

THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

# BULLETIN

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HOW TO USE  
OUR TIME WELL

THALIA'S JOURNEY  
IN BIC

*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.



Bethany International Church



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Ps Iwan Adinugroho

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Bethlehem — Felix, Fransisca  
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Horeb — Ferry, Febria  
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Cana — Bobby  
Philadelphia - Pniel — Dwi, Vero  
Moriah — Elve, Calista  
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Gethsemane — Michael, Rudy  
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Mt Hermon — Lily, Unggul  
Phillipi — Hariyanto, Ivan  
Shekinah — Alice  
Tabernacle — Sandi  
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Shiloh — Daniel, Clarissa

## NEXT GEN

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Judah — Aldo, Kezia M.  
Israel — Catherine, Jerry  
Jeremiah — Sinta, Kevin W.  
Heaven — Pauline



# How to use our time well

By Kezia Jocelyn

Our relationship with time is always an odd one. We either feel like time is too slowly ticking or we are always running out of time. It's almost like time is never on our side. On the contrary, we do actually understand in our heads the constant nature of time – it doesn't change. The truth is, it could be that it's easier for us to blame time, rather than ourselves. Because deep down we know that time can't "betray" us, rather we're the ones who are changing, who have gotten so much busier and have so much going on.

For us to learn how to use our time well, we have got to shift our perspective on it. As a society, we've grown to be too comfortable with our busyness. It is almost like our "statement of self-importance" for everyone else to see. But as God had commanded Mary's decision to not give in to busyness and said, "Mary has chosen the good portion" (Luke 10:42), He truly wants

us to humble ourselves and receive the fact that He has given us just enough time to do what we need to do, moment by moment, as a response to Him. Notice the word "response". God wants us to utilise our time well as a response to Him. Why? Because He is the One who gives us the gift of time and we are to nurture it with the things that bring Him glory. While we might still say, "Who will argue with me if I have too many things to do?", Jesus did give an argument when He condemned the men invited to the master's banquet for not coming due to excuses in His parables (Luke 14:15-24). And really, at the end of the day it is their loss because they're the ones who will never get the taste of "bread in the kingdom of God".

The above perspective is really important as a groundwork to building the rest of the construction up. But it still doesn't take away from the fact that some of us are

legitimately struggling with using our time the way God wants us to, and its validity should not be minimised. Additional tools are still needed for the construction to be immovable. When we are feeling too time-taxed, it's always useful to put ourselves in the rather "uncomfortable" position of re-evaluating the root cause of our busyness. Because without evaluation, we can drown deeper into using busyness as an excuse. The root cause can simply be anything for anyone, for example it can be some sort of habits like social media or entertainment addiction, or it can also be some underlying belief like holding on to either perfectionism or empiricism. Either way, what we can do is we can commit to abstain from these things and make room to prioritise the responsibilities that God has given us. If we are currently in the deep sea of always being on our phones, then we need to acknowledge it, ask God for freedom, and put in the time and effort to make the change. Or if we are falling into

the danger of perfectionism, instead of trying to squeeze the most out of the very little time we have left only to hope things will be perfect – which they won't ever be, we need to rather lay all the hard work we have proportionally done to the best of our abilities with open hands and surrender it to God.

If we view time as a beautiful gift that falls in all the appropriate places under God's authority, we will have a sacredly fulfilling relationship with time – there will be just enough time for us to do what God has called us to do. Whichever is the case and in whatever season of life we are in, we need to have faith in our God who is the creator of time, and trust that when we cast it all on Him, time will be on our side.





# *Thalia's journey in BIC*

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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.

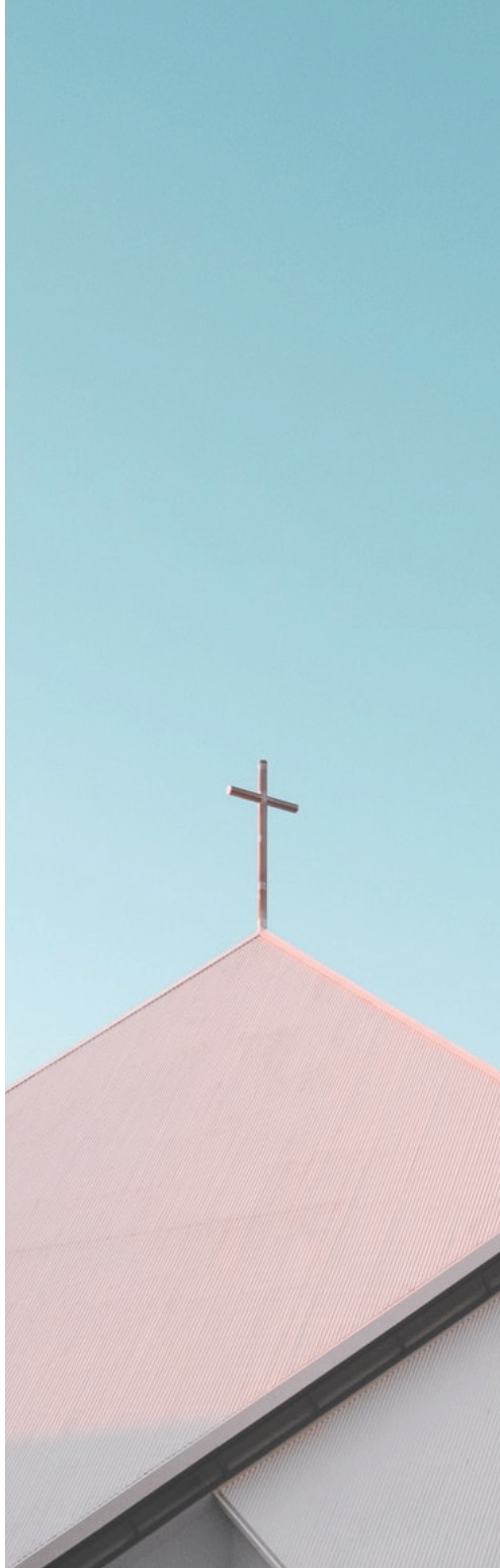
### **Transformation when I first arrived to BIC vs now (including my character and faith)**

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

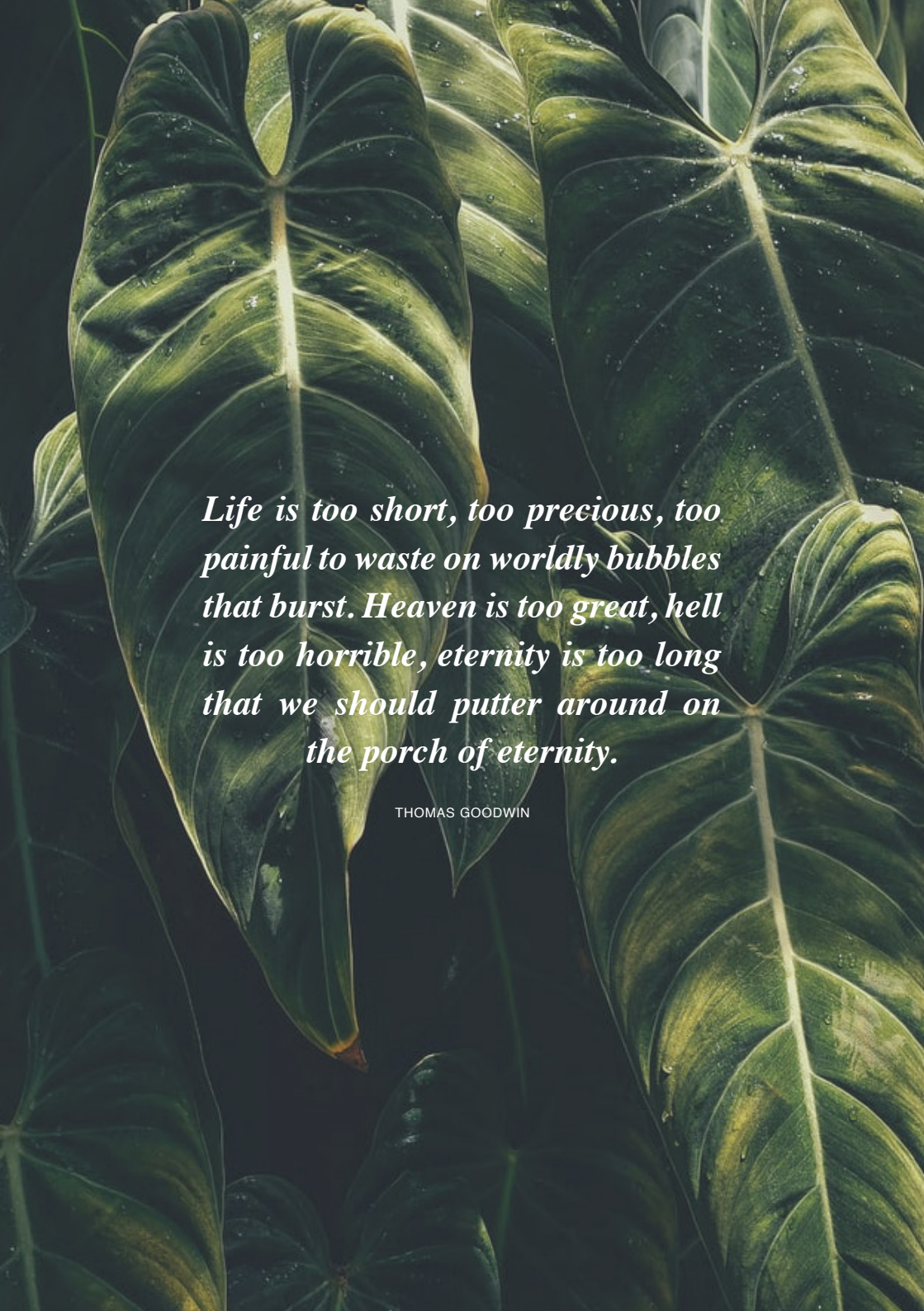
Mission — Felix Chietra

Media Art — Sonia Pranatha

Community Kitchen — Yolanda Tjong

Cultivated Podcast — Ravello Satria

Youth — Rio Susanto



*Life is too short, too precious, too  
painful to waste on worldly bubbles  
that burst. Heaven is too great, hell  
is too horrible, eternity is too long  
that we should putter around on  
the porch of eternity.*

THOMAS GOODWIN