

HOLY SPIRIT



**10
MAY
2020**

ED.LXV.05.2020

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
Kevin Jingga 0413 345 433

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



BLESSINGS IN PANDEMIC

STORY CHRISTOPHER

The three-step plan has just been announced by the Prime Minister to reopen the economy last Friday. We are grateful for the progress Australia has made so far in combating the COVID-19.

However, it is still uncertain when this pandemic will ultimately end. As we continue to live our lives in this 'new normal' condition, we might lose heart in trusting God's goodness.

Therefore, let's pray for our spiritual eyes to see God's purpose behind this pandemic in our life. And let us also pray that all of us may benefit through this situation.

Christopher shares his experiences on how God is gracious to use this hard time to draw him back to Himself.

He is a staff member at a hotel in Melbourne, but currently has to stop working due to COVID-19 outbreak.

Q: How has the COVID-19 changed your life?

Before COVID-19, I worked five to six days a week, quite busy. But now, I lost my job, or stopped working temporarily to be more precise. I am currently doing uni, but I do not have classes to go because I am on placement this year. I am supposed to work to complete my placement hours. But, because of this, I have literally nothing to do, no uni, no work, maybe just a little bit of assignments.

Q: How do you respond to it?

To be honest, there is nothing much we can do. Talking about responses, I think we have no control to handle this pandemic. So, we do not have many choices. But I think in this situation, we have more leisure time. I personally have planned to study the Bible before, but it has always failed because of my business in work and uni. But for me this time, I have no reason not to start reading and studying the Bible.

So, for me, if I don't start now, I would lose this precious opportunity. For me, it is the time for us to look back to the Gospel itself, to really seek Him again. So, I am somewhat grateful for this opportunity, even though it is not good at all. But I am still thankful for God, who gives me hope for the things beyond this world.

Q: What have you learnt during the pandemic?

I have learnt a lot from these two months without going out. I believe every day I learnt something new. Like for example, simple things like cooking, reading books, and being more disciplined in the Word of God. Through this situation, God really speaks to us, I think. I am being reminded to set our priorities right, either the worldly things or the things above. I felt God speaks to me clearly, He wants to draw me back closer to Him. For He says, "draw near to me, and I will draw near to you". So, I learnt that God personally speaks to me through this situation.



And again, nothing much we can do, because we have no power. So, I think we can only trust in His timing, for our timing is not always aligned with God's timing. We cannot simply ask God to do this or that. If we ask God only for what we want, it is more like we are asking for His blessings only, not for who He is.

Q: What are the things that you are grateful for at this time?

I am grateful for the current technology. I can't imagine if there is no technology like this today. I don't know how we will be able to communicate in this situation. Church is held online now, FA through zoom, and most people work online through technology. And also, my COOL friends - as it says, "community of love", I am grateful in this situation we can still support each other. We can still strengthen each other's faith, including mine. So, that's what I am really grateful for.

Q: How has your faith affected during this time?

My faith is clearly affected by this situation. Sometimes I do feel anxious and worry. But, I think it's normal because we're still living in the flesh right now. So, I sometimes doubt and worry. But I believe, I think we do not have any choice rather than trusting God at this time. It also mentioned that faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see (Hebrew 11:1).

I think it is time to trust God as we cannot see the future, and we do not know what will happen next. But we know by faith, He is working something good and purposeful for us. And I believe the same God that protects and blesses Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is still the same God that is going to protect us, bless us, and provide for us. And we know in Romans 8, God is working in all things for good to those who love Him. If that verse says so, we can only trust God's timing and believe that He is working for our good. It really gives me strong hope to believe that everything happened for good purpose. So, we should not feel that anxious or worried about this.

Q: Do you see yourself growing spiritually through this situation?

Honestly, I don't really know if I am growing spiritually or not. I don't really know the measure of it. But through this situation, I feel God is speaking to me and He wants me to come nearer to Him. So, through this situation I am starting to do devotion more routinely and I have more desire to seek the Word of God. And I believe God gives me that thirst and hunger to seek His Word.

I believe not just because of this situation, but I believe God purposefully calls me to get to know Him more. God longs for His children to be near to Him. This situation, I believe, is part of His plan and means to draw me nearer to Him. So, I am not sure if I am growing

spiritually, but I have more desire to seek Him than before.

Q: How do you see yourself after this pandemic end?

I think I will appreciate things more, small things like self-hygiene, to weekly meetings at COOL, weekly fellowship like COOL prayers, and church. So, I hope I do not see that as routine gathering anymore. And I will appreciate more things in my future activities.

The point is, in this situation, we do not have many options on what to do. So, for me this is the God-given opportunity to come back to Him, to the Gospel, and to trust His promise. I also believe that He is faithful to His promises. I listened from a podcast the other day, it kind

of sounds like this: God is not only a promise giver, but God himself is a promise keeper and promise fulfiller.

*He is not only a promise giver,
but a promise keeper and
promise fulfiller.*

It is very different for us as human beings. A lot of times, we make promises only to be broken. But, if God makes promises, He will not break them. He is not only a promise giver, but a promise keeper and promise fulfiller. So if we do not see that God answers our prayers today, do not lose heart, do not be disappointed. Because when it's time, it's time - even though it is hard to believe that in this kind of situation.





COVID-19 MERUPAKAN WAKE UP CALL BAGI KELUARGA

"Setiap orang yang mendengarkan perkataan-Ku dan melaksanakannya, ia sama dengan orang yang bijaksana, yang mendirikan rumahnya di atas batu. Kemudian turunlah hujan dan datanglah banjir, lalu melanda rumah itu, tetapi rumah itu tidak rubuh sebab didirikan di atas batu.

Tetapi setiap orang yang mendengarkan perkataan-Ku ini dan tidak melakukannya, ia sama dengan orang yang bodoh yang mendirikan rumahnya di atas pasir. Kemudian turunlah hujan dan datanglah banjir, lalu angin melanda rumah itu dan hebatlah kerusakannya."

Matius 7:24-27

Keluarga merupakan institusi pertama yang Allah ciptakan dalam dunia ini. Melalui keluarga Allah menyatakan kehendak-Nya juga memakai keluarga sebagai mitra kerja-Nya. Hal ini terlihat dalam kehidupan keluarga Abram dan Sarai, Nuh, isteri dan anak menantunya, bahkan sampai kepada kelahiran Juruselamat, Allah memakai keluarga Yusuf dan Maria. Tuhan Yesus mengakhiri khotbah di bukit dengan memberi gambaran membangun rumah dan badai. Berarti tiap keluarga harus siap menghadapi badai.

Saat ini ada badai yang kita hadapi yakni Virus Corona yang disebut WHO COVID-19, berasal dari "Co" singkatan dari Corona, "Vi" singkatan dari Virus, sedangkan "d" singkatan dari Disease. Sementara "19" adalah untuk tahun 2019 karena wabah pertama kali diidentifikasi pada tanggal 31 Desember 2019. (Tedros Adhanom, WHO, Jenewa, 11 Pebruari 2020).

Hari-hari terakhir ini banyak orang mengalami kekuatiran dan ketakutan, sejak Indonesia dinyatakan telah terpapar dengan Virus Corona. Bagaimanakah sikap kita terhadap wabah ini? Alkitab menggambarkan melalui pengajaran Yesus kisah membangun rumah di atas dua

macam dasar yang berbeda, serta angin dan banjir yang melandanya. (Matius 7:24-27)

Mengapa Yesus melukiskan melalui rumah?

Rumah adalah sesuatu yang penting, bukan hanya menjadi tempat tinggal, tetapi juga tempat pembentukan, pembelajaran yang pertama bagi setiap pribadi yang lahir ke dalam dunia ini. Dan juga sebagai tempat yang pertama dalam menaburkan nilai-nilai kebenaran. Seseorang sebagaimana dia ada saat ini, tidak dapat dilepaskan dari bagaimana ia dibesarkan dan dididik di dalam rumahnya.

Dalam nats di atas digambarkan dua orang yang sama-sama membangun rumah. Yang satu membangun di atas dasar batu, sedangkan yang lain membangun di atas pasir. Kemudian mereka mengalami hal yang sama, yakni datanglah hujan, banjir, lalu angin melanda rumah itu. Perbedaannya terlihat saat badai datang. Rumah yang dibangun di atas batu tetap tegar, tetapi yang dibangun di atas pasir rubuh dan hebatlah kerusakannya.

Setiap orang yang mendengar Firman Allah dan **melakukannya**,



digambarkan seperti orang yang membangun rumah di atas pasir dan orang ini disebut sebagai **orang yang bijaksana**.

Tetapi yang mendengar Firman Allah, tetapi **tidak melakukannya**, digambarkan dengan orang yang membangun rumah di atas pasir, mereka disebut sebagai **orang bodoh**.

Bagaimana dengan 'rumah' yang sedang kita bangun selama ini, apakah di atas batu atau pasir?

Prinsip penting dalam nats ini adalah **melakukan Firman Allah**. Bukan seberapa banyak mengetahui atau mempelajari Firman Allah. Mengetahui dan mempelajari banyak Firman Allah belum tentu berarti pasti melakukannya.

Kata 'hujan', 'banjir', dalam nats ini melukiskan tentang masalah, persoalan, kesulitan yang sedang terjadi. Virus Corona yang melanda dunia dan Indonesia saat ini, merupakan masalah global yang



sedang terjadi, sehingga telah menjadi pandemi.

Bagaimana dengan "rumah" yang kita bangun selama ini? Apakah kita membangunnya di atas Firman dengan melakukannya? Bila kita membangunnya berdasarkan harta, kekayaan, pengetahuan, kekuatan sendiri, maka semuanya akan rubuh dan hebatlah kerusakannya di saat badai datang. (**Matius 7:27**)

Setiap orang yang mendengar Firman Allah dan **melakukannya**, mereka jugalah yang disebut membangun rumah di atas batu. Bagaimana hal ini diterapkan dalam keluarga?

Pemerintah Pusat dan Pemprov DKI telah menghimbau masyarakat untuk sekolah, bekerja dan beribadah di rumah demi untuk menghindari penularan COVID-19.

Selama ini kesibukan sering menyita waktu dalam keluarga, sehingga waktu bersama keluarga sangat minim. Tetapi saat ini, merupakan

waktu yang penting, ada banyak waktu di rumah.

Apa artinya menjadi pelaku Firman?

> Seorang **suami/bapa** sebagai kepala keluarga hari-hari ini dituntut untuk melakukan perannya sebagai imam, nabi dan kepala bagi keluarganya, memimpin ibadah bersama istri dan anak. Mengasihi istri, seperti Kristus mengasihi jemaat, menjadi figur teladan, mentor bagi anak. Saat seorang ayah memimpin mezbah keluarga, saat itu ia sedang menegaskan otoritasnya sebagai seorang imam untuk keluarganya. (Efesus 5:25)

> Bagi seorang **istri/ibu**, hari-hari seperti ini merupakan waktu untuk merenungkan perannya selama ini, apakah telah dijalankan secara maksimal sebagai penolong, pendamping, penghibur/penopang bagi suami dan anak?

> Bagi seorang **anak**, ini adalah waktu untuk melakukan introspeksi; seberapa alkitabiahnya hubungan kita selama ini dengan kedua orangtua.

Adanya banyak waktu untuk berada di rumah akan merupakan saat yang indah bila hubungan dalam keluarga selama ini baik. Tetapi justru

merupakan siksaan, pergumulan berat, apabila hubungan satu dengan yang lain sedang bermasalah.

Melakukan Firman merupakan cara untuk menyelesaikan masalah, merendahkan diri satu dengan yang lain dan meminta maaf dan saling mengampuni. (**Matius 6:14-15**).

Melalui kebersamaan saat ini, merupakan waktu yang indah untuk dapat menyelesaikan masalah-masalah dalam keluarga.

Saat ini merupakan '**Wake Up Call**' bagi keluarga untuk membangun kembali dan menjalankan fungsi sebagai institusi rencana Allah dinyatakan. Melalui mezbah keluarga, beribadah bersama dengan keluarga, mengundang hadirat Allah hadir dalam keluarga. Kita tidak tahu untuk berapa lama kita tidak dapat beribadah bersama, karena itu ibadah keluarga merupakan hal yang sangat penting.

Tuhan mau pakai keluarga sebagai pembawa kabar baik, pembawa api Pentakosta Ketiga dalam goncangan ini. Kita berdoa agar wabah ini cepat berakhir, namun terus bangun benteng pertahanan rohani dengan memperkuat ibadah bersama keluarga (JS).

WEEKLY DEVOTION

10 MAY

Ulangan 1-3

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 2:7

“Sebab Tuhan, Allahmu, memberkati engkau dalam segala pekerjaan tanganmu. Ia memperhatikan perjalananmu melalui padang gurun yang besar ini; keempat puluh tahun ini Tuhan, Allahmu, menyertai engkau, dan engkau tidak kekurangan apa pun.”

11 MAY

Ulangan 4-6

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 4:2

“Janganlah kamu menambahi apa yang kuperintahkan kepadamu dan janganlah kamu mengurangnya, dengan demikian kamu berpegang pada perintah Tuhan, Allahmu, yang kusampaikan kepadamu.”

12 MAY

Ulangan 7-9

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 7:6

“Sebab engkau adalah umat yang kudus bagi Tuhan, Allahmu; engkau adalah yang dipilih oleh Tuhan, Allahmu, dari segala bangsa di atas muka bumi untuk menjadi umat kesayangan-Nya.”

13 MAY

Ulangan 10-12

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 11:1

“Haruslah engkau mengasihi Tuhan, Allahmu, dan melakukan dengan setia kewajibanmu terhadap Dia dengan senantiasa berpegang pada segala ketetapan-Nya, peraturan-Nya dan perintah-Nya.”

14 MAY

Ulangan 13-15

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 13:4

"Tuhan, Allahmu,
harus kamu
ikuti, kamu harus
takut akan Dia,
kamu harus
berpegang pada
perintah-Nya,
suara-Nya harus
kamu dengarkan,
kepada-Nya harus
kamu berbakti
dan berpaut."

15 MAY

Ulangan 16-18

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 16:19

"Janganlah
memutarbalikkan
keadilan,
janganlah
memandang bulu
dan janganlah
menerima suap,
sebab suap
membuat buta
mata orang-orang
bijaksana dan
memutarbalikkan
perkataan
orang-orang yang
benar."

16 MAY

Ulangan 19-21

Ayat Renungan:
Ulangan 20: 4

"sebab Tuhan,
Allahmu, Dialah
yang berjalan
menyertai kamu
untuk berperang
bagimu melawan
musuhmu,
dengan maksud
memberikan
kemenangan
kepadamu."



*Your word is a lamp
for my feet, a light on
my path
- Psalm 119:105 -*

May it bless us and remind us the beauty of the saints' communion.

Tell us about how you join BIC.

When I first arrived in Melbourne, I knew that I wanted to find a home church and be planted in a community. And from there I began to try a few different churches but never actually attended the cell group. Until my friend from uni invited me to come to COOL on Friday night and to the Sunday service.

What is BIC for you? Can you share a little bit?

For me, BIC feels like more than just a home, even though it is my second home. As an international student, being away from your family and friends could be a bit frustrating. But from there, I saw the importance of being a part of a community. In COOL, I learnt not only to share the good and bad things that happened to me that week, but also my joy and struggles as a Christian.

What makes you decide BIC as your home church (stay at BIC) in Australia?

To be honest, the first thing that made me stay in BIC was the friendliness of the people not only the ones from COOL but also the whole congregation too! Back in 2016 I joined winter camp for the first time, and I remember someone in my room did not bring a sleeping bag. On that night, a lot of people came to our room just to check if she was okay and even offered their blankets to her. From there, I can see that the people in BIC truly cared for each other.

Can you share your most memorable experiences in BIC?

It was back in 2018 when we had the service to

“Doaku Untuk Indonesia”. In the preparation of that event, I was moved by how God can bring us together to pray and be grateful for what God has done for Indonesia even though we were thousands of kilometres away.

Also in that year, one of the Winter Camp sessions resonated strongly in my heart. It was the year I graduated, and I was struggling to find work. In that session, I was being reminded that the life I live is in God's control, not in my control. If I really want God to be in control, then I have to learn to fully trust in Him. That sermon kinda pierced my heart.

What have you learnt most in BIC?

Sharing is caring. Especially in COOL, if you do not share, you will not have a sense of a community inside. Even as simple as “what are we doing this week”, if we do not want to share that, then it will be hard for us to share other things in the future.

But most importantly I learnt that, I can share not only about my problems in my life, but also my struggles in my Christian journey. From there, I learnt to never stop seeking the Lord and caring for the people.

What are the things that you are most grateful for in BIC?

I am grateful that we have a small group where people can grow and feel safe in sharing their joy and struggles. And I am also grateful for the COOL mentors, teaching and pastoral team in BIC.

Why? Because, when I was in Indonesia, I didn't really have that curiosity to learn more about the theology of Christianity. But since I

am here, I saw the discussion at COOL and it motivated me to learn more and know more about God. I am also grateful the COOL leaders are knowledgeable in this area, so we can talk a lot about this.

What will you miss the most at BIC?

I must say the Tuesday Prayer Tower when all of us joined our hearts together to pray for our COOL, our church, the city, and the current situations too. I am so grateful to witness the heart of the praying people.

Also, at the prayer tower, I am grateful that we do not only talk about our COOL's problem, but also all of us have the hearts to really help each other in dealing with our COOL. And coming to the prayer tower as a community, where we know each other well, shows there is a unity in this church.

How has BIC shaped your faith in Christ?

I am already a Christian before I came to BIC, but as I spent four years in this church, I learned much deeper in understanding what grace and all the foundational theology of what Christianity is about. I must say in BIC, mostly I listened about grace, I thought I knew about it already because I grew up as a Christian. But along the way, there is so much that I did not know about grace. Sometimes, even most of my understanding about grace is wrong, that I did not realise.

One example is forgiveness, I used to think that to forgive is simply to forgive. But along the

way, I learnt that we can only forgive because God has forgiven us, and by that we can show grace to others too. I remembered that time, I had a family issue, where my parents were troubled. I don't know why, but on that day, I began to ponder, "what if the people who troubled my parents are one of God's people whom God saves? what would I feel?". And my heart was troubled for days, and I thought how God can love them? But eventually I learnt that I, myself, am no better as a person. I am a sinner too, and everyone needs the same grace from God.

How has BIC built your character?

In this church I feel like I have been blessed with so many people that have shaped my character. Whether it is through COOL, church ministries, or even friendships, I feel like God has been teaching me how to trust in Him in every aspect of my life.

But in doing my ministry, I learnt that it is important to have a heart that is always clinging and close to the Lord. Because if we rely on our strength, we will get weary and tired. But with the Holy Spirit guiding us and leading us to always remember the grace we have received; it becomes the strength that enables us to be faithful and committed in our work.

Can you see yourself growing as a Christian?

Being planted in BIC has taught me a lot about the true gospel that we need to hear. As mentioned I already consider myself as a Christian when I first came to BIC, but at that

time I only focused on doing ministry and attending church. But through joining COOL, KOM, and attending the discipleship meeting I learned to seek the Lord not only by “serving” in His house but to seek Him in the Word.

Another thing I realised is that my understanding of God’s blessings is being reconstructed. I used to think when I am blessed by God materially (and it’s easy for us to think that way) is because of my tithe, for example. But through KOM, COOL, and every sermon, I learnt that God’s love for us is not dependent on what I offer to God. Indeed, whatever we do will never be enough to repay His love for us. So, whenever I face struggle in my life, I would not think that way (transactional), because I know God loves us not depending on my deeds.

Any last words to us as a church?

BIC has been a place that I called my second home, and I believe for many people as well. Thank you for the people in this church that have helped me and supported me through every season of my life in the past 4 years. I truly pray that BIC can be truly the house of

prayer for all nations and as a place where people can know God and be planted and grow as a community.

Last words from you alone?

Personally I would like to thank every teaching team in KOM, Pastor Daniel, and Jennifer Chandra for always providing me as a church and COOL members with the spiritual food that I needed. Also a special thank you for all my COOL members, Eden, who welcomed me in your little family and allowed me to grow there. I will miss you all so so so much :)

BIC has been a place that I called my second home, and I believe for many people as well. I truly pray that BIC can be truly the house of prayer for all nations and as a place where people can know God and be planted and grow as a community.



MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



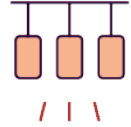
Raynaldo Ali

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



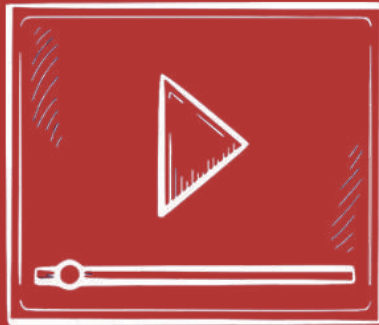
Rio Susanto

**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



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