

# BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 5 July 2020*

MICA (P) No.: 048/10/2019

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Genesis 1-12

## THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

### READING THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Reading the Book of Genesis time and again is good and healthy. In the first three chapters, as we look into the theme of Blessings, we may note the following:

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

1. The giving of a blessing from God
  - a) This was given by the Lord God when He created living beings:
    - i) This applied to all living creatures
    - ii) This certainly applied to mankind
  - b) The earth would not be populated at all without the Lord's blessings
    - i) The Lord's blessings must not be taken for granted
    - ii) Let us learn how we may treasure His blessings even more
2. The problem of sin
  - a) When sin entered into the world, it affected many things
  - b) God's relationship with man was affected adversely
    - i) God could not condone sin
    - ii) Man had to learn that sin must be dealt with summarily
3. The curse of the Lord
  - a) The serpent was cursed
  - b) The ground was cursed
4. The hope of the Lord's blessings lay in God's provision of a Saviour (Genesis 3:15)

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

- a) The Seed of Eve would crush the head of the serpent
- b) But the serpent would bite the heel of the Saviour
- c) The Saviour would have to taste death for everyone

## THE PROMISE OF BLESSING

The promise of God's blessings was given to Abram. The words given to him are deeply profound!

<sup>2</sup> "I will make you a great nation;

I will bless you

And make your name great;

And you shall be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,

And I will curse him who curses you;

And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:2-3

- 1. "I will bless you"
  - a) These are profound words
  - b) These are precious words indeed
- 2. "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"
  - a) This promise of blessing was not only given to Abram
  - b) Through him, all on earth may be blessed

*(Continued on page 4)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 3)*

### 3. Fulfilment of this word of promise

Paul's epistle to the Galatians explained how this promised blessing was made possible! Three verses may be cited!

a) So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham  
Galatians 3:9

b) You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus  
Galatians 3:26

c) And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed,  
and heirs according to the promise Galatians 3:29

Thank God for the promise of His blessings through faith in Christ Jesus! Let us take time to learn how we may appreciate afresh the blessings we have in Christ.

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

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## ***A WORD OF WELCOME***

1. Welcome back to Bethany

Thank God that we can have a Gradual Reopening Plan that allows us to resume Worship

2. Limited to 50 people

a) Thank God for all who have chosen to be at Bethany in person.

b) Thank God also for all who have opted not to come, but will continue to offer worship in their homes

3. New Normal (for the time being)

a) Safe Management rules

They will be observed

i) Temperature taking

ii) Safe-distancing

iii) No close contact

b) What we will not have (for the moment)

i) Live music

ii) Fellowship Meals

iii) Congregational singing

iv) No collection of offering



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*(Continued from page 5)*

## TWO PULPIT THEMES

### 1. Gradual Reopening (In Church)

Theme: "Lord, Teach us to Pray"

Luke 11:1

The focus is on Prayer

### 2. Usual Bi-monthly Theme: "Blessed"

This would be recorded and released via the usual channel.

This theme: "Blessed"

This is the theme chosen to celebrate Bethany's 40+7 Anniversary!

1. Despite all the challenges we are facing, we can say sincerely, we have been "Blessed!"
2. Our blessings are not always physical or material. The greatest of God's blessings are spiritual and eternal!



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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 113:7-9

*<sup>7</sup> He raises the poor out of the dust,  
And lifts the needy out of the ash heap,*

*<sup>8</sup> That He may seat him with princes—  
With the princes of His people.*

*<sup>9</sup> He grants the barren woman a home,  
Like a joyful mother of children.*

*Praise the LORD!*

1. The poor and the needy
  - a) God can raise the poor out of the dust
  - b) He can lift the needy out of the ash heap
  - c) He can even seat him among the princes
2. The barren woman
  - a) He can give children to the barren
  - b) She can be a joyful mother with children
  - c) She can have a happy home
3. Appropriate response
  - a) The poor and needy would have every reason to praise God
  - b) The mother with children would also have reason to offer praise
  - c) Even if we do not become princes and mothers, praise should also be given to the LORD

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **TODAY: 5 July 2020**

*Text: Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man  
Blessed is the man*

*Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.*

1. Blessed is the man
  - a) Thank God for the promise of blessing
  - b) The blessings of God should never be taken for granted
2. The life of the one who would be blessed by the Lord
  - a) He does not listen or heed the advice of the ungodly
  - b) He does not associate with the sinners and in their sinful pursuits
  - c) He does not follow the people who scorn and despise others

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 12 July 2020**

*Text: Psalm 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven  
Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
Whose sin is covered.*



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## “I WILL BLESS YOU”

The blessings of God are most profound;  
The words of promise in the Bible astound!  
Blessings reflect the Being of the Lord;  
We have a great and most gracious God.

Sin came in and everything is badly affected;  
Life becomes harder and God's help is needed.  
God created a great plan of redemption.  
Through Christ Jesus would come salvation.

The blessings of God are possible again;  
Sin can be defeated through God's reign.  
God seeks to restore Man by His grace;  
Our part is to sincerely seek His face.

How good it is to have the promise of blessing;  
The sacrifice of Christ is the Perfect offering.  
The power of sin and Satan are broken;  
In Christ, we have the hope of heaven.

Charles Tan  
Genesis 12:2-3; Galatians 3:22,25-26,29

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## The Fragrance of Christ

I still remember when I first got to know Christ;  
I was excited to learn more about God and to live a new life.  
But because of familial objections to my new-found faith;  
I did not find the courage to share the gospel with others face-to-face.

Then life's challenges assailed me just as they did everyone else;  
They served to mold and help us discover ourselves.  
We learn to be honest to ascertain if our faith is indeed genuine;  
For if we were to share it with others, true faith is where it must begin.

The Apostle Paul likened Christians to the fragrance of Christ;  
Who diffuse the fragrance of the knowledge of God in triumph.  
It is a reminder to bring the Good News of Salvation at every opportunity given;  
To share the gospel with whoever is willing to listen.

Moreover, let us strive to live a life of righteousness;  
For our character and actions will be our testimony and witness.  
May we aspire to be good Christians who influence and impact lives!  
May we be worthy of being known as the fragrance of Christ!

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## Aspirations to be Bondservants of Christ

T'is such a privilege to serve for the glory of Christ,  
With humility we serve, as You alone have our rights!  
Your grace afforded to me is wonderfully sufficient,  
My deep gratitude should never be deficient!

Sharing this grace and the fellowship of the gospel,  
A challenging example set by Paul the apostle.  
A warm heart never devoid of thanksgiving,  
A joyful prayer of intercession so willing!

So must our faith in the gospel constantly fortify,  
So must we seek the word in our lives and apply!  
Sharing a prayer with partakers of this same grace,  
Such joy and confidence of His good work in every case!

Dr. Tan Kok Yang  
Inspired by Philippians 1:1-7

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 4

## The Spiritual Light

God leads us out of darkness as He shines light on our hearts;  
Our hearts are lit with knowledge of the glory of the Lord.  
This spiritual light reflected from the face of Jesus Christ, sets us apart  
We are thus able to see things which are not seen, by the grace of God.

Jesus said: "He who has seen Me has seen the Father,"

A spark of clarity for the obtuse human mind.

As we grapple with the image of our mysterious powerful creator;  
Light can only shine in our hearts when we internalize His Word enshrined.

Not to see light is a devastating tragedy for unbelievers;  
They are sadly blinded and choose to remain in darkness.  
For such, life is joyless, hollow, no matter how great an achiever;  
One is, in this material world, constantly craving and restless.

But there is hope, like for Apostle Paul who received light from God;  
Let us earnestly seek Him to fill our hearts with spiritual light.  
To shine brightly outwards then is our responsibility to the Lord;  
So that others can see the glory of God with more insight.

Jessie Quek

(Inspiration: 2 Corinthians, 4, John 14: 9)

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 5

## A SIGNIFICANT BLESSING

In life, we may struggle with many weaknesses,  
Ministry may also be fraught with challenges.  
But God has given us Faith, a significant blessing,  
Through Faith, it is possible to keep persevering.

Faith helps us to find, from God, divine power,  
He will uphold us and make us an overcomer.  
We must not lose heart even if there is affliction,  
Day by day, we must seek spiritual regeneration.

Faith enables us to see God's grace and mercy,  
God is working and He moves the hearts of many.  
His glory is seen when a soul finds salvation,  
The heart gives thanks with great jubilation!

Faith helps us to see the value of eternal life,  
We have a hope in heaven that is real and alive.  
May we treasure and cultivate Faith diligently!  
May Faith help us to live for the Lord triumphantly!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 4:7-17

# 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

**Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church**

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