

# BETHANY

## INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 13 December 2020*

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## MEDITATION

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REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Colossians 1

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## “THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS”

### THE DOCTRINE OF BEING HEIRS OF GOD

This doctrine was well-taught by the Apostle Paul. He wrote about this in a number of his epistles. In Colossians, Paul mentioned this doctrine again.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

<sup>9</sup> For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the power of darkness and <sup>[c]</sup>conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:9-14

## IN THE CONTEXT OF PRAYER

Paul wrote about this doctrine in the context of prayer, and rightly so! Our inheritance is best comprehended in prayer.

### 1. The salvation experience of the Colossians

- a) It was essentially the same experience common to all believers
- b) True salvation has the following features:
  - i) Faith in Christ
  - ii) Love for the saints
  - iii) Hope that is laid up in heaven

Col. 1:4-5

### 2. Prayer for the Colossians

- a) To be filled with knowledge of God's will
  - i) In all wisdom
  - ii) In spiritual understanding
- b) To walk worthy of the Lord
- c) Fruitful in every good work

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

d) Increasing in the knowledge of God

e) Strengthened with all might

## QUALIFIED TO BE HEIRS OF GOD

Many of us feel absolutely unworthy of being made heirs of God!  
How was this made possible?

1. It is God the Father

a) Who has qualified us to be partakers of a special inheritance

b) This inheritance was given to all the saints      Colossians 1:12

2. How has God done this?

a) He has delivered us from the power of darkness

b) He has conveyed us into the kingdom of His Son  
Colossians 1:13

## APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

Let us take time to read and ponder Colossians 1 prayerfully.

1. Giving thanks

Let us be filled with deep gratitude to God

2. Prayer

Let us never cease to pray that God would enlighten us further

3. Walking worthy

Let us walk worthy of God's calling to us to become joint heirs with Christ Jesus the Lord! May our life reflect the wondrous salvation God has given to us!

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

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **WELCOME TO BETHANY**

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today, physically or virtually.

May your heart be blessed through worship!



## CHRISTMAS CANDLES

### **THE FOUR CANDLES OF CHRISTMAS**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Candle:

The Prophecy Candle  
(29 November 2020)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Candle:

The Bethlehem Candle  
(6 December 2020)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Candle:

The Shepherds' Candle  
(13 December 2020)

The 4<sup>th</sup> Candle:

The Angels' Candle  
(20 December 2020)



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS**

Heartfelt congratulations to Nathanael and Janelle on the occasion of their wedding on 12 December 2020!

May the Lord's richest blessings be upon you!



## **CHRISTMAS BAPTISM FOR SENIORS TODAY**

1. Mr Seow Tiong Quee  
(Father of Mr. Benny Seow)

2. Mdm Ang Jock Choo  
(Mother of Benny Seow)

3. Mdm Tan Khey  
(Mother of Iris Teo)

4. Mdm Koh Khoo Imm  
(Mother of Dr. Tan Kok Yang)

5. Mdm Lee Bee Geok  
(Mother of Michael Chew)



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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## **Psalm 119:5-8**

*<sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were directed  
To keep Your statutes!*

*<sup>6</sup> Then I would not be ashamed,  
When I look into all Your commandments.*

*<sup>7</sup> I will praise You with uprightness of heart,  
When I learn Your righteous judgments.*

*<sup>8</sup> I will keep Your statutes;  
Oh, do not forsake me utterly!*

### **APPROPRIATE PRACTICAL RESPONSE**

1. To direct his ways to keep God's statutes
2. To look and to learn His righteous judgments
3. To keep His statutes
4. To give praise to God

### **APPROPRIATE PRAYERS**

1. That God would not forsake
2. That God would consider all promises that have been made on the part of the Psalmist
3. Holding fast to the hope felt in the heart

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **TODAY: 13 December 2020**

*Text: Titus 3:6 Poured out on us abundantly*

*Whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour*

### 1. God the Father

He is the One who has poured out the Holy Spirit upon all believers.

### 2. The Lord Jesus Christ

His saving work is the basis for the outpouring of the Spirit of God upon us

### 3. The Holy Spirit

a) Have you experienced His mighty work in your life?

b) Have you sought to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 20 December 2020**

*Text: Titus 3:7 Heirs according to the hope of eternal life*

*That having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life*

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS

God's Plan of Salvation is awesome in every way;  
The great glory of the Lord is truly in full display.  
God as Father has shown precious lovingkindness;  
By His grace, we stand before Him in righteousness!

In His Plan of Salvation, He has given us an Inheritance;  
This deep plan of God must be fathomed for its relevance.  
We may not feel that we are worthy to be made heirs;  
This doctrine is best comprehended through humble prayers!

The Inheritance of the saints was always in God's Plan;  
God will reveal this Plan if we desire to fully comprehend.  
He has made us His spiritual children and His heirs too;  
We may believe this word fully for God is good and true!

We have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness;  
God has brought us into His kingdom of righteousness.  
Our part is to grow in deep spiritual comprehension;  
Our inheritance in Christ would be revealed in portions.

Charles Tan  
Colossians 1:1-14



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## **The Hope of Eternal Life**

The Lord planted the hope of eternal life in our hearts;  
This hope is a promise from God before time began.  
Hope in God commences when Jesus is accepted as our Saviour on our part;  
But how much of this hidden hope do we really understand?

Like peeling away the layers of an onion to get to its centre;  
We are progressively being shown bit by bit of the Lord's intent.  
As we uncover one layer of truth followed by another and another;  
Learning more of God's attributes, grateful for His mercy and kindness sent!

Seek to deepen our faith, an eternal life we hope;  
Conscientiously cultivating this hope increases our sense of confidence.  
To deal with the overwhelming knowledge allowing our finite minds to process and cope;  
That there is certainty of life beyond this realm of time and space!

We are pilgrims on this earth which is not our home;  
Our citizenship is in heaven where Jesus has prepared a place for us.  
There are many mansions in our Father's house where we are welcome;  
Into the kingdom of our Lord as His children and heirs.

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: Titus 1: 2, 3; 7; John 14 :1-2; Hebrews 11: 13-16

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## Heirs of God

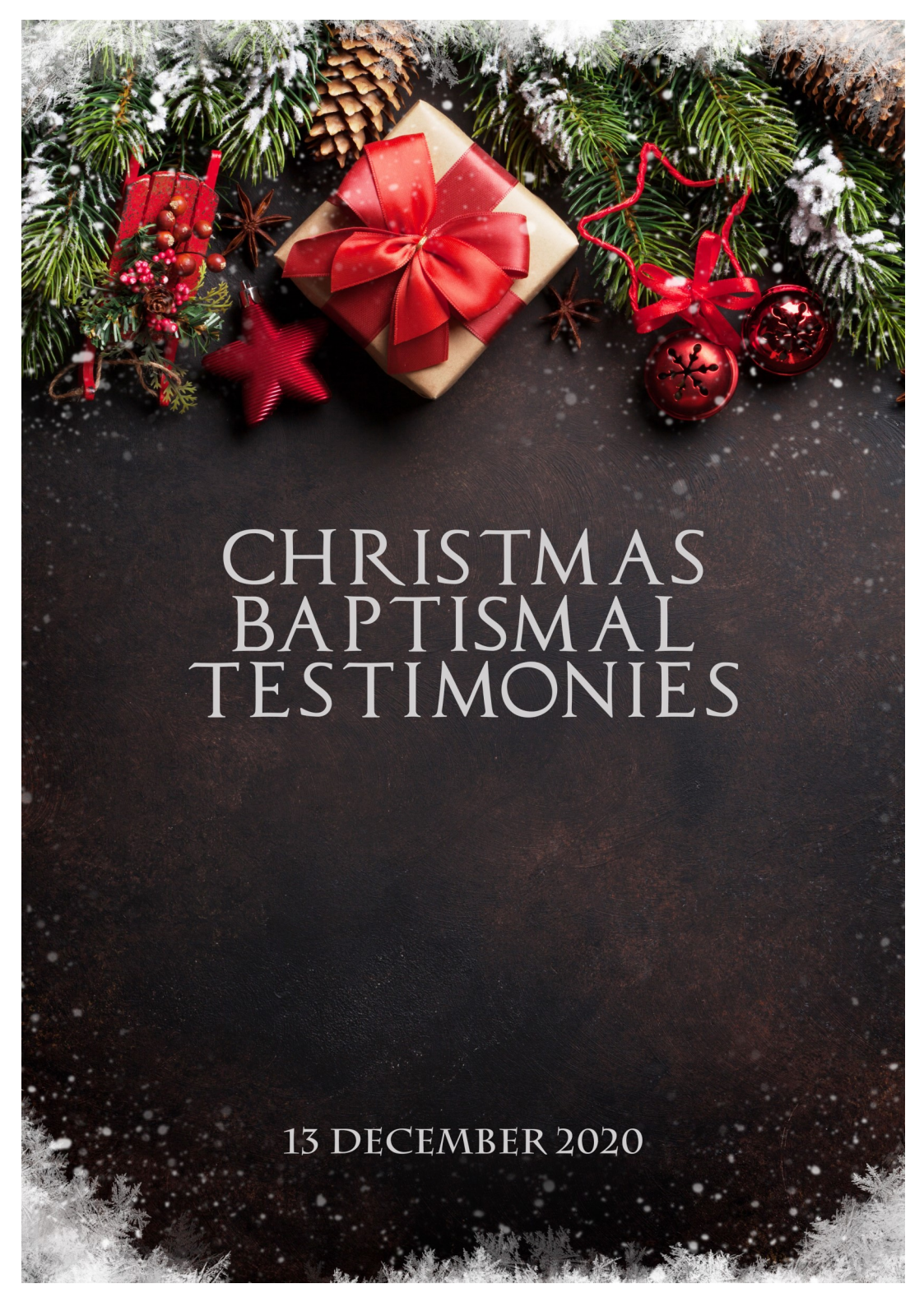
Having a Father in Heaven;  
Basking in the luxury of an inheritance.  
Does this equate to a lifetime of thoughtless indulgence?  
Can we then be oblivious to the need for prudence?

We were once foolishly embroiled in lives of deception;  
But God's love and kindness provided us salvation.  
His grace and mercy have seen our sins forgiven;  
Now our faith and hope in Him is what must make us different.

Being chosen by God must mean cognizance;  
Of how life must be lived with a good conscience.  
The change from the old to the new self ought to be significant;  
For faith must positively influence our character and performance.

Our behaviour and our status must exhibit congruence;  
Befitting the reputation of being called God's children.  
Above all else, a life of righteousness should now take precedence;  
Because God's glory must shine through our very existence.

Dr. Sng Li Wah  
Inspiration: Titus 1-3



# CHRISTMAS BAPTISMAL TESTIMONIES

13 DECEMBER 2020

## **Mr Seow Tiong Quee & Mdm Ang Jock Choo**

*Parents of Benny Seow*




My father, **Mr. Seow Tiong Quee**, is 77 years old. He worked in a carpentry company for most of his life as an antique furniture painter and lived a simple and thrifty life.

During January 2019, my father experienced a heart attack on his way to the supermarket. However, by God's grace, he managed to bring himself to a nearby clinic and an ambulance was called. He was then admitted to a hospital and underwent a heart bypass operation during early February and spent Chinese New Year in the hospital. He was discharged soon after and had a swift recovery. By April, he was able to talk and walk without feeling breathless as he needed to "re-learn" to breathe normally after the operation.

My mother, **Mdm Ang Jock Choo**, is 68 years old. She started working as a domestic helper taking up 2 jobs to help with supporting the family. She later moved on to work as a shop assistant at a neighbourhood bakery shop.

During late 2016, she had a fall on her way to work early in the morning. We were unaware of her fall but within few weeks we realised she started to have problem walking.

We thought it could be her knee cap problem and brought her to the polyclinic where she was referred to see a specialist. Her condition started to deteriorate rapidly and very soon she was bed-ridden. However, with much encouragements and prayers, she finally agreed to go for the cervical neck operation which is a very high risk operation. By God's grace, the operation was successful but due to some complications she had to prolong her



stay to nearly 3 months before she can be transferred to a rehabilitation centre. After 1 month plus in the centre, she was finally allowed to be discharged. Miraculously, she too experienced a swift recovery and was able to walk with the use of a walking stick not long after.

During my parents' respective stays in the hospital, they experienced the love of God through friends from church who often visited and prayed for them. Their perception, especially my father's, towards Christianity began to change. His "old thinking" of Christian as weak and religious people no longer existed but he is now more open to people praying for him. He witnessed the power of prayer first through my mother's encounter and later in his own when he encountered the heart attack.

On 13 Jan 2020, during our family weekly visit to my parent's place, I was sharing with them how God had helped them during their days in hospital and even during their recovery. They agreed and my father said he will be a Christian, but he needed more time. Not knowing what that meant at that time, in our few visit later we noticed all the idols at home were gone. He had removed them himself and shared with us that he wanted to have nothing to do with his past religion before he accepts Christ as his personal saviour.

We are thankful for all the prayers and support from friends and especially the people of Bethany whom my parents had interacted with during their visit to the multiple events at Bethany. They have mentioned that they felt the warmth of the people in Bethany and it makes them want to come to Church more often.

It is with great joy and thankfulness that they have expressed their desires to be baptised.

## **Mdm Tan Khey**

### ***Mother of Iris Teo***



My name is Tan Khey. I am 89 yrs old. I am a very simple, traditional woman who worshipped idols like Guan Yin and Guan Tek Ya. Being a widow for 40 years, I brought up 5 children (3 daughters, 1 adopted daughter and one son).


I enjoyed cooking nice food especially during Chinese New Year, like ngoh hiang, chili crab and curry chicken. Ever since my son passed away in 2017, I was left stranded without a place to stay. My daughter-in-law sold the flat. With the money she went back to China, leaving me in the lurch.

I became very sad and depressed. Everytime I talk about it, I would cry. Every few weeks, I had to move about between the homes of my two daughters. To overcome my grief and sadness, I followed my daughter, Iris Teo, to Bethany Church. I also attended Christmas and Easter events in Shangrila.

Many church people showed their concern with comforting words like Nancy Ang, Toong Su Yin, Juliana Chew, Carrie Kong, Florence and Joanna. They made me feel welcome in Church. I look forward in coming to Church to learn about the Lord Jesus.

One day, two sisters brought me out for lunch. There they shared the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ with me. Actually, I was very sad and felt hopeless. Upon hearing the love of God for me and how Jesus cared for my soul, I opened my heart to the Lord. I found great comfort to know that the God of the Bible loves me so much and gave His life for me. The Lord washed and forgave my sins. Now I have a hope in Heaven and a right relationship with the Lord which brings peace.

I fell down twice - once in August 2019 and the other in October



2019. I was warded in TTSH, Sengkang Community Hospital and finally at Renci Community Rehab Hospital. Before knowing the Lord, I would be very upset. But knowing the Lord made the difference. I prayed to Him for His help to make me well and strength to do the physio. Though I was not able to move much, I experienced the love and concern from quite a few church members who came to cheer me - like Lay See, Li Kum, Dao Hong, and Jeremy Ng. God's children visited me with gifts and encouraging words.

I am very touched and moved by the actions of Christians. They not only talk about love, but they showed God's love to me.

Although I may not remember all the truths shared with me, one thing I know is, that I can pray to God to make a way for me to cope with the challenges of life. Being a child of God, I have decided to declare my faith in baptism this Easter. Coming to faith in Jesus I am able to put my mind at ease, as I learn to pray to Jesus and talked to Him about my cares and worries. The Lord gives me His peace.

I also learned a song called "Khan Goa e Chiu." (Hold my hand) The Lord Jesus holding my hand gives me the confidence that I could walk strongly, and letting Him lead me all the way. I learn to trust in Jesus' promises. I am now very happy. Thank God for His people in Bethany who helped me to find faith in Jesus. I will follow the Lord all the way.

## **Mdm Lee Bee Geok**

### ***Mother of Michael Chew***




My name is Mdm Lee Bee Geok, better known as Michael Chew's mum. I am 67 years old and have three sons and 5 grandchildren. I was first introduced to Bethany IPC when Michael and Jillian invited me during one of the Christmas lunches many years ago. Through the years, I've attended many special lunches, worship services and kindergarten concerts. I have always felt the warmth and kindness of the members from Bethany.

Born into a Taoist family, I was brought up to follow my parents' instructions when it came to religious practices. When they told me to kneel, I kneeled; and when they told me to pray, I prayed. But deep down in my heart, these actions meant nothing to me. In fact, the religion instilled fear in me, especially the scary idols.

Despite my Taoist upbringing, most of my friends were Christians. They have always tried to convince me to convert to Christianity. Although I did not show any interest in the faith, deep down in my heart, there was always a place for Christ, the Lord. They always encouraged me to trust in God in all circumstances, but it was difficult to fully understand this. Often times at night, I would pray to Jesus and try to visualize Him. I always wondered why my Christian friends were so at peace with the Lord.

As I look back, I now see that the Lord was always speaking to me. When I turned to the obituary in the newspapers, I would especially like to read the Christian verses. My favorites are Psalm 23 and John 14:2. The idea of the Lord as Shepherd, and that He will prepare a place for His followers in Heaven was comforting.





I was diagnosed with stage 4 bile duct cancer in June 2019. There was fear, pain and discomfort from the immunotherapy. Many offered to pray for me, and shared verses to encourage me. I found much peace and comfort from this, and decided that I would like to be sent off a Christian when that day comes.

With the encouragement of Michael and Jillian, I started having weekly sessions with Pastor Charles earlier in the year. Through these weekly Zoom sessions, I am always encouraged by the verses shared. With a deeper understanding, I decided to accept the Lord wholeheartedly. In Him, I have found peace.

I hope that one day, my husband, children and grandchildren will also come to faith through my life experience and testimony.

The rest of my life is in God's hands. I know that as His child, I can experience His goodness and mercy. I can trust in Him to hold me by His right hand now and forever.

# 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
Evening-Bilingual Worship		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			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
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**

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