

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 30 December 2018*

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

## MEDITATION

✞ REV DR CHARLES TAN ✞

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Text: Isaiah 28

### **“A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE”**

#### **A GREAT PLAN REVEALED**

God's great plan was revealed in stages. Christmas was only the beginning of God's glorious plan.

*Therefore thus says the LORD God.  
Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation,  
A tried stone, a precious cornerstone,  
A sure foundation;    Isaiah 28:16*

*(continued on page 2)*

# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

## 1. Historical Zion

- a) This was the alternative name for Jerusalem
- b) Its actual meaning is lost in antiquity
- c) It was a city held by the Jebusites
- d) It was conquered by David
- e) It became the capital of Israel replacing Hebron

## 2. Prophetic Zion

- a) The old name was retained
- b) There were new nuances and features added to the new Zion

## 3. The new spiritual capital of the Messiah's Kingdom

- a) In building a new edifice a foundation stone must be laid
- b) The new foundation stone was wonderfully described:
  - i) A tried stone
  - ii) A precious cornerstone
  - iii) A sure foundation
- c) The Lord Jesus Christ would be that Chief Cornerstone
- d) The Church's Foundation is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself

## SEVEN FEATURES OF SPIRITUAL ZION

The Book of Hebrews featured these wonderful and glorious features (Hebrews 12:22-24). This is a truly beautiful description.

- 1. The city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
- 2. An innumerable company of angels
- 3. The general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven
- 4. God the Judge of all
- 5. The spirits of just men made perfect
- 6. Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant
- 7. The blood of sprinkling that speaks of better things than that of Abel

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

And because of Christ Jesus, we are members of the city of the living God! Let the joy of Christmas dwell in our hearts forever! †

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 blessed richly through worship and fellowship! †

Welcome  
to Bethany IV

## CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Emma Yeo on the passing away of her mother, Mdm. Tan Geok Mui on 20 Dec. 2018.

The late Mdm. Tan was 91 years old.†

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

31 DECEMBER 2018 | TIME: 8.00PM

VENUE: CHURCH SANCTUARY

1. Let us spend time reflecting the Lord's blessings
2. Let us seek to recall the many lessons we have learned
3. Let us plan to give God the glory that is due to His name

## MINISTRY IN 2018

1. Fruitful

Thank God for His grace and mercy

We have had another fruitful year of ministry!

2. Faithful

Thank God for all who have labored faithfully in so many different ways!

3. Filling of the Spirit of God

Thank God for the ministry of the Holy Spirit in 2018!†

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2019

### 1. Regular Ministries

Prayer Meeting, Bible Study, Sunday School, Fellowship Groups etc  
Let us not take these things for granted.

### 2. Special Ministries

Spiritual Retreat, Family Camp, Junior Camp, Youth Conference

### 3. Missions

Let us continue to do all we can to strengthen the IPC Family overseas.

## A NEW YEAR CHALLENGE

*Thus speaks the LORD God of Israel, saying:*

*"Write in a book for yourself all the words that I have spoken to you."  
Jeremiah 30:2*

### 1. God may speak to our hearts

- a) In our worship services
- b) In fellowship meetings
- c) In Camps
- d) Through your personal Bible reading

### 2. Take time to write down special lessons that have spoken to your heart

- a) In your diary/ journal
- b) Verify the lessons learned
- c) Validate the lessons through making the lessons real and practical in your life

### 3. May 2019 see us

- a) Growing in knowledge
- b) Cultivating our faith
- c) Seeking to serve God more actively†

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## MISSIONS

Pastor Charles Tan will be visiting India (1-4 January 2019). †

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## COMBINED FELLOWSHIP MEETING

(AM, YPG 1-3, YAG, YMG)

Date: Saturday, 5 January 2019 | Time: 3.00pm †

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## NEW PULPIT THEME: JANUARY- FEBRUARY 2019

“Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised” Psalm 145:3a

Let us begin the New Year with dwelling on the greatness of the Lord.  
Let us be challenged to learn how we may share our faith in Him  
through the praises we offer.†

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## NEXT SUNDAY- HOLY COMMUNION (6 JANUARY 2019)

We commence 2019 with the celebration of the Lord's Supper!  
Let us come to the Lord's Table with prepared hearts.†

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## CATECHISM CLASS

We commence Catechism Class next Sunday.  
Time: 1.00pm | Venue: Auditorium 4.07 †

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## CHURCH FAMILY CAMP

Date: 17-22 March 2019 | Venue: Le Grandeur, Johor  
Theme: Wells of Salvation (Isaiah 12:3) | Text: The Book of Isaiah

Let us look forward to the many lessons we can learn from the Book of  
Isaiah. Plan to register as soon as possible! †

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## PMC/ PRAYER MEETING/ BIBLE STUDY

We commence on 7-8 January 2019.

### PMC

Monday, 7 January 2019 | 7.00pm (TUR)

### PRAYER MEETING

Monday, 7 January 2019 | 8.00pm

### BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, 8 January 2019 | 8.00pm †

## HEARTFELT THANKS

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*Dearest Pastor Charles*

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the support Joseph, Andrea, Wesley and me received in our recent loss of my mum. I want to thank some specifically:

- 1) To you Pastor, special thanks for taking time out to see me before your own medical appointment.
- 2) The Pastoral Team who ministered to us and we understood more of the difference between the Catholic faith and ours - where the Truth sets us free.
- 3) Intern Pastor Ben Chong, when he was well, visited with Shu Yi and Baby Noah
- 4) Jonathan Jacob & Michelle, Florence Teo, Joanna, Pat, Jerry Chan, Yuan Li, Jin Yang, Michelle, Jonathan Ng, Jolly & Leslie, George & Ruby, Lay Eng, Sui Hui, Gan Ann
- 5) Grace Ng, Mr and Mrs Lai before first Concert Night
- 6) David & Carol Chu, Kum Seng & Geraldine, Wei Qun; right after first Concert Night
- 7) Grace Ng, Andrew, Terrence & Jacob at the Crematorium on Saturday.
- 8) All in Church who have prayed for us after you made known the news, all who sent texts and expressed personally their condolences on Xmas Day.

Our hearts are overwhelmed by the love extended and all because we have an Almighty God who first loves us.

*Sincerely and humbly  
Angeline and Joseph*

# HEARTFELT THANKS

*Dear Pastor Charles,*

My father and I would like to send our heartfelt thanks to you and the pastoral team for taking time to attend my mum's wake during our bereavement.

Pastor, despite your tight schedule, you still took time to attend. We have been so blessed and we thank God for Bethany.

*Warm Regards,  
Emma*

## WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

### **Psalm 96:9-10**

Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of His holiness!  
Tremble before Him, all the earth.

Say among the nations,  
"The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established;  
It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously."

1. Worshipping the Lord
  - a) Appreciating holiness as something beautiful
  - b) Trembling before the Lord in awe and humility
2. Expressing our faith in the Lord
  - a) He reigns
  - b) He judges the nations righteously
3. The turmoil in the world
  - a) There may be problems in the world
  - b) But God is still in absolute control of everything †

### MOUNT ZION, THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

"Zion" was once a historical name, "The city of David;"  
It was the new capital of a nation that had been rebuilt.  
It was well-situated and in time became the nation's pride.  
But Israel had sinned grievously and Zion was set aside.

God had a new plan to rebuild Zion with even greater glory;  
It would become the city of the living God, reflecting His majesty.  
Zion would be surrounded by a host of innumerable angels;  
It would now truly be glorious and also invincible!

Who may be privileged to become part of this glorious community?  
We stand amazed as we discover God's plan revealed manifestly.  
The church is part of this wonderful and glorious plan of God;  
All members are called "firstborn," registered in the Divine Record.

Jesus the Mediator whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of sin;  
He is the One who would pardon and cleanse us from deep within.  
He has given us a New Covenant and we are spirits made perfect;  
What wonderful blessings God has reserved for His own elect!

Inspiration: Hebrews 12:22-23  
Charles Tan ✠



# THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Warmest hugs on this special night  
Gather by the tree, cosy and bright  
Come young and old on the night of Christmas  
All to remember the birth of Jesus

A mighty King born in a lowly manger  
To poverty He was no stranger  
The One who had come to save us from sin's mayhem  
Was born in an insignificant town called Bethlehem

For God so loved the world He gave His only Son  
To die on the cross for He is the only sinless one  
He redeemed us that He may bring us to heaven  
And He enables us to be God's own children

So Merry Christmas to one and all  
Everyone can celebrate, with faith big or small  
His love is perfect in all things  
I'm thankful I can call God, Father and King

Della Chua ✝

# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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**TODAY: 30 DECEMBER 2018**

PSALM 150:6 PRAISE THE LORD

*Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.*

*Praise the LORD!*

1. Call to praise God

a) This was issued by the Psalmist

b) He was certainly correct in calling all to offer praise to God

2. Examples

a) Angels praised God when Christ was born

b) The shepherds praised God

c) Zacharias and Elizabeth praised God

Let us emulate the good examples set for us! Let us make the praising of God's name a fundamental part of our life!

**NEXT SUNDAY: 6 JANUARY 2019**

TEXT: PSALM 118:21 I WILL PRAISE YOU

*I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation. †*

THEME : REJOICED WITH EXCEEDINGLY GREAT JOY

## THIS WEEK @ WORSHIP

### ✠ COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE ✠

**10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY**

"The fruit of the Holy Spirit"

Galatians 5:22-23

#### Chairmen

Student-Pastors from  
Myanmar & India

#### Organist

Mrs Elsie Poey

#### Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

#### Interpreter

Mrs Koh Baoling

#### Pianist

Dr Daniel Chia

### — TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE**

### ✠ CHILDREN'S CHURCH ✠

**10.30 AM**

"The fruit of the Spirit"

Galatians 5:22-23

CC I: P1—P3

3rd Floor

Auditorium 3-1

CC II: P4—P6

4th Floor

Auditorium 4-1

#### Speaker

Intern-Pastor  
Benjamin Chong

#### Speaker

Student-Pastor  
Jonathan Jacob

### ✠ EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE ✠

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Audrey & Aaron Kang  
Fellowship Lunch : Lily Siow & Cheng

# 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 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Combined Evening-Bilingual		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	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 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	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 4-7	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 4-8	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 4-8	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 3-8	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	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

**COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**30 December 2018**  
**Order of Worship**

**PREPARATION**

Pre-Worship Singing

*Pianist : Dr Daniel Chia*  
*Organist : Mrs Elsie Poey*

HWC No. 517

I'd Rather Have Jesus

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Student-Pastors from Myanmar & India*

Invocation

**PRAISE**

Hymns

Century Praise 59

To God Be The Glory

*Student-Pastor Karong Seichunga Kom (Steve)*

Century Praise 68

The Love Of God

*Student-Pastor Khrh Muan Khum (Khu Khum)*

Century Praise 399

Make Me A Blessing

*Student-Pastor Hrang Kulh Luai (Hranga)*

HWC No. 271

Standing On The Promises

*Student-Pastor C. Simon Nagaraj*

**“PREACH THE WORD”**

Message: “The fruit of the Holy Spirit”

Text : Galatians 5:22-23

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

**RESPONSE**

Offering

Hymn

HWC No. 306

Jesus Saves

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude



# BETHANY

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SINGAPORE

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Where God is touching lives...  
And people care for people.*

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## PASTORAL LETTER

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30 DECEMBER 2018

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

*Dear Brethren,*

### THE LAST PASTORAL LETTER FOR 2018

I write the last Pastoral Letter for 2018. Many thoughts come to mind as I write this letter.

#### 1. Reasons for writing

- a) The example of the Apostles of Christ
  - i) They saw themselves as shepherds
  - ii) They expressed care and concern for the flock of God
- b) Emulation of Biblical examples  
I seek to emulate the way in which the Apostles of Christ kept in touch with their pastoral letters to the churches they looked after
- c) Peter, John, Paul and James were wonderful examples of how to serve as shepherds of the Lord's flock

#### 2. Contents

- a) Commitment to keep in good touch
- b) Compendious pastoral letter each week
- c) Concern that the Church is kept current

#### 3. Challenge to reflect on 2018

- a) Take time to reflect on the Lord's blessings in 2018
- b) Let us appropriately thank God for:
  - i) His protection
  - ii) His provision
  - iii) His presence with us
  - iv) His power in touching hearts

I write also to say "Thank you" for being a part of Bethany! Your fellowship counts!

*Prayerfully,  
Pastor Charlie*