

EXCELLENT COMMUNITY



23

**AUGUST
2020**

ED. LXXX.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
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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 |

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 |



Together becoming stronger in crisis

BY KEZIA JOCELYN

As a community of God's children, we have often received and also provided grace to others in various forms, may it be something as familiar as messages of encouragement and prayers to something quite elaborate like rebuking a certain behaviour or habit. We do this supposedly through fully acknowledging His love towards us, though sometimes we tend to forget the true underlying reason and just do it for the sake of courtesy (pride). However, in these trying times of the COVID-19 virus spreading, I believe the role of community is more apparent than ever as we all have personally experienced adversities in one way or another. We now know that we truly can't make it alone, having been stripped off of most of the things we hold dear. Everything has changed so rapidly that we have had to go through many troubling situations, sometimes not knowing whether we would make it to the other side. God understands our fragility and graciously reminds us through His particular word in Hebrews 3:12-14 (ESV),

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

The argument lies in verse 14, if we, our community, our brothers and sisters truly have come to share in Christ, we would hold

firm of our original confidence until the end. Therefore, it matters most that we make sure to come out victorious with our battle against adversities, otherwise, it would then prove the opposite – we never were in Christ in the first place. This is a lot to take in. We as a community play a central role in the perseverance of our brothers and sisters. Verse 12 tells us to take care of each other by guarding the heart against becoming unbelieving. An unbelieving heart comes from a hardening heart, just as verse 13 states. But the core of all is the deceitfulness of sin. Sin tells us that God's sovereignty in the midst of our adversities is not worth believing, that we should just act upon how we are currently feeling. Our role, as a community is to prevent this from happening by persistently exhorting and encouraging one another through countering these deceits with God's word. We need to constantly remind them that even though their adversities seem to be too overwhelming, our God is trustworthy and His promises are better than the promises of sin. We too, must not forget to also create an environment where our brothers and sisters could truly feel the love of God by giving room for them to grow and constantly extending a helping hand towards them. Our words are too often not enough to comfort and remind someone unless they are being completed with our actions and efforts, where we can walk together hand in hand in Christ.

One of the things that hinder us most from being that type of community is that it is easy to focus all the attention to ourselves as our

most basic human needs; safety and health, are in a very vulnerable state throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. From lives to jobs being lost right in front of our eyes, we feel like it is only wise and fair to put all of our efforts towards our concerns. However, I can't help but think about the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. We all like to think that we are the Samaritan in the story, the one who has the humility to stop his entire plan to help a troubled stranger. Whereas in reality, we are often too busy to stop, too afraid to get involved, too hurried and too pre-occupied to help our brothers and sisters who are in need. Their comfort is sadly not our priority. As Christ's followers, we need to learn from Him and how He surrender His life to the Father,

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? (Matthew 16:24-26)

The reason for us to stay healthy and productive is not so that we can keep our lives, it is so that we can give our lives. It is so that we can facilitate others with what we have. Imagine a world where all the people live that way instead of chasing the wind and wasting their life by trying to keep them. We have only one life that will soon pass, only what is done for Christ will last. It is only when we are able

to see our purpose in life beyond fulfilling only our needs and wants, that we will find true security in Christ.

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:19-25)



WEEKLY DEVOTION

23 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 25-28

Ayat Renungan:
1 Tawarikh 29:11

“Ya Tuhan, punya-Mulah kebesaran dan kejayaan, kehormatan, kemasyhuran dan keagungan, ya, segala-galanya yang ada di langit dan di bumi! Ya Tuhan, punya-Mulah kerajaan dan Engkau yang tertinggi itu melebihi segala-galanya sebagai kepala.”

24 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 29-32

Ayat Renungan:
Filipi 4:6

“Janganlah hendaknya kamu kuatir tentang apa pun juga, tetapi nyatakanlah dalam segala hal keinginanmu kepada Allah dalam doa dan permohonan dengan ucapan syukur. Damai sejahtera Allah, yang melampaui segala akal, akan memelihara hati dan pikiranmu dalam Kristus Yesus.”

25 AUGUST

2 Tawarikh 33-36

Ayat Renungan:
Kolose 4:8

“Ia kusuruh kepadamu dengan maksud, supaya kamu tahu akan hal ihwal kami dan supaya ia menghibur hatimu.”

26 AUGUST

Kolose 1-4

Ayat Renungan:
Kolose 3:23

“Apa pun juga yang kamu perbuat, perbuatlah dengan segenap hatimu seperti untuk Tuhan dan bukan untuk manusia.”

27 AUGUST

Ezra 1-3

Ayat Renungan:
Kolose 2:7

“Hendaklah kamu berakar di dalam Dia dan dibangun di atas Dia, hendaklah kamu bertambah teguh dalam iman yang telah diajarkan kepadamu, dan hendaklah hatimu melimpah dengan syukur.”

28 AUGUST

Ezra 4-6

Ayat Renungan:
Kolose 3:12

“Karena itu, sebagai orang-orang pilihan Allah yang dikuduskan dan dikasihi-Nya, kenakanlah belas kasihan, kemurahan, kerendahan hati,

29 AUGUST

Ezra 7-10

Ayat Renungan:
Kolose 3:13

“Sabarlah kamu seorang terhadap yang lain, dan ampunilah seorang akan yang lain apabila yang seorang menaruh dendam terhadap yang lain, sama seperti Tuhan telah mengampuni kamu, kamu perbuat jugalah demikian.”

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

psalm 119:105

Unity in the midst of uncertainty

STORY JESSICA SUTIONO



The fact that we live in a fallen world is undeniable and therefore problems and suffering are inevitable as part of life. This time we face Covid 19 which has affected nearly everyone in various degrees of intensity in terms of affliction. Many people find it difficult to cope with the loss of community touch. Many face anxieties. Some endure the unbearable loss of health, jobs or even financial loss. Mental illness and chronic loneliness are rising, and because of restrictions and quarantines, the world seems to be more and more disconnected than ever.

Perhaps, it is easier for us to be united in the midst of suffering. How can we, as believers, unite ourselves in this critical moment? Would this be an opportunity to act out our faith and serve one another and even the community?

Social distancing is necessary, but not relational distancing

Undeniably, relational distancing is challenging. However, the fact that we face common threats and adversity reminds us that we are not the only one who suffer. Instead, all of us are in the same boat. Hence, this should draw us together as one.

As believers in response to suffering, we need to be intentional in our response by building the regular interconnectedness. For instance, putting efforts to attend the already available virtual sessions organized by the church, such as Cool and prayer zooms. By doing our part, we maintain and create the sense of belonging. Your presence does make a difference and we may encourage others without yourself being conscious about it.

Moreover, our mindset needs to be less of me and more of others when it comes to togetherness. When we understand the reasons on why unity is important, when we humbly admit that we can't live alone and we need other people, then we will strive to maintain unity at all times.



'Two are better than one'

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Christian believers strengthen and sustain each other. They embark on a journey to grow together for we belong to the body of Christ.

As clearly stated in the scripture, *"Two are better than one,"* we are not created to live alone. It is far better to have someone whom you can share both joy and sorrow. In moments of failure, it is far better to have, at least, one person beside you to walk through the pain, instead of locking yourself up in silent endurance. The Bible calls us to stay in unity with one another, to lift each other up and to bear one another's burdens.

In the world that celebrates individualism and independence, we tend to mind and care for ourselves first. Depending on our own priority, we often thought that by taking care of ourselves first, then we are free to take

care of others. This is true to a certain extent as there is a degree of rationality behind it. However, believers are called to live in a Kingdom mindset and thus, putting others first becomes the priority, and we need to beware of our self-love and selfishness.

Let's learn from the early Christian community in the book of Acts where the unity and *"togetherness"* of the believers become the prominent feature amidst the severe conflict and crisis that they faced in that era. Their fellowship was marked by earnest corporate prayer, being of one heart and mind in agreement, being together and sharing possessions. Christ as the central to their worship was the sole reason that enabled the believers to serve one another altruistically. Clearly, their unity was a manifestation work of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, it would be impossible.

Perhaps, time of uncertainty could be a form of test to our togetherness. Our abilities to unite would either be stronger or weaker. If we couldn't maintain that unity in hard times, there is no way we could continue to be united and to be close with one another, even when things return back to normal.

Caring for one another

The way we care for one another varies and there are many ways to do it. Yet, the fundamental motive has to be genuine and kind.

You could be a pair of listening ears, you can give time, deliver gifts, help deliver food or necessities to those who are lacking, send encouragement words & speak hope to those who are struggling. Provide mental support, do not delay to pray for one another and learn to be open to trust someone. Simply, just be ready anytime when someone knocks on the door of your life.

For those who value quality time, the inability for someone to be physically present could be disheartening. Nevertheless, we have to think of alternatives such as utilising digital devices. In the future, we just have to appreciate time together in person more and never take it for granted.

Looking into the past few months of isolation, I have experienced blessings in many ways; I am grateful for the calls, I smiled when a heart-warming painted postcard landed on my letterbox, it brought joy when a delivery box of yummy cookies arrived, and the strength and edification that I received when I was most vulnerable is just, unforgettable. Simply said, knowing that someone cares is powerful enough to keep you going with life.

Ask God for wisdom on how you could provide care, as each person has its own unique needs. Be sensitive as well to not being over about doing it. Think wisely of your speech, seeing whether it fits into the

situation. Respect others and guard the trust when someone confides in you, for it is an honour to be trusted.

Walking side by side

In the book that I recently read (*Walking With God Through Pain & Suffering*) by Timothy Keller, he stated that, “*there is no way to know who you really are until you are tested. There is no way to really empathize and sympathize with other suffering people unless you have suffered yourself. There is no way to really learn how to trust in God until you are drowning.*”

Moment of crisis defines who we truly are and what we truly believe. Suffering often reveals our weakness and impurities. This allows us to know ourselves better. And the pain that you go through will then enable you to know what it is like, therefore we will then be able to understand the struggle of those who are going through it.

The battle against the pandemic has put the mass in the same circumstances. It is a communal type of crisis. Because everyone is going through it, there is a sense of solidarity that we are in this trial together. Knowing that we are not alone, we are encouraged.

Through the lens of community, we will learn how others cope with suffering. Knowing how others are going through crisis will serve as a lesson and witnessing how others cling to God will encourage us to not give up on our



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own trials. Moreover, wouldn't it be a joyful victory when we overcome it together?

Walking side by side is one of the best ways to face difficulties together. We may not necessarily have the same problem, yet the courage to seize the opportunity to reach out in mercy and love, and just being there for each other will make a difference.

*"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."
(Ephesians 4:1-3)*

Our unity in Christ as children of God should compel us to love each other more. Veritably, when we strengthen someone, we also will be stronger. Are you willing to meet the needs of others, and in doing so, serve the progress and joy of others' faith in Jesus? We are called to give sacrificially. We are called to pray. And most importantly, we are called to be witnesses of Christ. For when we are one, people will know God. Let us take this opportunity to become the light to a world darkened by problems.

"I ask that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21)



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**

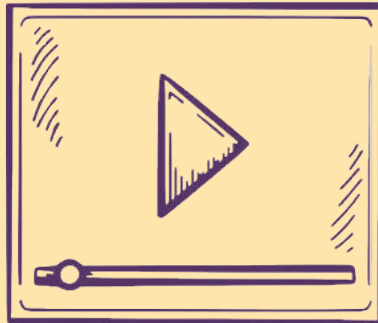
8.30 am

11.00 am

5.00 pm

You can go to the link below:

bicmelb.online.church



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