our logical thinking with our affection, which bring us to a point of praise. Therefore, singing the psalms is very powerful, because we are not just expressing the concept of the truth, but more than that, we also express the emotional aspect behind the prayers. But as we know, we are not just singing from the psalms, there are songs coming from other parts of the Bible, some might not exactly be from an actual Scripture in the Bible. Nevertheless, if we are singing and praying according to God's will, we are free to sing to help us with our prayers.

When we are singing, we are also praying. The words in the song are what we ask God, what we want to say to God, or what we believe about God, and we sing it both personally and corporately. Hence, it is important for us to be fully aware when we sing, to fully understand

what we are saying and praying with our mind fully engaged (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Finally, singing is a way for us to proclaim Christ. When we sing in the congregation, we mutually edify each other. It is not to say that singing replaces preaching of the Words and spoken gospel. Singing the Word of God is equally important and uniquely powerful. As the apostle Paul emphasize in Colossians 3:15-17, for us to “teach and admonish one another with wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs”, which means that we are also encouraging each other when we sing together. Through the words that we sing, we are speaking of Christ, we are proclaiming His goodness and love in our life, we are testifying His faithfulness, and this is the part where we preach to others and to ourselves of His character and His works, especially His works on the cross. It is the Word of Christ, the Word about Christ, the Word of

the gospel that are to dwell richly when we sing, not the musical and emotional experience.

The Bible did not specifically talk about congregational singing. He is as equally honoured when we sing alone, when the choir sings, or when the whole congregation sings. The main purpose is for us to confess our common belief together. **As a church, we are not called simply to listen to songs or listen to others sing, but we are called to sing together.** When we know that we have been redeemed, that we have been graciously rescued from the wrath of God through the cross of Christ, and that we have been called His friends, we will sing of His praises wholeheartedly, we will undoubtedly sing to pray and proclaim His name, because truly, He deserves all the glory.



Is corporate meeting necessary?

By Natalia Wijaya

We tend to think of prayer as primarily a solitary or private activity, but many believers in the Bible, as did Jesus Himself, known to pray in corporate.

From the beginning of the church, Christians have gathered together to pray in different occasions, for example in Acts:

- 4:24 “When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices **together in prayer to God..**”,
- 12:5 “But while Peter in prison, **the church**

- **prayed** very earnestly for him”, and 21:5 “**The entire congregation**, including women and children, left the city and came down to the shore with us. There we knelt, **prayed**”.

Prayer meetings are valuable for the church as a whole and for the individuals who participate. Corporate prayer is important because it creates unity (John 17:22-23) and as a way to encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

I myself joined Prayer Meeting first at BIC a long time ago, but not long after I was baptized and born again in Christ. My friend asked me to join and although I can't remember the details anymore, I wasn't straightaway able to pray publicly in the meeting. I just enjoyed the worshipping time and God has spoken to me during the corporate meeting in many occasions; sometimes through the sharing and verses discussed, other times others' prayers resonated so

loud to myself that made me think, “wow, how could he/she pray what was exactly in my heart!?”.

Over the years I learnt that I was there in each prayer meeting not by coincidence. It is a time of real value where I, as a believer, seek a deep intimacy and quiet communion with God at His throne. It is also a time of unity with fellow believers in the presence of the Lord. It is a time when God manifests His never-ending love and desire to communicate with those who love Him.

I also had started prayed for things that I normally didn't really give too much thoughts when I was living my daily routines. But there when I united my heart with others in prayer, I “suddenly” had this burden, sometimes so great that I cried pleading the Lord for it; such as repentance and spiritual breakthrough for the local community, for countries, for schools, families, marriages, and governments. **I started to pray prayers much**

bigger than myself. Now I have clearly known that God wants to work together with me to carry out His will on earth as it is in heaven.

We know when we pray in public we are not judged by our less-than-eloquent prayers, but when we pray, we cooperate with God to bring about His plan, not trying to bend Him to our will. It would ease the fear and nervous feeling when we understand this true purpose of praying in public. People look at the external, which include the speech, but **God sees the heart** (1 Samuel 16:7).

In that moment, it was clear to me **that church at prayer is not a passive, half-drowsy group of people. The church at prayer is an army at war.** When one person prays aloud, every person in the room is actually praying alongside him/her.

Being questioned whether praying in corporate/in prayer meeting is necessary or not, I imagine it'd be like

asking whether taking vitamins would be important to our health. There will always be various opinions; not all will see it as essential, but some would say they consume it willingly to improve their life fitness and immune system.

I remember many years ago my pastor gave me verse Isaiah 49:6 and I only knew it then for the first time, but until now it has become my conviction of my calling in the Lord: *"He says, "It is too small a thing for you to be My servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that My salvation may reach to the ends of the earth".*

I desire for my prayers not only dedicated for my own self and my own family, but be used by God's Spirit to **reach out causes greater than my own life.**

Let me close this with verses from the song Hosanna which always ring true to me whenever I sing it, and I pray may this will be our desires as we live, pray, and intercede for others:

Heal my heart and make me clean,

Open up my eyes to the things unseen,

Show me how to love like You have loved me,

Break my heart with what breaks Yours,

Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause,

As I walk from earth into 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

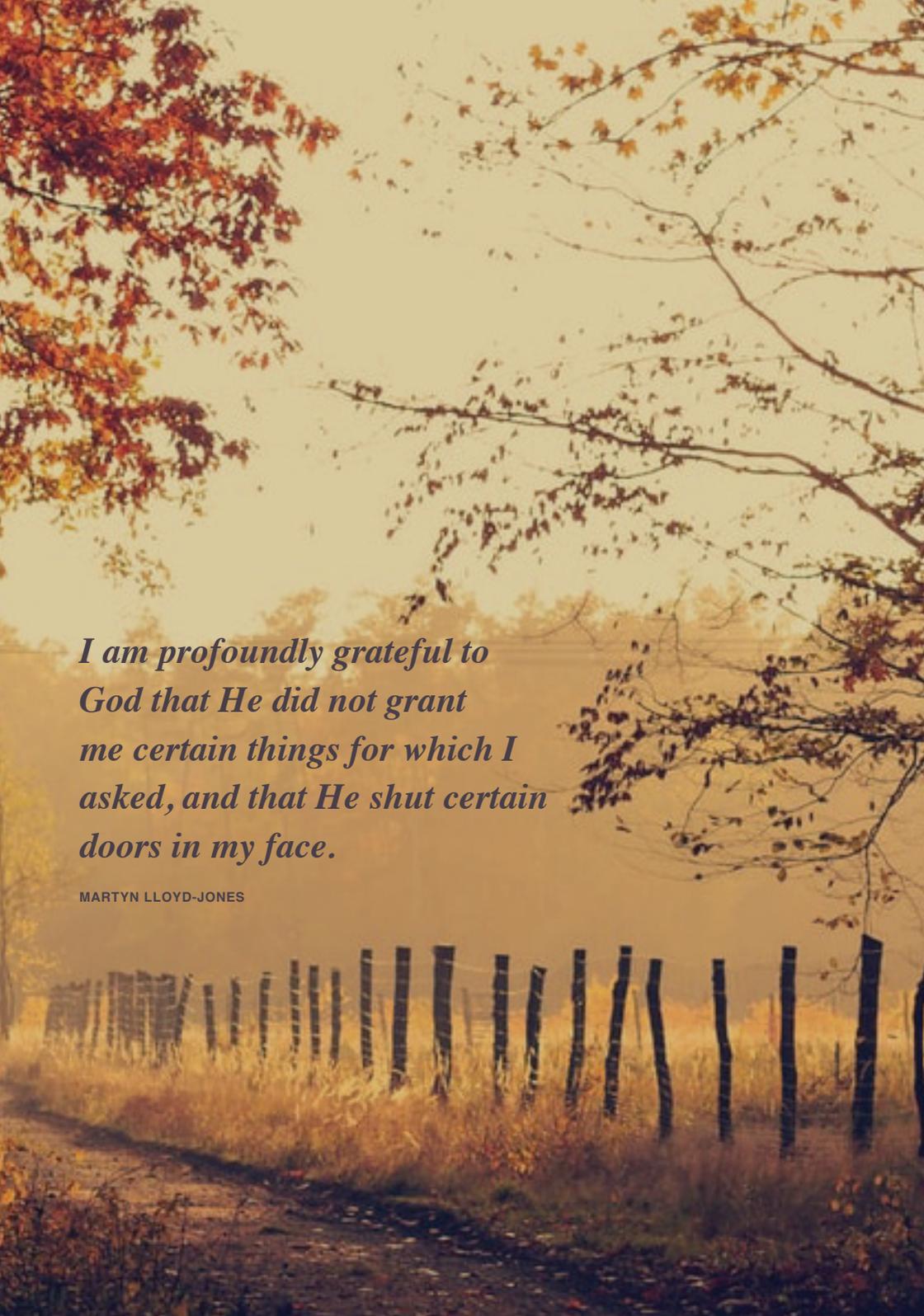
Mission — Felix Chietra

Media Art — Sonia Pranatha

Community Kitchen — Yolanda Tjong

Cultivated Podcast — Ravello Satria

Youth — Rio Susanto



*I am profoundly grateful to
God that He did not grant
me certain things for which I
asked, and that He shut certain
doors in my face.*

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES