

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 2 August 2020

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

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: Psalm 33

“PRAISE FROM THE UPRIGHT IS BEAUTIFUL”

BETHANY'S ANNIVERSARY MONTH

This month, August 2020 sees Bethany celebrating 40+7 years of ministry as a Church. What comes to mind naturally? The following text from Psalm 33 must resonate with us.

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MEDITATION

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¹ *Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous!
For praise from the upright is beautiful.*
² *Praise the LORD with the harp;
Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings.*
³ *Sing to Him a new song;
Play skillfully with a shout of joy.* *Psalms 33:1-3*

1. This is a call to the righteous

- a) To all who understand redemption
- b) To all who appreciate the righteousness imputed to us
- c) To all who seek to live for the Lord righteously

2. A call to rejoice in the LORD

- a) There is every reason to rejoice in God
- b) There is no good reason not to rejoice in the LORD
- c) The challenge is to practise rejoicing in God

AN APPRECIATION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO REJOICE IN THE LORD

Rejoicing in the Lord should cause us to offer praise to Him.

1. Praise from the upright

- a) This is good and proper for the upright to practise
- b) This is the right and natural thing to do

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MEDITATION

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2. Praise is truly beautiful

- a) In the eyes of the Lord
- b) In the hearing of believers
- c) It adds to the rejoicing of the heart

EXPRESSIONS OF PRAISE

Praise can come in many forms. Let us consider the suggestions of the psalmist.

1. The use of musical instruments

- a) This can add value to our songs of praise
- b) It can add beauty and majesty

2. The composition of new songs

- a) May the heart be inspired!
- b) May new songs be composed to praise the Lord!

3. Playing skillfully

- a) Let us seek to improve our skills
- b) Let our hearts be committed to giving off our best to the Lord

Let our Church Anniversary month be particularly filled with praise to the Lord our God!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO BETHANY

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today:

1. In physical and personal presence at Bethany, 301 Upper Paya Lebar Road
2. On-line

May your worship of the LORD be meaningful! Let your heart be uplifted!



AUGUST IS ANNIVERSARY MONTH OF BETHANY

This month we celebrate 40+7 years of ministry in Bethany! Our 47th year has been particularly challenging because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

1. Things we had to forego
 - a) Suspension of Corporate Worship
We have not been able to worship from February to June 2020
 - b) Cancellation of Worship and Lunch at Shangri La at Easter
We were not able to have our Easter Worship and Fellowship Lunch at Shangri La

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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c) Suspension of many regular activities at Church

i) We have suspended our Fellowship Lunch since February 2020

ii) Sunday School

iii) Fellowship Group meetings

2. Things we have implemented

a) Video Messages

i) Morning Worship

ii) Bilingual Worship

b) Sunday School

c) Daily ICARE

d) Daily Pastoral Letter

3. The spirit of Bethany

a) This has remained resolute

b) Giving

i) Faithful members continue to support Bethany (Electronic means)

ii) Giving to support our Missions ministry overseas has also been very encouraging too

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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c) Praying

Many have written to say that they will remain faithful and prayerful

Thank God for His grace and mercy! Let us look back at the past year and rejoice that God's blessings have continued to be outpoured on us at Bethany and on our churches overseas (Australia, India and Myanmar).



VIRTUAL ACM

23 August 2020

Two major things to consider:

1. To conclude the year with great thanksgiving and praise to God
2. To elect a new set of Session Members (2020-2023)

The Proposed New Session

List of New and Incumbent Session Members

1. Incumbent

a) Charles Tan

b) Mark Tan

c) Mitchell Tan

d) George Thomas

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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e) Ng Lay Eng

f) Geraldine Lee

2. New

a) Dr. Daniel Chia

b) Milton Ong

c) Dr. K.C.Tang

d) Dr. Quek Li Wei

e) Dr. Jane Tan

f) Tan Hong Suen

g) Tan Li Hong



A SHORT WORD FROM PASTORS BEN AND BEN

On the Virtual ACM

They will be facilitating the ACM via Zoom

Dear Bethany

This year, due to COVID 19, we were not able to hold our ACM in February as usual.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Instead, we will be holding our ACM in August and it will be slightly different - our ACM will be entirely online!

The ACM will be streamed live on 23 August 2020 (Sunday), 11.15 am. It will be conducted via Zoom.

Further details will be sent to your email addresses.

If you wish to confirm your email address with us, you can drop us an email at bethanyacm2020@gmail.com

*Gratefully,
Ben and Ben*



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 115:9-13

- ⁹ O Israel, trust in the LORD;
He is their help and their shield.*
- ¹⁰ O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD;
He is their help and their shield.*
- ¹¹ You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD;
He is their help and their shield.*
- ¹² The LORD has been mindful of us;
He will bless us;
He will bless the house of Israel;
He will bless the house of Aaron.*
- ¹³ He will bless those who fear the LORD,
Both small and great.*

TRUST IN THE LORD

The call to “trust” was repeated three times

1. This was done for emphasis
2. This was done for encouragement

HELP AND SHIELD

The phrase, to describe God as “Help and Shield” was also repeated three times

1. To strengthen the idea of trust
2. To remember that the LORD had indeed been a wonderful “Help and Shield”

CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD’S BLESSINGS

1. Great confidence was expressed

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WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

(Continued from page 9)

2. The word “bless” was used four times in quick succession

May we worship the Lord out of deep gratitude and joy for His protection and blessing!

1. God’s Power

- a) The crossing of the Red Sea
(Moses’ time)
- b) The crossing of the River Jordan
(Joshua’s time)

2. God’s Presence

- a) The mighty mountains trembled
- b) The Presence of God is truly awesome

3. God’s Provision

- a) He provided water from a Rock
- b) The hard flinty Rock provided an ample supply of water

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 2 August 2020

*Text: Psalm 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times
I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

1. An Example

- a) To bless the LORD
- b) To bless the LORD at all times

2. An Expression of blessing the Lord

- a) To offer praise
- b) To speak of the Lord in joy and gratitude

NEXT SUNDAY: 9 August 2020

*Text: Psalm 103:1-2 Bless the LORD, O my soul
 ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
 ² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:*

POETRY CORNER

1

REJOICE IN THE LORD, O YOU RIGHTEOUS

The Call to rejoice in the LORD is a good theme;
There is every reason to rejoice from deep within!
To have a disposition of praise is good to cultivate;
To develop this desirable quality, we must not hesitate.

The righteous will understand the Call to offer praise;
He has experienced the Lord's wonderful grace.
The LORD has shown us mercy in His blessing;
The heart must be naturally filled with thanksgiving.

Giving of praise is truly a beautiful thing to behold;
The LORD is pleased when our hearts are not cold.
There should be much joy and gratitude in our soul;
God has reached out to us and He has made us whole.

Praise should be easily forthcoming from the upright;
May there be new songs that reflect a heart that is light!
The LORD's name is to be praised in every possible way;
Rejoicing in the LORD will wonderfully brighten each day.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Psalm 33:1-3

POETRY CORNER

2

Courage Through Faith

Lord, give me the strength to be emboldened to share,
Of a faith so deep, a trust so full, with humility and care.
There may be detractors and adversaries that come my way,
But no challenge or persecution so strong will make me sway!

Lord, let me have the wisdom to seek spiritual maturity,
A maturity that speaks of Christ with single-minded purity.
Placing Christ at the very forefront of our lives, our worth,
Understanding that He provides for our every need on earth.

Grant me the wisdom to live in Christ and to believe that to die is gain,
And if I live, I will labour to bear fruits and I will spare no pain.
With conviction to walk worthy of the Gospel of Christ,
So, I will conduct myself, no matter the sufferings that may arise!

Dr. Tan Kok Yang
Inspiration: Philippians 1: 12-29

POETRY CORNER

3

Blessed

Some people may consider being blessed manifold;
To mean that God will bless with silver or gold.
That if God were gracious to bless you and me;
That we would encounter no strife in life but live worry-free.

But God's blessing had long begun with His Creation;
With which He was well-pleased and had pronounced satisfaction.
The Lord's blessing was for Man to be fruitful and be multiplied;
This was sealed in an everlasting covenant, never to be denied.

But Man's perfect fellowship with God was destroyed by sin;
When we ignored and indulged in our iniquities within.
Yet, what a blessing it is to have our transgressions forgiven;
When we confess our sins for which Christ has made atonement.

It is a blessing to resume our relationship with God;
A privilege to be able to pray and speak to the Lord.
May we not take His protection and provision for granted;
But instead seek His guidance and deliverance as He had always intended.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Psalm 1 and 32

POETRY CORNER

4

Blessings For The Faithful

Our desire to receive God's blessings for our well-being is only natural;

Blessed are those who are undefiled and walk in His ways.

As such, choose the path towards blessings by leaving a life of habits immoral;

With God's grace commence to lead a cleansed life without delay.

Blessed are those who study the Scriptures to comprehend the word of the Lord;

They seek Him not only with the mind but with the whole heart

It is not enough to simply understand the precepts of God.;

Of significance is to keep them from which they must not depart.

Blessed are those whose veils have been removed from their eyes;

They can now behold things of wonder in God's word with clarity.

A privilege to be shown His revelations allowing them to visualize;

What was mysterious, previously hidden resulting in opacity.

When spiritual fatigue sets in, let there be no shame;

For them to cry out for help to revive their listless souls perturbed.

May they be blessed with His grace and mercy to recharge and obtain!

A restoration of the joy and love of God's word.

Jessie Quek

(Inspiration: Psalm 119)

POETRY CORNER

5

SEEK MY FACE

To us, the special privilege of prayer is given,
We can talk and relate to our God in heaven.

But we often do not seek Him as we ought,
We tend to focus on things we desire from God.

God wants us to not seek Him only out of necessity,
Nor pray only to seek for His help and mercy.

He desires our prayers to go a little deeper,
“Seek My Face”, says God our loving Father.

How may we seek God’s face meaningfully?
We need to tell Him what is inside candidly.
We can voice our hidden insecurities and fears,
We can learn to be still and, to Him, draw near.

In God’s presence, the heart is encouraged,
It learns to wait on Him with good courage.
God will teach us and reveal His goodness,
To discover Him more is true blessedness!

Yvette Seow
Inspiration: Psalm 27

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
Evening-Bilingual Worship		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			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School IV. II			Auditorium 2M	2 nd 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

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