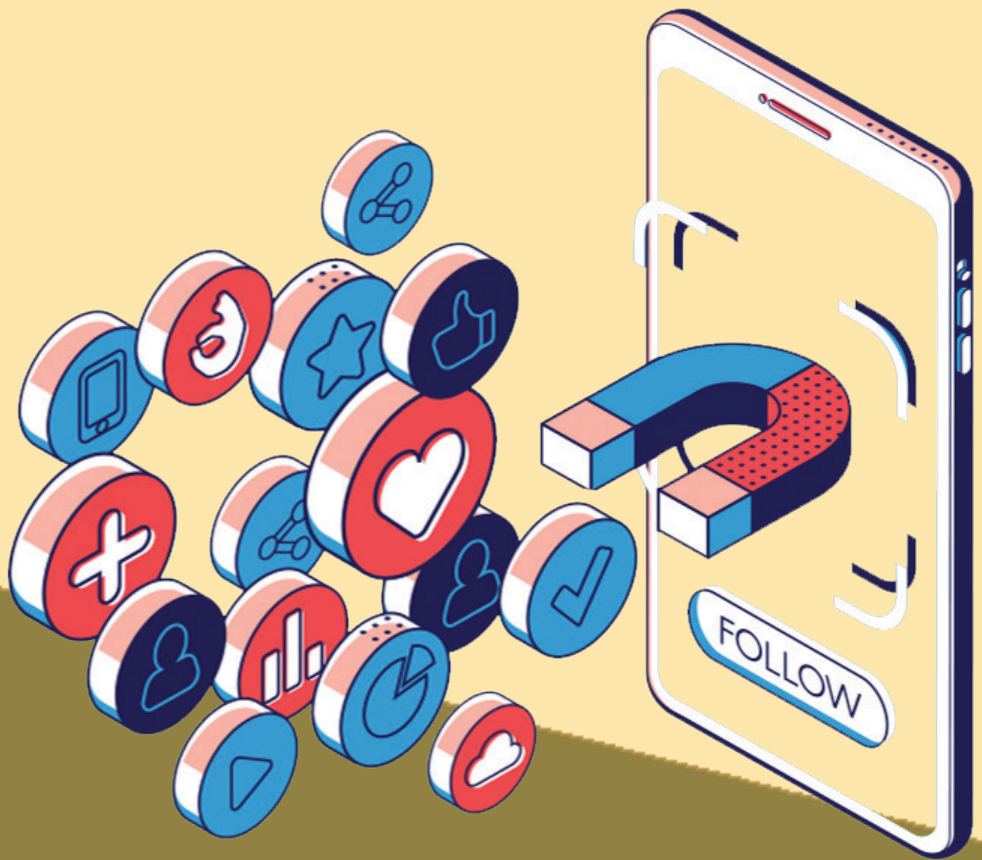


# EXCELLENT INFLUENCE



**08  
NOVEMBER  
2020**

ED.LXXXX.11.2020

*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

## CONTACT US



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## Foreword

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It's been a tough period for some, if not all of us. A 15-week lockdown has undoubtedly impacted our hearts and minds, even maybe our souls. We do not want to deny that. When I was thinking about this month's topic (excellent influence), it seems extremely hard for us to be an excellent influence for others. Some of us are drowning. We are struggling to cope with our baggage, let alone being an excellent influence for others.

Nevertheless, I was reminded of Jesus' prayer to Simon Peter, who responded with boasting about his faithfulness (Luke 22:31-32). Still in the same chapter, only a few verses away, we know that he denied Jesus three times. We could not imagine the pain and the hardship he went through. But God kept His promise, He took hold of his faith. The rest is history, we all know that Peter became one of the most influential figures in early church history.

Luke 22:31-32

*"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

What's interesting in Jesus' prayer is not only that He gives assurance of our faith, but He also enables us to strengthen our brothers. So dear brothers and sisters, God is able to use us to be an excellent influence, even through our failures. We will not become like Peter, but we can learn that it is through our weaknesses that God's power is made perfect. And when we are restored by His Spirit, let us encourage our brothers, serve one another, be the salt and the light, and live out our identity in Christ.

In this November edition, we will cover a range of different topics during the five weeks span. We will discuss how students should face the exam period, how lockdown has changed (some of) us, and how Christ enables us to have an excellent influence on our surroundings. And finally, we will close our November edition with hopeful anticipation towards the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, Christ Jesus.

Our hope is that you may be encouraged during this tough period, especially if you are a student or if you are experiencing hardship. We want to encourage you to consider what Christ has done for you, and believe His grace and power that is available to us as His children.

# 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
Gethsemane	Michael, Rudy
Jerusalem	Hestu
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



# A fruitful lockdown

BY VIANCA AURELLIA

Being in a lockdown for almost a year, especially not being able to go to meet people, has definitely been a very difficult time for most people, including me myself. For us Christians, not being able to go to church or even unable to gather physically to worship and pray together may cause more than one or two people to drift further away from God. Although it was not an easy lockdown for me, I can say that surprisingly, this lockdown has a lot of positive impacts on me.

From this pandemic, the very first thing I came to realise is how really, if God wanted to take everything away from anyone's life, it is that easy. Oftentimes we feel like we can be in control of our lives, we worry about the future, about what to come or what to do, as if we are the one in charge of our lives. Although we pray and say that we surrender our life to Him, do we really? It's saddening how it took a pandemic to make me completely realise how everything is in God's control. No matter how much we plan, how perfect we feel our plan is, if it isn't God's way, it's never the 'perfect' plan. It's amazing to me how God used this lockdown to make me get closer to Him, in a way I never did before. Yes, I do serve Him in church, I pray every

day, I read the Bible, but the question comes down to: Do I really glorify Him in everything I do? Do I put Him first beyond everything else this world could offer?

*Although we pray and say that we surrender our life to Him, do we really? It's saddening how it took a pandemic to make me completely realise how everything is in God's control.*

As restrictions in Victoria eases, soon everything will go back to normal. Activities will resume, life would start to



get busy again but my hope for myself and for everyone is that we would come out of this lockdown as an even better individual, someone who is closer to God, who completely truly surrender every single thing to Him and to strive to become more and more like Him every day.

I would always remind myself back to my sole purpose in life that I discovered in this eight-months lockdown: To glorify Him always and to put Him first in the center of my life. Although there is a part of me that is cautious of this post-pandemic 'normal' life would make me go back to the person I was before the pandemic, especially with all the pleasures and temptations of this world; I feel that once I figured out the true purpose of my life, it would be a constant reminder to me and would not make me fall into worldly things that easily.

It is also equally important to stay in a Christian community where we can keep reminding each other up, keep the fire in our hearts burning to desire Him more. It is in this community where we can share our struggles and problems, that we would always be encouraged and supported in a godly way and not world-based - where it might lead us to further struggles. I pray that as we approach our

new-normal, we can always radiate God's goodness in our lives to everyone around us and that we all can truly reflect on our purpose in life.

Please still remember to stay safe, wear your masks and keep doing social distancing wherever you go. Hopefully, we all can come back and meet each other back in church again soon. To close out, I would like to share my favourite verse that I always hold on to in my life, John 3:30, "He must become greater; I must become less." (NIV)

***I feel that once I figured out the true purpose of my life, it would be a constant reminder to me and would not make me fall into worldly things that easily.***

# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 08 NOVEMBER

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Yeremia 43 - 45

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Yohanes 4 : 20

“Jikalau seorang berkata: “Aku mengasihi Allah,” dan ia membenci saudaranya, maka ia adalah pendusta, karena barangsiapa tidak mengasihi saudaranya yang dilihatnya, tidak mungkin mengasihi Allah, yang tidak dilihatnya.”

## 09 NOVEMBER

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Yeremia 46 - 48

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Yohanes 4 : 4

“Kamu berasal dari Allah, anak-anakku, dan kamu telah mengalahkan nabi-nabi palsu itu; sebab Roh yang ada di dalam kamu, lebih besar dari pada roh yang ada di dalam dunia.”

## 10 NOVEMBER

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Yeremia 49 - 52

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Yohanes 3 : 18

“Anak-anakku, marilah kita mengasihi bukan dengan perkataan atau dengan lidah, tetapi dengan perbuatan dan dalam kebenaran.”

## 11 NOVEMBER

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1 Yohanes 1 - 5

Ayat Renungan:  
1 Yohanes 1 : 9

“Jika kita mengaku dosa kita, maka Ia adalah setia dan adil, sehingga Ia akan mengampuni segala dosa kita dan menyucikan kita dari segala kejahatan.”



## 12 NOVEMBER

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Yudas 1 | 2 & 3  
Yohanes

Ayat Renungan:  
Yudas 1 : 20

"Akan tetapi kamu,  
saudara-saudaraku  
yang kekasih,  
bangunlah dirimu  
sendiri di atas  
dasar imanmu  
yang paling suci  
dan berdoalah  
dalam Roh Kudus."

## 13 NOVEMBER

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Ratapan 1 - 5

Ayat Renungan:  
Ratapan 3 : 22 - 25

"Tak  
berkesudahan  
kasih setia  
TUHAN, tak habis-  
habisnya rahmat-  
Nya, selalu baru  
tiap pagi; besar  
kesetiaan-Mu!  
"TUHAN adalah  
bagianku," kata  
jiwaku, oleh sebab  
itu aku berharap  
kepada-Nya.  
TUHAN adalah  
baik bagi orang  
yang berharap  
kepada-Nya, bagi  
jiwa yang mencari  
Dia."

## 14 NOVEMBER

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Wahyu 1 - 4

Ayat Renungan:  
Wahyu 3 : 8

"Aku tahu segala  
pekerjaanmu:  
lihatlah, Aku  
telah membuka  
pintu bagimu,  
yang tidak dapat  
ditutup oleh  
seorangpun.  
Aku tahu bahwa  
kekuatanmu  
tidak seberapa,  
namun engkau  
menuruti  
firman-Ku dan  
engkau tidak  
menyangkal  
nama-Ku."

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

psalm 119:105

# God works through lockdown

BY ALBERT HADINATA

I cannot believe that we have been in lockdown for months especially here in Victoria. Starting back in March and now we are already in November, a whole eight months in quarantine lockdowns. I miss going to church, seeing and hanging out with my friends and the thing that saddens me most is that I do not have a chance to see my parents this year as they normally would fly down to Melbourne from Jakarta at least once a year to come and see me.

I believe this lockdown has changed us all - our habits, lifestyle, and our perspective of the world. Well it has changed me personally, especially my spiritual life. I still remember when 2020 started, our Senior Pastor Niko Njotorahardjo had a vision for our church for the year 2020 which is the year of New Dimension, the verse was taken from 2 Corinthians 3:18 that we are being transformed into His image from one degree of glory to another. The first time I received it, I prayed earnestly to God that let this not be just a church slogan for 2020 but I prayed that I really want to experience this new dimension in my life where my heart, my mind and desire is being transformed from one glory to another.

The change in me that is significant from this lockdown is my prayer life and my dependency towards God. I used to pray earnestly and sincerely only when I want to make big decisions or when I'm facing problems in life. But in this lockdown, God changed my heart and my prayer to be more dependent towards Him, to have this thanksgiving heart and a grateful heart in my prayer by seeing God's mercy and faithfulness in my life. Even in the smallest decisions at work, in my relationship and family, I would firstly pray and ask God before making the decision "God, what do you want me to do?", "God, which one should I choose?".

Let me share with you one testimony on a prayer that I've prayed for and the experience of that prayer in this lockdown. So, one day I prayed: 'God what do you have in plan for my family in this season?' especially for my dad as he is an unbeliever. And God answered my prayer through our senior pastor Djohan Handojo saying that we should have a heart like God, a heart for souls as He desires all people to be saved 1 Timothy 2:4. From there I know God is talking to me about my dad and I kept praying for my dad's salvation

and God moved me to create a family devotion through zoom to share the Gospel of Christ to my dad. But unfortunately, my work has been very busy and took up a lot of my time and I kept making excuses to not start the family devotion. Thankfully, God rebuked me and reminded me again from our Pastor from the story of Moses when he made excuses to God for his disabilities to not go back to Egypt to free the Israelites out of bondage. This made me realize that I need to trust Him, follow His will and take action. Finally, I decided to create a family devotion every Saturday night through zoom and shared the Gospel of Christ to my dad.

It was one of the best decisions that I've made that God put in my heart, not only that the Gospel of Christ was shared but it also brings my family together to a much greater bond as we shared about our lives.

The journey doesn't stop there, but long story short my dad contracted COVID-19 and was fighting it for several weeks, from there he experienced God, God healed him and not only that the greatest thing was that my dad confessed that he believes in Jesus Christ! Hallelujah!



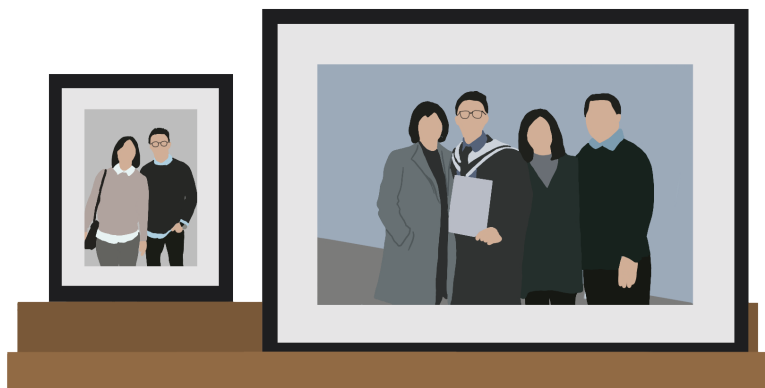
**My desires  
were  
changed,  
my  
prayers  
were  
changed,  
my dad's  
faith  
changed,  
and my  
family  
was closer  
than ever.**

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The lockdown has changed my life but not only my life but my family. My desires were changed, my prayers were changed, my dad's faith changed, and my family was closer than ever. Praise be to God! It is amazing how God is still working peculiarly in difficult times like this even in lockdowns. In all things God works for the good of those who love

Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

I hope that after this lockdown towards a post-pandemic life we would still cling close to God, depend on God and His purpose and let us never lose sight of His love, mercy and faithfulness for us all.



# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



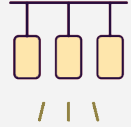
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



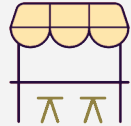
Jennifer Chandra

## 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  
from 8.30 am onwards**

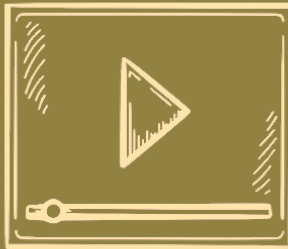
**You can access it through:**

**Website:**

**<https://www.bethanymelb.org.au>**

**Youtube:**

**Bethany International Church Melbourne**



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