

# BETHANY

## INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 19 April 2020*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

**Text: 1 Peter 2**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meditation	1
Announcements	4
Letters that Warm the Heart	5
Worship	6
Bible Memory Work	7
Poetry Corner	8

## “AS LIVING STONES”

### WHEN PEOPLE ASK

Many will ask how we are able to comprehend what is happening to the world, with special reference to Covid-19 especially. Others will ask how we can cope with a problem that is obviously getting more serious.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

1. Is this "End Times?"
  - a) There is an innate fear of "the end times"
  - b) This kind of fear is uncalled-for!
2. Is this "Divine judgment?"
  - a) Again, we see the problem of fear causing such questions to occur
  - b) We need to have a greater knowledge of how God dispenses divine justice
  - c) Let us not end up with:
    - i) Misgivings
    - ii) Misguided comprehension of God

## LIFE: BLESSINGS AND CHALLENGES

The basic question is how we actually view life. And we need to have a well-balanced understanding of what life entails.

1. Life has its good aspects
  - a) Improvement/ Development
  - b) Success
  - c) Joy
2. Life also has its challenges
  - a) Illnesses/ Diseases
  - b) War
  - c) Death

We have to realise that Life will always have both aspects, Negative and Positive. To think that Life would always be good without adverse circumstances would be to be naïve.

## LIVING STONES

Let us remember what God had enabled us to become:

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

*<sup>4</sup> Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,  
<sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5*

## 1. Connected

- a) We are wonderfully connected to the Lord Jesus Christ
  - i) He is the Living Stone
  - ii) We are living stones
- b) The Lord Jesus Christ
  - i) He is chosen by God
  - ii) He is precious indeed

## 2. Constructed

- a) We are a spiritual house of God
- b) We are a holy priesthood

## 3. Committed

- a) Let us be committed to offer spiritual sacrifices to God
- b) Let us ever trust in God at all times, even in dire circumstances

## 4. Christ-centered

- a) Let us not lose our focus on the Lord Jesus Christ
- b) He is the center of all we are and all we do

We may not have all the answers to the problems we see in the world. But we can be assured that all is foreknown to God and all are foreordained as well!

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

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **PULPIT THEME FOR MAY AND JUNE 2020**

**Theme: "In all our tribulation" 2 Corinthians 1:4**

This theme would be explored from the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians!



## **COVID-19**

1. The number of people who have been infected is in the millions.
2. This does not take into consideration those who have not been tested.
3. The world is undergoing a serious and difficult time of "tribulation."

Let us learn what the Scriptures have to teach us concerning "tribulation."



## **CHURCH PREMISES**

1. They remain shut for the time being
2. We must stand in support of the measures taken by our Government.
  - a) We recognize the danger
  - b) We recognize the wisdom behind the stricter measures which are adopted



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Mdm. Cheng Siam Cheng on the demise of her mother who passed away on 15 April 2020. She was 82 years old. The late Mdm. Ng Ah Suar was also the grandmother of Dillon Low.

Unfortunately, we are not able to visit with the bereaved family during this Covid-19 Pandemic problem.



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## LETTERS THAT WARM THE HEART

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*Dear Pastor Charles,*

We are sincerely grateful to you, the pastoral team, session and church members for the condolences bouquet and gift sent. Due to Covid-19, many were not able to attend in person and we understand it. It's so heart-warming that our Bethany family continues to give their support, comfort and even meals provided to our family during this difficult time. We are deeply touched and thankful for all the love and support given and it really meant a lot to us.

On behalf of my family, thank you Pastor and all the brethren for always being the kind of church where people care for people.

*Yours prayerfully,  
Cheng*

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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 111:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

I will praise the LORD with *my* whole heart,  
In the assembly of the upright and *in* the congregation.

<sup>2</sup>The works of the LORD *are* great,  
Studied by all who have pleasure in them.

### 1. The Praise of God

- a) The Psalmist expressed a deep commitment to praise God
- b) He would give praise with his whole heart
- c) He would not be afraid of giving praise
  - i) Publicly, in the congregation of worshippers
  - ii) In the presence of the upright

### 2. The works of God

- a) The Psalmist finds great inspiration in the works of God
- b) The works of God are studied by all who find pleasure in them
  - i) There is wisdom to be discovered
  - ii) There is joy to be found

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **TODAY: 19 April 2020**

*Text: 1 Peter 2:8 A stone of stumbling*

*And “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.”*

*They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they were appointed.*

1. Not everybody would believe in Jesus as the living stone and as the chief cornerstone.
2. In their rejection of the Lord Jesus as Saviour
  - a) He becomes a stone of stumbling
  - b) He becomes a rock of offense
3. They reject His teaching
  - a) They become disobedient to the word that He proclaimed
  - b) But their rejection had already been foreknown

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 26 April 2020**

*Text: 1 Peter 2:9 That you may proclaim the praises of God*

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,*

*His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him  
who called you into His marvelous light.*

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## AS LIVING STONES

To become “living stones” is uplifting knowledge;  
What a blessing from God, what a great privilege!  
We are gloriously connected to Jesus the Lord;  
He is indeed most precious, Chosen by God!

God’s plan was to build a great spiritual house;  
The hearts and spirits of believers, He will arouse.  
He will open their hearts and minds to comprehend;  
There is a great and glorious Divine Master-Plan.

As “living stones” we can come alive to the Lord;  
We will experience the power of the Spirit of God.  
We can draw much strength and encouragement;  
Let us not wallow in self-pity and discouragement.

The world reels in fear and is uncertain what to do;  
We can point people to a Saviour who is good and true.  
As “living stones” let us offer acceptable spiritual sacrifices;  
Let us share with the world that the grace of God suffices.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: 1 Peter 2:4-5



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Jesus Christ never taught Love in a theoretical way,  
He demonstrated Love throughout His earthly stay.  
He Loved so much that He chose to die at Calvary,  
He gave Himself for sinners who are so unworthy.

Jesus Christ alone suffered the greatest pain,  
Because of His death, salvation, we can obtain.  
He demonstrated the greatest Love that day,  
What He has done for us, we can never repay.

Let us be immersed in the great Love of Christ,  
And allow the words of His Love to flood our lives.  
The gift of salvation is His divine Love expressed,  
This priceless Love must impact our hearts afresh.

How can we respond to the Lord's great Love?  
To love one another is His command from above.  
This love can be sustained when we abide in Jesus,  
He will bless us with great joy and fruitfulness.

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: John 15:9-17

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## Understanding the Resurrection of Jesus

What a privilege to be handpicked to be living stones!  
Even more outstanding is that we are supported by Jesus Christ!  
Who was chosen by His Father to be the precious chief cornerstone;  
To enable us to build the spiritual house He undertook in great sacrifice.

Through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus we are born again;  
As new born we take the first steps at entry level to understand.  
The Lord's grace with His gift of eternal life and salvation;  
And the implant of the Holy Spirit ensuring us, His availability at hand.

The next level in understanding Jesus' resurrection is akin to a budding fruit;  
Which needs to grow and develop into full maturity.  
Hoisted up by our Saviour, our spirituality can become an inherent attribute;  
As we seek the Lord's face, exalt and glorify Him daily.

Thereafter we should strive to be servants of God;  
Each one is empowered with a special gift to spread His Word.  
Let us emulate our role model, the shining example of Jesus, our Lord;  
Who ministered on earth and obeyed His Father to his last breath, undeterred.

Jessie Quek  
Inspiration: 1 Peter 1, 2

# 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 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
Evening-Bilingual Worship		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>				
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			Fellowship Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> floor
Senior Sunday School IV. II			Auditorium 2M	2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
<b>CHOIRS</b>				
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
<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	Auditorium 4-8	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 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

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