

CHARACTER BUILDING

FRONT PAGE

05
APRIL
2020

ED.LX.04.2020

Bethany International Church

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS



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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
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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	Cynthia
Tabernacle	Sandi
Westal	Michael

180 & NEXT GEN

Israel	Catherine
Judah	Intan, Aldo
Macedon	Eric, Fanie
Jeremiah	Sinta
Judea	Valen
Heaven	Ivan , Pauline
Shiloh	Daniel



IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

INSPIRED BY SPOKEN WORD BY LLOYD NEWELL & UNANIMOUS

Life can be so unpredictable—joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life's dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So how can we find peace amid such turbulence? Especially during a global pandemic that affected our society nowadays.

Horatio G. Spafford knew something about life's unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor in Chicago with a lovely family - a wife, Anna, and five children. However, they were not strangers to tears and tragedy. He lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of pneumonia.

Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters to Europe for a holiday. On Nov. 21, 1873, the French ocean liner, Ville du Havre was crossing the Atlantic from the U.S. to England with 313 passengers on board. Mr Spafford found it necessary to stay in Chicago to help solve an unexpected business problem. He was planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home.

About four days into the crossing of the Atlantic, the Ville du Harve collided with a powerful, iron-hulled Scottish ship, the Loch Earn. Suddenly, all of those on board were in grave danger. Anna hurriedly brought her four children to the deck. She knelt there with Annie, Margaret Lee, Bessie and Tanetta and prayed that God would spare them, if that could be His will, or make

them willing to endure whatever awaited them. Within approximately 12 minutes, the Ville du Harve slipped beneath the dark waters of the Atlantic, carrying with it 226 of the passengers including the four Spafford precious daughters. A sailor, rowing a small boat over the spot where the ship went down, spotted a woman floating on a piece of the wreckage.

It was Anna, still alive. He pulled her into the boat, and they were picked up by another large vessel which, nine days later, landed them in Cardiff, Wales. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Then she sent a telegram to her husband that began: "*Saved alone. What shall I do?*" Mr Spafford later framed the telegram and placed it in his office.

Mr Spafford booked passage on the next available ship and left to join his grieving wife. With the ship about four days out, the captain summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred. As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-loved hymn:

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Anna gave birth to three more children, one of whom died at age four with dreaded pneumonia. In August 1881, the Spaffords

moved to Jerusalem. Mr Spafford died and was buried in that city.

Perhaps we cannot always say that everything is well in all aspects of our lives. There will always be storms to face, and sometimes there will be tragedies. But with faith in a loving God and trust in His divine help, we can confidently say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding shall keep your hearts, your minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

*It is well with my soul
When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul*

*It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul*

*It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul*

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul*

*It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul*



WEEKLY DEVOTION

05 APRIL

Imamat 4-6

Ayat Renungan:
Matius 5:24

“tinggalkanlah persembahanmu di depan mezbah itu dan pergilah berdamai dahulu dengan saudaramu, lalu kembali untuk mempersembahkan persembahanmu itu.”

06 APRIL

Imamat 7-9

Ayat Renungan:
Mazmur 4:5

“Biarlah kamu marah, tetapi jangan berbuat dosa; berkatalah dalam hatimu di tempat tidurmu, tetapi tetaplal diam.”

07 APRIL

Imamat 10-12

Ayat Renungan:
1 Tawarikh 16:29

“Berilah kepada TUHAN kemuliaan nama-Nya, bawalah persembahan dan masuklah menghadap Dia! Sujudlah menyembah kepada TUHAN dengan berhiaskan kekudusan”

08 APRIL

Imamat 13-15

Ayat Renungan:
Mazmur 107:22

“Biarlah mereka mempersembahkan korban syukur, dan menceritakan pekerjaan-pekerjaan-Nya dengan sorak-sorai!”

09 APRIL

Imamat 16-18

**Ayat Renungan:
Mazmur 50:14**

**"Persembahkanlah
syukur sebagai
korban kepada
Allah dan bayarlah
nazarmu kepada
Yang Mahatinggi!"**

10 APRIL

Imamat 19-21

**Ayat Renungan:
Mazmur 119:108**

**"Kiranya
persembahkan
sukarela yang
berupa puji-
pujian berkenan
kepada-Mu, ya
TUHAN, dan
ajarkanlah
hukum-hukum-
Mu kepadaku."**

11 APRIL

Imamat 22-24

**Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 11:16**

**"Hati-hatilah,
supaya jangan
hatimu terbujuk,
sehingga kamu
menyimpang
dengan
beribadah
kepada allah
lain dan sujud
menyembah
kepadanya."**



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

Psalu 119:105

‘We cling more to God’

Alice and family’s responses over the coronavirus outbreak

It’s been a week since Prime Minister Scott Morrison announces the strict limitation of indoor and outdoor non-essential gathering to two people.

The policy follows severe measures that have been taking place before, including the closure of non-essential business activities. Many employees have also been working from home for weeks since the enforced social distancing measure.

Looking at how devastating the effects of the new rules might be, Alice Tanoemarga shared her personal and family’s struggles and how God is their only strength and hope during this difficult time.



How does this self-isolation affect your family's spiritual climate?

"One of us (whoever is putting her to bed) has always prayed with our daughter before bed but now, as much as possible, we try to pray together as a family, not just bedtime prayer, but also praying for our family and friends as well as the Covid situation. Staying at home makes my devotionals more un-rushed as well as I can take my time in the morning. I feel that each Word rings truer, more meaningful and real in testy times like this. It is the source of our strength in our stresses. Hubby often says that he doesn't know what he'd be if he doesn't have God. We cling more to God as we know nothing or no one else can give us hope in times like this. I personally would like to have more family worship sessions, maybe after dinner time, now that we have the time (however not the energy after a whole day of working/parenting! Something to work on.)"

Working from home: How does it impact you and your family?

"Hubby has been working from home for the past two weeks and I am currently on early maternity leave. Being seven months pregnant with some complications and not a lot of energy these days, I have found it more difficult compared to going to work. Looking after the child and having to entertain her all day takes a lot out of me, physically and emotionally. Add feeding the family, housework and looking after myself and baby on top of that. Those who say that lockdown is boring do not have kids! Many times I blame my meltdowns on the pregnancy hormones, although it is not

always the case. Having hubby working from home is great though because it cuts out the travel time. Thus, when he clocks off every evening, he can straight away take over child minding while I cook dinner. I learnt to be more flexible with screen time, not always forcing "educational" activities. I just take it one day at a time, although it means letting Power Rangers babysit my kid while I have some me time, do household chores or simply lie on the couch, exhausted."

How do you cope with stress and struggles during this difficult time?

"Bible, prayer, painting and baths.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." (Phil 4:6-9)

Filling my heart with the Word of God instead of too much news brings peace in the midst of the crazy world outside. Also, taking care of myself is important too, especially when I have to look after my family as well. Doing a hobby, such as painting, and also doing something relaxing, in my case, long warm baths, helps me to stay sane."

What are you most grateful for during this tough period?

"I am very grateful for technology that enables hubby to still work from home and support our family, catch up and check on our families overseas, have COOL every Friday and church every Sunday, and connect us to our community around us.

I am grateful that we still have a home to live in, food in our fridges and pantry, online shopping that is available almost everywhere nowadays, even from our local grocer that is actually only within walking distance from our house.

I am grateful that we are all safe and healthy and not actually in complete isolation compared to those who live alone.

I am grateful for more time with my hubby and daughter, and how these times spent together will bond us more as a family (despite my secretly hiding in the bathroom from them sometimes...)

I am grateful for this experience because even though I don't know when, but, when we do come out of this, we will be stronger, more resilient, wiser and closer to God than before. It is an opportunity to grow.

I am grateful for the beautiful weather with blue skies we have been having recently.

I am grateful to see the community rise up to help each other, that there is still some good in this world.

Oh, and I am also grateful for Netflix, Foxtel and PS4."

What have you learnt through this outbreak?

"I learnt what it truly means to have things beyond our control, and what it means to surrender to the One who controls them all.

I learnt to appreciate little wins and little moments in our currently limited life.

I learnt to stop complaining and be grateful for what we have, because there are so many more doing it a lot harder than us.

I learnt to let go of my perfectionism, stop scheduling everything and to really take it one day at a time, enjoying each process and moment (especially important with the kids).

I learnt not to be too guilty and bring myself down when the day did not go as I planned or the kid was not cooperative. I learnt to accept that we will have good days and bad days.

I learnt that it is okay to not be okay, and when I am not okay, I talk to God and talk to others (especially hubby who has been my emotional rubbish bin) about it. I learnt not to bottle it up inside."

Any issues with kids? How are they doing in regards to this matter?

"At nearly five years old, my daughter understands that we cannot go out at the moment because of the coronavirus, but that is the extent of what we are telling her. So, she does not fully comprehend the fear and stress the adults are experiencing. She does get bored especially after midday when I run out of energy and does not want to do anything with her and she misses her friends. It will be a learning curve for her to learn to entertain herself, although at the moment, Netflix is doing it for her. We will get there eventually... But other than that, she is doing great and immensely enjoying staying home with mum and dad, and having lots of messy plays, games and TV. Thank God, we haven't got any schoolwork to do on top of it. My only mum guilt is the amount of TV I let her watch, but hey, desperate times call for desperate measures, and I think, in the long run, our whole family's mental wellbeing is far more important than perfect parenting."

MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



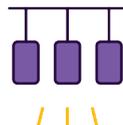
Raynaldo Ali

MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

SOUND



Steven Santika

USHER



Elbert Pranoto

TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

CARING



Felix Hariyadi

DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

DRAMA



Jennifer Chandra

KIDS ARMY



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"

TIPS ON READING THE BIBLE

SOURCE DANIEL HARDJOSUWITO

During this COVID-19 pandemic, most of us are required to stay home and self-isolating for a long period. For some of us, fear and anxiety may attack us almost every day. For others, waging war with sin, which cling so closely, has been more intense than ever. And for many of us, disengagement with our community may lead us to be spiritually demotivated. No matter how your circumstances are, this is where reading the Bible has become increasingly important.

So, we think it is relevant to show you tips on reading the Bible, to encourage your faith. You can also listen to this from Cultivated podcast on your devices.

Here is the transcript of the conversation between the host, Tesa and Ps. Denny.

T: Topic yang akan kita bawa hari ini adalah tips membaca alkitab. Jadi, buat pertanyaan pertama: Menurut ko Denny, tips membaca Alkitab yang efektif itu seperti apa?

D: Hm, a very good question. Ada beberapa tips yang bisa saya kasi. Of course, nomor satu, berdoa minta Roh Kudus yang adalah roh kebenaran untuk menuntun kita mengerti kebenaran yang ada di dalam firman Tuhan. Jadi sebelum membaca, berdoa dulu minta Roh Kudus menuntun kita, karena dia adalah Roh kebenaran.

Lalu sambil berdoa, kita juga berdoa seperti pengarang daripada Mazmur 119:18. Dia

bilang begini, "Open my eyes that I may behold wonder things out of your law". Singkapkanlah mataku, supaya aku memandang keajaiban-keajaiban dari Taurat-Mu. Nah, kenapa sampai perlu disingkapkan? Karena firman Tuhan itu adalah hal-hal yang spiritual.

Jadi, kita perlu spiritual eyes untuk bisa mengerti firman Tuhan. Maksud kitab pemazmur seperti itu. Tuhan, bukain mataku supaya aku bisa mengerti apa yang Engkau mau singkapkan dari firman yang aku baca. Lalu juga, ada satu ayat yang bagus. Di Ezra 7:10, "For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

Jadi, Ezra bertekad untuk meneliti Taurat Tuhan dan melakukannya serta mengajar ketetapan dan peraturan di antara orang Israel. Sebetulnya ya, Tes, kalau baca itu, bacanya mesti pelan-pelan.

T: Baca Alkitab?

D: Iya, gak bisa kaya baca koran. Karena kenapa? Karena Alkitab itu bukan newspaper, Alkitab itu buku yang ditulis pengarangnya adalah Tuhan sendiri. Jadi kita bacanya kaya sacred writing gitu. Jadi, kita mesti pelan-pelan bacanya. Nah, baca pelan-pelan itu ternyata susah loh. Jadi, slowing down itu skill tersendiri buat kita. Dan kalo kita baca, apalagi kalo kita bacanya pake mobile phone ya, kan notificationnya banyak tuh, masuk terus.

T: Whatsapp, Instagram, semuanya ada.

D: Iya, itu kan mesti dimatiin dulu. Kalo perlu ya, kalo itu tidak bisa dimatiin ya pake paper.

T: Back to original.

D: Betul, terus waktu baca, bacanya mesti pelan-pelan. Word by word. Kalo perlu pake pensil, pake highlighter. Pelan-pelan, satu demi satu. Jadi, terutama kalau baca surat-suratnya Paulus, itu kita bacanya seperti kita baca email yang panjang. Kaya kita terima email dari, mungkin dari om Niko gitu ya, yang panjang. Masa kita bacanya cuma belakangnya doang atau tengahnya aja. Kan kita menghargai yang nulis kan, jadi kita bacanya dari depan sampai bawah, bacanya satu kesatuan. Baca di dalam konteks. Dan kenapa kalau baca mesti, bacanya tuh tidak dianjurkan satu ayat gitu ya.

T: Diambil yang mau aja deh.

D: Betul, dibacanya itu mesti di dalam konteks. Kaya misalnya kan kalo email yang panjang kalau mau ngerti maksudnya kan mesti dibaca dari depan sampai belakang. Kalau tengah-tengahnya langsung loncat ke tengah, kita ga ngerti.



Konteksnya apa? Nah banyak orang baca satu ayat terus di luar konteks. Jadi, cara membaca Alkitab salah satunya baca di dalam konteksnya itu.

Saya beri contoh ya, ada beberapa yang cukup menarik. Pernah denger ga, di 1 Korintus 2:9. Coba lihat.

T: 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.”

D: Kalau kita baca ayat itu terus kita denger ayat itu, yang muncul di pikiran kita apa?

T: Lagu. Hahaha.

D: Hahaha. Tesa singer, sih. Lagunya bagus ya, yang ngarang temen saya. Hahaha.

Nah, tapi kalo kita ngerti, biasanya kalo orang inget itu, baca ayat itu, yang kita muncul di pikiran kita apa? Oh, apa yang tidak pernah aku pikirkan, biasanya itu kan, waduh aku ga pernah nyangka aku bisa beli rumah disini, gitu ya. Aku ga menyangka bisa jadi direktur, CEO gitu ya. Gak nyangka loh aku bisa ke Australia, segala macam yang gitu ya.

Ya boleh saja. Tetapi kalau mau baca dalam konteks, sebetulnya kalau kita lihat ayatnya, atas bawahnya, gak ada hubungannya dengan itu, dengan physical blessings. Itu ayat di atasnya tentang Christ crucified. Tuhan Yesus yang disalib. Bahwa untuk mengerti itu, itu kita perlu yang namanya hikmat yang rohani,

bukan hikmat yang duniawi. Karena untuk mengerti Yesus yang disalib, kalo dengan hikmat dunia itu adalah suatu kebodohan dan batu sandungan.

Jadi sebetulnya ayat itu, apa yang tidak pernah dipikirkan dan tidak pernah dilihat oleh mata, tidak pernah didengar oleh telinga, yang Tuhan sediakan itu sebenarnya Tuhan cerita tentang keselamatan yang diberikan di dalam Tuhan Yesus yang disalib. Nah itu benar-benar gak pernah kepikiran, rahasia yang tersembunyi berabad-abad dibukakan. Nah, jadi itu konteksnya begitu. Itu satu contoh.

T: New revelation di episode ini.

D: Iya, satu lagi ada yang menarik di 2 Korintus 8:9. Sama-sama suratnya Paulus juga.

T: “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.”

D: Ya, nah ayat ini juga kalau kita ambil satu ayat begitu saja, apa yang ada dalam pikiran kita? Yesus baik, kasihnya luar biasa. Tapi yang buat kita apa? Kita jadi kaya. Ini yang di pikiran kita, apalagi kalau kita greedy ini, kita kaya raya ini millionaire. Apakah betul ayatnya bicara soal material blessings (jadi millionaire)? Kalau kita lihat lagi konteksnya, atas bawah, Paulus lagi cerita apa? Dia lagi cerita tentang memberi, memberi kepada jemaat di Yerusalem yang miskin.

Lalu dia kasi contoh, jemaat di Makedonia itu sangat-sangat miskin, mereka itu hatinya

sangat mengasihi mereka itu kaya di dalam kemurahan. Nah, di 2 Korintus 8:2 di atasnya, itu ada kata begini, "Selagi dicobai dengan berat dalam pelbagai penderitaan, sukacita mereka meluap dan meskipun mereka sangat miskin, namun mereka kaya dalam kemurahan."

Jadi, yang dibilang disini, supaya kamu kaya, Yesus yang menjadi miskin supaya kamu kaya, supaya kita kaya seperti mencontoh Tuhan Yesus. Kita kaya di dalam kemurahan. Seperti di ayat kedua. Lalu, ada lagi disini di ayat ketujuh, "Maka sekarang, sama seperti kamu kaya dalam segala sesuatu, -- dalam iman, dalam perkataan, dalam pengetahuan, dalam kesungguhan untuk membantu, dan dalam kasihmu terhadap kami -- demikianlah juga hendaknya kamu kaya dalam pelayanan kasih ini."

T: Jadi, richnessnya itu bukan secara material buat kita, tapi buat orang-orang melihat Tuhan Yesus itu gimana kasihnya ke kita.

D: Betul, jadi contoh. Kita melihat Tuhan Yesus yang memperkaya kita supaya kita kaya di dalam kasih dan di dalam kemurahan. Satu hamba Tuhan kasi frase cukup bagus, dia bilang begini, "You will never read a better book, but you can learn to read the book better." Gak ada buku yang lebi bagus dari Alkitab, because Alkitab is the best book. But, kita bisa belajar untuk membaca Alkitab jadi better.

T: Bener sih. Terus aku mau tanya ini, kalo dibilang firman Tuhan itu kita harus meditate juga kan. Meditate itu apakah harus yang kaya berdiam mengosongkan pikiran, gitu atau yang kaya gimana?

D: Hm, a very good question, meditate yang di dalam firman Tuhan sangat berbeda dengan meditasi yang diajarkan seperti di agama-agama yang lain lewat yoga, mengosongkan pikiran, dan segala macam. Meditate di Bible, firman Tuhan, itu sebetulnya the next step after kita membaca. Setelah baca pelan-pelan, word by word, lalu kita mulai merenungkan. Mikirin, maksudnya apa ya? Nah, terus kita mikirin terus. Pasti pernah ga sih kepikiran satu hal itu sampe mikirin, satu itu terus, kepikiran itu terus ya sampe kepikiran bener.

Lalu bukan cuma kita ngerti di otak, udah ngerti ini sekarang konteksnya, ngerti maksudnya apa, sekarang turun ke hati sampai merubah hati kita. Nah, itu yang disebut dengan meditate, mikirin satu ayat, dua ayat, satu perikop, ini perumpamaan Tuhan Yesus itu cerita apa sampai aku dapet bener-bener artinya anglenya bener. From the gospel perspective, terus turun sampai ke hati. Hati kita dijamah Tuhan, kita berubah. Baru itu namanya transformed by the Word of God through reading and meditating the Bible.

T: Jadi kalo ada kata dari mata turun ke hati, ini dari membaca Bible sampai turun ke hati kita.

D: Dari otak turun ke hati buat kita itu perjalanan yang paling panjang.

T: Kadang-kadang aku juga berdoa kayak kalau baca firman biar firman itu somehow kejadian di hidup aku, jadi lebih ingat gitu loh ko Denny.

D: Ya, then tadi kamu ngomong bagus banget itu. Kalian kan ikut COOL ya, kita kan ikut COOL. Tau gak, waktu Tesa sharing itu, itu justru Tesa itu sebetulnya sedang bener-bener

dapat berkat yang lebih banyak. Karena pada waktu Tesa coba sharing, kan Tesa harus mendalami dulu. Itu sebetulnya Tesa diberkati berlimpah-limpah lebih dulu, dengan cara kita membagikan itu pada orang lain. Kita sendiri justru diberkati lebih banyak karena kita mau ga mau kita harus dig deeper sampe ngerti, sampai kita dijamah, baru kita bisa share ke orang lain. Jadi, sering-sering lah share di COOL.

T: Ini menguatkan aku karena aku suka takut kalo sharing di COOL.

D: Gapapa, we all make mistake di kehidupan.

T: Oh, terus ko, aku mau nanya nih. Aku tiap tahun juga suka bikin resolusi, pengen lebih rajin nih belajar Alkitab, segala macam.

D: That's a very good resolution.

T: Terus, uda gitu, biar lebih teratur juga kan. Jadi bagaimana pendapat ko Denny tentang hal ini?

D: Hm, New Year resolution itu sangat-sangat bagus daripada gak ada kan. Nah, pertanyaannya adalah setelah New Year resolution, berapa bulan bertahan?

T: Kalo nge gym sih biasa sebulan si, hahaha.

D: Kalo resolusi baca Alkitab paling tahan tiga bulan gitu ya, habis itu lupa resolusinya, tunggu tahun depan. Jadi tiga bulan baca Alkitab, sembilan bulan gak baca Alkitab. Hahaha.

Jadi sebetulnya itu boleh bikin resolution dan sangat bagus. Tapi, yang penting adalah

soal bagaimana belajar membaca Alkitab dengan cara membaca Alkitab for a lifetime. Jadi, seumur hidup. Jadi murid Tuhan, belajar firman Tuhan itu panggilan seumur hidup. Jadi murid Tuhan, dan sekaligus memuridkan nanti ketika sudah dewasa. Jadi yang penting adalah membentuk suatu daily habit yang kemudian nanti endure terus bertahun-tahun dan berdekade-dekade sampai tua.

Jadi, itu yang nanti pelan-pelan merubah hidup kita, transformed by the Word of God, sampai menjadi serupa dengan gambaran Tuhan Yesus. Karena transformasi itu seumur hidup. Jadi, mesti jadi habit dan terus sampe seumur hidup.

T: Iya, soalnya aku suka amazed sama orang-orang yang kaya, "Aku uda baca Alkitab bolak-balik berapa kali". Aku kaya wah, Perjanjian Baru aja aku suka bolong-bolong.

D: Terus, tapi yang penting kan uda dibaca bolak-balik, ngerti gak yang dibaca?

T: Oh iya, itu juga penting.

D: Kalo dibaca doang, wah uda pass, uda tick the box. Tapi ga ngerti yang dibaca, it doesn't make any difference. Waktu kita ngerti yang dibaca, di otak, terus turun ke hati sampai menyentuh, lalu merubah hati. Baru spiritual transformation terjadi.

T: Jadi itu, perlu banget kita ga usa buru-buru. Take your time, yang penting tertanam di hati kalian. Terus, kalo baca Alkitab aku itu suka bingung where to start, ko Denny.

D: Good question juga kalo yang baru mau

mulai ya, yang baru percaya sama Tuhan Yesus. Kalo yang uda Kristen lama, uda mulai hafal kali ya. Good question, sebetulnya gak ada satu single formula, mau baca dari Kejadian boleh, dari Matius boleh, mulai dari tengah-tengah juga boleh. Mau dari Mazmur dulu boleh, dari Amsal boleh. Saya suggestnya try what works best for you. Jadi, coba yang mana yang works best, tapi memang perlu kesinambungan.

Jadi, kalau bacanya loncat-loncat, hari ini satu ayat di Roma, besok satu ayat di Kejadian, atau di Keluaran, susah dapet connectionnya. Baca Alkitab itu kaya main puzzle, dikit-dikit nanti lama-lama, itu kan mikir, mulai keliatan the big picture-nya. Lalu lama-lama begitu uda ngerti big picture-nya, baru tiba-tiba dapet, "Ah". Kaya main puzzle yang gede gitu ya, seribu dua ribu puzzle kecil-kecil.

Baca Alkitab itu kaya gitu, karena sebetulnya Alkitab itu ditulis sama Tuhan Yesus. Dia reveals himself dikit-dikit. Dari aspek ini, lewat buku ini. Dari aspeknya ini tentang keselamatan, dari buku yang ini. Berbagai macam Tuhan itu, waktu kita baca book by book, nanti lama-lama dapet koneksinya, big picture-nya. Tapi, bacanya harus menurut saya, book by book. Kalo misalnya uda satu Matius, misalnya. Kalau mulai dari Matius, ya Matius 1-28.

Nanti, oke Injil aku uda dapet. Sekarang coba kitab Roma. Nah baca kitab Roma memang ada challenge tersendiri, karena susah itu. Yang 1-11 agak susah, 12-16 practical aplikasi. Tapi gapapa, baca pelan-pelan, nanti dibantu sama ikut KOM atau tanya sama pastor. Pasti bisa dijelasin.

T: Aku itu terbantu banget pas ikut KOM 200.

Dijelasin, Perjanjian Baru itu urutannya secara timeline itu bukan Matius Markus Lukas Yohanes. Jadi aku waktu itu coba, seru juga nih baca awalnya dari Kisah Para Rasul, seru sih.

D: Oh iya, Kisah Para Rasul itu menarik, karena dia yang menghubungkan antara kisahnya itu sendiri, chronological timeline, dengan epistle-epistle yang ditulis oleh Rasul itu sendiri.

Jadi, sebagai penutup, balik lagi ke quotation tadi. "You will never read a better book, but you can learn the book better". Pelan-pelan seumur hidup.

Bacanya harus pelan-pelan. Tambahan satu lagi ya, banyak orang yang berpikir, "Wah aku ga bisa bahasa Ibrani, aku ga ngerti Hebrew, kayanya susah deh". Sebetulnya gak juga, the biggest barrier itu bukan karena kita ga ngerti bahasa Ibrani atau bahasa aslinya Alkitab ditulis. Tapi karena kita tidak baca pelan-pelan, bacanya skimming.

Kalau bacanya word by word, lalu kita ask question kan. Kenapa dia tulis begini ya, what does it mean? Kenapa Tuhan sebutkan ada 153 ekor ikan, misalnya gitu. Why? Lalu mulai tanya kenapa ikan, kenapa bukan yang lain, udang gitu? Hahaha. Lama-lama itu mulai mikir, kan. Waktu mulai mikir Tuhan yang kasi pencerahan pelan-pelan, gitu.

Now that we have received a few tips on reading the Bible, let's start reading (remember, word by word)! Also, don't forget to pray and ask God, through the Holy Spirit, to illuminate our thoughts, enlighten our hearts and eventually, transform our life.

GEREJA BETHEL INDONESIA & BETHANY CHURCH

Superintendent: Ps Djohan Handoyo

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BETHANY CHURCH SINGAPORE

COMMUNITY GROUP CELEBRATION

Kids Army for Jesus

Sunday | at 9:00, 11:00 , 14:00
The Gallery- Grand Hyatt Hotel level 2,
10 Scotts Road, Singapore

180° Teens

Sunday | at 11:00

The Last Generation (TLG)

Saturday | at 17:00

Young Adults Bethany Singapore (YABS)

Friday | at 19:30

Wise Women Who Worship (WWW)

Friday | at 10.30

Impact Campus Comunity (ICC)

Friday | at 19:30

Bethany Filipino Service

Sunday | at 10:30, 15:30

Tenaga Kerja Indonesia Sabah Sarawak (TKISS)

Sunday | at 14:00

BCS Tamil Service

Sunday | at 18:00

BCS Srilankan Service

Sunday | at 17:00

SUNDAY SERVICE / IBADAH RAYA

Service 1: Sunday | at 8:30

(English Translation Provided)

Service 2: Sunday | at 11:00

(English Translation Provided)

The Gallery – Grand Hyatt Hotel level 2,
10 Scotts Road, Singapore

English Service: Sunday | at 14:00

400 Orchard Road, Orchard Towers level 7

SUNDAY SERVICES

INDONESIAN SERVICES

8.30 - 10:30 am

11:00 - 1:00 pm

ENGLISH SERVICES

180 (TEENS)

8:45 - 10:30 am

NEXT GEN (YOUTH)

11:00 - 1:00 pm

KIDS ARMY

9:00 - 10:30 am

PRAYER TOWER

POINT COOK

Monday, 7:15 pm

BIC MELBOURNE

Tuesday, 6:30 pm

MOUNT WAVERLY

Wednesday, 7:15 pm

BIC MELBOURNE

Friday, 12:00 PM

BIC MELBOURNE (FASTING PRAYER)

Saturday, 10:00 am

COMMUNITY

WOMAN OF IMPACT COMMUNITY

Tuesday, 10.30 am, BIC

COMMUNITY OF LOVE (COOL)

Friday 7:00 pm