

THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

BULLETIN

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THALIA'S
JOURNEY IN BIC

WHY WE READ
GOOD CHRISTIAN
BOOKS WHEN WE
HAVE THE BIBLE

Bethany International Church
THE HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS

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 Daniel Hardjosuwito

Mission & Evangelism Pastor

Ps Gideon Gunawan

Pastoral Care

Ps Lily Karto

Office Manager

Ps Suzana Tahir



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



Why we read good Christian books when we have the Bible

By Jessica Lesmana

As we have read the article in the BIC bulletin last week (1st week of March), we now know why we read the Bible and the importance of it. If you have not, please do check it out. In this page I will share my view about reading supplementary Christian's books other than the Bible. However, **we should not treat these books as a substitute for the Bible.** The question is if the Bible is the 'Super Book', why do we still read other books?

We read to know God. God also reveals himself to others that we can and should benefit from what others have learned, it can be in the form of books, articles, sermons, podcasts and many others. Reading theological writings could be intimidating for some, including myself. However, there are various books written at our level. A major problem for us to give up on difficult books is we could

start to believe that God pretty much figured out or we have God according to what we can imagine.

Reading books is a means to know God as well as to grow in our ability to honour him in every part of our lives. We can grow in our weakness.

When we find we are weak in certain areas, read books to strengthen yourself there. For example, if you are struggling with spiritual discipline, read *Habit of Grace* by David Mathis. If you are struggling with singleness, read *Not Yet Married* by Marshall Segal. If you are struggling with parenting, read *Parenting* by Paul Tripp. If you do not know where you are weak, read books about humility. There is almost definitely a supplementary book for whatever weakness we have.

We can also grow in our strengths to push ourselves beyond basic

principles and cultivate further. Find books that allow us to achieve them with better understanding of biblical truths. To continue growing in holiness and our character, read *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges. Business owners ought to read books about leadership, shepherds should read books about folk shepherding, and so on. Biographies of Christians' figures can be helpful as well. It allows us to learn from the lesson they went through and make us a better leader. Leadership can be in the home, in the church, in the workplace, in the school or elsewhere. For us, leaders, I believe we need to be a better reader. The inevitable fact is that our convictions determine where we lead and how we lead. We will not lead better than our convictions and will not lead opposite to our conviction. Hence, we need to continually define and refine our convictions.

Reading can also be a means of loving our neighbour, not only as a personal development. When we

read to know the Lord better and to grow in our personal pursuit, it also benefits others around us. We can learn to love our families, friends, and others better. We learn to understand them more. We can love our neighbour by recommending books that will help them in their current season of life.

I do not mean to diminish the value of sermons, podcasts, personal Bible study, and even situations that God allows to happen. There are a number of ways God shapes us and makes us grow. Nevertheless, books have always been a significant means of God's grace to us. It has this profound and mysterious power as C.S Lewis suggests that reading books allow us to see the world through other people's perspectives. We could experience their view of the world 'from the inside'.

There are many gospel-centred books that helped us on how Christians can live lives of obedience to God.

However, we would also see some terrible books, that are not based on the truth, available and even labelled as Christian bestsellers. We need to screen what we read. Before we buy a book, we could check its reviews from trusted sources. For instance, Tim Challies in his blog has lists of book recommendations and book reviews based on category.

Reading is a pleasure for some, but not for some others. But pleasure can be learned. I never enjoyed coffee before I landed in Melbourne. Here I am now, hardly a day goes by without a good cup of coffee. Reading requires effort at first if you do not enjoy it, but it is a pleasure worth learning to pursue and to love. Commit yourself and I believe you will find joy when you find God in your reading.

***Commit yourself and
I believe you will find
joy when you find
God in your reading.***





Thalia's journey in BIC

By Thalia Riyadi

Hi! Back with me Thalia, this time I will share a bit about my experiences from my journey for the past six years in BIC as I have gone back to Indonesia for good.

Joining BIC at first and how I settled in BIC

I came to Melbourne in mid 2014 as a student, and during the O-week I joined Indonesian club that the majority of us know called PPIA. Furthermore, I asked the seniors about churches in Melbourne, and that's how they introduced

me to BIC which led me to come here for the first time. Before I decided to settle in BIC, I tried a couple churches but made my decision to be planted in BIC because of a few reasons. I think the main reason was because my friends and I, we just somehow felt comfortable to be welcomed with one cell group (back then the name of the cool was Carmel), and also BIC has similar liturgy with my church in Indo, hence I think it's a good choice to be planted in BIC. Back then, I felt going to church was like a list thing to do on Sunday as a good Christian. However, I didn't know what God wanted to teach me in Melbourne for the years I have spent in Melbourne.

Lessons in BIC

I feel BIC as a place where I had grown in my knowledge and had encountered God so much personally. There were so many experiences which have turned to be lessons that I learnt in BIC. I will share the main lesson I can testify during

my journey in Melbourne. But, let me tell my background story before that to explain the context. I was born in a Christian family, I have known God is gracious to me in my knowledge, however I thought God was only gracious to me at the beginning of my Christian walk, I didn't realise that our God is also gracious throughout my journey as a Christian. I thought the cross was only meaningful at the beginning of my Christian journey. I used to believe I should be perfect and obey God in order for God to love me back throughout the journey of my Christianity. Perhaps, I know God is always gracious in my knowledge. But, I was not convinced with my heart that He is also graceful throughout the journey of sanctification. However, as I keep failing over and over again, His grace never fails to reach me back to Him and sustains me throughout the journey that proves me He loves me no matter what.

I still remember vividly I received

Jesus when I was six, on that night I was thinking, "How could someone love me that much to save me that He died for me? That's weird." However, as I grew up, coming with a very disciplined family background and born as a perfectionist, somehow it formed me to have the tendency to "perform" in order to earn that grace, and I thought God loves me only when I was being perfect. In the past, I thought I had to come on time to church. I had to do devotion, read the bible, fast, do ministries at church in order for God to love me back. I did all those things not because I love God but because I was so afraid God would hate me if I didn't do those things. I thought His love was limited only to save me at the beginning but after that He let me go and that's it, I have to walk by myself. I still remember there were a couple of times, I was late coming to church for 5 or 10 minutes, failed to do devotions, then I cried and felt

sick about myself and thought God must have hated me so much that I was no longer lovable as I was being imperfect.

However, in the midst of disappointment and condemnation being imperfect, God again and again reminds me that there is no fear in perfect love (1 John 4:18). He loves me for the way I am, and knowing He loves me, I can come to Him with boldness to the throne of Grace when I need Him the most (Hebrews 4:16). It was a painful experience to feel a lot of condemnation when I was failing, however as the truth enlightens my mind, I was being freed with that fear and to know the real truth truly has brought me so much joy. I am no longer afraid to come to Him even though I acknowledge I have so many flaws, still imperfect, but because I know God is so gracious and loving it makes me unable to not

love Him back that makes me want to keep pleasing Him. In conclusion the main lesson I really learnt in BIC, that the God that we have is a God that is so faithful and gracious in our lives, and when He called us to be His Children, He is also the one who will accompany and walk with us (He is Immanuel) who will keep sustaining our faith and being patient with us. His love is so abundant and it is impossible to not love Him back!

Things I will miss the most about BIC

I am grateful for being able to be part of BIC for the past few years, to be nourished by the teaching and had experienced a lot of diversity of gifts in BIC. I think the thing that I will miss the most is how supportive the environment is in BIC. It has helped me to keep seeking God even more, including the people with the same passion to serve God

and the supportive pastors and fellow brothers and sisters that keep feeding my spiritual hunger. I will definitely also miss to do ministry together in Sunday School with my fellow brothers and sisters.

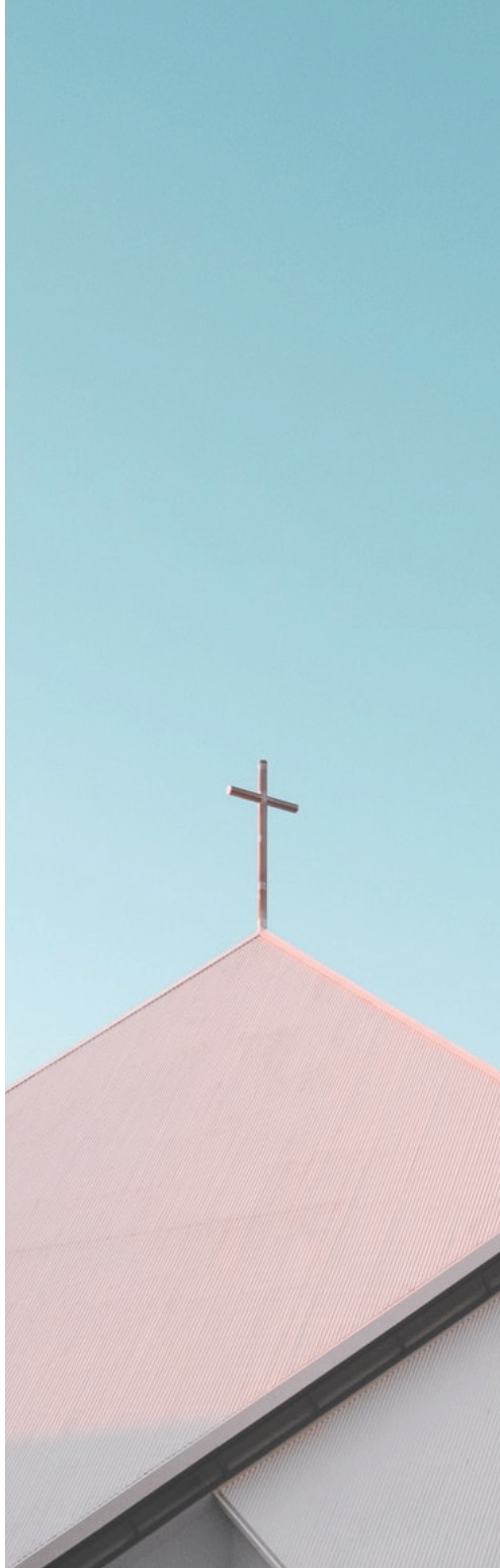
Transformation when I first arrived to BIC vs now (including my character and faith)

I can really see myself from someone who was really timid in my life, always afraid to make mistakes, to become someone who is less fearful as I know no matter what, God loves me. It makes me less scared to make decisions as I know there is a safety net of grace that always captures me even if I fail. I also have learnt that God is the one who has been sustaining my faith until today, I shouldn't be afraid and it has shaped my faith to depend solely on God throughout my Christian journey.

Last words from me

I think my last words for BIC people and actually to keep reminding myself again and again is that the God that we have is a faithful even though we are faithless, for He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13) and He is the author and perfecter of our faith, the one who has called us, the same God who will keep sustaining us. (Hebrews 12:2).

It's been a beautiful journey in Melbourne to be a part of the BIC family. I thank God for being able to know God personally in Melbourne not only in my knowledge but more importantly through the personal encounters with Him. I thank God for each one of the people that I have met in BIC that God has used to nourish and shape my faith including pastors, friends that have become like family that become my listening ears and pray for me. Thankful for the opportunity too to be able to serve in BIC. I pray may each one of us keep walking with Him throughout our Christian walk.





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

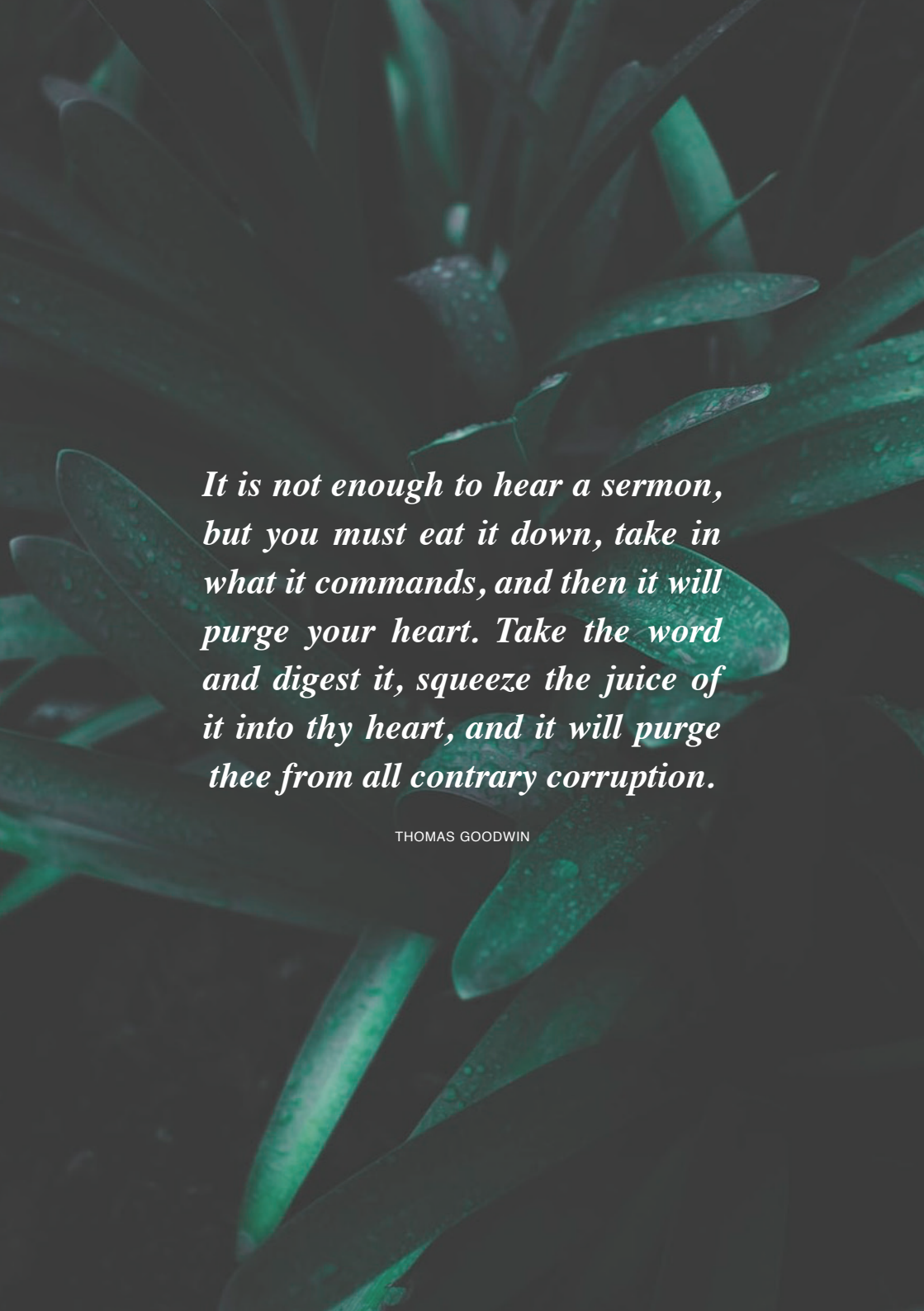
Mission — Felix Chietra

Media Art — Sonia Pranatha

Community Kitchen — Yolanda Tjong

Cultivated Podcast — Ravello Satria

Youth — Rio Susanto



*It is not enough to hear a sermon,
but you must eat it down, take in
what it commands, and then it will
purge your heart. Take the word
and digest it, squeeze the juice of
it into thy heart, and it will purge
thee from all contrary corruption.*

THOMAS GOODWIN