

EXCELLENT COMMUNITY

02

AUGUST
2020

ED.LXXVII.08.2020

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

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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	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



Why I love Christian community

STORY RAVELLO SATRIA

Just imagine you are moving to a new city; you have no family, no friends. Even though it is a metropolitan and glamorous city if you do not have a community, no matter how cool the city you live in, you can still always feel empty and lonely.

It is becoming even more essential for us to have a community in this pandemic season. We need to give and receive support from each other, either mentally, physically, or spiritually. There is so much we can do; we can pray for each other, offer support, or help those who are in need.

Why Christian?

Perhaps you may ask, why does it have to be a Christian community? For me, one of the differences I felt is the way we share and respond to one another. Because, if we compare a Christian community to other communities (in terms of good deeds), I am sorry to say, even sometimes other communities can be “better” than a Christian community.

But, when we share our stories, our problems in COOL, for example, the way they respond always brings God into the equation. They base the truth on the Bible and show God’s love and His plan for me according to it. For me, that is truly encouraging.

I think our human nature can do good to

others so long it is beneficial for us. And if that’s the case, the standard of “goodness” becomes different between one another. I think it is unfair to compare the “good” deeds without a solid standing ground.

In Christianity, it always goes back to the Scripture. So, we have a foundation, which is the Bible. So, it’s different in terms of how we act and love one another. For example, when I share my struggles in loving one another with any community, they would advise me something like this, “just do them a favour this time, but if they cross the line, just stop it – they’re too troublesome”.

In other words, the advice I received is always subjective. And it’s easy for us to think that way. What we consider love is always measured according to our own standard. But as humans, our standard of goodness can be biased. For me, we must always go back to the Scripture to see what’s our underlying motives in all the things we are doing.

On the other hand, if I share my problems with people who have known God, they would always point me back to the Scripture. As Christians, that’s what we believe, that’s the distinction.

Christian community attracts me

Maybe that does not sound attractive at all.

But I find it the opposite, perhaps because I have experienced different communities out there. I don't think I can say a Christian community is attractive if I do not have the comparison (It's like we will never repent if we do not know we are a sinful man).

However, even if I have experienced the differences, I would not say that a non-Christian community is bad. In fact, if we are talking about good things like helping one another, for example, you may find the non-Christians are more helpful than the Christians.

But again, we cannot merely judge everything based on good deeds because it'll be unfair. It is subject to one's experience, and I can be biased to my sight. For instance, I can say my Christian friends are good because I get help during my exam. Well, if I do not know the truth, I would say that they are indeed really good because it benefits me. See, the "good" in my standard are not always good according to God.

Eventually, I found the Christian community attractive when I realised that I belong here. And that can only happen because they have shown me who God is. They have led me to know God and to be closer to Him. And I believe there is a purification process through it and it is not easy.

For example, if we used to enjoy our sins, be it cheating, lying, sexual immorality, or any other; initially, we may feel discouraged. It may feel like, "I don't belong here", but God will use the community to sanctify us in that period. In the end, by God's grace, we realised what we used to enjoy was wrong. That shows we are in the process of our growth.

It's like when we think this way: I felt like this was normal back then, nothing's wrong with it, but as I look to my community and their right living, it leads me to the realisation of my wrongdoings and eventually, repentance.

Current struggles and hopes

If I can share a little bit, for me who is already in the Christian community, clearly, I have a desire to bring others into our community.

But sometimes it is easy for me to think like, "this guy is too annoying". At times, I have this kind of selective attitude to bring certain people to church. I started categorising people, and it's just funny that I think this way sometimes - like I did not realise myself as a sinful man. It's like I forgot that perhaps I used to be even worse than many.

When I remember about bringing people

to my community, I always remember this verse from **2 Corinthians 5:15**

“And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

I believe that living for God is always about living for others. I have the impression out of this verse, that I should live for others too, my families, my surroundings and all. It's ridiculous not to love them when Christ died for all. And I was one of them! So, it should just be my natural response to show this love

to others.

That's what I found in the Christian community. When people love one another, help others, or do any good things for others, there are no underlying motives - like expecting to get something back or trying to score “good” points. And when I realised that God has lavished His grace for me, it is indeed very inappropriate to think (transactionally) like, “what I will get after I do this?”. For I know that my life today comes from Him, through Him and to Him.



WEEKLY DEVOTION

02 AUGUST

2 Raja 8-10

Ayat Renungan:
Mazmur 91:14-15

“Sungguh,
hatinya melekat
kepada-Ku,
maka Aku akan
meluputkannya,
Aku akan
membentenginya,
sebab ia
mengenal nama-
Ku.

15Bila ia berseru
kepada-Ku, Aku
akan menjawab,
Aku akan
menyertai dia
dalam kesesakan,
Aku akan
meluputkannya
dan
memuliakannya.”

03 AUGUST

2 Raja 11-13

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 10:12

“Maka sekarang,
hai orang Israel,
apakah yang
dimintakan
dari padamu
oleh Tuhan,
Allahmu, selain
dari takut akan
Tuhan, Allahmu,
hidup menurut
segala jalan yang
ditunjukkan-Nya,
mengasihi Dia,
beribadah kepada
Tuhan, Allahmu,
dengan segenap
hatimu dan dengan
segenap jiwamu,”

04 AUGUST

2 Raja 14-16

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 30:14

“Ketika aku dalam
Tetapi firman
ini sangat dekat
kepadamu, yakni
di dalam mulutmu
dan di dalam
hatimu, untuk
dilakukan.”

05 AUGUST

2 Raja 17-19

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 32:4

“Gunung Batu,
yang pekerjaan-
Nya sempurna,
karena segala
jalan-Nya adil,
Allah yang setia,
dengan tiada
kecurangan,
adil dan benar
Dia.”

06 AUGUST

2 Raja 20-22

Ayat Renungan:
2 Tawarikh 20:20

"Keesokan harinya pagi-pagi mereka maju menuju padang gurun Tekoa. Ketika mereka hendak berangkat, berdirilah Yosafat, dan berkata: "Dengar, hai Yehuda dan penduduk Yerusalem! Percayalah kepada Tuhan, Allahmu, dan kamu akan tetap teguh! Percayalah kepada nabi-nabi-Nya, dan kamu akan berhasil!"

07 AUGUST

2 Raja 23-25

Ayat Renungan:
Ayub 5:17

"Sesungguhnya, berbahagialah manusia yang ditegur Allah; sebab itu janganlah engkau menolak didikan Yang Mahakuasa."

08 AUGUST

Filipi 1-4

Ayat Renungan:
Filipi 4:19

"Allahku akan memenuhi segala keperluanmu menurut kekayaan dan kemuliaan-Nya dalam Kristus Yesus."

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

psalm 119:105

God's blessing in a community

STORY MICHELLE SETIONO

My life in Melbourne was not easy. I was 17 when I first arrived here, and I didn't know anyone except my sister. But God brought me into a community, a community of love, that embraced me for who I was and walked with me through my struggles, up until today.

Blessings of a Christ-centred community

Before I came to Melbourne, I've been in a youth community at my home church in Surabaya. I've been ministering and diligently went to every meeting, but I know that my motivation was wrong. I enjoyed coming there because I like the people and I enjoy their company, but I never think about my personal relationship with God. As far as I know, it has become a routine for me, and it has never been a problem.

Then I came to Melbourne in 2013 and immediately came to BIC and joined COOL Bethany (which was called MCA 9 at that time). Since then, my life is changed day by day. I've been a Christian all my life, I grew up in a Christian family, I go to church every

Sunday, I went to a Christian school, but Christianity has only become a religion to me. I know God, I believe in Him, and I do good things. That's all I thought I needed. But then, through my COOL and every sermon that I heard every Sunday, God revealed to me that I had a lot of problems with myself. I realised that I always had low self-esteem, I broke down very easily when I'm stressed out or angry, and I was very easy to judge people. I never realised that that was a problem that I've kept for a long time until I am in this community that not only take care of me but also rebuke me of my sins.

I'm so grateful for my COOL members that have shown me how amazing it is to be in a Christ-centered community. They helped me to grow more in Christ, reminded me of the Word of God, and they supported me both in good and bad times of my life. Looking back to the 7 years I've spent in Melbourne, my life has changed through the sharing of the Word of God: to be more patient and caring towards others, to learn to love each other even more, and to pray for each other. I always thank God for this community, and

I believe it's not a coincidence that God put me here. But my journey has not stopped here, I am still growing and is still in the process to be more like Christ.

For me, having a Christ-centered community means that we have friends that help and support us in our growth of faith. Especially in Melbourne, where most of us are away from our family, this kind of community can and will be our second family. If we don't have one, there might be no one to talk to when we encounter problems in our everyday lives, and spiritual life, which leads us to more likely (both knowingly or unknowingly) fall into sins or temptations. Even though yes, faith is our personal relationship with God, but as human beings, we can't keep our faith on track all the time. Many times, we fail. Many times, we stray away from the right path. Many times, we don't know how to get back on track. That's why we need other people to help us to keep us grounded in Christ for us always to make Christ the foundation of our life. And that's why we need a community that is centred on Christ, that is not afraid to tell us our wrongs, at the same time not judging us, but embracing us with love.

Managing expectations of a “good” community

These past years, I learned that being in a community is not about ourselves, it is not about being cared for or looked out for, but

God should be the centre of our community. I learned that when I expect others to treat me well, I won't always get what I want. But as I grow in this community, I learned not to hope for everyone to always care for me, but I also need to start to care and to share love with others too. I learned not to be self-centred. Perhaps when I was the 'new kid' in our COOL, I feel the need to be guided and have all the attention I needed, but as I grow in the knowledge of Christ and His church, I learned to serve others too, regardless of whether they are a newcomer or not.

The essence of a community is to build each other up in Christ, according to His Word. Nobody is perfect, so we shouldn't put our expectations in people, but only keep our eyes on His abounding grace. We have to shift our focus from 'what do I get from this community?' to 'what can I give to this community?'. That way, we don't focus on ourselves, but we can see others and treat others with love.

Even though it's not perfect, and it may not be the same for everyone, but one thing that we can expect when we join a Christ-centered community, essentially, is to have a Christ-loving family. We will meet people who will not judge us for what we have done, they will always remind us about how to live according to the Word of God, and they will always support and care for us. My community has been a safe place for me

to share my thoughts and struggles, and they will pray for me and give me strength. By joining a community, we will love and feel loved, as Jesus has loved us, and most importantly, our faith will be anchored more strongly in Him.

Again, we shouldn't put our expectations in people because they may fail. But we can put our expectation and hope in our loving Father, the author and finisher of our faith, who knows what's best for us, including the best community for us to grow and to be rooted in Him.

Finally, I encourage everyone to join COOL because it is where we can grow in the right foundation, which is only in Christ. Our life as a Christian won't be without problems. We will fail, and therefore we need this foundation to stay firm in Him. More than that, joining a community will help us to know Christ and have the right knowledge of who He is, and to grow in that knowledge of Him. We can carry each other's burdens (**Galatians 6:2**), pray for each other (**James 5:16**) and bless each other, to build up the body of Christ (**Romans 12:5**). I pray that everyone will grow to be more and more in love with Christ through the love that we've shown and shared in our community.



We need a community that is centred on Christ, that is not afraid to tell us our wrongs, at the same time not judging us, but embracing us with love.”

MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



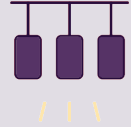
Raynaldo Ali

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

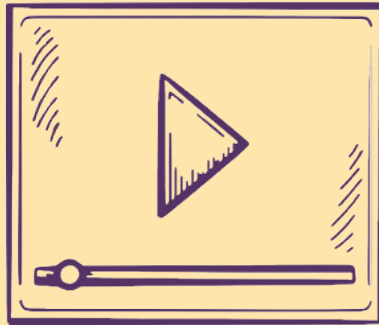
"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"

**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!**