BULLETIN

VOL. 50 | 17 JANUARY 2021

THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

REUNITING OFFLINE

FINALLY, (PHYSICAL) CHURCH!

MONTHLY PLAYLIST

Bethany International Church

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.



Bethany International Church





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Rev Niko Njotoraharjo

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PASTOR

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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



Finally, reuniting offline!

By Inggrid Natashia

At last, by the grace of God we can hold our weekly COOL gatherings in person again and it just so happens that our first physical COOL gathering fell on the 25th of December which means we get to celebrate Christmas together physically too. After nine months of only meeting each other virtually, it felt rather awkward seeing and being with each other at first, but it did not take long for our excitement to fill up the room. I have almost forgotten what it felt like worshipping, praying, reading, and listening to the Word together. There is just something about doing it physically than virtually that makes it more special; the true sense of family and community that we have been longing for quite some time.

One of the activities I particularly missed during offline COOL was our 'breakout prayers' where we split into pairs and spend about 10 minutes sharing and praying for our prayer partner. Although we continued to do it online where we are assigned to different Zoom breakout rooms but being able to hold each other's hands and truly show our sisters or brothers in Christ our care for them as we pray in person is not the same.

I am grateful for a lot of things God has done to our COOL, Gennesaret, throughout 2020 but if I may mention one thing, I am most grateful of, it would be how God has shown time and time again how faithful He is. I recalled worrying for the faith of some of our new members who have only recently joined COOL a few months before lockdown if they would still attend our online zoom meetings. Nevertheless, they showed up almost every week and a few of them even finished KOM class during that period! And for everything else God has sustained and provided, truly, the glory belongs to Him alone.

ARTICLE

During this transition to offline COOL, I am reminded by Hebrews 10:24-25 which says, 'And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.' Even though some of us may be used to the convenience and comfort of online COOL, we should not forget that physical gathering is important. As we gather, not only do we benefit from corporate worship and prayer where we revel His presence together but gathering physically is also a place where we unite in His love and an opportunity to be present and authentically engage with each other; encouraging and edifying each other as a family in Christ. Through the nine months experience, I learned to not take our COOL gatherings for granted.



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Finally, (physical) church!

By Valerie Setiono

03 January 2021. Our first on-site service back at our home church in South Melbourne. I remember the excitement I felt the week before when it was announced that we can go back to church physically, and even more so when I got my ticket in my inbox. How I've missed sitting on the colourful chairs at church, worshipping God together with the congregation and listening to the sermons live! After almost 10 months of online church, I realised how precious it is to actually be at the church building and have fellowship with other people every week. Yes, we've heard it again and again this past 10 months that church is not about the building. And yes, I believe it is true. God's power and anointing is not limited by four-walls of the church building, nor by the gathering of many people. We've heard many testimonies about how God is working in the midst of His people in their own homes, many hearts transformed, relationships restored, and I believe that is all proof that nothing can limit what God can do and what He wants to do.

For me, however, while online church may be more convenient (waking up 10 minutes before the service starts, wearing sweatpants and staying in bed the whole service, pausing and starting the service anytime), it can never substitute for the real thing. We all know how difficult it is to communicate with each other through ZOOM. And that is one of the main reasons why churches must be 'offline'.

Fellowship of believers

One aspect that is the most crucial in a church is the gathering of the people .Just like sending emails to long-distance family, while it may suffice for a while, but when the time comes to meet with each other, wouldn't you choose to meet them face-to-face, rather than keep writing to each other virtually? Same goes with our church life, online churches may have to do for a while because of the pandemic, but when it's time to go back to physical church, why would we say no?

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

According to this verse, how do we stir up one another to love and

ARTICLE

good works (re: godly living)? By meeting together, showing up to church every week! Attending church every week is also a part of our ministry. In this verse, it said "not neglecting to meet together, ... but encouraging one another." Showing up to church is serving others; to gather is to encourage. We cannot regularly encourage others that we rarely see. Without our attendance, we cannot be known: if we are not known, we cannot be encouraged; if we are not encouraged, we will not endure. Therefore, we gather in order to encourage others and be encouraged, so that we can mutually endure any hardships or problems that we may face.

On top of that, our characters that need refining are seldom revealed in isolation, but more so in the presence of others, especially those whom we meet regularly. Being in a community of Christ encourages

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us to be transformed into His image more and more, bit by bit. Fellowship with other believers helps us to grow in our faith. Reading our Bible and praying are great ways to grow in our knowledge of Christ and build intimate relationships with Him, but we need to share that with one another. God gives us a gift to learn and to grow when we come together in fellowship, and so we can show each other how to live as God wants us to live and how to walk in His footsteps.

Restored motivation

Having online church for 10 months taught me to re-evaluate my motivation to go to church. Did I go to church just out of habit? Did I see church as a weekly event that we must attend every Sunday? If so, we would be satisfied and comfortable with "coming" to church virtually. If we think of church as a family gathering, where we can do corporate worship and share love and encourage one another, we wouldn't want to miss every service. Tuning in to church virtually will start to feel as dissatisfying as livestreaming family dinner.

I'm grateful that I feel dissatisfied with online service. When many people start to get used to it and even enjoy the online service out of convenience, I'm glad that I am still longing for in-person gatherings with my family in Christ. I now know why I go to church every Sunday, and I want to cherish every second I can spend at church.

Corporate worship

The most prevalent factor for me that differentiate online from offline church is the lack of corporate worship. And it is one thing that I miss the most. I miss singing praises together at church, worshiping God and praying together. I believe corporate worship plays a big role in our sanctification. Often, when we join in corporate worship, God loves not only to change our minds, but to also change our hearts right at that moment of worship.

I remember on the first Sunday back at church, immediately when we started the worship session, I was in tears. I got reminded of how God has been faithful throughout our times in lockdown and He will remain faithful. I realised how hard these past months have been for everyone, yet God never fails to show His love, and that none of us fall away and lose faith in the midst of these uncertain times. I feel an overwhelming peace and joy to be able to stand there and hear everyone sing in one place, together at the same time. I believe that is what corporate worship can do. It accentuates our awe of Christ, as our adoration towards Him increased and our joy doubled when we worship Jesus together.

I really hope everyone of us has this longing in our hearts to go back to the offline church. I hope we will feel dissatisfied with online service, as we are longing for a face-to-face family gathering with our family in Christ at BIC. And let's celebrate His goodness together and experience how He increases our joy as we share our joy with others.









THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

NEW YEAR SONGS

#**1**

Closer ELEVATION WORSHIP

#2

Only A Holy God

#3

The Blessing

#**4**

Jesus Paid It All

#5

Who Am I CASTING CROWNS

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



"You will never make yourself feel that you are a sinner, because there is a mechanism in you as a result of sin that will always be defending you against every accusation. We are all on very good terms with ourselves, and we can always put up a good case for ourselves. Even if we try to make ourselves feel that we are sinners, we will never do it. There is only one way to know that we are sinners, and that is to have some dim, glimmering conception of God.

MARTYN LLOYD-JONES