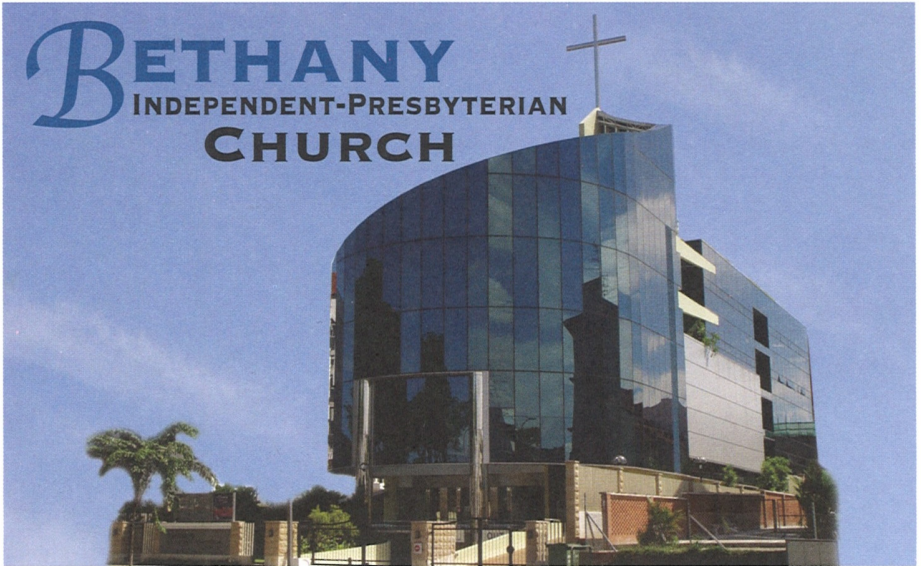


# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



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

*Bethany III ... 15 January 2017*

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

## MEDITATION

*by Rev Dr Charles Tan*

Text: Psalm 9



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## “A REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE”

### THE CALL TO BEAR WITNESS

King David was one of the faithful witnesses of the Lord. In the following text, he shared what he believed about the Lord.

*But the LORD shall endure forever;  
He has prepared His throne for judgment.*

*(continued on page 2)*

# MEDITATION

*(Continued from page 1)*

*He shall judge the world in righteousness,  
And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.*

*The LORD will be a refuge for the oppressed,  
A refuge in times of trouble.*

*And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;  
For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.*

*Psalm 9:7-10*

1. Share what we know about the Lord as Judge
  - (a) God will endure forever (eternal existence)
  - (b) God is ultimately the Divine Righteous Judge
    - i. He will judge the world in righteousness
    - ii. He will administer judgment for everyone in the world
    - iii. He will always administer judgment in uprightness
2. Share what we know about the Lord as a great Refuge
  - (a) God is a wonderful Refuge for the oppressed
  - (b) He will be great Refuge in times of trouble
3. Encourage people to know the Lord
  - (a) The name of God stands for who He is
  - (b) His name can bring such encouragement to the heart
4. Encourage people to trust the Lord
  - (a) This is where we exercise faith in God
  - (b) The Lord never forsakes those who seek Him

## **THERE ARE MANY WHO NEED TO FIND FAITH IN THE LORD**

The Psalmist David hinted at a number of people who would need

*(Continued from page 2)*

the Lord.

1. The oppressed
2. Those who are in trouble
3. Those who are seeking God

Let us share our faith as faithful servants of the Lord. May our witness for Him enable people to seek the Lord! †

*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 up through worship and fellowship! †

# WELCOME

## to Bethany III

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## CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

*Time: 1.00pm*

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

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## BEARING WITNESS (AT OUR PULPIT)

Those who have been recently baptised in December 2016 were encouraged to bear witness for the Lord. Beginning today, we will have a series of people who will speak of how they have come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. †

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## A & A PROJECT

Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessings. Thank God for safety for all who have been working. †

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## SUNDAY SCHOOL (COMBINED)

*8.15am Singspiration*  
*8.30am Class*  
*9.15am Class Fellowship*

The Class would be held at the Main Sanctuary. The Mezzanine Floor would be used only for those with special concerns (nursing mothers with infants).



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## PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING, PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY

There will be no PMC, PM, and BS this week.  
The Pastoral Team will be ministering in India. †

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## COMBINED FELLOWSHIP MEETING

*21 January 2017*  
*Time: 3.00pm*  
(YPG, YAG, YMG, AM)  
*Venue: Main Sanctuary †*

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## CHURCH FAMILY CAMP

*Venue: Le Grandeur*  
*Date: 12-16 March 2017*  
*Theme: "My People"*

Plan to read the Book of Jeremiah. If we read 2 chapters a day, we would be able to complete reading the whole book before Family Camp commences. †



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MISSIONS- IPC INDIA

Our brethren in India will be having their Annual Family Camp.

*Theme: "Feed My Sheep"*

The Team of people ministering in India.

1. Pastoral Team (Bethel and Bethany)
  - (a) Pastor Christopher Lai
  - (b) Pastor Mark Tan
  - (c) Pastor Mitch Tan
  - (d) Pastor Charles Tan
  - (e) S-P Ben Quah
  - (f) S-P Ben Chong
  - (g) S-P Moses Kwek
  - (h) S-P Eugene Seow
  
2. Members
  - (a) Mrs. Kwek-Gan Ann
  - (b) Mrs. Yvette Seow
  - (c) Mr. Jonas Tan

Let us be in prayer, remembering Psalm 145:18 "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." Let us pray for journey mercies. Let us pray for many hearts to be touched and blessed. ✠

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Heartfelt congratulations to Yuwen and Joel on the occasion of their marriage on 14 January 2017. May the Lord's richest blessings be theirs! ✠

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## LUNAR NEW YEAR

*Saturday, 28 January 2017*

*Open House at the Pastor's Home, 1 Gerald Crescent (799735)*

*Time: 9.00am- 5.00pm*

All are welcome! †

## JUNIOR CAMP

*Date: 29 May- 2 June 2017 . Venue: Bethany*

We resume this Ministry for the Juniors this year!

Look out for more details in the coming weeks! †

## WORSHIP

Worship  
in Spirit  
& Truth

### Psalm 71:21–22

*You shall increase my greatness,  
And comfort me on every side.*

*Also with the lute I will praise You-  
And Your faithfulness, O my God!  
To You I will sing with the harp,  
O Holy One of Israel.*



#### 1. Declaring the Lord's involvement in our life

- (a) It is the Lord who makes a person "great"
- (b) He can make that greatness to grow
- (c) He is also there to provide comfort

#### 2. Determination to praise the Lord

- (a) To use instruments of praise
  - i. The lute
  - ii. The harp
- (b) Content of Praise
  - i. The Lord God, the Holy One Himself
  - ii. His faithfulness †

## My Servant Whom I Have Chosen

What a wonderful privilege to be called "A servant of God!"  
What joy to the heart to speak in the mighty name of the Lord.  
The Lord calls upon His servants to bear witness of His name,  
The heart must be stirred from deep within, His word to proclaim!

To be chosen by God is a great and profound thought,  
How challenged we must be to learn to speak as we ought!

We must learn how we may speak well for the Lord,  
Many hearts may be drawn to believe in our precious God!

The world needs to hear about God's plan of salvation,  
So many do not know about His plan of great redemption.

No one needs to live in fear or be enslaved by sin,  
God has the power to cleanse the heart from within.

Salvation is a precious gift that our hearts must rejoice in,

Yet so many are sad because they are defeated by sin.

Let us, the redeemed servants, bear witness for our God,  
Let us proclaim faithfully the power and grace of the Lord.

*Inspiration: Isaiah 43:10*

Charles Tan †

## TESTIMONY

Testimony given by Yvonne Kwek at Down Memory Lane on 31 December 2016



This evening, I would like to take the time to declare the excellent deeds of our God that is real and personal to me.

Ministry of Manpower Labour Market report showed that in 2015, the total number of layoffs were 15,580. Out of the 15,580, 70% was made up of the PMETs (Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technicians). And I was one

of the 70%. Those of us who are above 40 years old, being laid-off for the first time, can be an emotional experience for us. I remembered sending out resumes almost every day for at least six months but no reply. My savings began to shrink and I decided to sell my car which was my only means of transport then. I was afraid to fall into depression, as we all know depression can be detrimental to one's life and those around them. And depression can hit anyone of us. And so, knowing this, soon after I was laid-off, I began to cultivate the habit of memorizing and filling my mind with the Lord's word.

When I finally got a job in 2016, I faced another set of challenge. As a banker, I have my sales targets to meet. For some reasons, I cannot meet my targets every quarter. I am not new to the job and I did what a banker should do and I worked very hard. And when I cannot bear with the pain on my hip because osteoarthritis, due to a car accident when I was a child; I decided to go for a hip replacement. But the thing was, I was still under probation period and the surgery cost was in the five figures. I wrote to Pastor for prayer support pertaining to this matter. I knew, Pastor pleaded on my behalf before our King and our God, because his reply in the email was simply Psalm 5:2 *"Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God. For to You I will pray."*

As I reflected over how this year has been, perhaps, God has allowed all these things to happen.... to catch my attention. So that, when I experienced God; I came to know and believe Him and understand that He is God.

### **# 1 – His Presence**

The first experience that I had with God was through His presence. God, will never leave me alone. Period! Because the person of the Lord Jesus Christ lives in and through the lives of all the true believers! As our Lord Jesus Christ said Himself in John 14:20, "At that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in Me, and I in you." God wanted me to know there is an inseparable relationship between the Lord Jesus and I. God wanted me to know that I do not have to lose heart when I was unemployed. God wanted me to know that I did not have to go through it alone. Because the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ was going to be with me, in it together and all the way through it. No matter what! What an awesome assurance! For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And this Him, is our dear Lord Jesus Christ who lives in us today! What a strong and powerful thought to behold!

### **# 2 – His protection and His provision**

The second experience that I had with God was through His protection and His provision. When I was unemployed, there were moments where I was so discouraged that I could not read the Lord's word, I could not pray to Him; let alone to memorise His words. Our Lord Jesus Christ who lives in me, who re-



sides in me, who dwells in me; it was He who strengthened my mind. It was the Lord who renewed my mind. It was the Lord who protected my mind from depression. So that, I was able to continue to seek God earnestly with all my heart. And to continue to memorise and fill my mind with His words. God, out of His love, said in Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, ***I will be with you.*** And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you" God didn't say He will take me out of my challenges. He said "***I will be with you.***" He did, and He still do today. And, He protected me from depression during the period when I was unemployed.

When I went for my hip replacement, I was still under the probation period. It was God who provided for my hospitalization bills through my company. It was God who approved my 2 months of hospitalization leave through my bosses. Talking about bosses, just three weeks ago, I received a call from my boss' boss. To be honest, I was hesitant to pick up the call because it is a little unusual for boss' boss to call their staffs directly. I told him I am recovering well and I look forward to get back to work. He told me to rest well and fully recovered before coming back to work. He said that the reason why he called me personally, was to inform me that he has placed me in a newly set up team. And he hoped that I will accept this arrangement and not tender my resignation upon my return because of the changes. In another word, my bosses' boss wants me to stay on in the job. Wow!... God revealed Himself to me through His protection and His provision, that ***only He can*** do all these things! So that, I came to know and believe Him, and understand that He is God.

### **# 3 – His Profound love**

The third experience that I had with God was through His profound love. On the eve of my hip surgery, I was in the ward communicating with our Heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit of God who dwells in me brought to my remembrance Isaiah 43:1 again and again and again. I knew that our Heavenly Father was trying to say something to me. And I stopped speaking whatever I was trying to bring before Him in prayers at His throne of grace. And listen to Him attentively. It was not an audible voice, nor my own voice in my head. It is distinctive. Like the sheep that recognises the voice of the Shepherd when he calls out the sheep by name and leads them out. Our Heavenly Father, out of His love, said this to me from Isaiah 43:1 "I have called you by Your name. You are mine." This text in Isaiah 43:1 indicates to us a special relationship exists, because of the Divine relationship between our Heavenly Father and us, His people, His children. I am His and our Heavenly Father watches over His own. With all these thoughts in mind, there was the fullness of confidence and peace throughout my stay in the hospital!

God revealed His profound love to me not only through His word, but also in practical ways. God gives people for my life. In God's perfect timing, He sent

people to recommend a good surgeon to me. And I call them "angels". The approach which the surgeon took enables me to recover faster and in lesser pain. God also revealed His profound love to me through prayers made from my Spiritual family in Bethany. I came to know the importance of prayers and I did not want to take it for granted that my surgery would go well. And so, as I informed my brethren whom I serve alongside from various ministries to cover my duties during my absence, I also requested for their prayer supports. Pastor and the Pastoral Team prayed, sisters and one brother from the Collection Of Offerings prayed, brethren from SSS4 Befriender and the Committee members prayed and many others prayed alongside. And the surgery was a success.

In the past, I struggled with the reality of experiencing God. Now, God is no longer my salvation in head knowledge alone. He also has become my salvation in actuality. It is my privilege to stand here to be God's witness, to declare His excellent deeds among the peoples and to make mention that His name is exalted. It is because of these experiences with God, through His presence, His protection and provision, and His profound love; that I came to know and believe Him and understand that He... is... God... !

## BIBLE MEMORY WORK

**Today, 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.*

1. Battling fear

This is important. So many are rendered ineffective because of fear.

2. Bravely declare we are witnesses of the Lord

(a) That we believe in His word

(b) That we believe that the Lord is our Rock

**NEXT SUNDAY: 22 January 2017**

**John 15:26 He will testify of Me**

*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ✠*

THEME : YOU ARE MY WITNESSES

# *This Week @ Worship*

— COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE —  
10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY  
“To bear witness of the Light”  
John 1

**Chairmen**  
Rev Mark Tan  
Rev Mitchell Tan

**Organist**  
Mrs Sally Tan

**Speaker**  
Rev Dr Charles Tan

**Interpreter**  
Mr Goh Liangzhou

**Pianist**  
Dr Daniel Chia

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE**

— CHILDREN'S CHURCH —  
10.30 AM  
“Born again”  
John 3:3

**COMBINED CC (P1—P6)**

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

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL  
WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Kreston Ang  
Fellowship Lunch : Joel & Yuwen

# BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
<b>WORSHIP SERVICES</b>				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</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	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Fellowship Hall (Bookshop area)	1 <sup>st</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 Senior Sunday School		8.30am	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School III		8.30am	Prayer Room	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Intermediate Sunday School		8.30am	4th floor Auditorium	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
<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	3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Auditorium	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</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	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</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	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium	4 <sup>th</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**  
**15 January 2017**  
**Order of Worship**

**PREPARATION**

Pre-Worship Singing

*Pianist : Dr Daniel Chia*  
*Organist : Mrs Sally Tan*

HWC No. 528

No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Rev Mark Tan*  
*Rev Mitchell Tan*

Invocation

**PRAISE**

Hymns

Century Praise 59

To God Be The Glory

Century Praise 498

We've A Story To Tell To The Nations

Century Praise 485

O Zion, Haste

**“PREACH THE WORD”**

Message: “To bear witness of the Light”

Text : John 1

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

**RESPONSE**

Offering

Hymn

Century Praise 291

Jesus Is All The World To Me

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

# PASTORAL LETTER

Senior Pastor : Rev Dr Charles Tan

15 January 2017

*Dear Brethren,*

## IPC INDIA FAMILY CAMP

IPC India conducts Family Camps annually. There are many reasons why they have such a ministry.

1. Unity of the IPC Churches in India
  - a) The churches bond better in such a Camp environment
  - b) The pastors work together in greater consciousness of each other's ministry
2. Strengthening of the brethren through the teaching of God's word
  - a) There is a theme for every Family Camp
  - b) This year's Camp is "Feed My Sheep"
  - c) The feeding of the flock of God is a major focus
  - d) The role of pastors as shepherds is highlighted too

## INVOLVEMENT OF BETHEL AND BETHANY

Thank God for the joint ministry of Bethel and Bethany all these years.

1. Closeness
  - a) Thank God for the closeness that we share as churches
  - b) Bethel actively supports the Ministry of IPC India
2. The Team ministering in India this week
  - a) Pastor Christopher Lai and our Pastoral Team
  - b) Gan Ann and Yvette will be going as well
  - c) Jonas Tan will also be given exposure to the Missions Ministry in India

Let us pray for the Lord to bless the IPC Indian Family Camp (16-19 Jan. 2017). May many hearts be touched and blessed!

*Prayerfully,  
Pastor Charlie*