

A vibrant sunset over a vast field of sunflowers. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon, with scattered clouds catching the low light. The sunflowers in the foreground are in full bloom, their bright yellow petals and dark brown centers creating a dense, textured field that stretches to the horizon.

This is My Story

BAPTISMAL WORSHIP SERVICE
25 JUNE 2023



THIS IS MY STORY

TESTIMONIES OF BRETHREN WHO WILL BE
RECEIVED INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
ON 25 JUNE 2023

[A] Paedo-Baptism

1. Nathan Clarence Chong Wei-Wen
(Son of Benjamin and Shu-Yi)
2. Luke Christopher Quah Renyi
(Son of Benjamin and Sui Hui)

To Be Baptized By:
Pastor Charles Tan

Pastor Charles Tan

[B] Adult Baptism

1. Chan Choy Chan
2. Tan Imp Tee

To Be Baptized By:
Pastor Moses Kwek
Pastor Benjamin Chong

[C] Re-affirmation

1. Chua Min Xuan Della
2. Elena Khoo

To Be Prayed For By:
Pastor Charles Tan
Pastor Charles Tan



A GIFT FROM GOD

BENJAMIN CHONG AND SHU-YI
(PARENTS OF NATHAN CHONG)

The name “Nathan” means “God has given”.

In the early months of 2022, as we were planning to expand our family, Shu-Yi suffered a miscarriage. Shortly after we discovered her pregnancy, no heartbeat was detected on the first doctor’s scan. We were told that the embryo had stopped developing and that the pregnancy was no longer viable.

Even though the miscarriage occurred at an early stage, the sense of loss we experienced was immense. But we also learnt important lessons about God – that life is in God’s hands, that God knows best when life should be given and taken, and that life, when given, must be treasured.

Psalm 139:16

“Your eyes saw my substance,
being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.”

We drew much comfort and assurance from God’s Word. God knows our days before they occur. God has a plan for every one of us - including that little one - and His plan is perfect. We learnt to trust in the sovereign will of God and continued to commit our family to Him.

Shortly after this episode, the Lord gave Nathan to us. Though it would be natural to have some trepidation over this pregnancy after experiencing the previous loss, throughout the pregnancy there was a deep sense of calm in knowing that Nathan already had his days fashioned for him. No matter what happened to Nathan, he was in God’s hands.

By God’s grace, Nathan came safely into our arms on the 11th of March 2023. We have come to treasure our second son as a wonderful “gift from God”. In his three

and a half months with us, he has already brought us such joy and delight.

Paedo-baptism is a symbol that children have a special place among God's people. To us, committing him to the Lord in baptism is a wonderful privilege, and the most natural thing for us to do. We want to commit him back to the Lord with a prayer that he can one day be used to serve God in a special way. On our part, we reaffirm our commitment as parents to bring him up to know and love the Lord.



When Luke was born, everything seemed well – the delivery process was smooth, Luke came out healthy, and Sui Hui was well. Returning home from the hospital, we also felt less apprehensive because we thought that since Luke was our second child, we were better equipped and experienced to care for him. Little did we expect that things would turn out quite differently.

Just a few days before Luke turned a full month old, he began to develop a cough. What started out as dry “innocent” sputters, became a wet and chesty rasping. He would go into uncontrollable coughing fits that left him all red in the face and gasping for air, eventually causing him to throw up. The pediatrician diagnosed it as Bronchiolitis, a viral infection of the lungs.

It was heart-wrenching for us parents to see Luke struggle with his illness, especially at such a tender age. There was also little that we could do because Luke was not able to take much medication at his age. We knew we had to pray. Nights would be spent holding Luke up so that he could breathe properly. But those times were also spent desperately pleading for the Lord's mercy.

We are deeply thankful to God for keeping him and that in time, Luke managed to recover fully. Yet it has been an important reminder right at the very onset of Luke's life that we cannot take anything for granted. We have to trust the Lord who holds our lives in His hands, and continually seek the Him for His grace each day.

We chose the name Luke because it represents our Expectation and Hope not only

for him, but also ourselves as parents. The Biblical character Luke was a beloved servant of God, devoted and loyal to the work of God. It is our prayer that we will raise Luke to become one who would love the Lord and be faithful to Him. At the same time, Luke also means “light-giving”. As we ponder how God has given us two sons, we are inspired to raise them up well, that they may bring light to this world as sons of light.

On this event of Luke’s baptism, we are once again in awe of our covenant-keeping God who promises to keep our little ones as we entrust them to Him. Ultimately, we recognize that our children belong to God. As parents, we have been given the joy and privilege of loving them, watching over them, and bringing them up in the way God would have us do.

Do pray for us!



My name is Chan Choy Chan, I am 87 this year.

I used to go to the temple and engage in ancestral worship. But I have now come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and this is my testimony.

I lived alone ever since my husband passed away. Although my daughter, Jenny, would always visit me and bring me out, I was always unhappy and sad even though I looked fine on the outside. I would get upset and depressed easily, with nothing to sustain nor lift up my heart and mind.

After COVID, in January 2022, my daughter brought me to Bethany’s Special Seniors Program (SSP). At SSP, I not only learned to do craft and made new friends, Pastor Charlie and the other pastors shared many stories and lessons from the Bible. Through this, I have come to know God the Father and that the Lord Jesus is His Son. The Lord Jesus died for our sins, and cleanses us from sin.

Pastor Moses, Joanna, and Lay See also constantly share stories about the Lord Jesus with me. On the 18th of November 2022, Joanna and Lay See visited me and prayed for me. I accepted the truth of the Lord Jesus saving me, dying for my sins and giving me eternal life. Ever since I came to believe in the Lord Jesus, I found a peace in my heart, I no longer feel frustrated and empty. I pray to God each day to thank Him for peace, faith, and courage. The Lord Jesus has given me strength to believe in Him, and moved me to seek baptism, and to continue to learn to trust in Him.

Although my memory is not good, I try to remember Isaiah 41:10 which Pastor Jon shared with me, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Recently I fell when I was in the shower. I was unwell, I could not walk properly, and I was discouraged. I could not attend SSP for a few weeks. I recalled Isaiah 41:10 every day and that encouraged my heart. I thank God for always being by my side. I do not need to be afraid.

I thank God for leading me to Church. Everyone in Bethany is warm and loving. The Church is filled with a genuine sense of love, and I see many serving with joy. I hope to be part of the Bethany family, to learn the teachings of the Lord with joy, and to happily become a part of Bethany.

相信主耶稣基督

我是陳彩珍，今年87岁。

我以前是去庙里拜拜，也有拜祖先。不过我现在已经信了主耶稣。这是我的见证。

自从我先生世过后，自己一个人生活。虽然女儿时常会探访我並帶我出去散散心、外表看起来没什么，但心里却不高兴，又郁闷。心情总是烦躁又低落，精神上没有任何寄托。

疫情过后的2022年1月，我女儿(Jenny)邀请我参加SSP。在SSP，除了学习手工制作、认识新朋友、陈牧师和其他牧师们也跟我们分享了很多圣经里的故事和教导。从中我认识主是天父，儿子是耶稣，祂为我们的罪而死、洗清我们的罪。

子恩牧师，玉华和Lay See 也时常跟我分享耶稣的故事。2022年11月18日、玉华和Lay See来探望我帮我祷告，我接受耶稣救了我，祂为我而死，给予我永生。自从认识了主，我领悦到耶稣给我的心很平静，我不觉得烦闷和空虚。我每天祷告感谢祂赐给我平安，信心和勇气。耶稣的力量给我信靠祂，並推动了我要洗礼，也要继续的学习依靠主。

虽然我的记忆不好，我努力牢记Jon牧师跟我分享的《以赛亚书41:10》：“你不要害怕，因为我与你同在；不要惊惶，因为我是你的神。我必坚固你，我必帮助你，我必用我公义的右手扶持你。”

那时，我在冲凉的时候不小心跌倒，身体不舒服，走路不方便，心情很不好，几个星期都没有参加SSP。我每天念《以赛亚书41:10》。这段经文扶持着，我感谢主一直陪伴在我左右，我不害怕。

我感谢主带领我到教会，教会的成员都很热心，很有爱心。教会里充满真诚的爱，我看到大家都很乐意为教会待奉。我希望加入伯大尼这个大家庭，开开心心学习主的教导，快快乐乐成为教会的一部分。



GOD'S MERCY IN MUM'S LIFE

VICTOR KHOO AND LAY SEE
(SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF TAN IMP TEE)

Mum was born in China and came to Singapore some eighty years ago. She had little education as she had to help raise six younger siblings. Nevertheless she had a sharp and inquisitive mind, even up to her present age of ninety-one.

Eight years into her marriage, my dad passed away from a tragic road traffic accident, and I was just eighteen months old then. Life was tough for a young widow/ homemaker to raise up three children under the same roof with my grandpa who provided the needed support.

When my elder brother and I became Christians in our teenage, Mum was very upset and she felt betrayed because she was a Taoist by tradition. Other than our faith, Mum could not find fault with us as we were generally good boys and doing well in school.

Mum was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 1985. That started me praying earnestly and pleading for her life and her salvation. I can clearly see God's wondrous hand of grace and mercy in her life, be it over a span of more than thirty years:

- her thyroid cancer went into remission since!
- as she stays with me, I managed to convince her to come to church family camp with me and the rest of my family in JB in 2002, otherwise she would be home alone!
- she started coming for our three church lunch events every year!
- she dropped in occasionally for our Bilingual Worship services!
- she allowed several church ladies to visit her at home or lunch out together!
- she allowed her idols and ancestral tablets to be discarded when we renovated our house in 2020!
- she began to come regularly for Chinese Worship Service and Special Seniors Program since January 2022!
- she was deeply impressed by the dignity, simplicity and orderliness of our memorial service of one senior lady from CWS. She mentioned in passing her preference for a Christian funeral in future!

- she turned down a red thread given to her during a Chinese funeral service and told her relatives there that she is soon going to follow Christ!
- on 3 January this year, Lay See had the joy and privilege to pray with her, and she acknowledged and received the Lord Into her life!
- with further explanation and encouragement, she understands and agrees that baptism is the next important and necessary step to take!

Thank God for Bethany - for Pastor Charlie, the pastoral team and the many others who reach out to Mum with a Biblical truth, a kind word, a casual chit-chat, a trivial joke, a friendly smile, a helping hand at craftwork, a small gift, a simple lunch, a cup of coffee and many other creative and genuine ways of touching her heart!

Thank God for Bethany - where God is touching lives, and people care for people!

Victor Khoo

上帝在母亲生命里的怜悯

妈妈出生于中国，八十年前来到新加坡。因为她必须抚养六个弟妹，所以她只受过很少的教育。尽管如此，现在九十一岁的她仍然敏锐好奇。

结婚八年后，我父亲因悲惨的交通意外而丧命，那时我才十八个月大。对一个年轻的寡妇/家庭主妇来说，要抚养三个孩子是很艰难，幸好有住在同一个屋檐下的祖父在经济支持。

当我和哥哥在少年岁时成为基督徒时，妈妈非常不开心。因为她是传统的道教徒，她认为儿子们背叛了她。可是除了我们的信仰，妈妈挑不出我们的错，因为我们一向都是好孩子，在学校表现也很好。

妈妈在1985年被诊断出患有甲状腺癌。这开始推动我诚恳地为她的生命和救赎祈祷和恳求。在她生命的三十多年里，我能清楚地看到

上帝奇妙的恩典和怜悯之手：

- 她的甲状腺癌从此得到缓解！
- 当我和她住在一起时，我说服她与我和家人一起参加 2002 年在柔佛举行的家庭进修营，否则她将独自在家！
- 她开始每年都来参加我们的三个教会午宴和崇拜会！
- 她偶尔来参加我们的双语崇拜会！
- 她允许几位教会的女士到家里探望她或一起出去吃午饭！
- 2020年我们装修房子时，她让我们丢弃她的偶像和祖宗牌位！
- 从2022年1月起，她开始定期来参加中文崇拜会和年长人士特别节目！
- 她对中文崇拜会其中一位女士的追思礼拜的尊严、简洁和有序印象深刻。她表达她将来也要基督教的葬礼！
- 她在传统的中式葬礼拒绝了红线，并告诉她的亲戚，她很快就会跟从基督！
- 今年1月3日，丽施有幸和她一起祷告，她接受了主基督进入她的生命！
- 在进一步的解释和鼓励下，她理解并同意洗礼是下一个重要和必要的步骤！

感谢上帝赐予伯大尼，感谢陈牧师、牧师团队和许多人向妈妈传达圣经的真理、一句善意的话语、一句随意的闲聊、一个琐碎的笑话、一个友好的微笑、一份在做手工的帮助，一份小礼物、一顿简单的午餐、一杯咖啡和许多其他有创意和真诚的方式来打动她的心！

我为伯大尼感谢上帝 - 上帝的确在教会感动生命，人们关心人们！

邱武朋

How did my Mother-in-law come to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ?

My mother-in-law, Mdm Tan Imp Tee is 91 years old. At her age, she is still sharp & mobile. As she goes to the elderly care centre 3 times a week, she knows how to prepare herself for it. She is also fully aware of the days she goes to Bethany for Tuesday SSP & Sunday Worship Service.

My MIL has 3 children - my brother-in-law, my sister-in-law & followed by my husband Victor. She lost her husband when Victor was still a baby. He met with an accident when he rode his motorcycle to get medicine for his ailing baby boy. Though she had young children to take care of, she didn't have to work outside as her father-in-law could afford to support them. She often told the relatives that her late husband was very good to her & she would never change her religion for his sake. This was also confirmed by a fortune teller in China when she visited her relatives there.

Our effort to reach out

In the early years of marriage, Victor & I tried very hard to reach out to my MIL. We thought that our years of serving in the Bilingual Service and our choosing to stay with her would enable us to reach her easily but we were wrong. No matter how hard we tried, she was unimpressed. We imagined that by following her bidding to clean the whole house, run her errands and care for her should say something but she was unmoved.

Using Grandchildren to help

When I was expecting my first child, she told me point-blankly that she preferred a boy as both her elder son & daughter had firstborn boys. I prayed for a boy but the Lord has His own plan - He gave us a lovely girl Elena instead, and my MIL loves her. Tobias my son was born 2 years later. In Bethany, I saw how some grandparents came to Bethany because of their grandchildren and we broached the subject of her coming with her grandchildren, but my MIL turned us down.

Bethany rallying to help

After staying with my MIL for many years, I found it harder & harder to reach out to her as she was indifferent. Parenting & homemaking added to the toll on me. But deep down, I knew that I need to walk the talk - for I am a Sunday School teacher, I am the ambassador for the Lord & I am His child. I have the responsibility towards my Heavenly Father. The many struggles in my heart remained, I couldn't do it alone....

However the Lord knows how to rally His own people from Bethany to make friends with my MIL. Joanna, Li Hong & Florence would bring her out for lunch & share the gospel with her. Against all my hesitation, I decided to bring my MIL to the Special Seniors Program (SSP). At SSP, my MIL got to know a familiar face in Mdm Koh (they both attended the same elderly care center) & then a young man who dutifully helped her to do her craftwork. Each time, she told her family members & relatives about this young man, she was beaming with joy. That person is none other than Pastor Ben Chong. He has won her heart!

Many more from Bethany also help to make her coming to Bethany a wonderful experience. She would wake up early to get ready to go there on every Tuesday & Sunday.

With all my heart, I believe that as much as the Lord is working on my MIL's heart, He is also working on mine. As I seek to follow God's way in relating to my MIL, the Lord opens her heart. In one of my many conversations with her, my MIL finally agreed to follow our faith and to seek baptism. In her, I witness God's great mercy & grace given to us despite our weaknesses.

To the many people in Bethany, I just can't thank you enough for your involvement & help to reach out to my MIL. Thank you- Pastor Charles & the Pastoral team, Aunty Sally, Eileen, Elizabeth, Joanna, Li Hong, Florence, Lily, Li Kum, Mary, Chiew Yong, Joan, Jeremy, & many more.

Indeed, all praise & glory to the Lord!

Ngo Lay See

我的家婆是如何相信我们的主耶稣基督？

我的家婆，陈荫治女士，今年九十一岁。在她这个年纪，她仍然敏锐而灵活。她知道每周三次她会到年长中心，她会自己准备。她也晓得每周二到伯大尼堂参加年长人士特别节目和星期日的崇拜会。

我的家婆有三个孩子—我的姐夫、我的嫂子，还有我的先生，武朋。当武朋还是个婴儿时，她就失去了丈夫。他骑着摩托车去给生

病的男婴买药时出了车祸。虽然她有年幼的孩子需要照顾，但因为她的岳父有能力照顾他们，她不必工作。她经常告诉亲戚，她已故的丈夫对她很好，为了他她永远不会改变自己的宗教信仰。当她去中国探亲时，一位算命先生在也证实了这一点。

我们努力传福音

在结婚初期，先生和我一直尝试跟我的家婆传福音。我以为我们在之前双语崇拜会的多年侍奉以及婚后选择与她住在一起将使我们能够较容易跟她传福音，但她无动于衷。我们也尝试按照她的吩咐打扫房子、帮忙她做事、照顾她，但她还是不为所动。

孙子女的帮助

当我怀第一个孩子时，她告诉我她喜欢男孩，因为她的大儿子和大女儿头胎都是男孩。我祈祷上帝赐我一个男孩，但上帝有祂的计划 - 祂赐给了我们一个可爱的女孩，Elena。我的家婆疼爱她。两年后，我儿子 Tobias 出生。在伯大尼堂，我看到一些祖父母是因为他们的孙子而来到伯大尼堂。我们便用这个理由提议她来教堂，但我的家婆拒绝了我们。

伯大尼的帮助

的确，主无所不知，祂奇妙地在我们的生命动工。与我的家婆住了许多年之后，我们发现越来越难与她传福音 - 她不感兴趣。照顾孩子和家务的负担也使我力不从心。但在内心深处，我知道我需要言出必行 - 因为我是个主日学老师，我是主的门徒，我是祂的子民。我对天父负有责任。我心里还有很多挣扎，我一个人是做不到的……

然而，主从伯大尼召集了祂的子民来与我的家婆交朋友。Joanna、

Li Hong和Florence会带她出去吃午饭并与她分享福音。我克服自己的犹豫带我的家婆参加年长人士特别节目。在年长人士特别节目，我的家婆认识了一位熟悉的面孔，Mdm Koh（她们参加同一个老年护理中心）。她也认识了一位尽职尽责地帮助她做手工的年轻人。每次，她向家人和亲戚讲述这个年轻人的事时，她都笑逐颜开。这个人就是汉权牧师。他赢得了她的心！

许多在伯大尼的弟兄姐妹也帮助了她，使她每次来到教会都有美好的经历。因此，每周二和周日她都会提早起来准备去教会。

我全心全意地相信，主不但在我家婆的心动工，祂也在我的心动工。当我依靠上帝与我家婆联系，上帝打开她的心。在其中一个交谈中，我的家婆同意寻求洗礼，追随我们的信仰。尽管我们有弱点，我见证了上帝伟大怜悯和恩典。

对于伯大尼的弟兄姐妹，我对你们的帮助和与我的家婆联系表示极大感激。感谢陈牧师和牧师团队、Sally阿姨、Eileen、Elizabeth、Joanna、Li Hong、Florence、Lily、Li Kum、Mary、Chiew Yong、Joan、Jeremy等……还有更多。

地确，一切赞美和荣耀归给主！

吴丽施



YOUR MERCY WILL HOLD ME UP

CHUA MIN XUAN DELLA

Hi everyone! My name is Della and I'm twenty years old this year. For all my life, I've had the privilege to grow up in Bethany, being loved and cared for while having the Word of God taught to me since I was a child.

Growing up, this has always played an important role in my life. I have been blessed with a wonderful family who always sought to give me the best in everything, firmly rooting our lives in the word of Christ. They've always been wonderful examples of faith, always looking to God in the good times and the bad times. As much as it was an encouragement to find God real for myself, I struggled greatly - how could I, someone so small and insignificant, ever be good enough? Faith seemed to come so easily for them, yet I struggled so much to trust in someone I couldn't see.

In secondary school, this only got worse. In order to fit in with friends, my words were filled with profanity and my studies went down the drain. I figured if God was so forgiving, surely He'd forgive me when I apologised for sinning against Him to fit in. I thought that as long as I still went to church on Sundays, was a good daughter, sister and friend, one tiny lacking aspect of my life would be easily forgiven. It was at Teens Worship where I had a reality check. Tr Li Yen shared from Psalm 32 and 51 and 2 Samuel 11 about complacency and forgiveness on King David being blinded by greed, causing him to sin against God and take His forgiveness for granted. In his sinfulness, God hid Himself from David until he properly sought God's forgiveness. As much as this lesson was a warning to fix the error of my ways, I remember being in awe learning about God's loving-kindness. Although David's sins were great, God's mercy and love was far greater. This lesson of growing a faith that went beyond simply being forgiven, stuck with me since. I wanted to find God real in all aspects of my life, not just in church and at home.

In the recent few years, I've been studying in Perth, unable to come home due to the pandemic. Back in 2020, I moved to Australia pursue a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Western Australia. Shortly after my Godparents settled me in, Covid-19 broke out across the world and WA's borders shut for an extended period of time. This left me feeling lost and filled with doubt as I had never been away from

home for so long on my own. At the start, my newfound freedom involved going to parties with friends that were labelled as casual get togethers. It never felt wrong as I had convinced myself that drinking was the local way of hanging out and relaxing with friends. This became my lifestyle until one night these friends chose to have 'fun' at my expense. Looking back, my heart is humbled and filled with thankfulness for God's mercy and protection. So much could have gone wrong from my foolishness, thinking that friendships founded upon worldly desires would bring me joy. In looking for a sense of belonging I wandered away from God, blinded by offerings of the world.

Thankfully Pastor Chris and Aunty Aldine in Bethel took time to relate to me every week, patiently guiding me back to Christ whenever I struggled to find my way. Going to Bethel became my anchor of seeking God, where I found many friendships centred in the Word of God. These precious ties to God's people varied so greatly to what I thought a friend was. Though them I found strength and encouragement through God's Word and prayer, not another excuse to drink to forget problems.

During my time in Perth, I've kept Psalm 94:18-19 close to my heart "If I say "My foot slips," Your mercy, O Lord, will hold me up. In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul." As I get reaffirmed, my heart is so thankful that this faith is not based on my own merit but God's grace. Looking back on my life, God's love has always been there, watching, guiding and lovingly waiting for me to go back to Him each time I falter. I could never be worthy of salvation, but by God's love and amazing grace, I'm given a new hope and lease on life to learn more about Him each day!



HIS ABOUNDING MERCIES

ELENA KHOO

Hi everyone, my name is Elena and I am 24 years old. It is my great joy to share with you my journey of faith as I get reaffirmed alongside my grandmother Mdm Tan Imp Tee who is baptized today!

Growing Up Years

As a child who grew up in Bethany, I was privileged to be taught the Lord's Word through the various Sunday Schools, Worship Services, and church camps. God's love was also shown to me through the Pastors, Sunday School teachers, aunties and uncles in church, who took time to relate to me. My parents also made it a point to read Bible stories daily in my childhood, and never failed to point me back to God's Word in times of need in my adolescent years. Despite the guidance provided, I was rebellious, indolent, and disobedient, much to my parents' chagrin. I was also lost in sin, full of pride, and defined my self-worth by external accomplishments and accolades from others.

The weekly teachings also fell on deaf ears as I failed to respond to the lessons taught. Since I was surrounded by God's Word on a constant basis, I assumed that I would eventually inherit my parents' faith or "grow into" it. My faith was shallow and not personal to me.

Finding Purpose

This faith was tested especially after my A levels, when I was struggling to find my purpose and vocation for my life. I was full of self-doubt and felt like a failure as things did not go as planned. One of the messages preached during Sunday worship taken from Genesis 12:1-2 spoke to me. Pastor Charlie spoke on how God saw great potential in us, and how He promised to bless us as long as we had faith in Him. This sermon touched me deeply, as I couldn't fathom how God would see any potential in me, especially when I didn't see any in myself. My fervent prayers for a clear sign were answered when doors opened, and I had the opportunity to pursue the course I wanted overseas. Not only did God answer my prayers, He made a way when there seemed to be none, and provided encouragement on the embarkment of this journey through Pastor, teachers, and other church members.

(Isaiah 43:19)

Away from Home

Being overseas taught me how to be independent and made me realise how much I had taken my parents and Bethany for granted. I struggled to find a Word-centred church community with mentors and like-minded Christian peers to encourage me and to fellowship with. I found it difficult to overcome the culture shock, especially one filled with drinking and partying.

Fortunately, I was able to keep in contact with my Sunday School (Teacher Chen Kee's class) zoom meetings through the COVID pandemic and keep up with Bethany online messages. I found my faith wavering as I sought to navigate through university life and the rigor of the course relying on my own strength and the camaraderie of my university friends. However, my peers let me down and left me feeling alone and hurt. This happened at the start of the penultimate year of study, when we were gearing up for the final exams, that tested the culmination of 5 years of knowledge. I even feared that I would not be able to graduate on time. I clung onto Psalm 18:1-2: "I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

These verses brought me immense peace and comfort, knowing that God was greater than all my problems and He will give me shelter and refuge. He will not forsake me and I can trust in Him. I realized that although it was good to have friendships, I placed too much emphasis on cultivating them while neglecting the most important relationship of all – the relationship with God. By seeking first the kingdom of God, all these worries will pale in comparison and I can trust in His provision. (Matthew 6:33) Subsequently God graciously provided other friends that supported me and even encouraged me with words from the Bible. By His grace, He guided me through this difficult period of my life and paved the way for me.

Nearing the end of my studies overseas, God provided me with a job that came along with a study grant. I attribute it to God's mercy and grace, as it is something I could not have achieved on my own. As a result, I was given the option either to work overseas or back in Singapore here. Although I was initially torn between the two options, I committed it to the LORD and decided to work back home in Singapore, where I can foster godly relationships and cultivate my faith further.

Faith of a Mustard Seed

As I look back on my life, I can clearly see God's Hand and how He mercifully

brought me through adversities and bestowed tremendous grace when I did not deserve it. In response, I would like to honour what He has done for me by loving Him in return. I can honestly confess that although I have only a little faith, I however have a great and wonderful God!

As I step into working life in 2 months' time, I want to let God be the author of my next chapter of life, and see how I can fulfil His calling for me – to be a blessing and to serve Him!

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 25 June 2023

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: Ephesians 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meditation	1
Announcements	4
Worship	7
Bible Memory Work	8
Poetry Corner	9
Order of Worship	12

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

A GREAT CHALLENGE

The Apostle Paul issued a stirring challenge to the Ephesian church. He urged them to seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

MEDITATION

¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.

¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

²⁰giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Ephesians 5:15-20

1. The need of the hour

- a) To walk circumspectly as wise people
- b) To redeem the time because we live in evil days
- c) The need to understand the will of God is of paramount importance

2. Seeking the filling of the Spirit

- a) Many were filled with wine
- b) The challenge was to be filled with the Holy Spirit instead

3. Expressions of being filled with the Holy Spirit

- a) We will be led to sing songs of praise to the Lord
- b) The heart is just so filled with joy

MEDITATION

- c) Thanksgiving to the Lord is the most natural experience of a Spirit-filled person

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN

The Spirit of God has already been given to indwell the heart of every believer. The challenge is for us to seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit!

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! May your heart be blessed through worship and fellowship!



COMBINED SERVICE TODAY

We will be having a Combined Service today, because of Baptism/ Reaffirmation of some of our worshippers!



MINISTRY IN BETHANY THIS WEEK **(26 June – 2 July 2023)**

1. Seniors Program

- a) Tuesday, 27 June 2023 | 9.30am- 11.30am
- b) There will be no Seniors Program on Thursday, 29 June 2023 (Public Holiday)

2. Saturday, 1 July 2023

- a) YPG and YAG | 2.00pm
- b) Youth Worship | 3.15pm

3. Sunday, 2 July 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Sunday School | 8.30am
- b) Morning Worship Service | 10.30am
- c) Chinese Worship Service | 10.30am
- d) Children's Worship I | 10.30am
- e) Children's Worship II | 10.30am
- f) Crèche | 10.30am
- g) Catechism Class | 1.30pm



HOLY COMMUNION IN JULY 2023

- 1. Morning Worship Service | 2 July 2023
- 2. Chinese Worship Service | 9 July 2023



BETHANY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT SHANGRI LA

Date: Sunday, 27 August 2023

Time: 10.30am

Followed by Anniversary Lunch

Please book your seat/table as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may sign up using the QR Code below.



GIVING OF FELLOWSHIP MEALS

BREAKFAST: JEROME & SARAH; SWEE KENG
LUNCH: ANN WONG; JUNE AU; ONG SIEW CHIONG;
VICTOR KHOO & FAMILY;
DELLA CHUA & FAMILY;
BENJAMIN QUAH & FAMILY;
BENJAMIN CHONG & FAMILY



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 136:7-9

*⁷ To Him who made great lights,
For His mercy endures forever—*

*⁸ The sun to rule by day,
For His mercy endures forever;*

*⁹ The moon and stars to rule by night,
For His mercy endures forever.*

1. Remembering God as Creator

- a) The creation of the sun, moon and stars
- b) These are “great lights” indeed

2. Remembering the Mercy of God

- a) Creation reminds us of the great power of God
- b) We are also reminded of the enduring mercy of the LORD

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 25 June 2023

Text: “Led by the Spirit of God” Romans 8:14

*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
Romans 8:14*

1. Thank God we can be called “sons of God”
2. The Holy Spirit is given to us as a Seal and Guarantee that we are the Lord’s children
3. One of the special roles He plays is to lead us in our life

NEXT SUNDAY: 2 July 2023

Text: “I will build My church” Matthew 16:18

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

POETRY CORNER

1

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

To be filled with the Holy Spirit was a challenge given;
So few fully appreciate this glorious gift from Heaven!
The Spirit of God indwells every believer faithfully;
He is God's wonderful Seal and Guarantee.

But He desires to do more than indwell believers;
He wants to fill each one with much-needed power.
The challenge to be filled with the Spirit is glorious;
With His filling, we can truly become victorious!

The features of being Spirit-filled are many;
The heart will sing to the Lord most naturally.
Songs of joy will fill the air expressing praise;
There is a deeper appreciation of God's grace!

The Spirit of God will deepen our comprehension;
We must not yield to sin that leads to dissipation.
Let us rise to the challenge of being Spirit-filled;
Then would we understand God's profound Will.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Ephesians 5:15-20

POETRY CORNER

2

HONOR GOD'S GOODNESS AND LOVE

God had provided for the children of Israel during the exodus;
Yet they were dissatisfied with everything about their status.
Human nature, it was, for them to resort to complaining;
To forget all the good but recall only their suffering.

But more than the creature comforts they seemed to be seeking;
They were unbelieving in God and despising His blessings.
It was this distrust and disrespect which made the Lord angry;
For Him to mete out judgement for which they would be sorry.

Like the children of Israel who sought God after they were slayed;
We too risk seeking God only amidst anxiety and dismay.
But if our faith were not true and our prayers mere flattery;
Surely that is inept and insufficient to abate the Lord's fury.

But thank God for His mercy as He remembers we are but dust;
So often He turns His anger away and does not stir up His wrath.
Let us then be wary and check ourselves as we tread life's path;
To always remember and honor the Lord's goodness and His love
for us.

Dr. Sng Li Wah
Inspiration: Psalm 78:26-39

POETRY CORNER

3

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth
He unlocks and unveils truths formerly hidden
A joy to experience in our spiritual growth
The treasure of a personal spiritual coach given

Eager anticipation of more things of God He will share
Lighting our pathways to prevent our stumble
Proceeding to the kingdom of heaven under His care
Let us grieve Him not by being humble

Fill us up Holy Spirit fill us up
Free us from the indignity of sins
Whisper wise counsel into our ears and fill us up
We can then transform to become more like Jesus

Give believers strength to live consistent with God's plan
Intercede for us according to the will of the Lord
May success to bear His fruit be achieved by man
Such a privilege to have in us the presence of God

Jessie Quek

Inspiration: John 14:17; Romans 8:26-27

ORDER OF WORSHIP



PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Gary Kwang
Mr. Ng Choon Peng

PRAYER

HYMN

CP 57 | Worthy Of Worship

CP 77 | Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

BAPTISM/RE-AFFIRMATION

1. Names of those seeking Baptism

a) Paedo-Baptism

- i) Nathan Clarence Chong Wei-Wen
- ii) Luke Christopher Quah Renyi

b) Adult Baptism

- i) Chan Choy Chan
- ii) Tan Imp Tee

2. Reaffirmation of Faith

- a) Chua Min Xuan Della
- b) Elena Khoo

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MESSAGE

“An Epistle of Christ” | Text: 2 Corinthians 3

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan

CLOSING HYMN

HWC 521 | Redeemed

BENEDICTION

OFFERING

POSTLUDE



HYMNS

CP 57 WORTHY OF WORSHIP

TERRY W. YORK

1. Worthy of worship, worthy of praise,
Worthy of honour and glory;
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing,
Worthy of all of the off'rings we bring.

Refrain

You are worthy, Father, Creator,
You are worthy, Saviour, Sustainer,
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful;
Worthy of worship and praise.

2. Worthy of rev'ence, worthy of fear,
Worthy of love and devotion;
Worthy of bowing and bending of knees,
Worthy of all this and added to these...

Refrain

3. Almighty Father, Master and Lord,
King of all kings and Redeemer,
Wonderful Counsellor, Comforter, Friend,
Saviour and Source of our life without end.

Refrain



HYMNS

CP 77 COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

ROBERT ROBINSON

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise His name I'm fixed upon it,
Name of God's redeeming love.

2. Here, I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at Home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Bought me with His precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love,
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.



HYMNS

HWC 521 REDEEMED

FANNY CROSBY

1. Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child, and forever, I am.

Refrain

Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, Redeemed,
His child and forever, I am.

2. Redeemed and so happy in Jesus,
No language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of His presence
With me doth continually dwell.

Refrain

3. I think of my blessed Redeemer,
I think of Him all the day long:
I sing, for I cannot be silent;
His love is the theme of my song.

Refrain

4. I know I shall see in His beauty
The King in whose Law I delight;
Who lovingly guardeth my footsteps
And giveth me songs in the night.

Refrain



Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

301 Upper Paya Lebar Road. Singapore 534934
tel : 65-62877713 . fax : 65-62877980 . website URL : bethanyipc.sg

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