

EXCELLENT LOVE



11
DECEMBER
2020

ED. LXLV. 12. 2020

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

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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

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Foreword

Congratulations! You've made it through to the last month of 2020!

It has been a tough year for everyone and many of us want this year to end soon, hoping that 2021 will be a much better year. As we enter the final month of the year, let's look back on what happened throughout the year, shall we?

We started the year with a list of resolutions, a strong motivation to be better, to start strong and to finish strong. We believed that the start of a new decade would be a fresh start. However, many unexpected things happened. In the first few days, Melbourne was covered with smoke from the bushfire. When we thought it's over, a few months into the year, we were forced to stay home because of the pandemic. We lived in isolation for two months before the restriction relaxed and we started to meet our friends again, still with a safe distance. But then the second wave started after less than two months of freedom, with another extended lockdown until recently.

Our expectations for the new decade crumbled down early in the year and we end up losing a lot of things. We may feel hopeless, lonely, and anxious. But throughout the year, I learned to change my focus. Our situation may be helpless, but it's our choice to be hopeless. We may be alone and isolated, but it's our choice to feel lonely. Our plans may not work out, but it's our choice to be anxious. The situation is far from being good, but we have a good God by our side. He is our source of hope. He never leaves us nor forsakes us. He knows our needs and He has great plans for our life.

So, whatever happens next, let's make the right choices. Let's reflect more on His goodness rather than on what we're facing and let His peace guard our hearts as we finish this tough year in His gracious, loving hands.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:6-7)

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

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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



COOL REFLECTION

Reassuring grace in the midst of a storm

BY COOL EPHRAIM



In mid-2019, COOL Moriah decided it was time to multiply. The number of people joining Moriah had, by God's grace, increased a lot. But it became difficult for us to have deep conversations and discussions, and getting to know one another in such a large group almost became impossible. So in September 2019, we multiplied and came in COOL Ephraim.

Looking back on the journey of Ephraim this past one year, I would say that it is truly God's grace we can still have this community running every week. By God's grace, the number of people in our COOL doubled in three months. Though this was such a blessing, we couldn't take it for granted. We wanted the people God entrusted us with to feel this community as their family and a place where we can truly learn and share about God together. A place for them to grow spiritually.

What we didn't know was the storm that was waiting in front of us. When the pandemic hit Australia, group gatherings were banned and our COOL had to transition to online gathering. That was a huge blow for us. Being a new COOL with many new members, We didn't have enough time to get to know one another. And now we have to move to an online fellowship. Will our members still come every week? What if one by one, they start to stray away? A lot of doubts crept in as the future became more uncertain.

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways

But as time goes on, as online gathering becomes the new 'normal', we begin to see how God truly sustains and cares for this COOL. We became more open and comfortable with each other. I remembered in the early times we started online gathering I had expected that this new format would make people feel awkward or uncomfortable. I was surprised when the members turned out to be more talkative and more open to one another than previously. What we thought was going to be a barrier turned out to be the thing that unites us as a community.

The spiritual growth of our members has also been one of the main concerns for us during this pandemic. The lack of physical gathering, the comfort of watching Sunday service in your bed, and the difficulty of staying focused during online COOL, one question comes to mind: will the members grow spiritually?

But God once again reminds us that spiritual growth is truly His part, not us shepherds. Our part is to care, encourage, and serve His people, but in the end, the growth is in His hands. And through this tough time, God reveals that He can work far beyond than we can think of. We see many of our members growing spiritually because of the things they experienced during these times. Seeing this miraculous work God is doing in His people is truly a comforting joy, knowing that our faith is taken care of by the same God who created this world and our lives.

And though sadly some of our members had to go back to Indonesia, we still stay in touch with one another. And because of this online facility God has given us, it allows them to be able to join our fellowship, though we are geographically apart. Truly what was supposed to be an obstacle became a blessing in disguise for our COOL.



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Through this season we learn that our ways are truly different from God's ways. Our human eyes are limited to see things that we can see. But we truly learn that just because a situation seems 'bad', doesn't mean that God can't use it to bring good for His people. He shows that He can just use anything to bring good for His children.

Entering the uncertain future with a confident faith

2020 has truly been one unforgettable year. We may (hopefully) not experience something like this in our lives again. But as the year is wrapping up soon, we pray that we will never forget the

valuable experience we get through this season, to taste His goodness in the midst of a storm. Our lives may go back to normal one day, but we pray that our faith will remain fervent and zealous, as we remember His love for His children.

We may never know when this pandemic will end. Maybe it will end next year, maybe it will take longer. But as we put our hope for the future upon God, whatever plans God has for us next year, we pray that Ephraim may continue to grow together and become a place where people can experience the love of God through this community, and that God may continue to work in this COOL.



WEEKLY DEVOTION

13 DECEMBER

Hosea 1 - 3

Ayat Renungan:
Hosea 4 : 6

“Umat-Ku binasa karena tidak mengenal Allah; karena engkau yang menolak pengenalan itu maka Aku menolak engkau menjadi imam-Ku; dan karena engkau melupakan pengajaran Allahmu, maka Aku juga akan melupakan anak-anakmu.”

14 DECEMBER

Amos 4 - 6

Ayat Renungan:
Amos 5 : 4

“Sebab beginilah firman TUHAN kepada kaum Israel: “Carilah Aku, maka kamu akan hidup!”

15 DECEMBER

Amos 7 - 9

Ayat Renungan:
Amos 5 : 14

“Carilah yang baik dan jangan yang jahat, supaya kamu hidup; dengan demikian TUHAN, Allah semesta alam, akan menyertai kamu, seperti yang kamu katakan.”

16 DECEMBER

Obaja 1

Ayat Renungan:
Habakuk 3 : 17 - 18

“Sekalipun pohon ara tidak berbunga, pohon anggur tidak berbuah, hasil pohon zaitun mengecewakan, sekalipun ladang-ladang tidak menghasilkan bahan makanan, kambing domba terhalau dari kurungan, dan tidak ada lembu sapi dalam kandang, 18 namun aku akan bersorak-sorak di dalam TUHAN, beria-ria di dalam Allah yang menyelamatkan aku.”

17 DECEMBER

Yunus 1-2

Ayat Renungan:
Mikha 7 : 18

“Siapakah Allah seperti Engkau yang mengampuni dosa, dan yang memaafkan pelanggaran dari sisa-sisa milik-Nya sendiri; yang tidak bertahan dalam murka-Nya untuk seterusnya, melainkan berkenan kepada kasih setia?”

18 DECEMBER

Mikha 1 - 3

Ayat Renungan:
Mikha 7 : 7

“Tetapi aku ini akan menunggu-nunggu TUHAN, akan mengharapkan Allah yang menyelamatkan aku; Allahku akan mendengarkan aku!”

19 DECEMBER

Mikha 4 - 5

Ayat Renungan:
Mikha 4 : 5

“Biarpun segala bangsa berjalan masing-masing demi nama allahnya, tetapi kita akan berjalan demi nama TUHAN Allah kita untuk selamanya dan seterusnya.”

COOL REFLECTION

What we have learned

BY KARTIKA DEWI (BEREA)



As we are near the end of 2020 and Christmas is a few weeks away, our reflection on what we have learned together as a community of love during this year amid many challenges behind and ahead of us.

Learning to be grateful for God's presence in our life

We don't have control over our future, but God does. Learning to trust God together in COOL comes by getting to sharing and remind each other of God's trustworthy character and track record of faithfulness to his promises. God's unchanging character can give us a firm foundation when things feel unsteady and uncertain.

We can only be humble before Him and believe in His words in Hebrew 13:5 that He will never leave us nor forsake us. When the situation around us is challenging, God promises us His salvation and continued presence. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18, 20, NIV).

Learning to care for each other and preserve the unity

The situation during these last few months has certainly changed the way of communication. It is challenging for many of us, and in this situation, we need the Holy Spirit who unites believers in the church, the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-14) and we need the encouragement from the word of God to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" as written in Ephesians 4:2-5.

As people in touch with the heart of God, we desire cool unity. Thus, we do all in our power to preserve it. Let's not be impatient or resentful, but long-suffering and forgiving. Be lowly in spirit so that we can patiently endure the differences. Then let unity will become real in our cool.

MINISTRY LIST

VOCAL



Jessica Sutiono

MUSICIAN



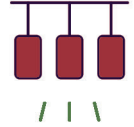
Raynaldo Ali

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
from 8.30 am onwards**

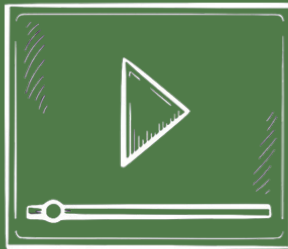
You can access it through:

Website:

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

Youtube:

Bethany International Church Melbourne



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