

# EXCELLENT INFLUENCE



**22  
NOVEMBER  
2020**

ED.LXLII.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

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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



# BIC, my home and family

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BY NATALIA THERESA



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

For me, BIC is my home far away from home, the family I have in Melbourne and the place I became mature spiritually. As a family, we all grow closer to God together in this church, help each other, share our joys and sorrows, worship and praise God together.

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

When I was looking for a community cell group, one of my friends invited me to his COOL in BIC. I actually came when they were planning for a road trip and joined them even before coming to the church. My first day joining COOL and fellowship was memorable as everyone was very welcoming and caring as well even though we just met. However, what made me stay until now was not only my brothers and sisters in COOL. In my first few weeks, I came to our usual COOL fellowship and one of the sharing was about forgiving, taken from The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matt 18:21-35). Yes, I have heard about the story before but at that time, it penetrated my heart. At that time, I

was having troubles with a lot of things, especially on forgiving people. It was truly a mixed feeling of repentance, joy and hopefulness and I decided to stay.

### **Can you share your most memorable experiences in BIC?**

One of my most memorable experiences was to be baptised in BIC! The process before being baptised & the baptism itself was memorable to me. Knowing and declaring that God saved us on the cross and sharing the joy to others was indeed unforgettable.

The other will be when my COOL (Ekklesia) was chosen as the Christmas committee along with other COOLs (Gilgal and Carmel). Throughout the process, we have learnt a lot about each other and also grew closer with the whole congregation. From there, I learnt a lot about the church as a whole and how God created us with different roles to minister together as one body in Christ, as well as being reminded that in everything we do, it's all for His glory.

### **What have you learnt most in BIC?**

As I joined KOM, I have learnt and

understood more about doctrines and how important it is for us Christians to not only know but apply it in our daily life. I grew up in a Christian family and have been Christian my whole life. But in this church, I have learnt a lot from my COOL leaders, pastors and teaching team and these keep me motivated to grow closer to God and most importantly encourage me to share God's words to others.

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

One of the things I'm grateful for in BIC are my fellow brothers and sisters in the COOL and ministry. I am truly grateful for their kind, loving and caring heart. I realize that most of us are living in Melbourne by ourselves and are busy with work or school, but most of them will surely spare their time to care for us if one of us is struggling or sick. These caring and loving acts have given me the reflection of God's love and mercy towards us and it drives me to do the same to others too. I am also very grateful for my COOL leaders as they provide me with the spiritual food that I needed during our small talks and sharing and they are never tired to show all of us the love of God and His words.

### **What you will miss the most at BIC?**

Since we all have not been able to go to church because of COVID-19, I have been missing a lot of things and it truly feels like I have taken all things for granted. I will surely miss the routine of going to the first service and then going to KOM classes every Sunday. I will also miss the fellowship, small conversations in the canteen and foyer after church and even going to Ayam Penyet Ria for lunch! Hahaha.

Another thing I will miss is the prayer tower every Tuesday at church. Honestly, at first, I went to the prayer tower only to listen and learn about 'proper prayer'. But, hearing all the heartfelt prayers and worship to God was beyond what I have intended to receive. From there, I can truly see God's works, realizing His incomprehensible grace and mercy, and mostly made me closer to God and communicate more with Him.

### **How has BIC shaped your faith in Christ?**

The lessons and sharing through sermons, KOM and COOL have taught me a lot of



things about God's plan and our purpose in this life which shaped my faith in Him. One of the things I struggled with after graduating was looking for a job and then adapting to the working environment. During this time, there were a lot of uncertainties and I was so stressed about my future. However, in this church, I have learnt that His grace is sufficient, and I have been reminded a lot that God is the one who is in control of my life and that's the beauty. This experience has shaped me to fully surrender to the faithful God that has been with me throughout all the seasons in my life, even when I did not realize it before.

### **How has BIC built your character?**

The fellowships with COOL, friends in ministries, and even KOM lessons have taught me and shaped my character. Throughout my days in this church, God has shown me all of my 'hidden' sins, those sinful things that I did without knowing. From all the lessons learned in KOM, weekly sermons and COOL, I felt repentant day by day. However, as this brings me closer to God, His words have shown that He did not love us because of our good deeds, but He has loved us since

the beginning while knowing that we will sin in any way possible.

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*He did not love us because of our good deeds, but He has loved us since the beginning while knowing that we will sin in any way possible.*

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### **Can you see yourself growing as a Christian?**

Before being planted in this church, I simply went to church as a routine and ministered as being told to. There was no excitement and I felt indifferent. Thankfully, through joining COOL and KOM, I learned more about the truth and was drawn to seek God more. Being provided with spiritual food by COOL leaders has made me realize what He has done for all of us and how we, as Christians, should respond to the Word of God.

One thing that I want to share, I used to think that I have to do something good to be able to properly serve God in ministries. Before, it was hard for me to serve or even

share my smallest experience with other people. But, I have learnt that we did not serve God because of the good deeds we have done in the past, but it's all because He has first loved us and chose us to fulfil His commandment. This restored my understanding of His love for us and helped me to keep growing towards Him and being sanctified continuously.

### **Any last words to us as a church?**

Some people in BIC may come to Melbourne only for a few years like me and come back to Indonesia, but some are not. It has been a blessing to be a part of this church and being fed with the spiritual food that I needed. I hope and pray that this church will indeed be the house of prayer for all nations and so other people, too, can experience the same thing I have personally experienced — to know more about God, His plans, His works and being a part of this community.

### **Last words from you alone?**

I am forever grateful to be able to spend a few years of my life in this church and being a part of this community. Thankful for my COOL leaders, teaching and pastoral team to feed me with His Words

and teach me how to live by it. Thankful for Ekklesia as well as Youth & Podcast ministry to have shown me the reflection of His people and allow me to grow in this little community. Grateful not only because of the friends and fellowship, but it has truly been a joy for me to minister with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. How we care for others together, worshipping God, sharing the same values, and growing closer to God together has been the greatest moments in this church. I surely will miss glorifying and praising Him with all of you! :)

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*Grateful not only because of the friends and fellowship, but it has truly been a joy for me to minister with my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.*

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# WEEKLY DEVOTION

## 22 NOVEMBER

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Yehezkiel 9 - 12

Ayat Renungan:  
Yehezkiel 11 : 20

“supaya mereka hidup menurut segala ketetapan-Ku dan peraturan-peraturan-K dengan setia; maka mereka akan menjadi umat-Ku dan Aku akan menjadi Allah mereka.”

## 23 NOVEMBER

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Yehezkiel 13 - 15

Ayat Renungan:  
Yehezkiel 16 : 60

“Tetapi Aku akan mengingat perjanjian-Ku dengan engkau pada masa mudamu dan Aku akan meneguhkan bagimu perjanjian yang kekal.”

## 24 NOVEMBER

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Yehezkiel 16 - 18

Ayat Renungan:  
Yehezkiel 18 : 9

“hidup menurut ketetapan-Ku dan tetap mengikuti peraturan-Ku dengan berlaku setia--ialah orang benar, dan ia pasti hidup, demikianlah firman Tuhan ALLAH.”

## 25 NOVEMBER

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Yehezkiel 19 - 21

Ayat Renungan:  
Yehezkiel 20 : 19

“Akulah TUHAN, Allahmu: Hiduplah menurut ketetapan-ketetapan-Ku dan lakukanlah peraturan-peraturan-Ku dengan setia,”

## 26 NOVEMBER

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Yehezkiel 22 - 25

Ayat Renungan:  
Yehezkiel 33 : 7

“Dan engkau anak manusia, Aku menetapkan engkau menjadi penjaga bagi kaum Israel. Bilamana engkau mendengar sesuatu firman dari pada-Ku, peringatkanlah mereka demi nama-Ku.”

## 27 NOVEMBER

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Yehezkiel 26 - 29

Ayat Renungan:  
Yehezkiel 33 : 11

“Katakanlah kepada mereka: Demi Aku yang hidup, demikianlah firman Tuhan ALLAH, Aku tidak berkenan kepada kematian orang fasik, melainkan Aku berkenan kepada pertobatan orang fasik itu dari kelakuannya supaya ia hidup. Bertobatlah, bertobatlah dari hidupmu yang jahat itu! Mengapakah kamu akan mati, hai kaum Israel?”

## 28 NOVEMBER

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Yehezkiel 30 - 33

Ayat Renungan:  
Yehezkiel 33 : 13

“Kalau Aku berfirman kepada orang benar: Engkau pasti hidup! --tetapi ia mengandalkan kebenarannya dan ia berbuat curang, segala perbuatan-perbuatan kebenarannya tidak akan diperhitungkan, dan ia harus mati dalam kecurangan yang diperbuatnya.”

# Don't waste your holiday

BY RIO FERNALDY



It is less than two months to Christmas holiday. Christmas decorations start popping up at the shopping centre. But rather than the festivities of Christmas itself, one of the things that we are looking forward to the most is perhaps the vacation. After all, exams have just finished and most of us earned the right for some rest and relaxation. But there is always this question on vacation: “What should I do? How to make the most of it?”. This is because we know the holiday will end. And we want to make sure that we have the rest that we need, so we can be refreshed, preparing for the next season. So, here are some things that hopefully might help with navigating your holiday, especially if you are a Christian.

## **Take care of what you feed to your soul**

In holiday time, it is tempting to indulge all of the time in entertainment, especially during today's situation where everyone is encouraged to stay home. But this is a great danger to our souls if left unrestrained. C.S. Lewis once said, "We are far too easily pleased." We are drawn for something that gives us the quickest pleasure – and entertainment is doing good work for this. The problem is that this pleasure is fleeting. And this briefness is where lies the great danger of entertainment, it entices us to go further and deeper and longer – all for the hope to find more lasting satisfaction, but to no avail. Usually, by the time the person realises (or when the show finished), they already waste so much time. Jeremiah 2:13 said about two evil things against God: Abandoning Him and digging for ourselves the broken cistern that can hold no water. They dig – a tedious activity – with the hope for finding better pleasure but God said that it will be in vain. So stop digging deeper in entertainment as they will not be able to give you the most satisfying joy that you long for. Aim for a better pleasure in God.

## **Idleness is breeding ground for sin**

The other danger of a holiday is that it allures us to idleness. Notice that being idle is not necessarily wrong. There is some virtue where one can be still amidst confusion or

“ **We are far too easily pleased.**

anxiety. But there is a kind of idleness, if left undisrupted, can create a problem. And that is where sin starts to gain its power. David, instead of going with the army to war, sent his generals and servants while he himself stayed in Jerusalem. On one particular afternoon, he strolled around on the roof and took a peek at a woman bathing and you know how the story ends (2 Samuel 11). What starts from seemingly innocent lazying around turns David to be not only an adulterer but a murderer. This one example serves a warning on that being idle – with no purpose whatsoever, gives sin more opportunity in our life.

## **True rest is a seeking rest**

So nothing in this world will be able to give a meaningful rest and enjoyment that is everlasting and fulfilling. It is only in Jesus that we will be able to find this. Psalm

16:11 said there are "...eternal pleasures at your right hand." Only God has the eternal pleasures and rests that we all yearn for. And for this very reason, God wants us to seek Him so that we can partake in this pleasure. God wants us to worship Him not because He is hungry for praise or worship. But because it is when we truly worship Him, basking in His presence, is where we can have the true and real joy in our life. So, seek God, do not be idle. Do not fill your soul with the fleeting and easy pleasure of the world which only makes you feel more tired than before.

And yes, this task is not easy. This is because the joy and pleasure that God provides to us is a deep and meaningful pleasure which for most of the time requires a long and steady process, not so much instantaneousness like most things nowadays. But it is through that journey where you will be transformed to be able to see the glorious things in God more fully. This is why God gives us His Holy Spirit who will glorify Jesus in our life. He will enable our eyes to see the true worth of Jesus that we can never see before. But our part is that we need to look at Him. We need to seek Him.

### **Some practical suggestion of what to do during a holiday**

#### ***Read the Bible and meditate on it***

This is a very standard answer that can fit

anything, but there is no bargaining on this. Some tips that help with a Bible reading.

- You can start by getting a reading plan but aim for quality, not quantity. Dwell in one or two verses. Squeeze the verses as hard as you can. Remember that you are trying to know more about God through the Bible, not the Bible itself.
- Grab a pen and write down the verses and your findings. This will help you to see something that you can't see just by reading it, as it will keep you engaged and help you to process the words slowly (because you need to write it). Get a comfortable pen and book and start writing them down.
- Invite someone to read the Bible together and have a discussion. Not only this will keep you engaged, but others might be able to see certain stuff from another perspective.

#### ***Aim for something realistic that can be done within the holiday timeframe***

Don't set your goal too high or far-fetched. Keep it realistic where you can actually finish it. Do not aim for perfection but aim for completion. You will find that to complete something is far better than to perfect it. This will help you to feel that you have accomplished something and not wasting your holiday for nothing.

# MINISTRY LIST

## VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

## MUSICIAN



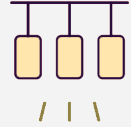
Raynaldo Ali

## MULTIMEDIA



Budi Sendjaja

## LIGHTING



Budi Sendjaja

## SOUND



Steven Santika

## USHER



Elbert Pranoto

## TRANSLATOR



Elbert Pranoto

## CARING



Felix Hariyadi

## DANCER



Priska Sunaryo

## DRAMA



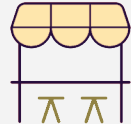
Jennifer Chandra

## 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**

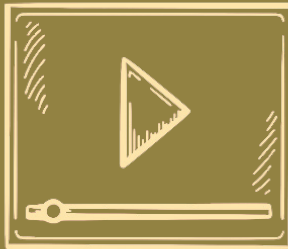
**You can access it through:**

**Website:**

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

**Youtube:**

**Bethany International Church Melbourne**



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