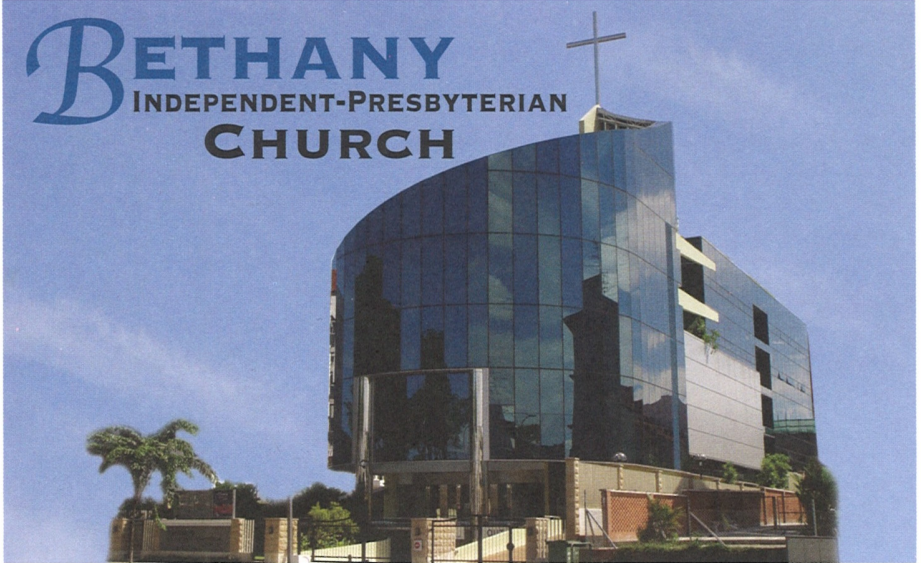


# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



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

Bethany III ... 8 January 2017

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

## MEDITATION

*by Rev Dr Charles Tan*

Text: Psalm 9



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# "I WILL TELL OF YOUR MARVELLOUS WORKS"

## IT IS ALWAYS UPLIFTING

It is always uplifting and instructive to read about how people testify of their faith in the Lord God. We have another testimony of faith in God in Psalm 9.

*(continued on page 2)*

# MEDITATION

*(Continued from page 1)*

*I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
I will tell of all Your marvellous works.*

*I will be glad and rejoice in You;  
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.          Psalm 9:1-2*

## **LEARNING FROM THE PSALMIST DAVID**

The following are lessons we may learn from reading Psalm 9.

1. I will praise You, O LORD with my whole heart
  - a) Praise  
This is an excellent way of bearing witness of our faith in God
  - b) Praise with the whole heart  
Praise is most effective when we give it with our whole heart!
2. I will tell of Your marvellous works
  - a) David bore witness of God's marvellous works
    - i) In creation                      Psalm 19
    - ii) In His creation of Man      Psalm 8
  - b) He bore witness of his experiences with God
    - i) How God heard his prayers
    - ii) How God delivered him from tough circumstances (Psalm 4)

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

3. I will be glad and rejoice in You
  - a) Gladness of heart is a wonderful way of bearing witness
  - b) Rejoicing in the Lord is a special way of witnessing for the Lord
4. The name of God
  - a) David spoke of God and called Him “LORD”
  - b) He also called Him “Most High”
  - c) David’s regard and reverence for the name of God is inspiring
    - i) How wonderful it is to speak to people of how we revere God
    - ii) This is best seen in the way we speak of the Lord

## **BE CHALLENGED**

Let us be challenged to learn how we may bear witness for the Lord our God. Let us read the Scriptures and learn how we too may bear testimony of our faith in the Lord God. †

*Write to me at:* [charlestan@bethanyipc.sg](mailto:charlestan@bethanyipc.sg)

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

**WELCOME**  
**to Bethany III**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## A SPECIAL WELCOME

A special welcome to our brethren who have flown from Perth to Singapore to attend the wedding service of Lionel and Hui Min. †

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## CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

1. *Time: 1.00pm*

2. *Venue: New Auditorium 4<sup>th</sup> Level*

Invitation to all who have just been baptised. Plan to attend the Catechism Classes as we read Ephesians further. †

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

1. Intermediate Sunday School has begun its own program.

The new emphasis is to seek to help the Teens to come to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

2. Combined Sunday School

This is still being held in the Sanctuary.

*8.15am Singspiration*

*8.30am Class*

*9.15am Fellowship (individual classes) †*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ***FELLOWSHIP GROUPS*** ***(Saturday)***

Combined Meeting on 21 January 2017.

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Sanctuary

Regular meetings of Individual groups will commence in February 2017.

1. YPG 3.00pm

a) YPG 1 (Young Teens)

Led by S-P Ben Quah

b) YPG 2 (Upper Secondary, JC and Poly)

Led by Pastor Mitch Tan

c) YPG 3 (Tertiary education)

Led by S-P Ben Chong

2. YAG 3.00pm

Led by Pastor Mark Tan

3. YMG (Young Married) 3.00pm

Led by Pastor Charles Tan

4. AM Bethany 5.00pm

Led by Pastor Charles Tan †

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## A & A PROJECT

Let us pray for the Lord's blessings on the Project. There are still many details that need to be looked into. †

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## IPC INDIA

Our Indian brethren will be holding their Family Camp (16-19 January 2017).  
Theme: Feed My Sheep

The Pastoral Team (Bethel and Bethany) will be ministering together with our Indian pastors. Others coming for the Camp would include Jonas Tan, Yvette Seow and Gan Ann. †

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## CHURCH FAMILY CAMP

*12- 16 March 2017*

**Theme: "My People"**

*Venue: Le Grandeur (Johor)*

Plan to sign up as soon as possible. Let us seek to understand the Lord's teaching about what it means to be His people.

### CAMP SPONSORS

Let us plan to sponsor the Family Camp. Let us give so that we can run the Camp well. The sponsorship would cover the rental of the buses and other details of the Camp. †



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Lionel and Hui Min on the occasion of their wedding on 7 January 2017. May the Lord's blessings be yours as you commence your journey as man and wife! †

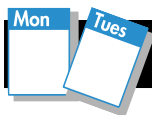
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### WEDDING BELLS: 14 JANUARY 2017

*Time: 2.00pm*

*Wedding Service: Eng Yuwen and Joel Lee*

All in Bethany are invited. A wedding reception follows the service. †



## WEEKDAY MINISTRIES

### PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

*Monday, 9 January 2017*

*Time: 7.00pm*

*Venue: 4<sup>th</sup> Storey (New Auditorium) †*

### PRAYER MEETING

*Monday, 9 January 2017*

*Time: 8.00pm*

*Venue: 4<sup>th</sup> Storey (New Auditorium) †*

### BIBLE STUDY

*Tuesday, 10 January 2017*

*Time: 8.00pm*

*Venue: 4<sup>th</sup> Storey (New Auditorium) †*

# TESTIMONIES

Testimonies given by Chia Beng Hoe and Michelle at  
Down Memory Lane on 31 December 2016



Good evening everyone! My name is Beng Hoe.

“

I want to thank Pastor for this opportunity to come before you to testify of God's amazing grace and mercy upon me.

The year 2016 is a very special year. It is special because I almost did not make it through to celebrate Christmas with you and joining you this evening at Down Memory Lane.

On Christmas Day, I felt so good to be able to join all of you in Shangri-la Hotel to worship and celebrate the birth of our Wonderful Saviour Jesus Christ. I shook so many hands and greeted so many brothers and sisters in Christ.

On 9 September 2016 I woke up at 4am in the morning with a very congested heart and numbness of my right leg. I woke my wife Michelle up and asked her to take me to the hospital. I told her she has only 4 minutes to get me there. I told her 4 minutes because I don't know when my heart is going to stop and if it does stop, I will be brain dead if I go without oxygen for more than 4 minutes.

Though under a lot of stress, Michelle remained calm and had to beat traffic lights and speed cameras in an effort to get me to the nearest hospital, which is Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, as soon as possible.

Meantime my right leg became totally numbed and I knew oxygen was not getting to my leg and I might have to amputate it if I do not get help quickly. I prayed that the Lord will bring us to the hospital soon.

As we arrived at KTP hospital, Michelle hurriedly drove into the ambu-



lance area instead of the A&E. The ambulance staff were quick to respond and they came out with a wheelchair and later transferred me to the emergency stretcher trolley. As I laid on the stretcher, I remembered I cried and told Michelle, "I am sorry, I am going". Somehow I knew I was dying.

Soon I was given an injection and mask and I took deep breaths and from there, I went into a deep sleep. I woke up 3 days later and realised that I was in the Intensive Care Unit of the National University Hospital.

I learnt that I had suffered an aortic dissection and before the cardio-thoracic team could start surgery, my heart had stopped and they had to resuscitate me before starting surgery on me. When my heart stopped, blood stops flowing to the brain and all vital organs in my body. I was dead and was brought back to life.

The team of 7 surgeons and doctors took 3 hours and 6 packets of blood just to stop the bleeding before they could continue with the repair of the aorta. The surgical team took a total of 9 hours to complete the surgery. Even though the surgery was successful, I was still not out of the woods.

It is understood that an aortic dissection surgery carries a 50% success rate and even if it was successful, some 80% patients would end up dying of a stroke. Even if I do not die of a stroke, according to my surgeon, Prof Kristine Teoh, I could still end up:

- a) having my limbs amputated
- b) with stroke and all the related inconveniences
- c) brain dead
- d) with kidney failure and requiring dialysis for the rest of my life
- e) shut down of the digestive system, etc

Prof Teoh wanted to observe and monitor if all my organs were functioning normally so she warded me in the ICU for 6 days.

Against all odds, day by day the doctors noticed that I was able to move my limbs, drink and urinate, eat and pass motion. They were so amazed at

my progress. I noticed doctors walking passed my bed would congratulate Prof Teoh for a great job done.

I am thankful to Prof Tan Huay Cheem for organising the team of surgeons who performed the surgery successfully. Most of all, I know that our God, the Great Physician had performed a miracle of delivering me from my death bed. Thank God for His amazing grace and mercy!

During my surgery and my stay in hospital, I am aware that many prayed unceasingly. In fact many turned up at the hospital to accompany Michelle to pray alongside her. I am so thankful to all who prayed, supplicated and interceded for me. I want to thank Pastor Charlie and our pastoral team, my church family, Bethany IPC, Bethel IPC, my family and friends for being there for my family and I. God heard our prayers, supplication and intercession.

I have since successfully undergone 2 stent surgeries, a subclavian stent which was performed on 25 October and a Thoracic Endovascular Aortic Repair which was performed on 8 November.

Before the surgeries, Dr Julian Wong who is a Christian told us he will do his best but divine intervention will ultimately determine the outcome of the procedures. He told us that it was a miracle that I had survived my first surgery. He told us to get the church to pray for us and for him too. I really thank God for good Christian doctors.

God has been good to me and my family all these years. He has watched over each one of us and blessed us even though we are all so unworthy of His love.

Though so undeserving, God not only miraculously gave me back my life, He restored me 100%. I have full functions of all my organs. Thank God for this opportunity of a new lease of life.

After experiencing this miracle and His amazing grace and mercy, I am challenged to live a life pleasing to Him. I want to develop a deeper relationship with the Lord. I want to cultivate the faith as a mustard seed as

the Lord had said in Luke 17:6. I want to establish a firm relationship with God and extol Him and join David in proclaiming in Psalm 9:1-2

*I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
I will tell of all Your marvellous works.  
I will be glad and rejoice in You;  
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.*

I would like you to join me in expressing my gratitude to our God and King by singing My Tribute.

*“How can I say thanks for the things  
You have done for me?  
Things so undeserved yet you gave  
To prove your love for me  
The voices of a million angels  
Could not express my gratitude  
All that I am, and ever hope to be  
I owe it all to thee*

*To God be the glory, to God be the glory  
To God be the glory for the things he has done  
With his blood he has saved me  
With his power he has raised me  
To God be the glory for the things he has done  
Just let me live my life and  
Let it be pleasing Lord to thee  
And if I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary  
With his blood he has saved me  
With his power he has raised me  
To God be the glory for the things he has done”  
My Tribute – Andrae Crouch*

In a couple of hours we will be welcoming the new year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Blessed New Year! It is so good to be able to worship with you here this evening.

Thank you!

”

# TESTIMONIES

“

Good evening, I am Michelle and I like to thank Pastor for this opportunity to testify the Lord's goodness.

Many of you asked me how I cope during this trying situation, from the time the attack came, to the operation and the post op care-giving. I must tell you that I could not have done it without the Lord. The Lord knows my every need and He provided them at the crux of each moment. Every single detail, the Lord is in charge.

As I trace the Lord's hand, I know for certain that it is my Lord's abundant love, grace and mercy that kept Beng Hoe alive and also the Lord's provision of strength and wisdom for me to cope. God was behind the steering wheel when I drove to KTP. I wasn't calm like what BH said. I was panicking because I don't know the way there. It was my first time to that hospital. God literally led me there because the roads I travelled on were so alien to me. So, I prayed and trusted God to bring me there. And He did.

When the A&E doctor told me how serious BH condition was, telling me that I might lose him anytime, I didn't believe him because I have no idea what aortic dissection was. In fact, I doubted his competency as a doctor. On hindsight, the Lord humbled my heart because if the A&E doctor didn't diagnose correctly and mistreated him as having a heart attack, he would have died at KTP. I thank God for sending us a competent doctor whose clinical interest is in cardiac emergencies. The outcome could have been very different.

It was hard when the nurse handed me Beng Hoe's belongings in a big transparent bag. I felt terrible. It seemed like receiving items belonging to a deceased. My first thought was to seek for prayer support and I managed to reach Deacon Jacob as the pastoral team was away in Perth. I remembered weeping while driving to NUH and crying out to the Lord, seeking His mercies over and over again.

When BH reached NUH, there was hardly any pulse left except a weak pulse on his left leg. When the surgeon Kristine Teoh explained to us, nothing sounded good nor hopeful. When I asked if there is any other alternative, she said we could let him go comfortably. I was not prepared to let BH die. It was all too sudden and too much for me to bear.

The next 9 hours was a tormenting wait outside the operating theatre. I wished I knew what was going on inside. Guess no news is good news. Many rallied in prayer and offered words of comfort and encouragement. It was not easy controlling my thoughts. There were many negative thoughts that were casting doubts and fears. When I “caught” myself imagining the worst, I prayed and asked God to take these doubts away and I told God that I was going to trust in Him and take it one step at a time. Peace came and fears fled away.

I thanked God for a successful operation but like what the surgeon said, it was all too early to celebrate yet. The next 48 hours were extremely crucial. His survival rate remained at 50/50. That was a sober reminder for me to continue to battle on in prayer. It was heartache to see him all wired up from head to toe either to machines or as drainages. It must have been very painful and uncomfortable for him. That night, Evangeline and I kept watch. I was heavy hearted. In those quiet moments, I prayed and sought the Lord to be merciful to Beng Hoe. For each risk that he was vulnerable to, I prayed and committed it to the Lord. I could hardly sleep. The word of God in Romans 8:26-28 assured me that even if I did not know what to pray or was burdened beyond measure, God would search the depths of my heart and the Holy Spirit would intercede for me. I knew that God had a reason for this to happen and I was going to trust Him and lean on His promises.

Flashes of our wedding some 12 years ago flooded my mind and I recalled my marriage vow “... for better or for worse, in sickness or in health, to love and to cherish...and by God’s grace, I will endeavour to fulfil all that I have promised”. It was now the time for me to live out my promise in his sickness. I pleaded with God to give me another chance to love and cherish him. I told God that I would take care of Beng Hoe no matter what the outcome was. Reciting my favourite verse in Philippians 4:6-7 over

and over again helped me focus on God and God alone. I was thankful that I could catch some sleep at 3am out of sure exhaustion.

After 3 days of unconsciousness, BH finally woke up on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Praise God!! God heard my cry and He answered my prayer and more. He was fully conscious and no organ was damaged. It is truly a miracle. I echoed what Psalmist said in *Psalm 40:1* “*I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry*”. I thanked God for the chance that I had asked for. God had worked so mightily in this humanly impossible journey of surviving this massive aortic dissection and He spared me the agony of waiting. I thank God that my faith and hope in Him can triumph in tribulations.

We have so much to thank God for and many people to thank. From the surgeons, to Pastors, family and friends. God had provided us with the best medical, spiritual and emotional care and support that we could ever ask for. It was truly the Lord's full measure of grace unfolding before our eyes, witnessing BH recovering from strength to strength. He certainly did not look like one who had gone through such a major operation. Indeed, God has given him a new lease of life and he will be a living testimony of God's amazing grace and abundant mercies.

It is now a new beginning. So, how has this episode impacted me? What is my purpose in life now? Faith and hope in God really made all the difference as I went through this difficult trial. I want to live for Him and stand to testify of His goodness. Each time I reflect on what happened...tears would come...tears of gratitude for this gracious and merciful Father who would care and protect His sheep...tears of relief that Beng Hoe's life is saved against all odds. I am reminded of His sovereignty in *Jeremiah 32:27* “*Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?*” It is truly God who heard my cry, wiped my tears and now I can rejoice and leap for joy!

From this point forward, I want to walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him and being fruitful in every good work, and increase my knowledge of God (*Col 1:10*). Priorities will change and perspective in life will also change. God has lifted my burdened heart. God didn't prom-

ise a journey that is smooth and rosy but He promises me hope and strength to cope during the journey. I know God walks ahead of me to lead me, besides me to encourage me. I draw comfort that I am not alone and that God is with me.

Thank you very much, many dear brothers and sisters in Christ here who have prayed and walked alongside this journey with Beng Hoe and I. We deeply appreciate your care and concern and the special bond we share in Bethany. We pray and hope that God be your refuge and strength too.

May your hearts be encouraged.

”

### YOU ARE MY WITNESSES

*God's challenge to be His witnesses was made clear,  
A very strong word was given to His people far and near.  
The task was given to His people who had been saved,  
They were His chosen servants, whose sins He forgave!*

*Is it really difficult to bear witness for the Lord?  
Is it too hard to speak a word in the name of God?  
Not if we have experienced His salvation full and free!  
Not if we have been set free from sin and given liberty!*

*Surely it is not hard to speak of the love of God!  
How deep and wondrous the affection of the Lord!  
Though we were beyond hope, destroyed by sin,  
The Lord ransomed us and cleansed us from within.*

*We need not fear, even if we stumble now and then,  
The Lord is with us, He will enable us, firmly, to stand.  
What a privilege it is to called the servants of the Lord!  
Let us be challenged to bear faithful witness for our God.*

*Inspiration: Isaiah 43:10*

*Charles Tan ☩*



## PSALM 71:19-20

*Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high,  
You who have done great things.  
O God, who is like You?*

*You, who have shown me great and severe troubles,  
Shall revive me again and bring me up again from the depths of the earth.*

1. Appreciation of God
  - a) The righteousness of God is indeed very high
  - b) There is no one like God who has done great things
2. Experiences in life
  - a) There was a tough time in life
  - b) Great and severe troubles were experienced
3. Trust in God
  - a) God will bring revival
  - b) He will raise up and restore fully †

# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

**Today, 8 January 2017**

**Isaiah 43:12 You are My witnesses that I am God**

*“I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, and there was no foreign god among you; therefore You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “that I am God.”*

## **GOD’S OWN WITNESS**

1. I have declared
  - a) There is the declared word
  - b) There is also that prophetic word
2. I have saved
  - a) God did keep His word of promise
  - b) He had indeed saved His people (as He promised)
3. I have proclaimed
  - a) God proclaims what is the obvious
  - b) His proclamation is a mere statement of fact

## **ISRAEL’S CHALLENGE**

1. To bear witness for the Lord
2. To testify that what God had said was true

**Next Sunday, 15 January 2017**

**Isaiah 44:8 There is no other Rock**

*Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it?  
You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me?  
Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.*

THEME : YOU ARE MY WITNESSES

# *This Week @ Worship*

— COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE —  
10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY  
“You are My witnesses...  
is there a God beside Me”  
Isaiah 44

Chairmen  
Student-Pastor  
Eugene Seow  
Student-Pastor  
Moses Kwek

Pianist  
Mrs Esther Ang

Organist  
Mrs Elsie Poey

Speaker  
Rev Dr Charles Tan

Interpreter  
Mr Alex Tan

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE**

— CHILDREN'S CHURCH —  
10.30 AM  
“Kingdom of Heaven”  
Matthew 5:3-10

COMBINED CC (P1—P6)

Speaker  
Student-Pastor Benjamin Chong  
*4th Floor Auditorium*

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL  
WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Janssen Ho  
Fellowship Lunch : Mark & Chen Kee

# Bethany Church Activities

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

## Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

301 Upper Paya Lebar Road, Singapore 534934  
 tel : 65-62877713 . fax : 65-62877980 . website URL : bethanyipc.sg

**COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**8 January 2017**  
**Order of Worship**

**PREPARATION**

Pre-Worship Singing

*Pianist : Mrs Esther Ang*  
*Organist : Mrs Elsie Poey*

HWC No. 390

May The Mind Of Christ My Saviour

Prelude

Call to Worship

Student-Pastor Eugene Seow  
Student-Pastor Moses Kwek

Invocation

**PRAISE**

Hymns

Century Praise 308

Thanks To God For My Redeemer

Century Praise 334

Open My Eyes, That I May See

HWC No. 365

Close To Thee

**“PREACH THE WORD”**

Message: “You are My witnesses... is there a God beside Me”

Text : Isaiah 44

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

**RESPONSE**

Offering

Hymn

Century Praise 295

I Will Sing Of My Redeemer

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

# PASTORAL LETTER

Senior Pastor : Rev Dr Charles Tan

8 January 2017

*Dear Brethren,*

## THE LORD IS NEAR

Thank God for the precious word that we read at DML (31 December 2016).

*The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,  
To all who call upon Him in truth. Psalm 145:18*

How wonderful it is to know that the Lord is indeed near to all who call upon Him!

## A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

On Tuesday, 3 January 2017, I had to undergo a colonoscopy and gastroscopy. This very text was what I kept close to my heart. It is good and important to practise what we read in the Scriptures.

1. Before I was wheeled into the Operating Theatre
  - a) The word of God kept my heart and mind steady
  - b) How precious it is to know that the Lord is indeed near
2. In the Operating Theatre
  - a) I greeted my gastroenterologist
  - b) I recalled a text from Exodus 34: 5-7
3. In this wonderful text the idea of what it means to have God to draw near became even more precious. Let us stand in wonder that God would draw near to us at all.

*Now the LORD descended in the cloud  
And stood with him (Moses) there...*

*And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed,  
The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious,  
Longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth*

*Exodus 34:5-6*

- a) The LORD who abides in the heavens comes down to be with us
- b) He stands by us and proclaims His name to us; He brings such joy!

***Prayerfully,  
Pastor Charlie***