

# EXCELLENT FAMILY



19  
JULY  
2020

ED.LXXV.07.2020

*Bethany International Church*  
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS



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Ps Djohan Handojo

## PASTOR

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Ps Lily Karto

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Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan  
Ps Suzana Tahir

## Teaching Pastor

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

## Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

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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	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



# WHEN THE IDEAL IS LACKING, GRACE ALWAYS ABOUNDS

STORY PATRICIA VALERIE

The testimony that I am sharing now is about my family, not an ideal one but is surely overflowed by God's grace. If my family can still be together, it is by the grace of God alone. Too many times I heard the word 'divorce' or my mom's complaints of not being able to fight for her marriage anymore. My sister called me saying that she was tired of my parents' never-ending arguments, many more than once! Surely, that situation was far from perfect. Being in Melbourne, away from my family actually made me feel relieved. Never once I felt 'homesick', rather, I was glad that I didn't have to live at home where I couldn't feel joy and peace. Well, that's until I experience the grace of God.

## Before I experience grace

I was born in a family, where my dad is a Catholic and my mom is a Christian. Since I had a closer relationship with mom, I went to her church. However, being in a church didn't mean that I had the right understanding of God's grace. Rather, I was more into legalism — where I thought God will bless me if I do good, if not, He will forfeit the blessing. Also, I believed that if I am doing good enough, I can be saved and go to heaven. Based on that understanding, I did all the 'religious' things like going to the church, reading the bible, and being a 'good' girl because I was so afraid to go to hell.

However, family had always been my weak spot. I could be the nicest girl outside, but inside my own house, I was completely horrible and

selfish. I tried so hard to be good to them, but I just could not do it. It was so easy for my anger to be provoked with everything that happened in my family. In short, I used my own strength to be a good girl in my family just because I was afraid not to do so. But deep down in my heart there was not any pure motivation to do so other than getting blessings in doing good. I did not have that genuine relationship towards them.

## Grace that opens my eyes

Going to Melbourne was like an escape plan for me. In contrast to my own home, Melbourne has become like a home I've been longing for. God blessed me with such a caring COOL not long after I came to Melbourne. Surrounded by a loving community and freed from my family problem. What could be better than that?

Nonetheless, God did not stop there. One Friday night during the usual COOL gathering, as I was listening to the sharing on Ephesians 2:8-9, suddenly my understanding about grace changed. I listened to Ko Dan's sermons about grace quite a few times by then, but this time it was so clear: that my good deeds don't actually earn me salvation, but it is by the grace of God alone. Hearing that fact left me speechless. With my legalism system still in mind, the first thing that came into my mind was: 'really? Is it that easy? It's not I have been doing this and that, my friend does not even go to church, and we all can be saved?'. Well, it was me being like a Pharisee.

Nevertheless by God's mercy, little by little as I started to get a deeper understanding of God's grace and experience the love through my COOL, I got encouraged to love my family too. When I went back to Indo, I tried to apply what I learned in COOL. However, it was not easy. In fact, I found it so hard to love them, but God reminded me to come to Him whenever I failed. He strengthened me and enabled me to say sorry and also forgive them.

In that time being, my relationship with my father was also restored. I grew up hating my father, to the point that even his presence annoyed me. But by the grace of God, my eyes were opened and I can see how my father actually loves me; he is just bad at expressing it.

### **God is the foundation of my family**

The main problem of my family is that my parents quarrel almost every day, and it has been happening since I was little, so it is actually quite normal for me. Also, is there any family that is free from arguments? I bet not. But there was this one time when my mom suddenly called me and said that my dad wanted a divorce. I still remember how I was shaking as I heard her on the phone. I think that was the first time they were directly mentioning about divorce. At that time, I did not know what to do. In desperation, I even thought that it might be better for both of them to get divorce. I mean, at least both of them won't suffer anymore right?

However, I still prayed for their relationship to be restored. And thankfully, by the grace of god, they made up; after not talking to each other for two weeks straight. From that day forward, they mentioned divorce more often to the point that I did not take it seriously anymore. As I said before, if it is not by the grace of God, I do not think my family can still be together. It is God who holds us together. This experience led me to learn to trust God as He is the foundation of my family.

### **Miracles during COVID-19**

Miracle does happen. It's happening again and again in my family and it keeps on happening. This time during this pandemic of Covid-19, I was reminded to pray more earnestly for my family. As I regularly pray for them, God also graciously gives me the urge to be more caring towards them. It was hard because I am kind of ignorant and I rarely reply to texts.

I started with something small like listening to my mom's complaints, encouraging her through God's words and prayer; even though I am actually too lazy to listen to the same complaints all over again.

Then God reminded me that I don't have that close relationship with my siblings, so I tried to reach out to them by leaving comments on their instagrams (yes, that sounds weird), discussing something they like, and giving them some recommendations of things to do during quarantine.

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For my dad, I tried to ask him about his work and listen to his stories. After all, I set a reminder for myself to call them at least once a week.

For a few months, nothing seemed to change. My intensity decreased, I was not as excited as when I began this. But at that very moment, out of nowhere, God shows his goodness once again. It had been a while since I talked to my mom, then my mom suddenly texted me saying that she was really happy because through this pandemic, where they are forced to stay at home, they can get closer to each other. 'It has never been that peaceful at home', she said. I was surprised and overwhelmed with joy. Praise God for His faithfulness. Even though I am not faithful, He is faithful, and He is working through everything, even this pandemic, to do us good according to His plan (Romans 8:28).

Not long after that, one of my younger sisters began to ask me some questions about the bible as she began daily bible reading. I can't express how happy I am. The day after, my other sister asked me for some recommendation of devotion books. It is surely grace upon grace. The following week my dad gave me a call.

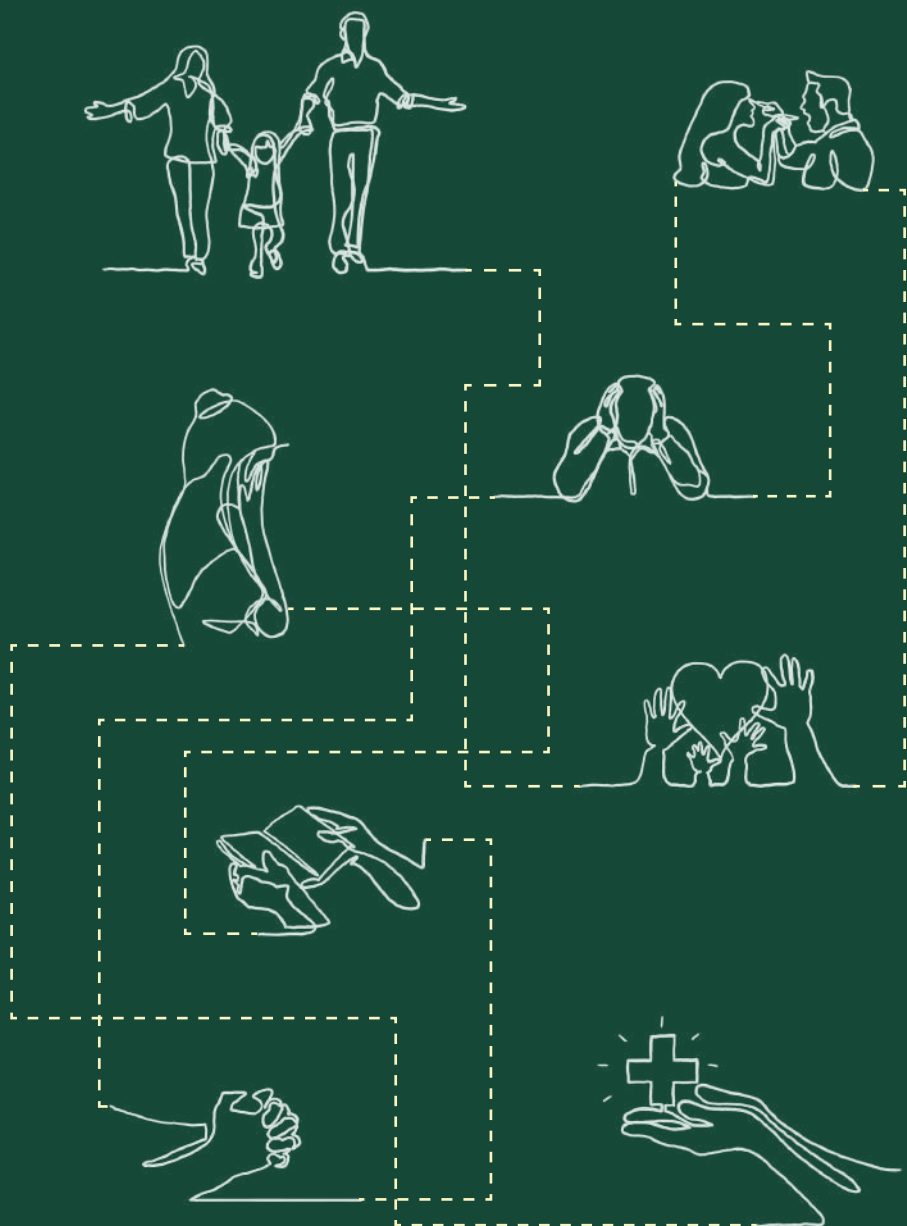
He mentioned that he was so happy because my mom has been more patient these days and thanked me for encouraging her and praying for her. At that very moment, I burst into tears. Thank God because He does not bless me based on what I do, but based on the guaranteed blessings that Jesus has given to me by His grace.

## Ongoing Process

The journey does not end there. It is not that my parents do not argue anymore. They indeed did, in fact, a week after, they got into quite a big fight. That condition might be an unending cycle, but I can see some differences in our reaction. I believe each of us, my parents, me and my siblings are greatly shaped through what is happening in our family and God is working slowly but steady to restore our family. We even have our daily morning prayer now, can't thank Him enough for this.

There is no perfect family. But when the ideal is lacking, grace always abounds. This is what I experience in my family. In my uncondusive family condition, God still blesses me so much. Such condition within a family might not be pleasing in human's eyes, but God can use anything to fulfill his purpose.





# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 19 JULY

2 Samuel 9-12

Ayat Renungan:  
Roma 15:2

“Setiap orang di antara kita harus mencari kesenangan sesama kita demi kebbaikannya untuk membangunnya.”

## 20 JULY

2 Samuel 13-16

Ayat Renungan:  
2 Samuel 22:31

“Adapun Allah, jalan-Nya sempurna; sabda Tuhan itu murni; Dia menjadi perisai bagi semua orang yang berlandung pada-Nya.”

## 21 JULY

2 Samuel 17-20

Ayat Renungan:  
2 Samuel 22:7

“Ketika aku dalam kesesakan, aku berseru kepada Tuhan, kepada Allahku aku berseru. Dan Ia mendengar suaraku dari bait-Nya, teriakku minta tolong masuk ke telinga-Nya.”

## 22 JULY

2 Samuel 21-24

Ayat Renungan:  
2 Samuel 22:3

“Allahku, gunung batuku, tempat aku berlindung, perisaiku, tanduk keselamatanku, kota bentengku, tempat pelarianku, juruselamatku; Engkau menyelamatkan aku dari kekerasan.”





## 23 JULY

Efesus 1-3

**Ayat Renungan:**  
Efesus 2:10

“Karena kita ini buatan Allah, diciptakan dalam Kristus Yesus untuk melakukan pekerjaan baik, yang dipersiapkan Allah sebelumnya. Ia mau, supaya kita hidup di dalamnya.”

## 24 JULY

Efesus 4-6

**Ayat Renungan:**  
Efesus 6:10

“Akhirnya, hendaklah kamu kuat di dalam Tuhan, di dalam kekuatan kuasa-Nya. <sup>11</sup>Kenakanlah seluruh perlengkapan senjata Allah, supaya kamu dapat bertahan melawan tipu muslihat Iblis;”

## 25 JULY

1 Raja 1-3

**Ayat Renungan:**  
1 Raja 3:14

“Dan jika engkau hidup menurut jalan yang Kutunjukkan dan tetap mengikuti segala ketetapan dan perintah-Ku, sama seperti ayahmu Daud, maka Aku akan memperpanjang umurmu.”

# GOSPEL-CENTRED FAMILY

## Learning from the Book of Ephesians

STORY JULIUS NJOTOWIJOYO

### Living Out The Gospel

Raising a family is not an easy task. If you feel that the struggle and angst in raising a family is yours alone, consider this: In a survey conducted by Focus on the Family, the most frequent comment from mothers was that they felt like failures. In this article, we are going to learn from the book of Ephesians on how to apply the gospel to our families, first to our spouse, then to our kids.

When we read the letters of Apostle Paul in

the Bible, we will see a pattern, i.e. he always starts with expounding the gospel, then applying the gospel in life. For instance, in the book of Romans, in chapters 1 – 11, Paul explained the gospel, then chapters 12 – 16 are the applications. The same with the book of Ephesians, chapters 1 – 3 is the *indicatives* (what God has done), chapters 4 – 6 are the *imperatives* (what we must do). The insight is that God has worked a new nature in us, therefore we work out the new nature (2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:12 – 13).



## Gospel to the Husband (Ephesians 5:25 – 33)

1. *“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,” (v. 25)*

Paul set an extremely high standard for husbands: Love your wives “as Christ loved the church.” Paul was lifting married love to the highest level possible, for he saw in the Christian home an illustration of the relationship between Christ and the church.

The insight that we can learn from Paul’s command here is that love is more than just a feeling, it is a decision. When we are dating, we don’t need this command to love, but when we are married, when the honeymoon is over, when we see our spouses’ shortcomings, it takes a decision and commitment to still love **in spite of** those weaknesses. Where does the power to love unconditionally come from? It comes from the gospel. **Romans 5:7 – 8** says, *“For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

So, firstly, husbands are called to **sacrificial** love to their wives as Christ loved the church. How does this look in practice? Husbands can say ‘yes’ to their wife’s request to eat out at a Korean restaurant, even if they want burgers, for example. Husbands can swallow up their pride and be the initiator to reconcile when there is conflict. Husbands can help their wives

with the kids / housework even though they are tired from work. I am sure you can think of many more examples of how to love our wives sacrificially.

2. *“that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (v. 26 – 27)*

Secondly, Husbands are called to sanctifying love to their wives. They are called to be the spiritual leader of the family. We need to pray that our wife and kids grow in Christlikeness, and also study the Bible to cultivate godly values in our family, like verse 26 says, *“having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word”*. The first man Adam is an example of how not to be the spiritual leader of the family when he let Eve eat the fruit from the knowledge of good and evil tree.

## Gospel to the Wife (Ephesians 5:22 – 24)

*“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.” (v. 22 – 24)*

## What Submission Does Not Mean

Wives' call is to submit gladly to their husbands. I understand that some of you reading this might be frightened when you hear the word submission. Because we live in a corrupted world, we have seen how husbands abuse their authority to rule their wives with iron fist. But **submission here does not mean unconditional obedience to their husband**. Wives can say no if their husbands lead them to sin. It means that submission to the Lord takes the priority. Seek help if your husband abuses his God-given authority. It is not God's will for you to submit to his abusive leadership.

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## What Submission Means

What then is submission? Timothy Keller calls it the **tie-breaking authority**. Many years ago, Tim wanted to move to New York and plant a church. However, his wife Kathy did not want to go. Kathy was comfortable with what they already had. They already have kids and moving to New York to plant a church did not seem like a good idea to her. Tim was convinced this is where God was leading them, but Kathy did not see it

the same way. So, they discussed for months and could not come into agreement. Finally, Tim said to her, *"Fine then. I want to go; you don't want to go. I am not going to force you. So, we won't go."*

In our culture of gender equality, they said that unless you can come to a mutual agreement, don't make the decision. Mutual agreement is great, but what happens if we can't agree, but we have to decide? Life is filled with these scenarios. For example, should you send your kids to public school or private Christian school, and you cannot agree? You must send them somewhere. Who makes the final call? The Bible says that the husband has been given that authority. But do you realize what Tim did? Tim decided not to go because his wife does not want to go. So, by not going, Tim let his wife have the tie-breaking authority. Rather than taking the responsibility, Tim let his wife take the lead. #HappyWifeHappyLife right?

But I love what Kathy did. Kathy turned to Tim and said, *"Oh no, you are not doing this to me. You just let me break the tie. What's the use of you being a man in this family? Look, I don't like to take risks, but if God is calling you to do that, be a man! Use your tie-breaking authority!"* What a wife. She refused to take the role of her husband. And off they went to Manhattan to plant Redeemer Presbyterian Church and the rest is history.

## Gospel to the Children (Ephesians 6:1 – 4)

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honour your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”. Fathers, do not **provoke** your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*  
(v. 1 – 4)

The one principle that we can learn from these four verses is that **our family can show how great it is to live under God’s reign of love**. The Kingdom of God is the overarching theme of the Bible and Jesus came to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14 – 15; 38; Acts 1:3). The Kingdom (rule) of God doesn’t sound like much good news in our culture, because we don’t want someone to rule over our lives. This was the lie of Satan way back in the Garden of Eden when the serpent portrayed God as a tyrant holding Adam and Eve back. But God isn’t a tyrant. His rule is a rule of blessing, freedom, love, life, justice, and peace. Good news. Gospel.

Family is the place where children can learn to submit to authority. In chapters 5 – 6 of Ephesians, Paul says our different roles in life are all to reflect God’s role in our lives. Marriage is an illustration of Christ’ relationship with the church, while parents are God’s gift to children to teach them how to live under authority. Learning to enjoy

“**The good news is that as we are justified by faith, we are also sanctified by faith.**”



your parents' authority is the first step towards welcoming God's authority.

Parents are to model God's good, liberating, just rule in the way they bring up children. In Paul's day, the father had supreme authority over the family. When a baby was born into a Roman family, for example, it was brought out and laid before the father. If he picked it up, it meant he was accepting it into the home. But if he did not pick it up, it meant the child was rejected. It could be sold, given away, or even killed by exposure. No doubt a father's love would overcome such monstrous acts, but these practices were legal in that day. Paul told the parents, *"Don't use your authority to abuse the child, but to encourage and build the child."* To the Colossians he wrote, *"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged"* (Colossians 3:21). So, the opposite of "provoke" is "encourage". Parents need to find the balance between disciplining disobedience and telling off the kids for being kids. Kids break things and drop things. Kids get cranky and raise their voices. But ensure that they obey you, and don't let them rule the home. Because if we do, what we are teaching them is they are king in their lives. It won't prepare them for the wider social interaction. And it won't prepare them to meet the true King.

## Concluding Encouragement

Let me close with an encouragement. Some of us know that we are not the husbands / wives / children we ought to be, and we are not sure how to change. The good news is that just as we are justified by faith, we are also sanctified by faith. Not only is Jesus our King, but He is also our Redeemer, the one who makes all things new. Do you need redemption in your family? It's yours in Christ. Do you need grace to honour your parents? It's yours in Christ. Do you need help to be the husband / wife God has called you to be? It's yours in Christ.





# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



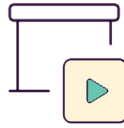
Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



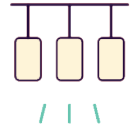
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



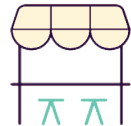
Jennifer Chandra

## 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

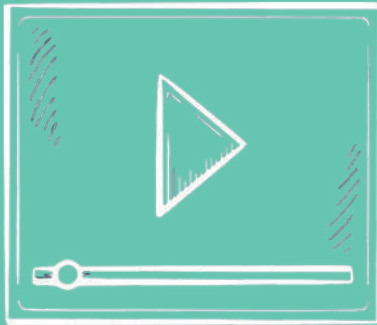
*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"*

**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:**

**[biemelb.online.church](https://biemelb.online.church)**



**Let's celebrate the Lord's Day  
together!**