

Bethany IV ... 11 February 2018

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

# MEDITATION

cs Rev Dr Charles 7an 80

Text: Isaiah 40:28-31



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# "HE INCREASES STRENGTH"

#### A DESPONDENT NATION

Ancient Israel was a weak and despondent nation in the days of the prophet Isaiah. There were many reasons why the nation had become so weak! Four reasons may be highlighted.

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# MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

- 1. They had departed from the Lord
- 2. They had forsaken His laws
- 3. They had depended on themselves instead of the Lord
- 4. They were enmeshed in sinful activities!

#### GOD'S GRACIOUS WORD TO THE WEARY NATION

The LORD God sent this word through His prophet Isaiah to the weary nation!

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall.

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings as eagles;
They shall run and not be weary;
They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31

#### **GLORIOUS PROMISES**

What wonderful promises are found in this text! Let us look at these promises! Three may be highlighted!

- 1. Power to the weak
- 2. Increase of strength to those who have no might
- 3. Renewal of strength

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#### APPROPRIATING THESE PROMISES

How may we appropriate these promises?

- 1. Exercise faith
  This is the first step to take.
- 2. Seek God in humble prayer This must be done!
- 3. Wait on the Lord The Lord will give His strength in His wisdom and His will.

Let us be deeply moved to seek the Lord for His power and strength to face the many challenges of life!

#### Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

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



## LUNAR NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Pastoral Team and the Session wish all at Bethany the Lord's blessings in the Lunar New Year!

# CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

Time: 1.00pm Venue: 4.08



# **NO CATECHISM CLASS**

18 February 2018 Lunar New Year

25 February 2018 ACM

# **COMBINED WORSHIP**

- 1. February 2018 Lunar New Year and ACM (18 and 25 February 2018)
- 2. March 2018
- a) Church Family Camp
- 11 March 2018
- b) Easter Concert Practices

We have very limited time to practise for the Easter Concert. Sunday afternoons are vitally needed for Choir practices!

# LUNAR NEW YEAR VISITATION

Open House at 1 Gerald Crescent on Friday, 16 February 2018. 9.00am- 5.00pm.

# CHINESE (LUNAR) NEW YEAR SPECIAL

24 February 2018 Time: 4.00pm

Please sign up as soon as possible! Please indicate if you are 65 and above.

# **CHURCH FAMILY CAMP**

11-16 March 2018

"Walk in the light of the LORD"

Plan to sign up as soon as possible.

## THE STUDENT-PASTORS TRAINING PROGRAM

- 1. This program was especially created for the following reasons: -
  - To give exposure to the Pastoral Ministry to people who may be interested in the full-time Pastoral work
  - b) To instruct Student-Pastors:
    - i) Biblical Doctrines
    - ii) Principles and Practices of Church Ministry
    - iii) Missions Ministry
    - iv) Manner of Life for those serving in the full-time ministry
    - v) Character Development
    - vi) Cultivation of a strong personal faith
    - vii) Ability to give Biblical Counsel
    - viii)Spiritual Leadership
    - ix) Evangelism
    - x) Church Administration
- 2. Student-Pastors may make an exit at any time in the 3 year S-P Training program
  - a) When they feel that they are not able to keep up with the demands of the full-time ministry
  - b) When they realise that their perception of the Pastoral Ministry was defective
  - c) When they understand that perhaps they have not received a definite calling from the Lord for the Full-time Ministry!
  - d) No SP need to feel that he has failed in the Pastoral Ministry for this is only a Training program!



# EXIT FROM THE STUDENT-PASTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Jonas Tan wrote a letter to explain to the Session why he is exiting the Training Program. His letter was accepted by the Session at their monthly meeting held on 4 February 2018. This letter is printed in the BB intact!

#### Decision to Exit the Student-Pastors Training Program

Dear Bethany,

I wrote this letter to the Session to inform and explain my decision to exit the Student-Pastors Training Program. I am now sharing the same letter with you, and am grateful that the Session has accepted my letter and agreed with my proposed exit.

#### Thank God for the Privilege to Train

The past 9 months as a Student-Pastor have truly been a privileged time of learning with the Pastoral Team and I have benefitted much from it. I thank God for this honour and privilege, and am deeply grateful for the tremendous support rendered by the Church. On my part, I was responsible to learn, as well as to discern if the Pastoral Ministry is my calling.

#### Perspective of Pastoral Ministry

I commenced training in April 2017 with a wrong perspective of the Pastoral Ministry. I was confident that with personal effort and good Pastoral Training, I would surely succeed. I was driven very much by my own zeal and pride. Bit by bit, with each exposure to Ministry (Local Ministries and Overseas Missions Work), I began to discover how wrong my perspective of Ministry was, and I came to have a broader, deeper, and more enriched understanding of the Pastoral Ministry. I caught both a glimpse of the glory, as well as the challenges of Ministry. I came to realise the tremendously high expectations, the breathtaking demands, and the sacredness of the Pastoral Office. In light of this, I discovered that personal desire and zeal count for very little and it would take none other than the Spirit of God's enabling,

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equipping and empowering for one to fulfil such a calling. I also learnt that it is a solemn charge to be a Pastor, and the high, objective Pastoral standards must be fulfilled (1 Timothy & 2 Timothy).

#### Evaluation after 9 Months

Therefore, after pondering and seeking to understand the solemnity of the Pastoral Ministry, I frequently and honestly evaluated myself, whether I was cut out for the Ministry. After 9 months, with a greater understanding and perspective of the Ministry, I have come to a humbling reality – I am not suited for the Pastoral Ministry. Key essentials of Pastoral Ministry (intellectual capacity, spiritual perception, depth of maturity, dynamism, gifts, abilities, etc.) are neither present within me nor forthcoming, and thus I know that I am unfit to serve in a Pastoral capacity. Moreover, the opportunities to serve at thea camp Ministries (local and overseas) have proven to be confirming signs that the Pastoral Ministry is way beyond me. The nine months of experience leave me to conclude that I am not able to fulfil the many demands of the Pastoral Ministry and that the Pastoral Ministry is not my calling. As such, I think that it is only right for me to plan for an exit, and not delay this decision any further.

#### Moving on with Clarity

One key lesson that I am learning through this journey is that the Lord is still my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1). He is the One who leads me and I ought not to lead myself. I led myself and made the decision to consider entering into the Full-Time Ministry. The Lord graciously allowed me experience the Pastoral Ministry, and mercifully revealed to me that this calling is not for me. He has also provided me with guidance and help from a Pastoral Team which has been absolutely patient and supportive throughout. I have given it a go and am ready to move on. I leave with greater appreciation of faith and the Pastoral Ministry, and will treasure the lessons learnt in the past 9 months. My commitment to the Lord and Bethany remains the same, and I still hope to make my life count for Him, according to His leading. I have the greatest regard for the Bethany Pastoral Team and I wish my peers the very best in their pursuit to be shepherds of the flock.

#### Trust in the Lord

My trust is in the Lord, who is my God, and my times are in His hand (Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7)

(Psalm 31:14-15). I know that I can trust in His leading in the years ahead. Bethany is still the Church that I love and am deeply grateful for, even more so after this experience. Post-exit, my focus would be on growing and developing further, to establish my career and family, and to find my place of service in Bethany, as the Lord wills. I seek your understanding and acceptance of this decision. Thank you for your care and support all this while.

In His Grace, Jonas Tan



### **WORSHIP**

#### Psalm 89:5-7

And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.

For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the LORD?

God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him.

- 1. The greatness of the LORD God
  - a) The heavens will praise the works of God which are "wonders"
  - b) His faithfulness to the saints is unparalleled
- 2. Appropriate response
  - a) He is to be greatly feared
  - b) He is to be held in reverence by all the saints
- 3. No comparison
  - a) No one can be compared to the Lord
  - b) Not even those who are regarded as "mighty!"

## POETRY CORNER

# RENEWAL OF STRENGTH

The struggles in life are many and are wearying; Many feel even more tired through complaining! There is no need to continue in this hopelessness; The Lord offers help through His faithfulness!

To the weak He offers His Glorious Power; Divine Power may be felt every single hour! To those who feel that they have no might; God will increase strength for the fight!

The believer may find renewal of strength; But he must trust and wait on God at length! In His own time and in His own special way; God will give His strength without delay!

How wonderful are the promises of God; Blessed are those who trust in the Lord. They will run and not be weary at all; In the strength of God, they walk tall!

Inspiration: Isaiah 40:28-31

Charles Tan



# **WEEKDAY MINISTRIES**

#### PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

Monday, 12 February 2018 Time: 7.00pm | Venue: TUR

#### PRAYER MEETING

Monday, 12 February 2018 Time: 8.00pm | Venue: Sanctuary

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesday, 13 Februry 2018 Time: 8.00pm | Venue: Sanctuary

# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

#### TODAY, 11 February 2018

#### Psalm 37:39 Their strength in the time of trouble

But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in the time of trouble.

1. Trouble

This comes to everyone!

- 2. Salvation of the righteous in their time of trouble This comes from the Lord!
- 3. Strength is also given by the Lord to face the troubles of life!

#### **NEXT SUNDAY, 18 February 2018**

#### Psalm 41:3 The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness

The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickhed.

#### THEME: ASCRIBE STRENGTH TO THE LORD

# This Week @ Worshit

#### MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY

"Their strength in the time of trouble" Psalm 37

#### Chairmen

Deacon Dr Tan Peng Hui

#### Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

#### Pianist

Mrs Esther Ang

#### Organist

Mrs Elsie Poev

#### Interpreter

Mrs Koh Baoling

#### Chairman

Mr Rvan Tan

#### **Pianist**

Ms Ho Lianva

#### Speaker

Rev Mitchell Tan

#### Usher

Mr Stanley Woo

#### TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE -10.30 AM.

#### 3rd Floor Auditorium 3~2

"Be Strong in the Grace" 2 Timothy 2

#### CHILDREN'S CHURCH -10.30 AM

"A New Life with Jesus" John 3:1-21

#### CC I: P1—P3

3rd Floor Auditorium 3-1

#### Speaker

Student-Pastor Moses Kwek

#### CC II: P4-P6

4th Floor Auditorium 4-1

#### Speaker

Student-Pastor Benjamin Chong

#### Chairman

Mr Lim Weiquan

#### Speaker

Rev Mark Tan

#### **Pianist**

Mr Gabriel Ou

#### Interpreter

Ms Tan Hwee Cheng

#### COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE —

4.00 PM . 4th Floor Auditorium 4-2, 3 "You have made me bold with strength in my soul" Psalm 138

Breakfast: Esther Ang & Lianya Fellowship Lunch: George Thomas Evening Tea: Andy & Lydia

# BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Berrin		orter 1	101111111111111111111111111111111111111	
	Day	Time	Venue	Locatio
WORSHIP SER VICES				
Morning Worship Service		10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Children's Worship I (PI – P3)	]		Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)	Sun		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		8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	Ist floor
Beginners' Sunday School	Sun	8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2nd floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-2	4th floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	Ist 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-I	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Special Needs Ministry	┪ ┃		Auditorium 4-3	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Singing Kakis One Voice Youth Choir	Thurs - Sat	8.00 pm 5.00 pm 5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2 Auditorium 4-2 Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor 4 <sup>th</sup> floor 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	I <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	7.30 pm	4th 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
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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	<b>」</b>	4	Auditorium 4-I	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 11 February 2018 Order of Worship

#### **PREPARATION**

Pre-Worship Singing Pianist : Mrs Esther Ang

Organist : Mrs Elsie Poey

Century Praise 322 The Solid Rock

Prelude

Call to Worship Deacon Dr Tan Peng Hui

Invocation

#### **PRAISE**

**Hymns** 

HWC No. 267 Come, Thou Almighty King

Century Praise 297 Wonderful Grace Of Jesus

Song No. 3 Before You I Kneel

#### "PREACH THE WORD"

Message: "Their strength in the time of trouble"

Text: Psalm 37

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

#### **RESPONSE**

Offering

Hymn

Century Praise 325 I Know Whom I Have Believed

**Prayerful Meditation** 

Benediction

Postlude

#### EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11 February 2018 Order of Worship

#### PREPARATION 预备

Pre-Worship Singing Pianist : Mr Gabriel Ou

Century Praise 91 Praise Him! Praise Him!

赞美耶稣

Prelude 前奏

Call to Worship 齐来称颂 Mr Lim Weiguan

Interpreter: Mr Allister Tham

Invocation 祈祷

PRAISE 赞美诗

Hymns

Century Praise 23 Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

欢欣感谢

HWC No. 505 Love Lifted Me

主爱救我

Century Praise 445 Moment By Moment

时刻蒙恩

PRAYER 牧祷

"PREACH THE WORD" 证道

Message: "You have made me bold with strength in my soul"

"你使我心里有能力。"

Text: Psalm 138 诗篇 138

Speaker: Rev Mark Tan

Interpreter: Ms Tan Hwee Cheng

**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

11 February 2018

Dear Brethren,

#### THANK GOD FOR GRACE AND STRENGTH

Thank God for a meaningful week of ministry in Myanmar (5-9 February 2018). Thank you for praying alongside.

#### THE DISCOVERY OF STRENGTH

Strength in the Lord is something that must be personally discovered. It cannot be comprehended just be reading the Lord's Word.

1. The promise of strength

b) Prayer

- a) This is what the Lord has promised in His word
- b) However, the reality of that strength needs to be discovered in real-life situations
- 2. Here are some practical things we may discover
  - a) Faith
  - There has to be faith in the Lord's Word.
  - We need to seek the Lord for His strength.
  - c) Application of faith We will need to apply our faith in real-time!
  - d) Appropriation of strength It is only when we apply our faith that we will be able to appropriate the strength of the Lord.
- 3. What do we do with the strength God gives?
  - a) Living effectively for the Lord Strength was meant to help us live out our faith in the Lord.
  - b) Helping people Strength was never intended only for personal use. It was meant to help other people who need supportive strength.
  - c) Bringing glory to God Living in the strength of the Lord brings great glory to the Lord. People will be able to see how the Lord does indeed give strength to those who trust Him.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Charlie



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