

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 11 August 2019

MCI (P) No.: 029/10/2018

MEDITATION

✠ REV DR CHARLES TAN ☸

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Text: Jeremiah 1

"BEFORE YOU WERE BORN"

AN ASTOUNDING TEACHING

The Call of God is an amazing teaching. This is well-reflected in the call that God gave to the prophet Jeremiah.

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

*Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5*

1. The word of the LORD

a) This refers to the following:

i) God’s calling

ii) His explanation

b) This was the usual way in which God communicated with His servants

i) He would give a word

ii) He would cultivate a strong relationship with His prophet too

2. Before:

a) Before Jeremiah was even in his mother’s womb
The LORD already knew him

b) Before Jeremiah was born
God had already sanctified him for ministry

3. What this represents:

a) Fore-knowledge

b) Predestination

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FEARS AND QUERIES

Jeremiah was but a youth when God spoke to him. He was understandably fearful. He voiced his fears:

1. He was but a youth
2. He was fearful about fulfilling what God had said to him
3. How could he succeed as a prophet?

ASSURANCE GIVEN

The Lord gave to Jeremiah the following words to assure him:

1. The Lord would be with him
2. He would give him the words to say
3. He would make him strong
4. He would deliver him from enemies

Jeremiah 1:7-10

Let us never be afraid of answering the call of the Lord. Let us find much assurance from our faith in the Lord. †

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! †

*Welcome
to Bethany IV*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

Time: 1.00pm
Venue: Auditorium 4.07 †

PRE-MARITAL AND PRAYER MEETING

Monday, 12 August 2019
There will be no meetings (Public Holiday)

BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, 13 August 2019
Time: 8.00pm †

MYANMAR MINISTRY

Pastor Charles Tan will be away in Myanmar this week
(13-17 August 2019). †

COMBINED FELLOWSHIP MEETING

There will be a Combined Fellowship Meeting on Saturday,
17 August 2019 (AM, YMG, YAG, YPG 1-3).

Time: 3.00pm
Venue: Sanctuary
Tea Fellowship to follow. †

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

23-24 August 2019

Plan to sign up for Retreat.
May the Lord raise up more good and godly leaders! †

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATING BETHANY'S 40+6 ANNIVERSARY

1. Let us take time to recall the many blessings of God.
2. Let us bless the Lord's name always as we remember what the blessings represent.
3. May His blessings never be taken for granted!

Anniversary Lunch at Shangri La on 25 August 2019.
Plan to book your table as soon as possible. †

MID-AUTUMN EVENT

Saturday, 7 September 2019.
Time: 4.00pm

Let us plan to share our faith, especially with those of the older generation! Plan to sign up as soon as possible. †

CONGRATULATIONS!

Heartfelt congratulations to Andrew and Yan-Yi on the occasion of their wedding on 10 August 2019.
May the Lord's richest blessings be theirs! †

TESTIMONY

Dear Brethren,

We write to testify of God's super abounding Grace (Ephesians 1:7,8).

Our beloved Ah Ma, Mdm Ong Pow, accepted Christ and was baptised on 25 July 2019 at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. None of us ever fathomed that Ah Ma would one day be among God's gathered people (Ephesians 1:10). God nevertheless graciously revealed to us - through Ah Ma - glimpses of the truth that *"He chose [each of] us before the foundation of the world...and predestined us to adoption as sons...according to the good pleasure of His will"* (Ephesians 1:5).

Ah Ma is 91 years old. Ah Ma has always been respectful of our faith. But when efforts were made to share the Gospel with her over the years, she would respond that she had already been *"introduced"* to Jesus as a young girl. Ah Ma therefore politely regarded Jesus as an acquaintance, and by the same token, eloquently and tacitly rejected Him as Friend.

For years, Ah Ma would attend Bethany's Easter, Anniversary and Christmas celebrations at Shangri-La. These were family outings. 6 years ago, during Bethany's 40th Anniversary celebration, Ah Ma suddenly collapsed from an abnormally slow heart rate, and was rushed to hospital. She never fully recovered and has been bed ridden since. Dementia began to debilitate Ah Ma. Both logic, and memory of her loved ones, ebbed away. While we never expressly acknowledged this to each other, we were each defeated by Ah Ma's health condition. How was she ever going to come to the saving knowledge of God?

Ah Ma was admitted to hospital on 19 July 2019 for an infection. The doctors advised that she was nearing the end of life. Shortly after, to our utter surprise, our non-Christian aunty and uncle (who are Ah Ma's primary caregivers) asked whether a Christian funeral may be conducted for Ah Ma should she pass away. We were perplexed - did they witness expressions of faith by Ah Ma which we missed?

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The question posed by our non-believer relatives jolted us from our faithlessness. Renewed and urgent efforts were made to share Christ to Ah Ma and the wider family at the hospital bedside. We told Ah Ma that in Christ, there is no fear of death. We told her that God loves her dearly. We shared that she can be His child. We also quickly reached out to Pastor Charlie and Aunty Sally who visited on 25 July 2019. At the time of their visit, God graciously granted Ah Ma an unusually and miraculously long stretch of lucidity. Ah Ma nodded affirmatively when asked whether she wanted to follow Jesus. The brightness and serenity in her eyes were unmistakable. The fear that had been registered on her face in the preceding days dissolved. Truly, Ah Ma obtained faith in the most unfathomable way, *"according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will"* (Ephesians 1:11).

Our family thus has every reason to *"[b]less the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"* in the knowledge that he has bestowed *"every spiritual blessing"* on Ah Ma (Ephesians 1:3). He lovingly searched Ah Ma out according to His wisdom and plan; He sealed her with the Holy Spirit of promise; He put the hope of His calling in her heart; He loves her with a great love; He is working His mighty power (which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead) in her. The list runs on, and for this reason, we praise the glory of His grace.

Love,
Sam, Judy, Eugene, Evangeline, David †

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & TRUTH

Psalm 101:1-2

*I will sing of mercy and justice;
To You, O LORD, I will sing praises.
I will behave wisely in a perfect way.
Oh, when will You come to me?
I will walk within my house in a perfect heart.*

1. This Psalm is a reflection of King David
He offered worship on a personal level.
Praise would feature prominently.
2. His appreciation of God
 - a) His mercy
 - b) His justice
3. His response to God
 - a) He would try and walk perfectly before God
 - b) His wish was that God would manifest Himself to him †

SEPARATED AND CALLED

God is involved in the birth of a child;
His profound plan is mighty and not mild.
In His wisdom and power, He has predestined;
Each child of His would be greatly esteemed.

The child is Separated according to God's plan;
He will Call His child and lead him by His hand.
Salvation would be understood and appreciated;
The desire to serve God has now been initiated.

The Call of God leads to a higher level of ministry;
The anointed is empowered for greater activity.
The servant of the Lord grows further in experience;
The Lord Jesus Christ is given rightful pre-eminence.

The Separation to special tasks is not given to many;
These must have grown deeper in life and ministry.
The Lord's Divine Plan is revealed and comprehended;
The faithful servant of the Lord would be well-commended!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Galatians 1:15; Romans 1:1



BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 11 AUGUST 2019

TEXT: ROMANS 8:28 CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

1. God's Call

- a) Always with a sense of purpose
- b) This can only be understood as we seek the Lord

2. Those who love God

- a) There is great assurance
- b) All things will work together for good

NEXT SUNDAY: 18 AUGUST 2019

TEXT: ROMANS 8:30

WHOM HE CALLED, THESE HE ALSO JUSTIFIED

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. †

THEME : CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

THIS WEEK @ WORSHIP

✠ COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE ✠

10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY

"Called according to His purpose"
Romans 8

Chairmen

Student-Pastor
Moses Kwek
Student-Pastor
Jonathan Jacob

Pianist

Mrs Esther Ang

Organist

Mrs Elsie Poey

Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

Interpreter

Mrs Kohl Baoling

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —

NO TEENS WORSHIP SERVICE

✠ CHILDREN'S CHURCH ✠

10.30 AM

"Have faith and courage"
Matthew 14:22-33

CC I: P1—P3

3rd Floor
Auditorium 3-1

CC II: P4—P6

4th Floor
Auditorium 4-1

Speaker

Mrs Joanne Tan

Speaker

Miss Camille George

✠ EVENING-BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICE ✠

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast & Fellowship Lunch :
Lay Eng & family

Bethany Church Activities

	Day	Time	Venue	Location
WORSHIP SERVICES				
Morning Worship Service	Sun	10.30 am	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Children's Worship I (P1 – P3)			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Children's Worship II (P4 – P6)			Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor
Teens' Worship Service			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Combined Evening-Bilingual		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 th floor
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Crèche	Sun	8.30am 10.30am	Green Turf	1 st floor
Beginners' Sunday School		8.30am	Auditorium 2-1	2 nd floor
Junior Sunday School I			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Junior Sunday School II			Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Senior Sunday School I			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School II			Main Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Senior Sunday School III			Prayer Room 4-1	4 th floor
Senior Sunday School IV			Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 th floor
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 rd floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
Youth Choir		5.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Evergreens	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
BIBLE STUDY				
Church Bible Study	Tue	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
Home Bible Study	2 nd and 4 th Thurs	3.00 pm	-	-
Mandarin Bible Study	1 st and 3 rd Fri	7.30 pm	4 th Floor Auditorium	4 th floor
CATECHISM CLASS				
	Sun	1.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	4 th floor
PRAYER MEETING				
	Mon	8.00 pm	Church Sanctuary	2 nd floor
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS				
Young People's Group I	Sat	3.00 pm	Auditorium 2-1	2 nd floor
Young People's Group II			Auditorium 3-8	3 rd floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 th floor
Young Married Group			Auditorium 4-1	4 th floor
Adults' Ministry		4.00 pm	Auditorium 4-1	4 th 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
11 August 2019
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

Pre-Worship Singing

Pianist : Mrs Esther Ang
Organist : Mrs Elsie Poey

Century Praise 295

I Will Sing Of My Redeemer

Prelude

Call to Worship

Student-Pastor Moses Kwek
Student-Pastor Jonathan Jacob

Invocation

PRAISE

Hymns

Century Praise 23

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

Song No. 2

Let's Be That Church

HWC No. 293

Rise Up, O Church Of God

“PREACH THE WORD”

Message: “Called according to His purpose”

Text : Romans 8

Speaker: Rev Dr Charles Tan

RESPONSE

Offering

Hymn

HWC No. 347

Be Still, My Soul

Prayerful Meditation

Benediction

Postlude



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SINGAPORE

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PASTORAL LETTER

11 AUGUST 2019

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

BETHANY TWO

It was with great excitement and joy when we began our worship and ministry at 301 Upper Paya Lebar. From a small house church in Seletar Hills, we were now blessed with a huge 5-storey building!

Many are the precious memories. Three blessings may be highlighted:

1. The Lord's leading
He truly leads in triumph

"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ... 2 Corinthians 2:14

2. The Lord's provision
How wonderfully He has provided

"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory..." Philippians 4:19

He has met all our needs and more!

3. The Lord's work in adding to the church

"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" Acts 2:47b

a) The Lord filled the sanctuary over the years

b) Many came to genuine faith in God

APPROPRIATE RESPONSES

Let us consider Psalm 66 as we reflect on the Lord's blessings.

1. The works of God

How awesome are Your works! Psalm 66:3

He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men Psalm 66:5

2. Worship

*All the earth shall worship You and sing praises to You;
They shall sing praises to Your name. Psalm 66:4*

3. Blessing the Lord

*Oh, bless our God, you peoples!
And make the voice of His praise to be heard. Psalm 66:8*

*Blessed be God, who has not turned away my prayer,
Nor His mercy from me! Psalm 66:20*

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*