

BULLETIN

VOL. 49 | 10 JANUARY 2021

THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION
- IS IT BIBLICAL?

'STORMS ARE THE
TRIUMPH OF HIS ART'

MONTHLY
PLAYLIST



Vision

To be a "House of Prayer for all nations"
Isaiah 56 :7b

Mission

A praying and witnessing church who have a
close personal relationship with The Lord, to
change the world for the glory of the Lord.



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PASTOR

Ps Daniel Prajogo

Associate Pastor

Ps Unggul Santika
Ps Iwan Adinugroho

Prophetic, Praise & Worship Pastor

Ps Hemah Demak Panjaitan
Ps Suzana Tahir

Next Generation Pastor

Ps Rudy Nurtanaya

Teaching Pastor

Ps Suzana Tahir

Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

Office Manager

Ps Daniel Hardjosuwito



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 — Adel, Patricia
Cana — Bobby
Philadelphia - Pniel — Dwi, Vero
Moriah — Elve, Calista
Ephraim — Sonia, Kendrew
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

NEW YEAR Resolutions

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New Year Resolution - Is It Biblical?

By Natalia Wijaya

Did you know that the practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3,000 years to the ancient Babylonians?! There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning.

When I was younger, I used to be that kind of person who made "New Year Resolution" and only managed to keep it until February, or March for best. Resolutions like "eat more fruits", "limit sugar intake", "be more patient", "be more discipline". The newness of the season soon wore out, so did my spirit in changing myself to the better.

Now I don't purposefully make such list anymore. There is no difference really, between December 31 and January 1. I realised change doesn't need a new year to begin as it can happen anytime.

The Bible doesn't discuss specifically about the practice making new year's resolutions, yet it does encourage us to examine our life, and we can use new year as a "tool" to encourage us to stop, and do self-reflection.

"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord" – Lamentations 3:40

What kind of resolution, then, should we make?

By far, the most common New Year's resolution is "to lose weight", other than "exercising more" and "eating more healthily". Also included in the top list, "to manage money more wisely", and "to spend more time with family". These are all good goals to set.

However, if we Christians only set resolutions related to physical things

(seen things) and not care for our spiritual growth (the unseen), what makes us different from the rest of the world?

1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us,
“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

We need to spend time in prayer and seek God's wills to be able to come out with God-honoring resolutions and in agreement with God's words. Resolutions that focus on our eternal life, on our pursuit of holiness, and on our sanctification journey as we eradicate sins and sinful habits progressively in our life.

Furthermore, many Christians who make New Year's resolutions related with their spiritual life such as to pray more, to read the Bible every day,

to attend church, prayer meetings, and COOL (nowadays online, amidst the pandemic) more regularly, or to control our tongue and spoken words, also need to realize that these can also fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is *no power in a New Year's resolution itself!*

There is also *no power in ourselves* to keep this resolution. Paul in Romans 7:15 said, “I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do”.

Praise God, the Bible has a clear answer for us: *our help comes from God.*

“My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” - Psalm 121:2

We need to humbly come to our

Source of help, God Himself, to empower us from within as we carry out our resolutions. None of us can produce the change and bears lasting fruits that only the Spirit of God can do.

Last but not least, if you are motivated to make New Year's Resolution (regardless whether you start from January, or begin in any month within the year):

1. Pray to God for **His wisdom**

James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you".

2. Pray to God for **His guidance** as to how to fulfil the resolutions/goals God gives us

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding; in all your ways

submit to Him, and He will make your path straight".

Setting a timeframe, or practical directions can be helpful. For example, if you want to "finish reading the whole Bible this year", find and follow "Bible in One Year" guidelines available. Set and commit regular time (whether in the morning or evening) to read and meditate His words (turn on your alarm in your mobile phone for the same time daily). It is also good to find an accountability partner who can help and support us along the way, persons who we can trust to seek more of God, such as COOL friends, our spouse, spiritual mentor/s.

3. Pray to God for **His strength** to help us

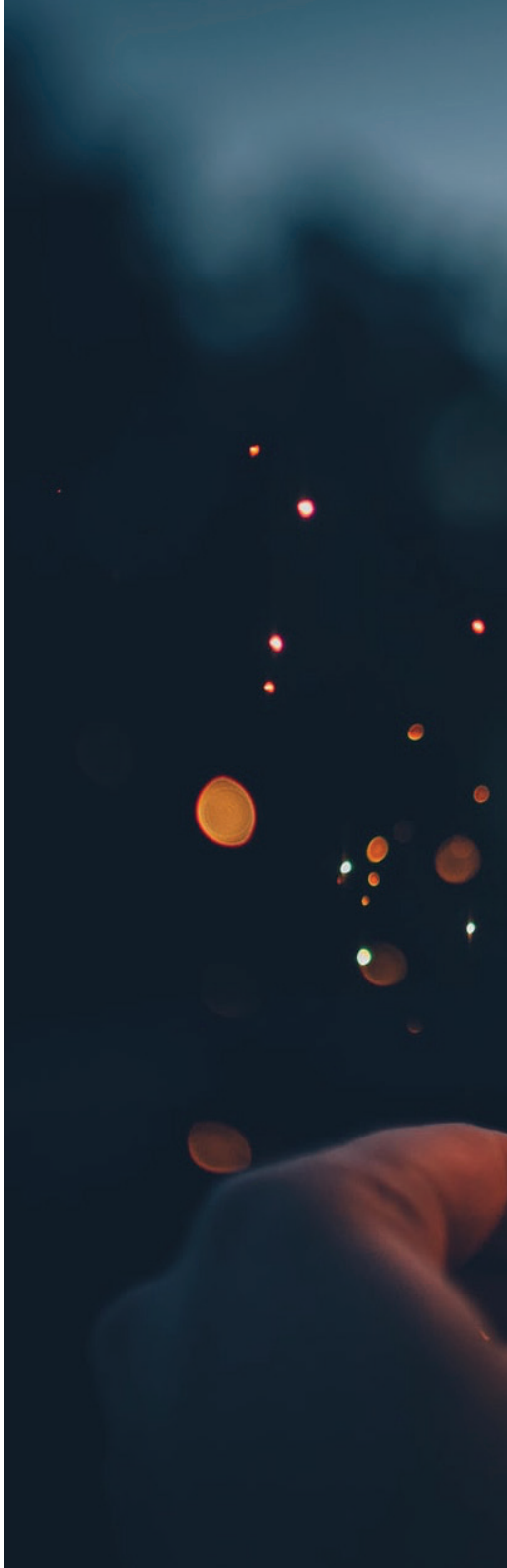
1 Corinthians 15:10, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect.


No, I worked harder than all of them -- yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me”.

4. Pray to God for **endurance**, and to not become discouraged when we fail 2 Corinthians 12:10, “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses... For when I am weak, then I am strong”. Our focus on growth and change is for the long run, it is a marathon, not a sprint.

5. **Give God all the glory** belongs to Him when we fulfil our resolution instead become proud of our own self Ephesians 3:20, “Glory belongs to God, whose power is at work in us. By this power He can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine”.

More than merely setting goals for our own personal fulfilment, we need to remember that we are called to live according to God’s will. May any resolution and priorities in life we make due to God’s glory, not our own.



A close-up photograph of two hands holding lit sparklers. The sparklers are bright and glowing, with many small sparks flying out. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some bokeh lights. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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honoring resolutions
and in agreement with
God's words.***



‘Storms are the triumph of His art’

By Corina Ng

“I am a flower quickly fading, here today and gone tomorrow.

A wave toast in the ocean; a vapour in the wind, still You hear me when I am calling.

*Lord, you catch me when I’m falling
and you told me who I am.*

I am Yours.”

This lyrics pierced my heart way deeper than ever before, which I will gladly share with you why at the end of this writing. 2020 has been a challenging year for the whole planet Earth,

and without doubt, that includes myself and my COOL member too. At the start of this virus, I never thought it would be something serious, I thought it would be quickly contained and would never affect us in any way. Little did I know, this virus spread way faster than I could ever imagine and affected a lot of people that I care for.

When Victoria first entered lockdown, I was sort of sad but due to my constant busy schedule, I'm also glad that I have the so called "Sabbath" I've always wished for deep down in my heart. "Yay! I have so much free time now, I could use it to worship God, pray and read my Bible well without any distraction" that's what I thought. Those thoughts turned into reality for the first two weeks, then my spiritual discipline started to fall apart. I started to savour other things more than I savoured God. I wonder why?

During lockdown, around eight of our

COOL members that I used to hang with flew back to Indonesia for good. I live quite far from the city too, so my daily communication was mostly with my colleagues and my housemate and as you may predict, we don't talk much about our faith and even if I did talk about God's goodness, it was only an "oh i see" sort of response. Friday became my favourite day of the week.

Here's one thing that I learned for sure, that Christ-exalting community is important. That all of our COOL meetings and prayer meetings we did physically were not in vain. I realised that my faith was strengthened when we listened to fellow believer's testimony, my heart was encouraged when we lay hand on each other while praying, and there's this unspeakable joy when we worship and read His Word corporately. When I get home from those meetings, I'm encouraged to pray and have communion with God. I guess what John Piper said

was right, that sanctification is a community project. I thought reading the Bible by myself is enough, but I learned during this pandemic that we need each other to see more of Him. That's why the Lord prayer starts with "Our Father"

Secondly, I learned that God is sovereign and faithful, even when we are at our worst. Long story short, my mom and my sister contracted the virus back in Indonesia. It was the most devastating moment of my life, my mom's condition was critical. She had difficulty in breathing and during our call, it was too hard for her to speak and all I could hear was her high-pitched breath gasping for air. I have never cried that hard in 2020. That night, I prayed to God desperately, maybe my most desperate prayers. I thank God for the fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who prayed for me and supported me during those hard times. It was an amazing journey

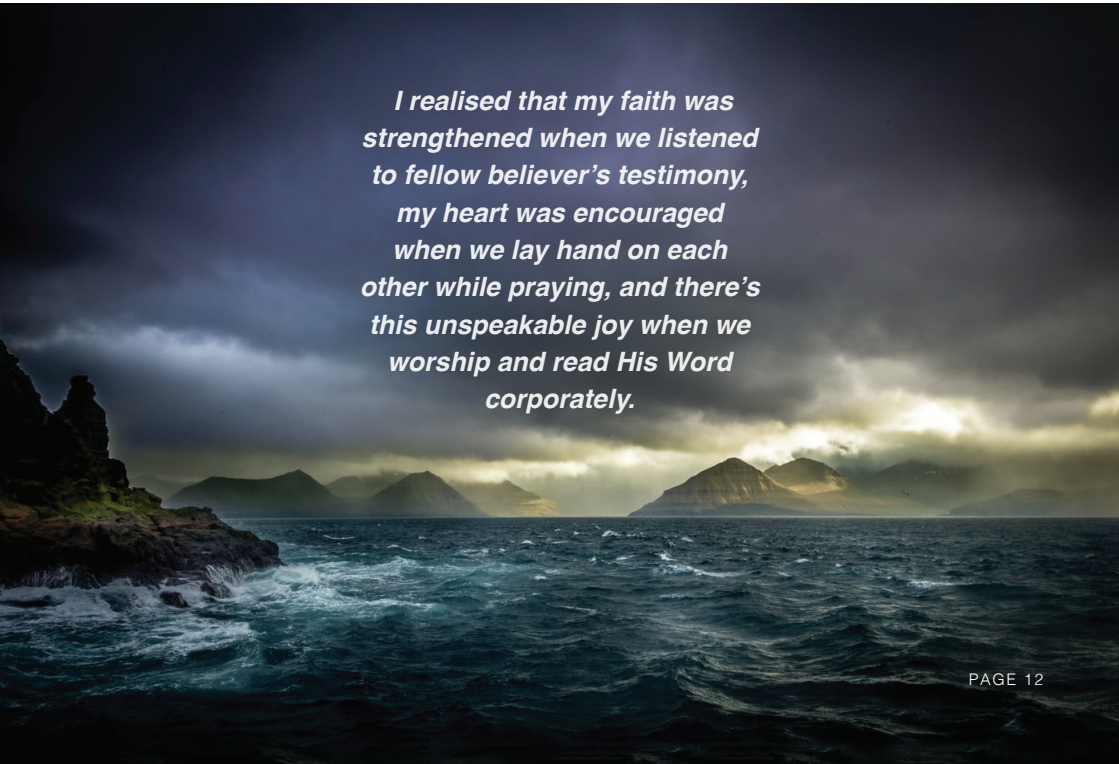
how God helped my mom to fight this virus, it was too much to write on a single page like this. By His grace, my mom and sis were healed completely a month later.

Now back to the lyrics I wrote at the start, remember how my spiritual discipline was falling apart? I'm that flower that quickly fades, there are too many times where I seek God and forget about Him. There are times where I choose other things than to talk to Him. But that night, He listened to my prayers. He hears me when I call though I have been unfaithful. When this song was playing, I couldn't help but burst into tears. How loving our God is that He never stops to catch us when we fall, even when we didn't give Him the justice He deserves? Looking back, I thank God for what has happened to my mom, both of our eyes were opened to see Him and His love became so clear to us. I hope my

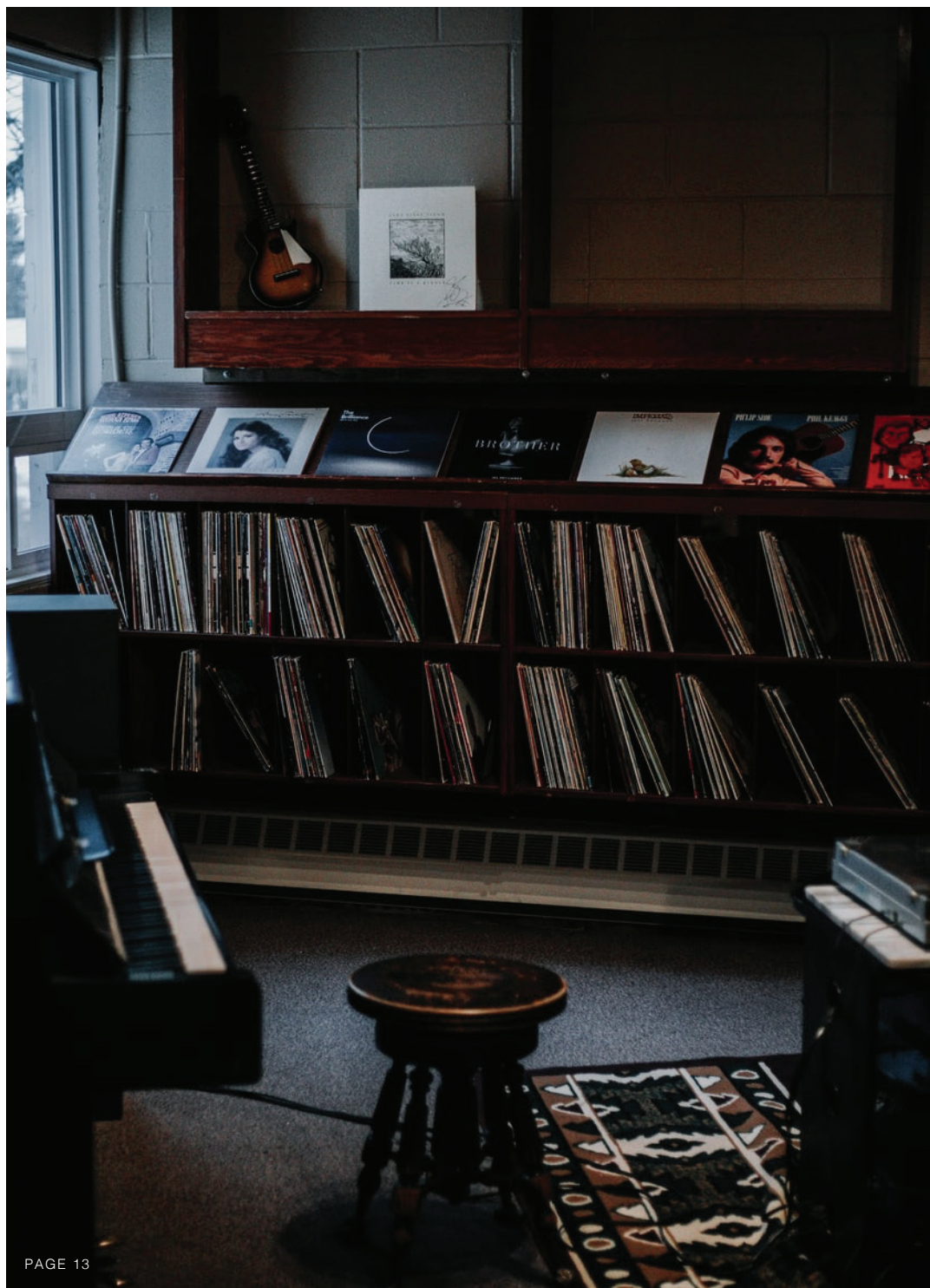
short story could open your eyes too to see how high and deep His faithful love is for us. “Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds” – Psalms 36:5 (PS: It reaches the sky!). His faithfulness helps me to strive for Him.

Before I bid goodbye, I pray that you may see COOL differently this new year. As we begin to meet physically,

I long that you and I could cherish the fellowship we had like never before, that you could see this as a precious gift from God and that we may grow to love Christ, and each other deeply. I pray too that whatever will happen in 2021, it may lead you to see Christ clearly. I can attest that suffering is a blessing from God. I like this quote “Storms are the triumph of His art” - The Bag, a poem by George Herbert.



*I realised that my faith was
strengthened when we listened
to fellow believer's testimony,
my heart was encouraged
when we lay hand on each
other while praying, and there's
this unspeakable joy when we
worship and read His Word
corporately.*





THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

NEW YEAR SONGS

#1

Do It Again

ELEVATION WORSHIP

#2

After All These Years

BRIAN JOHNSON

#3

Hadirat-Mu

JPCC WORSHIP

#4

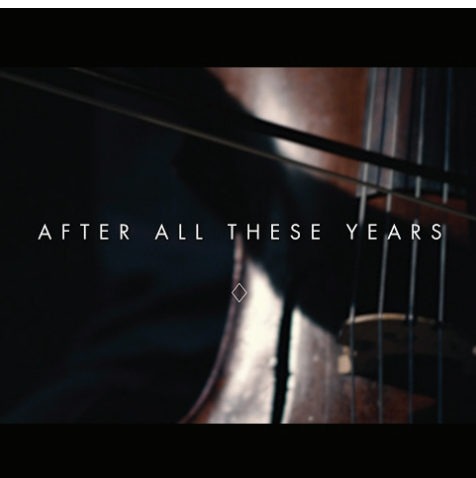
Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me

THE WORSHIP INITIATIVE

#5

Grace

JONATHAN MCREYNOLDS

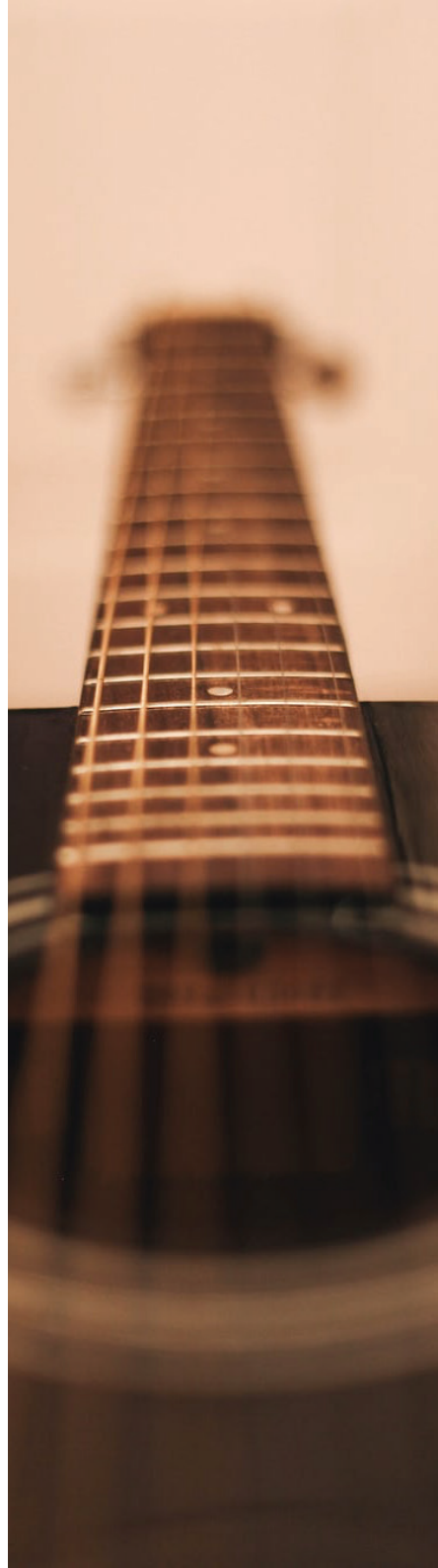


You can find the complete playlist in Spotify



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
Cultivated Podcast — Ravello Satria
Youth — Rio Susanto



*Anxiety does not empty
tomorrow of its sorrows,
but only empties today of
its strength.*

CHARLES SPURGEON

