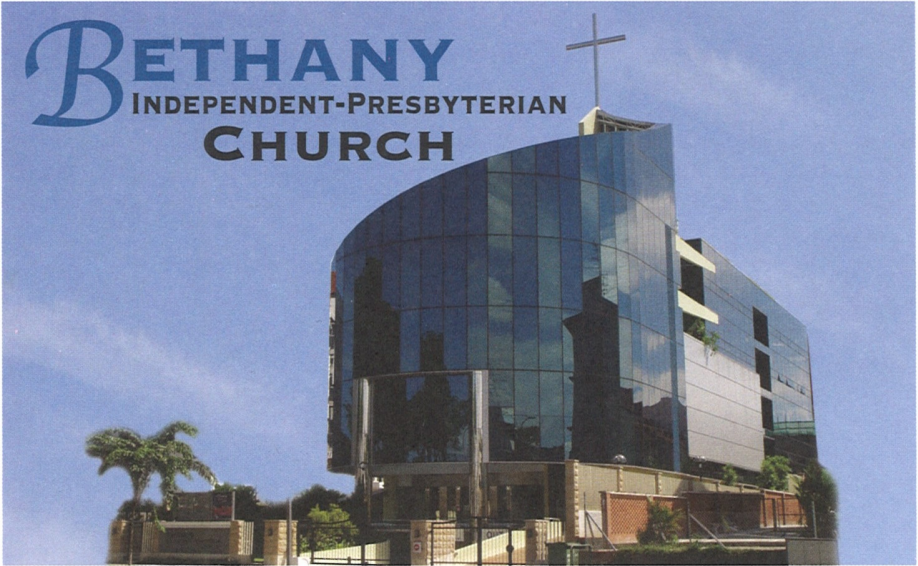


BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



God's kind of Church...where God is touching lives...and people care for people

Bethany III ... 27 March 2016 ... Easter Sunday!

MICA (P) No.: 030/10/2012

MEDITATION

by Rev Dr Charles Tan

Text: John 20



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"THEY DID NOT KNOW THE SCRIPTURES"

OUR STRUGGLES

We struggle with many things in life. We are not free from struggles at any age of life. The following are some common things we struggle with in life.

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

1. Health
2. Security
3. Hurt
4. Death

On our own, we are unable to come up with any significant solutions to these problems!

THE PLACE OF THE SCRIPTURES

The Lord Jesus Christ sought to teach His disciples about the Scriptures.

1. They needed to be more familiar with the Scriptures
2. They also needed to interpret the Scriptures correctly
3. The Lord Jesus sought to give them deep insights into the Holy Scriptures

THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

It was not easy to acquire a deep working knowledge of the Scriptures. The disciples struggled very much with: -

1. Understanding of the Scriptures
2. Remembering all that the Lord Jesus taught
3. Applying the truth of God's word in their life

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS

The disciples had a particularly difficult time with this teaching.

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1. The Lord foretold His death to His disciples on more than one occasion
2. In the same breath, He also taught them about His resurrection

But the disciples found it hard to grasp the meaning and significance of the Lord's teaching.

ON RESURRECTION MORNING

On the day Jesus rose from the dead His disciples were most perturbed when they came to His tomb. They found it empty! They could not comprehend this at all. This comment was made by one of the disciples who ran to the empty tomb.

*For as yet they did not know the Scripture,
That He must rise again from the dead.*

John 20:9

How important it is to know the Scriptures. It is only through knowledge of the Lord's word that we will be able to experience the following: -

1. Faith in the Lord
2. Fullness of confidence and joy
3. Fruitfulness in life and ministry

Let us seek to deepen our knowledge of the Holy Scriptures! May there be great diligence given to the reading of the Lord's word! †

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME TO OUR EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the risen Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your heart be lifted up through worship and fellowship! †

EASTER GREETINGS

The Pastors and the Church Session Members wish all worshippers
“Happy Easter!” †

WORSHIP AT SHANGRI LA

We will continue to worship the Lord Jesus at Shangri La for the next 2 weeks.

*3 April 2016
Communion Service*

*10 April 2016
Worship Service*

This is because of the A & A project at Bethany. Thank God that we were able to book these two dates at such short notice! †

Post~easter

There will be no PMC, PM and BS this week.
Let us take time to reflect on the significance of celebrating Easter. †



ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESUMPTION OF MID-WEEK MEETINGS

We will resume the mid-week meetings in April 2016. †

A & A

Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessings on this project. †

RECEIVING CAMILLE GEORGE INTO THE FULL-TIME MINISTRY

1. Thank God for Camille's decision to serve the Lord in the full-time ministry
 - a) She graduated with an Accountancy degree
 - b) She has been working for a few years in Tax
2. Her application was accepted by the Church Session
3. Her area of responsibility: -
To develop our Children's ministry in Bethany
4. Our view of ministry to Children
 - a) We value the lives of all our children
 - b) We are committed to helping them come to faith in the Lord at a young age
 - c) We desire to help them to lay a strong foundation for their faith and life
5. The right hand of fellowship
 - a) The Session Members will give her the right hand of fellowship at the worship service today
 - b) The Sunday School Superintendents will also welcome her
 - c) The Pastors will lay their hands on her with a prayer of blessing †

TESTIMONY OF CAMILLE GEORGE

A Refined Focus to Serve God

The desire to serve the Lord was planted in my heart in 2010 while I was in University. Even though the desire continued to remain in my heart over the years, I had little focus and too many of my own ideas, and these were things that God had to teach me in my life over the past five years. One verse that Pastor shared with me during that season in my life was Psalm 27:4,

‘One thing I have desired of the Lord,
That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord
All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in His temple.’

And so I made prayers to the Lord asking Him to help me refine and focus my desire on Him. And amazingly, in God’s grace, this is what He did.

Choosing to walk with God as a priority

As an undergraduate, I thought that in order to succeed in life and a job, I had to prioritize getting good grades. I was convinced I was a failure when I struggled with passing exams in University.

But Pastor encouraged me to follow through with what I had started, and it was through my struggles, that the Lord taught me about how walking the journey with Him was so much more important than the results that I would eventually receive on a piece of paper.

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Choosing Bethany

Another test of my heart was when I was given the opportunity to stay in New York City for a month in July 2014.

During my stay there, I was drawn to the life that so many of my friends had. They were 'globetrotters' with the freedom to move wherever they wanted to. This way of life began to excite and sway my heart, and I found myself weighing the reasons for finding such a life by moving overseas against remaining in Singapore. I knew that I had to deal with these feelings in my heart.

In the month after I returned from New York, Bethany was gearing up towards anniversary celebrations. It was this special time that reminded me again how it has been here in Bethany that I have learnt so much, received so much from the Lord, and experienced deep love.

The Lord helped me see that these things weighed and mattered much more than the fun and excitement of being a 'globetrotter'. Thus, during the 40+1 anniversary, I made a personal and special commitment to the Lord that Bethany was where I wanted to stay to find and serve Him.

That same year, even though I had to stay another month in Tokyo, there was no longer any tussle in my heart, and I was sure that Bethany was where I wanted to be.

Convictions

Today, I would like to seek your permission to serve the Lord in Bethany because of deep convictions that I have within my heart. I would like to share three of them with you.

(Continued on page 8)

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For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

From Hebrews 9:13-14, I am deeply impacted that this life I live is one that was paid for by the precious and pure blood of my Saviour.

Secondly, I recognize that there must be a reason that I have been cleansed and removed from my past life. In verse 14, I understand that I ought to use this life to serve the living God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Thirdly, as it says in 1 Corinthians 15:10, I have experienced much of God's grace in my life from Him and through the many people around me in Bethany. As I see the needs of people and ministry arise, I cannot help but want to learn to labour for the Lord and for the people in Bethany as a response to this grace poured into my life.

Thank you.

In His Grace,
Camille ✠

PSALM 61:1-2

Hear my cry, O God;

Attend to my prayer.

From the end of the earth I will cry to You,

When my heart is overwhelmed;

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

1. Worshipping God
 - a) It is coming to Him
 - b) It is seeking Him in prayer

2. Seeking God
 - a) When we feel overwhelmed
 - b) When we feel that we are at the end of the earth

3. Praying meaningfully
 - a) Praying to be led by God
 - b) Praying to be led out of problems
 - c) Praying to be led “to a rock” that is on a higher plane †

AND THE THIRD DAY HE WILL RISE AGAIN

Jesus strode bravely to Jerusalem to fulfil His destiny,
His disciples followed but with a great sense of timidity.
They were sorrowful that Jesus said that He would die,
They were also afraid for themselves, and that was no lie!

The Son of Man would be betrayed by one of His own,
The chief priests refused to recognize His claim on the Throne,
They did not believe that He was the Son of David, the Messiah,
Their hearts did not recognize Him; He was not their hearts' desire.

They would mock Him, scourge Him, and cause Him to be crucified,
The enemies wanted His tomb to be guarded, or they would not be satisfied.
Would Jesus truly rise from the dead on the third day as He had said?
How could anyone be resurrected? Jesus was slain! He was dead!

On the third day, some women disciples came to the tomb of Jesus to weep,
The past few days had been restless ones, and no one had been able to sleep!
Mary Magdalene wept hard that her beloved Rabbi was now no more,
No one could understand and heal the deep sorrow that she bore.

Jesus appeared to Mary in the gloom that was darkest before dawn,
He called out to her and assured her He was alive; she need not mourn!
Every word of the Lord Jesus came to pass, just as He had plainly said,
Death had no power to keep Him down; GOD had raised Jesus from the dead!

Inspiration: Mark 10:32-34; John 20:1-18

Charles Tan †

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Today, 27 March 2016

John 5:24 Passed from death to life

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

1. A wonderfully assuring word
 - a) The promise of everlasting life
 - b) The promise of not going to be judged
 - c) The promise of passing from death to life

2. How may these things come to pass?
 - a) When we know this word of truth
 - b) When we believe the Lord Jesus when He gave this promise
 - c) When we believe that God has sent Jesus to give eternal life

NEXT SUNDAY, 3 April 2016

John 6:35 I am the bread of life

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." †

Bethany Church Activities

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Children's Worship (P1 – P6)		10.30 am	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship Service		4.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Church Office	3 rd floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	3 rd Floor Auditorium	3 rd floor
Junior Sunday School		8.30am	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Combined		8.30am	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School		8.30am	BTS	4 th floor
Senior Sunday School III				
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Sanctuary II	2 nd floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
Home Bible Study	2 nd and 4 th Thurs	3.00 pm	-	-
Mandarin Bible Study	1 st and 3 rd Fri	7.30 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
CATECHISM CLASS				
	Sun	1.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group	Sat	3.00 pm	3 rd and 4 th Floor Auditorium	3 rd & 4 th floor
Young Adults' Group	Sat	3.00 pm	Fellowship Hall	1 st floor

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

301 Upper Paya Lebar Road. Singapore 534934

tel : 65-62877713 . fax : 65-62877980 . website URL : bethanyipc.sg

EASTER SUNDAY

27 March 2016
Shangri La Hotel

Pre-worship HWC 229 Our God Reigns

Prelude

Pianist : Mrs Esther Ang

Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

Invocation

Hymn
HWC 170 One Day

Rev. Mark Tan

Hymn
CP 227 I Know that My Redeemer Liveth

S-P Ben Chong

Hymn
HWC 220 He lives

S-P Ben Quah

Hymn
HWC 213 Because He Lives

Rev. Mitchell Tan

Gift to Ju Eng Home

Special Video: Camille George

Special Item: Glorious Day

Combined Choir

Message: "I Have Come that they may have Life"
Text: John 10

Easter Offering

Hymn
HWC 227 Thine is the Glory

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

Postlude

HE WALKED THE EARTH TO KNOW *what it's like to be human.*

HE SUFFERED THE PAIN OF DEATH *on a cross to set us free.*

HE ROSE FROM DEATH *to bring us everlasting life.*

HE GAVE US THE HOLY SPIRIT *so we would never walk alone.*

HE IS JESUS, *our Savior and King!*

Special Easter Sunday Pastoral Letter

27 March 2016

Dear Brethren,

“HE IS RISEN”

These words were uttered when believers greeted each other on Easter Sunday. What did this phrase represent?

1. A proclamation
 - a) Of faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ
 - b) Of joy in the heart
2. A deep understanding
 - a) Of confidence in the relevance of the resurrection to our life
 - b) Of certainty that we too will experience resurrection one day when Christ returns

EASTER JOY

There is much confident joy to be found in our belief of the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Joy in the fact that Jesus was risen from the dead
 - a) Personal joy
 - b) Profound joy
2. Joy in our identification with the Lord Jesus
 - a) As He has risen from the dead so is the hope of all who believe in Him
 - b) As He has promised resurrection from the dead, so His promise will be fulfilled

ATTENDANT BLESSINGS

May you find these attendant blessings in your hope in the Lord Jesus Christ!

1. Much strength
2. Great encouragement

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

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