

# EXCELLENT VICTORIOUS LIFE



04  
OCTOBER  
2020

ED.LXXXVI.10.2020

*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

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito

## Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

## Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir

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## Foreword

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Thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus came to the earth – sinless, to take our place under the judgement of God. In Christ, by grace through faith, we are victorious.

Why are we all subjected to eternal damnation? It is because we are all sinful. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. We are all guilty, sinful and fall short of God's glory. Knowing this, yet Jesus came to take our place – being punished for our sins. It is the most amazing and most precious gift that one could ever get, that is being saved and receiving eternal reward in Heaven, because someone sacrificed Himself for you and me. That is Jesus! Our Saviour and King!

Jesus has won over death, won over sins, He is victorious. In Jesus, we are no longer condemned and we live a victorious life. So what does it mean and how to live a victorious life that God has given graciously to us through Jesus? We will learn about it through the sharing of our brothers and sisters in this October edition. I pray that as we understand deeper, the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to see and savour the beauty of Jesus' victorious sacrifice on the cross.

*"Death is swallowed up in victory."*

*"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54–57)

# 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



# Blessings through wrestling

BY VALERIE SETIONO

In Genesis 32:22-32, Jacob spent the night wrestling with God and that wrestling has changed him forever. Before that, Jacob has been wrestling with everyone around him – his father, his brother, his uncle – and now he finds himself literally fighting with God. But while things may have worked out so well for him in the past, this time it ends with Jacob holding on for dear life, his hip wrenched out of socket by God's mere touch, and above all, with Jacob finally aware that it is God's blessing alone that can do him good. That night, Jacob, 'the deceiver', becomes Israel, 'the one who struggles with God'. Jacob's lifelong struggle against God—his fight to secure his own future through deceiving instead of humble faith—becomes a fierce determination to hold on to God.

A lot of time, I, just like Jacob, find myself trying to plan and scheme and figure everything out. I end up wrestling with God for control of my life. But here's the lesson I've learned along the way: when I wrestled with God, God always wins. I wrestled with God through many situations, some of them have been a situation where I got myself into the mess and other times have been the result of God working in my life to bring about change. But God always wins. And yet, He doesn't just squash me, He meets me,

engages me at my level. He doesn't teach us a lesson just once. He comes to us in situation after situation, each controlled by His sovereign grace, each designed to be a tool of transformation, and he works on the same things again and again.

The journey is not about the destination, but a process of getting there. The journey is what changes us and so does wrestling with God. He doesn't demand of us instant maturity, or that we get it right quickly. He called us to a journey with Him. Just like Jacob, it may take us years of living in selfishness and independent righteousness until we finally realise that we need to hold on to God. And that's okay. Even through that, God never gives up on Jacob, and God will not give up on us. He gives time for His grace to transform us. *"... He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* (2 Peter 3:8-9).

I would love to say to fully trust in God in every area of our life, but that would require us to be perfect. And let's be honest, none of us are. But God doesn't want to leave us in the mess we're in. He wants to change us, to mould us, to make us to be more like Jesus every day. But that process is not simple. It requires us to be stretched, to be challenged, to let go

of things we so desperately want to cling to. It requires us to wrestle with God. And God desires that. He wants to meet us even in our fears.

Jacob started the night dreading the arrival of Esau, he was filled with fear and desperation. But by the end of the night, by the end of wrestling with God, Jacob was changed. He walked with a weakened body, but a stronger faith, with God's blessing and a new peace.

Thank God today for his love and patience

towards us. We may wrestle with God, we may disagree and question His will for us, we may fail over and over again, but God always wins. When we realised our defeat, we realised how much we needed His powerful grace to transform us. Every day we give daily proof of our ongoing need for that grace. We need to hold on to God. And with his tender willingness to wait for us, to meet us where we are, His grace will finish its transforming work in us. This is our hope. And with this hope, we will walk with a strengthened faith, with God's blessing and a new peace.



# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 04 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 7-9

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 8:13

“Tetapi TUHAN semesta alam, Dialah yang harus kamu akui sebagai Yang Kudus; kepada-Nyalah harus kamu takut dan terhadap Dialah harus kamu gentar.”

## 05 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 10-12

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 12:2

“Sungguh, Allah itu keselamatanku; aku percaya dengan tidak gementar, sebab Tuhan Allah itu kekuatanku dan mazmurku, Ia telah menjadi keselamatanku.”

## 06 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 13-15

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 14:24

“Tuhan semesta alam telah bersumpah, firman-Nya: “Sesungguhnya seperti yang Kumaksud, demikianlah akan terjadi, dan seperti yang Kurancang, demikianlah akan terlaksana:”

## 07 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 16-18

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 14:27

“Tuhan semesta alam telah merancang, siapakah yang dapat menggagalkannya? Tangan-Nya telah teracung, siapakah yang dapat membuatnya ditarik kembali?”



## 08 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 19-21

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 26:3

“Yang hatinya  
teguh Kaujagai  
dengan damai  
sejahtera, sebab  
kepada-Mulah ia  
percaya.”

## 09 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 22-24

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 26:4

“Percayalah  
kepada Tuhan  
selama-lamanya,  
sebab Tuhan  
Allah adalah  
gunung batu  
yang kekal.”

## 10 OCTOBER

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Yesaya 25-27

Ayat Renungan:  
Yesaya 26:12

“Ya Tuhan,  
Engkau akan  
menyediakan  
damai sejahtera  
bagi kami,  
sebab segala  
sesuatu yang  
kami kerjakan,  
Engkaulah yang  
melakukannya  
bagi kami.”

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

psalm 119:105

# Lessons from lockdown

BY KEVIN JINGGA

04 October. 2020.

One two three four five six.

Six months, approximately, we have been in this uncertain lockdown situation.

Who would have imagined that we spent half a year (or more) mostly at home?

Summer. Fall. Winter. Spring. Seasons change. Lifestyle changes. Friends come and go. Faith rises and falls. But one thing we know never changes, Christ Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Here we are, approaching 2021. What have we experienced so far? For me personally, there are four things I learnt during this period.

## 1. We are made to depend on God

By now I should have completed two university placements, worked for six months longer, ... The list goes on and on. We can fill our own lists. Instead, it feels like my life got stuck and is not going nowhere. Although there are a lot of positives this lockdown brings to my life, I can't deny the anxious thought that creeps in my mind occasionally. What's next after this? Can I get

a job? Will I grow spirituality? And on and on.

But I thank God for the times of doubt. Even now, we all still struggle with doubts to varying degrees. God does not design His plan and reveals it to us from A-Z. He wants our dependence, our child-like faith. We are meant to depend on Him in every circumstance of our lives. Remember the Lord's prayer that says, "Give us our **daily** bread". But more than that, we are not depending on Him like we depend on our friend who promises us to come to dinner with us. That may or may not happen. Something may happen out of our control and that promise fails. No, we depend on the Creator of the universe. But that Creator is also our loving Father who knows our needs before we even ask Him. What shall we fear, then?

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10, NIV)*

## 2. We are creatures of habit

If I can take away something important

from this pandemic, it would be that we are creatures of habit. We might be shocked over the harsh transition over the first weeks or months of lockdown. But I guess that many of us are coping well, or even I know some of us are already enjoying our new normal. Why? Because we are driven by our habit. Habit is not a product of the fall, it is God's good design, but tainted by the fall.

If we can adapt and change our physical habit, why can't we change our spiritual habit? For some of us, we may find this lockdown helps us to grow in our faith. Praise God for that! Let's pray that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. But for those of us who are weary and heavy laden, there is an invitation. An invitation that we may find rest in His abounding grace and take His yoke, that is light and easy - for He is gentle and lowly in heart. As Augustine famously prays, "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee." Let's rise and go to Jesus, for He will embrace us in His arms.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).*

“**Come to  
Him and  
He will  
never  
cast us  
out.**”



### 3. We are what we love

But although we are creatures of habit, building a good habit is not that simple. It goes deeper than that. Our lockdown habit may expose what we treasure the most. I think sometimes it is wise to honestly assess our heart. What we look for reflects our heart desires. Where do we spend most of our time? What do we miss the most? Most of the time, we may think we know what we love. But take heed, brothers, as our heart is deceitful. In fact, what we do constantly is not a result of our mind-decision, but our heart-disposition. Or simply said, **we are not what we think, we are what we love.**

But even if we already love what is good, if we are honest, it is really hard to do what we love. For a part of us (our sinful nature) still wants the other treasure. If that's us, we are not alone. Apostle Paul himself testifies it in Romans 7. But take heart, for Christ has overcome our failures at the cross. His death and resurrection grant us assurance that we will be able to do what we love. As a poet says, "Run, [and work], the law commands. But gives us neither feet nor hands[.] Far better news the gospel brings: It bids us fly and gives us wings"

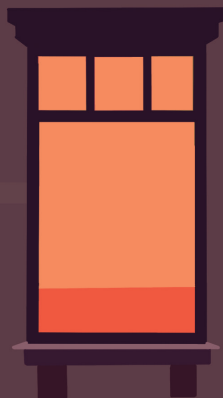
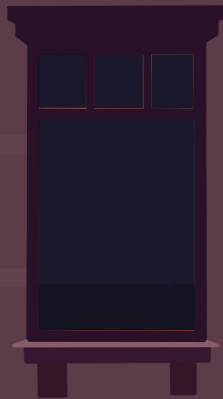
*What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:24-25, NIV)*

### 4. We are made to connect

I don't think we need to do extensive research to know that humans need to connect. We are experiencing it. I am an introvert by nature. I wasn't so concerned over the news of physical distancing at first. But months after months without shaking hands at church, sharing plates at COOL dinner, there is something missing. It is normal to feel the stress and loneliness. It is not a sign of weakness. Everyone gets lonely, including introverts. We are not made to live alone. We are made to connect. This is essentially true in our Christian life.

Of course, there is not much we can do at this moment, except by virtual meetings. It is true that God made us for union and fellowship, but we often forget there is one Friend that will never leave us. He is with us at every moment. He knows our loneliness. He understands our weakness. A friend that is so faithful, even when we are unfaithful. He offers us a friendship that gets through our deepest pain. It's so sweet to have a fellowship with Him. What a friend we have in Jesus! Come to Him and He will never cast us out.

*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you (John 15:5, NIV)*



# 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



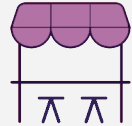
Jennifer Chandra

## 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

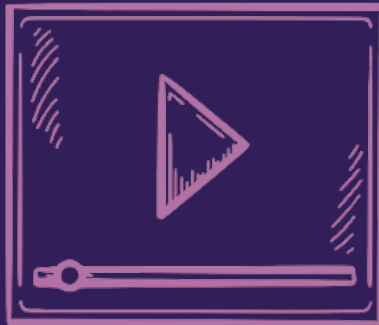
*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"*

**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](https://bicmelb.online.church)**



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