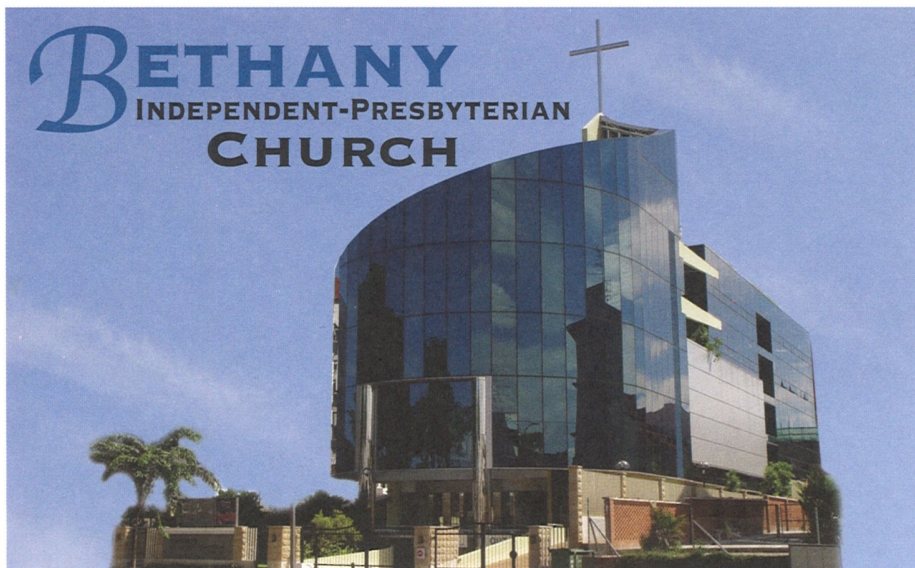


# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



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

*Bethany IV ... 14 January 2018*

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

## MEDITATION

*by Rev Dr Charles Tan*

**TEXT: NEHEMIAH 8**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meditation	1
Announcements	3
Worship	8
Poetry Corner	9
Bible Memory Work	10
This Week @ Worship	11

## "THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH"

### A TIME OF GREAT SORROW

One of the darkest patches in the history of ancient Israel was the time when they were sent into Captivity for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11). In the land of Babylon, the children of Israel realised the folly of their ways. They would never worship an idol again!

*(continued on page 2)*

# MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

## RETURNING TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL

After they had completed their 70 years, some made their way back to Israel. They wanted to rebuild the Temple of the Lord that had been destroyed by the Babylonians. The children of Israel returned to a land that had been devastated. They would need to rebuild their country from scratch!

The people had lived in exile for so long that they had virtually forgotten the Word of the Lord. Ezra the scribe was one of the returnees. He was asked to read from the Scriptures. It had been so long since they had worship like this. The people wept as they heard the ancient Scriptures! Sadness engulfed the people as they listened to the Scriptures read to them.

*For all the people wept  
When they heard the words of the Law.      Nehemiah 8:9*

## FINDING STRENGTH

The need for the hour was strength and not tears. Nehemiah arose and addressed the people with these words.

*Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet,  
And send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared;  
For this day is holy to our LORD.  
Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

*And all the people went their way to eat and drink,  
To send portions and rejoice greatly,  
Because they understood the words that were  
Declared to them.      Nehemiah 8:10, 12*

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

1. The returnees were encouraged to celebrate
  - (a) This was a great time of worship
  - (b) They were able to understand the message that was brought to them by Ezra
  - (c) They were encouraged to do the following: -
    - i) To enjoy the festive food
    - ii) To share what they had with others who did not have anything
2. They were encouraged to find their strength in the Lord
  - (a) They found joy through understanding the Scriptures
  - (b) This joy was able to give them strength
  - (c) This strength was given by the Lord

## A SPECIAL CHALLENGE IN THE NEW YEAR

Let us find strength to cope with life through understanding the Scriptures. With understanding will come the joy of the Lord. In turn, this joy will give strength! ✚

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

We are glad you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your understanding be enlightened! And may you find much joy and strength in the Lord! ✚

**WELCOME**  
**to Bethany IV**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

*Time: 1.00pm*

*Venue: 4.08*

The class is studying the Life of Christ from the Gospel of Luke.  
The Easter Baptismal Service is on Palm Sunday, 25 March 2018. ✠

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## THE PASTORAL TEAM

The Bethany Pastoral Team and Pastor Christopher Lai will be leaving for Chennai tonight, 14 January 2018. They will be ministering at the Family Camp in India. Let us pray for the Lord's blessing of the work in India. ✠

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## IPC INDIA FAMILY CAMP

*15-17 January 2018*

*Theme: "You shall love the LORD your God"*

*Deuteronomy 6:5 ✠*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEXT WEEK

There will be no mid-week Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.  
The Pastoral Team will be away ministering at the Indian Family Camp. †

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### LUNAR NEW YEAR SPECIAL

Chinese New Year is coming up! Can Christians celebrate the Chinese New Year? Absolutely!

What do we celebrate as we usher in the new year?

1. We celebrate the life that God has given to us!
2. We celebrate God's goodness towards us!
3. We celebrate God's blessings outpoured into our lives!

We want to invite you to come for our church's Chinese New Year celebration. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Date:** 24 February 2018

**Time:** 4pm

**Location:** Main Sanctuary

Sign up at the booth at the fellowship hall today!  
Please indicate if you are 60 and above!

-SPs Ben and Ben †

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CHURCH FAMILY CAMP

*11-16 March 2018*

*Theme: "Walk in the Light of the LORD" Isaiah 2:5*

*Venue: Le Grandeur, Johor*

Let us pray for the Lord's blessings. Let us not take for granted that the Lord would bless. Let us humbly and consciously seek His blessings! ✠

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## CELEBRATING BETHANY'S 40+5 ANNIVERSARY

*Date: 19 August 2018*

*Venue: Shangri La*

Thank God for His grace and strength to serve Him all these years. Thank God for His blessings throughout the years! ✠

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## BETHANY CHURCH PASTORAL STAFF

### 1. The Pastoral Team

- (a) The Student-Pastors
- (b) The Ordained Pastors

*(Continued on page 7)*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Continued from page 6)*

## 2. Intern-Pastors

(a) Ben Chong and Ben Quah would have completed three years in April (2015-2018) as Student-Pastors. They had to:

- i) Devote time to study the Greek New Testament
- ii) Study Biblical Theology
- iii) Lay a strong spiritual foundation for their life and ministry
- iv) Learn ministerial skills
- iv) Serve in many different capacities

(b) They have proven themselves well these past three years

- i) They speak at Children's Worship
- ii) And at Teens Worship
- iii) Also at the Evening-Bilingual Worship
- iv) They are actively involved in leading a Fellowship Group on Saturdays
- v) They led in the Children's Camp and the Youth Conference
- vi) They are also involved in helping to look after the physical building
- vii) They go on Missions trips (India, Myanmar, Perth)

(c) At the Easter Service (1 April 2018)

- i) We will have a special consecration service
- ii) They will be inducted as Intern-Pastors

(d) The next year and a half will see them prepare for their Ordination

Let us continue to pray for the Lord's blessings on them. ✠

## Psalm 87: 1–3

*His foundation is in the holy mountains.*

*The LORD loves the gates of Zion  
More than all the dwellings of Jacob.*

*Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.*

1. There is such a sense of love for Zion

(a) There is the Lord's love

(b) The faithful also love the City of God



2. The challenge for us

(a) To have a deeper love for Zion

(b) To have a deeper love for the church which is a part of the Zion concept (Hebrews 12:22-24) †



### THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH

Our emotions are a special gift from the Lord;  
Each emotion is different, but all are from God!  
There are times when sorrow is good and clean;  
Tears may come when we remember our sins!

Joy is a special emotion that is given by the Lord;  
It may come from understanding the Word of God.  
And with this joy we find renewed strength to cope;  
The Word of God brings enlightenment and hope.

The joy of the Lord is a special gift from heaven;  
Sorrow is swept away and God's love is given.  
There is great cause for celebrating this godly gift;  
The Lord has restored fully and there is no more rift!

Wisdom is needed to fathom what this joy represents;  
Revelation of God's loving desire to bless portends.  
The heart that is filled with the Joy of the Lord,  
Will find amazing strength from our gracious God!

*Inspiration: Nehemiah 8:10*

Charles Tan



# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

**Today, 14 January 2018**

**Psalm 18:2 My God, My strength**

*The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

1. The LORD is well described in this text

- (a) He is the Rock
- (b) The Fortress
- (c) The Deliverer
- (d) The one and only God
- (e) The source of strength
- (f) The Shield
- (g) The Horn of salvation
- (h) The Stronghold

2. This list was written down by David

- (a) To Him God was real and alive
- (b) God was his unfailing source of strength

**NEXT SUNDAY: 21 January 2018**

**Psalm 21: 1 Joy in Your strength**

*The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD;  
And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice.*



THEME : ASCRIBE STRENGTH TO THE LORD

# *This Week @ Worship*

— MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE —  
10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY  
“My God, my strength”  
Psalm 18

**Chairmen**

Student-Pastor  
Jonathan Jacob  
Student-Pastor  
Jonas Tan

**Pianist**

Mrs Esther Ang

**Organist**

Mrs Elsie Poey

**Speaker**

Rev Dr Charles Tan

**Interpreter**

Mrs Koh Baoling

**Chairman**

Ms Sea Su-An

**Pianist**

Ms Ho Lianya

**Speaker**

Student-Pastor  
Benjamin Chong

**Usher**

Mr Samuel Tan

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —  
10.30 AM .  
3rd Floor Auditorium 3-2  
“Inner man Strength” Ephesians 3

— CHILDREN'S CHURCH —  
10.30 AM  
“Jesus is the Lamb of God”  
John 1:29-34

**CC I: P1—P3**

3rd Floor  
Auditorium 3-1

**CC II: P4—P6**

4th Floor  
Auditorium 4-1

**Speaker**

Ms Camille George

**Speaker**

Student-Pastor  
Benjamin Quah

**Chairman**

Mr Chian Daohua

**Speaker**

Student-Pastor  
Benjamin Quah

**Pianist**

Ms Tay Soo Leng

**Interpreter**

Mr Daniel Ou  
Mr Kevin Low

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL  
WORSHIP SERVICE —  
4.00 PM . 4th Floor Auditorium 4-2, 3  
“Give Your strength to Your servant”  
Psalm 86

Breakfast : Kwek Kee & Florence Chong  
Fellowship Lunch : Joel & Yuwen  
Evening Tea : Sea Su-An; Samuel Ng

# BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Children's Worship I (P1 – P3)			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Teens' Worship Service			Auditorium 3-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Combined Evening-Bilingual		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-2 & 4-3	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-2	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School II			Main Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School III			Prayer Room 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School IV			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-3	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-2	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
BIBLE STUDY				
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
CATECHISM CLASS				
	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 4-2	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group I	Sat	3.00 pm	Auditorium 2-1	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Young People's Group II			Auditorium 3-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-2 & 4-3	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Young Married Group			Auditorium 4-1	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Adults' Ministry		4.00 pm	Auditorium 4-1	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

**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**14 January 2018**  
**Order of Worship**

**PREPARATION**

Pre-Worship Singing

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

HWC No. 57

Worthy Of Worship

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Student-Pastor Jonathan Jacob*  
*Student-Pastor Jonas Tan*

Invocation

**PRAISE**

Hymns

Century Praise 27

O Worship The King

HWC No. 56

Day By Day

Century Praise 75

God Hath Not Promised

**“PREACH THE WORD”**

Message: “My God, my strength”

Text : Psalm 18

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

**RESPONSE**

Offering

Hymn

HWC No. 380

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

**EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**14 January 2018**  
**Order of Worship**

**PREPARATION 预备**

Pre-Worship Singing

Pianist : Ms Tay Soo Leng

Century Praise 75

God Hath Not Promised  
神未曾应许

Prelude 前奏

Call to Worship 齐来称颂

Mr Chiam Daohua  
Interpreter : Mr Kevin Low

Invocation 祈祷

**PRAISE 赞美诗**

Hymns

Century Praise 301

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart  
自耶稣在我心中

Century Praise 331

Be Thou My Vision  
成为我异象

Century Praise 59

To God Be The Glory  
荣耀归于真神

**PRAYER 牧祷**

**“PREACH THE WORD” 证道**

Message: “Give Your strength to Your servant”  
“ 将你的力量赐给仆人 ”

Text : Psalm 86 诗篇 86

Speaker: Student-Pastor Benjamin Quah  
Interpreter : Mr Daniel Ou

**RESPONSE**

Offering 奉献

Hymn

Century Praise 316

Have Faith In God  
当信服神

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

# PASTORAL LETTER

Senior Pastor : Rev Dr Charles Tan

14 January 2018

***Dear Brethren,***

## IPC INDIA FAMILY CAMP

Thank God for His grace and strength to attempt ministering at the first Family Camp of the year. IPC India will be holding a Family Camp (15-17 January 2018). The Pastoral Team with Pastor Christopher Lai will be traveling this evening to India.

## THEME OF THE CAMP

The theme is taken from the Book of Deuteronomy.

*You shall love the LORD your God  
With all your heart, with all your soul,  
And with all your strength.*

*Deuteronomy 6:5*



**BETHANY**  
INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### MAILING ADDRESS :

301, Upper Paya Lebar  
Road.

Singapore 534934

TEL : (65) 62877713

FAX : (65) 62877980

### WEBSITE :

[www.bethanyipc.sg](http://www.bethanyipc.sg)

1. Is it easy to love the Lord our God?

a) Unfortunately, the answer is “No!”

b) The human sinful being does not know how to love the Lord as He deserves

2. How then can we learn how to love the Lord our God?

a) Through instruction from the Lord’s word

b) Through inspiration from the Spirit of God

c) Through encouragement that we can give

## MISSIONS WORK

This is always challenging. There are always many challenges to overcome:-

1. The natural barriers

a) Language

b) Culture

2. Spiritual barriers

a) Opposition from the evil one

b) Opposition from the human sinful heart

Our approach is to go forward in prayer and in the strength of the LORD God.

***Prayerfully,  
Pastor Charlie***