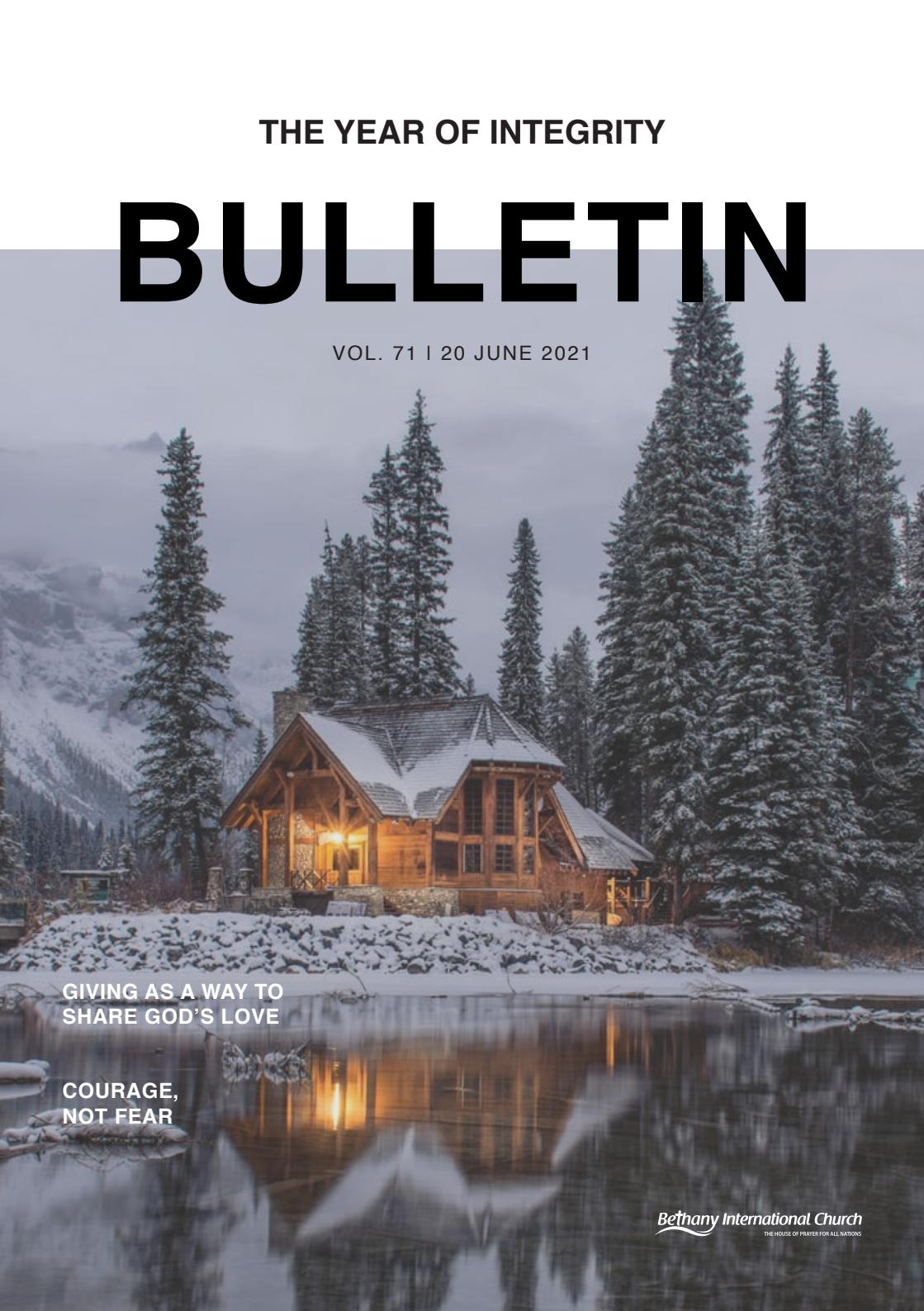


THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

# BULLETIN

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GIVING AS A WAY TO  
SHARE GOD'S LOVE

COURAGE,  
NOT FEAR

*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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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

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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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Shiloh — Daniel, Clarissa

## **NEXT GEN**

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



# Giving as a way to share God's love

By Noviana Marcellina

Giving generously is not optional in Christian living, but rather essential. Why? Because God has already given us the greatest blessing we can ever have in the redemption - offered through His Son Jesus Christ. There is truly no greater example of God's generosity than the gift of Jesus Christ. God's motivation for giving is love, God generously gave Himself in the person of Jesus Christ for us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV). Like Paul says in Romans 8:3, we are completely powerless to save ourselves; we are hopeless and in need of rescue. But the extent of His generosity goes beyond that. Why? Because we aren't innocent victims; we are God's enemies (Romans 5:10)—unrighteous (Romans 3), wretched (Romans 7:24), and deserving of death (Romans 6:23). Think about this for a minute: it's one

thing to be generous to the poor or to rescue innocent, helpless children from a fate they don't deserve yet it's another thing to be generous to a murderer or thief; to rescue an evil, wicked person. "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NIV).

Jesus shares several teachings about giving and how we as believers should give. In Luke 6 Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38 NIV). Jesus also teaches us that our giving should be done in secret, and not publicly that we might receive praise and recognition for our generosity. (Matthew 6:1-4 NIV).

The gospel motivates us to be

generous and gives us ultimate contentment. The gospel also shapes the way we give. J.I. Packer gave four reasons for us to give generously.

*Giving is an expression of our gratitude to God.* This gratitude is prompted by both the knowledge of the grace of Christ in one's head and the power of that grace in one's heart—with Christ as the center of attention at all times in both. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich (2 Cor 8:9 NIV). Giving should ever express unending gratitude for God's almost unbelievable grace.

*Giving is a way to be generous to our neighbour.* Jesus gives us an example of how we should be generous to our neighbour through the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). However, we should not forget that Jesus told that parable

to answer this certain question: “Who is my neighbour?”, and his answer is: any and every person whom you meet. The essence of Christian existence is, after all, a matter not of labelling, but of loving, and loving is a matter not of words but of action. Only those who love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength will love their neighbour as themselves.

*Giving is a part of what it means to follow Jesus.* Self-giving, in the sense of devoting all his powers and resources to the service of others, is Jesus's hallmark and must be ours too. To be Christ's disciples we are called to give—and share fully, for Christ's sake.

*Giving is a means to glorify God.* Praise, honor, and thank God yourself for all he has given you. We give because we love God and love others with the aim of glorifying God. Through our giving, we can be a light to others so they can see God's goodness and God's providence through our lives

However, when we give out of obligation or peer-pressure, no longer can we give cheerfully as the act of giving itself becomes a burden, and all of a sudden our heart has turned toward bitterness and frustration. The problem is our hearts. God wants His people to be generous and open-handed, but our hearts often get in the way. But, remember that God has poured out His grace and mercy into our lives. He has given us what we don't deserve and could never earn—forgiveness, acceptance, and assurance of eternal life. And as our hearts are being transformed by His grace and extravagant generosity towards us, we are enabled to give generously towards others. Jesus offers grace to us, but He also offers grace to others through us, He works in our lives to bring life to others. We will want to share our time, money, possessions and gifts not grudgingly but generously. Our love for the Giver will overspill into generous love for others.



Scripture teaches that God loves a cheerful giver, which is frequently taught in light of financial giving or tithing. While this truth absolutely applies to our monetary giving, I think God also delights in someone who gives cheerfully of their time and commitment and lives intentionally with a surrender heart. God delights to share all He has with His people. He is the ultimate cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7 NIV).

God teaches me to be selfless, to give generously and to care more for others during the pandemic. Since I lived in Melbourne, I just realised that I have a gift in cooking and I enjoy doing it as well. Through my gift in cooking, I learned to bless my family in Christ (COOL) and friends by distributing home-cooked food during the lockdown especially for those who are sick and have difficulty getting food. I asked how they were doing, what they needed, then distributed the food and attached a small prayer note, encouraging them

and reminding them to keep praying and hope in God. As it is written in the books of Acts 20:35 “In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”.

God reminded me that my motivation to give is not to show off my cooking skills but for the glory of His name. When I realised that God gives me good gifts so that I can use them to benefit others, I am liberated to serve joyfully. God calls us to be most generous to those who are most in need, those who cannot offer anything in return. Let us open our eyes and hearts to the needs of those around us. As Christians, we believe that God sovereignly ordains every part of our lives that includes our address. He places us in homes, neighbourhoods and church families so that we might reflect His love and compassion to the people around us. But, He doesn't leave us to figure out

how to do this on our own. Ask Him in prayer, let the Holy Spirit lead us to those in need. With the busyness of each day, it is not difficult to walk around with our heads down and focus on ourselves and our own issues, but as believers, we are often called to go beyond the easy thing to do. Our hearts should be stirred to act by the needs of those in our proximity. When we set our minds to become more intentional to meet others' needs, it can be overwhelming to see all the hardships that exist. Fortunately, we can start with small steps by being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and act when He calls our attention to someone's specific

need. As Christ's ambassadors on this earth, we have the opportunity to put His love on display through our generosity (2 Cor 5:20 NIV). Having a generous disposition is an important part of loving people well. As the verse in 1 John 3:16-17 reminds us, our sentiments of love and concern should be backed up with action.

I invite you to consider to whom the Lord may be calling you to show generosity toward. Remember that Jesus says you are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). Press into His leading so that through your generosity, His light would shine through and He would be glorified.





# ***Kekuatan! Bukan ketakutan***

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*"Ketika hari sudah malam pada hari pertama minggu itu berkumpullah murid-murid Yesus di suatu tempat dengan pintu-pintu yang terkunci karena mereka takut kepada orang-orang Yahudi. Pada waktu itu datanglah Yesus dan berdiri di tengah-tengah mereka dan berkata: "Damai sejahtera bagi kamu!"*

*Yohanes 20:19*

Rasa takut bukan berarti kita lemah. Ketakutan adalah bagian dari naluri manusia untuk bertahan hidup. Rasa takut membantu

seseorang menyadari akan adanya bahaya sehingga muncul keinginan untuk menjauh dan melindungi diri dari bahaya tersebut.

Contoh: Ketika dikejar anjing gila, maka orang yang biasanya untuk berjalan saja sangat lambat, tiba-tiba saja saking takutnya digigit anjing gila, ia mampu berlari kencang, bahkan sampai melompati parit demi untuk menyelamatkan diri dari gigitan anjing gila.

Tubuh secara alami memberikan reaksi yang membuat seseorang tidak bisa mengabaikan perasaan yang tidak nyaman. Tidak semua rasa takut itu sama. Ketakutan yang berlebihan bisa juga berdampak negatif. Ketakutan yang dipicu oleh kondisi emosional cenderung lebih bersifat subjektif dan tidak selalu realistik. Seseorang dapat mengalami rasa takut yang amat sangat berlebihan, sampai-sampai tidak tahu cara untuk menghilangkan rasa takut tersebut.

Pandemi COVID-19 adalah situasi yang penuh ketidakpastian, sehingga menimbulkan ketakutan kepada semua orang di dunia ini. Karena itu, tidak heran jika kita akan mengalami kesulitan tertentu untuk melewati masa-masa ini. Semua orang bergelut menghadapi pandemi COVID-19. Pandemi ini sangat berdampak ke berbagai sektor, yaitu kesehatan, pendidikan, manufaktur, pariwisata, transportasi, sosial, dan masih banyak lagi; sehingga hal ini rentan menimbulkan banyak persoalan kehidupan. Pandemi ini juga membuat banyak orang merasa bingung, cemas, takut, dan bahkan ada juga yang frustrasi.

Segala sesuatu yang terjadi di dunia ini pasti dalam kendali Tuhan. Dia mempunyai rencana bagi kehidupan orang-orang yang berserah kepada-Nya, karena Tuhan berkuasa menyelesaikan setiap masalah yang terjadi di dunia ini. Ia tidak membiarkan umat-Nya binasa. Ia menguji setiap umat-Nya dalam

setiap peristiwa untuk membangun dan membentuk kerohanian mereka. Dia sering menggunakan krisis untuk membawa perubahan yang mendesak dalam hidup umat-Nya.

Sebagai orang percaya seharusnya kita mengetahui penyebab rasa takut itu muncul dan mampu mengendalikan rasa takut tersebut, bukan malah dikuasai oleh ketakutan. Rasa takut itu merugikan dan harus diatasi. Contohnya adalah seperti ketakutan akan masa lalu, ketakutan akan keadaan yang sedang dihadapi, dan ketakutan akan masa depan yang belum pasti. Hal-hal itu bisa membuat seseorang terjebak dalam perasaan takut yang serius, sehingga sulit untuk membuat suatu keputusan dan mencoba hal-hal baru dalam hidupnya.

#### MENANG ATAS KETAKUTAN

Bagaimana setiap orang percaya dapat menang dari ketakutan dan menjadikannya kekuatan?

##### 1. Alihkan Pandangan dari Masalah

kepada Tuhan (Mindset Baru) “Maka datanglah murid-murid-Nya membangunkan Dia, katanya: “Tuhan, tolonglah, kita binasa.” Ia berkata kepada mereka: “Mengapa kamu takut, kamu yang kurang percaya?” Lalu bangunlah Yesus menghardik angin dan danau itu, maka danau itu menjadi teduh sekali.” Matius 8:25-26

Kebanyakan dari mereka yang berada dalam perahu ini adalah nelayan. Mereka tentu saja sudah terbiasa dengan situasi laut dan badai yang bisa datang kapan pun. Namun angin ribut kali itu pasti sangat ekstrim, sehingga mereka menjadi sangat ketakutan dan berpikir bahwa mereka akan binasa. Hebatnya, Yesus dapat tidur di tengah-tengah angin ribut yang mengerikan seperti itu. Inilah yang seharusnya terjadi pada kita yang telah menjadi murid Yesus. Meskipun persoalan besar datang menderu, kita tetap tenang dan tidak menjadi panik. Perlu diingat,

bawa bukan apa yang masalah bisa perbuat terhadap kita, tapi apa yang Tuhan bisa lakukan buat kita.

Setiap manusia memiliki ketakutan, bahkan Tuhan Yesus juga mengalami rasa takut ketika Ia berdoa di Taman Getsemani. Namun, Tuhan Yesus, di dalam ketakutan-Nya, tetap memandang kepada Bapa. Demikian juga seharusnya kita. Jika kita melihat ada seseorang yang sepertinya tidak takut apa-apa, mungkin orang itu bukannya tidak takut, tetapi dia sudah berhasil mengatasi rasa takutnya.

Satu hal yang menarik, orang dewasa sekalipun bisa merasa takut, panik atau bahkan menjadi marah oleh karena hal-hal kecil. Namun, bila dilihat dari sudut pandang orang lain, hal itu sama sekali tidak menakutkan. Ini menunjukkan bahwa ketakutan itu adalah hal yang sungguh-sungguh subjektif, tergantung kepada pribadi lepas pribadi.

## 2. Tetap dalam Hadirat Tuhan

Suatu malam, para murid diguncang rasa takut setelah Yesus mengadakan mujizat dengan memberi makan lebih dari lima ribu orang. Tuhan meminta para murid berangkat terlebih dahulu ke Betsaida supaya Dia dapat berdoa sendirian. Sepanjang malam itu, ketika para murid sedang bersusah payah mendayung melawan angin sakal, tiba-tiba mereka melihat Yesus berjalan di atas air. Para murid menjadi sangat ketakutan karena mengira Yesus adalah hantu. (Markus 6:49-50)

Saat Yesus mendekat ke perahu dan murid-murid mendengar suara-Nya “Tenanglah! Aku ini, jangan takut!”, maka badai reda, dan ketakutan pun diusir. Setelah Yesus naik ke perahu, angin kencang tiba-tiba berhenti dan mereka dapat melanjutkan perjalanan, hingga tiba di pantai dengan selamat. Ketika Tuhan hadir dalam hidup setiap orang percaya, maka semua badai



hidup yang membuat ketakutan akan diubah menjadi damai sejahtera dan kekuatan.

Rasul Paulus menasehati di dalam 2 Timotius 1:7, "Sebab Allah memberikan kepada kita bukan roh ketakutan, melainkan roh yang membangkitkan kekuatan, kasih dan ketertiban."

Dari ayat ini, kita belajar bahwa Roh Kudus adalah Sang Penolong yang selalu mendampingi kita, berdiam di dalam kita, memberikan kita damai sejahtera dan mengusir roh ketakutan di dalam setiap orang yang tetap tinggal di dalam hadirat Tuhan.

### 3. Melangkah Maju Bersama Tuhan Pemazmur menulis,

"Tuhan menetapkan langkah-langkah orang yang hidupnya berkenan kepada-Nya" Mazmur 37:23

Mazmur tersebut selanjutnya memberikan gambaran indah

tentang pemeliharaan Allah yang setia atas siapa pun yang mau berjalan bersama-Nya.

"Taurat Allahnya ada di dalam hatinya, langkah-langkahnya tidak goyah." (ayat 31)

Melangkah maju bersama Tuhan menunjukkan bahwa tanpa Tuhan seseorang tidak dapat berbuat apa-apa (Yohanes 15:5)

Melangkah maju bersama Tuhan mempunyai implikasi bahwa Tuhan terlibat dalam semua aspek kehidupan. Ia yang memegang kendali kehidupan kita. Ia mau supaya kita dalam semua aktivitas hidup kita berada bersama Dia, karena ada jaminan bahwa bersama Tuhan setiap orang percaya akan mengalami hal-hal yang ajaib. Kita akan mengalahkan musuh dan menjadi pemenang. Semakin lama kita berjalan bersama Tuhan, maka kita akan semakin kuat dan apa saja yang kita kerjakan dan usahakan

pasti berhasil. Kesadaran akan penyertaan Tuhan akan memberikan rasa aman dan damai sejahtera yang akan menghilangkan ketakutan.

Dapat kita simpulkan bahwa setiap orang tidak bisa menghindari ketakutan, karena itu adalah naluri manusia, tetapi jangan sampai seseorang terjebak dalam ketakutan yang berlebihan, karena akan membawa dampak buruk bagi kehidupan. Setiap orang percaya bisa mengubah ketakutan menjadi kekuatan, yaitu dengan cara mengalihkan pandangannya untuk tidak fokus kepada masalah, tetapi kepada Tuhan Yesus Kristus. Pada saat yang sama, setiap orang percaya harus tetap tinggal di dalam hadirat Tuhan yang memberikan damai sejahtera dan kekuatan, dan yang terpenting adalah ia harus berjalan maju bersama Tuhan setiap hari. Tuhan Yesus memberkati berlimpah-limpah.



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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

*The highest act of love is the giving of the best gift, and, if necessary, at the greatest cost, to the least deserving. That's what God did. At the loss of His Son's life to the totally undeserving, God gave the best gift - the display of the glory of Christ who is the image of God.*

JOHN PIPER