

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 16 February 2020

MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

Text: 1 Chronicles 18; Psalm 60

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meditation	1
Announcements	3
Worship	5
Bible Memory Work	6
Poetry Corner	7

"A BANNER TO THOSE WHO FEAR YOU"

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KING- DOM OF ISRAEL

King Saul failed to establish the kingdom of Israel. He fought many battles with the Philistines, but he was not totally successful.

(Continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

It fell upon the shoulders of King David to establish the kingdom of Israel. 1 Chronicles describes the many enemies that he had to battle and to conquer.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. The Philistines were subdued | 1 Chronicles 18:1 |
| 2. Moab was defeated too | 1 Chronicles 18:2 |
| 3. There was a Syrian confederation that was conquered | |
| a) King of Zobah | 1 Chronicles 18:3-4 |
| b) King of Syria | 1 Chronicles 18:5-6 |
| 4. Some nations sought to establish treaties | |
| a) Tou, the king of Hamath | 1 Chronicles 18:9-10 |
| b) Edom, Ammon, Amalek paid tribute | 1 Chronicles 18:11 |

A PSALM COMMEMORATING THESE ACHIEVEMENTS

King David wrote Psalm 60 to commemorate the conquests that he made. One significant text stood out.

*You have given a banner to those who fear You,
That it may be displayed because of the truth.*

*That Your beloved may be delivered,
Save with Your right hand, and hear me. Psalm 60:4-5*

1. A War Banner
 - a) This was a common sight to see in the battle field
 - b) This particular Banner had a different significance

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

2. A Banner of Truth

- a) This Banner displayed the truth that God had given to His people
- b) God had promised to help His people to conquer the land
- c) The victories that Israel enjoyed was an endorsement from God

3. There were fears that had to be overcome

- a) That God had cast off His people Psalm 60:1a
- b) That He had broken them down Psalm 60:1b
- c) With fear came confusion Psalm 60:3b

4. A Personal application

- a) God would deliver His beloved Psalm 60:5a
- b) He would save with His right hand Psalm 60:5b

DRAWING ENCOURAGEMENT

Thank God for His many promises. Let us not lose heart at any time. Let us see the Banner of Truth flying boldly. The Lord will give us the victory!

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, amidst the fears caused by 2019 nCoV. May we always exercise both prudence and faith!

*Welcome
to Bethany TV*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DECISION MADE TO CANCEL ANNUAL PROGRAMS

Please note that this decision was made by the Church Session. All decisions in Church are made by the elected Session Members.

1. The Church Family Camp
15-20 March 2020
2. The Easter Concert
3. The Easter Lunch at Shangri La
12 April 2020

HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE

1. Thank God for good and godly counsel given
2. Each decision is carefully deliberated over before the conclusion is reached
3. Guiding principles include:
 - a) The Lord's Word
 - b) Consciousness of the holy presence of God
 - c) Awareness of prevailing circumstances
 - d) Practical ramifications based on advice from medical doctors in church
 - e) Compassion for vulnerable groups

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LE GRANDEUR HOTEL

The Management of the Hotel has written to express understanding for the decision to cancel this year's Family Camp. They are aware of the potential problems that can occur when more than 400 people gather at the Hotel for the Church Family Camp.

WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 105:5-6

⁵ Remember His marvelous works which He has done,
His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,

⁶ O seed of Abraham His servant,
You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

THE MARVELOUS WORKS OF GOD

1. They are to be remembered
2. These are indeed "wonders"

THE JUDGMENTS OF HIS MOUTH

1. This is a reference to the Scriptures
2. They were records of what the LORD had spoken through His prophets

BEING GOD'S PEOPLE

1. Abraham's seed
We are of the seed of Abraham through Christ (Galatians 3:29)
2. Children of Jacob
Chosen indeed by the grace and mercy of God

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

TODAY: 16 February 2020

Text: Psalm 34: 9 Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!

Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.

1. A call to practise the fear of the Lord
 - a) This is given to the saints of God
 - b) Those who understand holiness will heed this call
2. A wonderful promise
 - a) There is no want to those who fear Him
 - b) The Lord would provide for His saints

NEXT SUNDAY: 23 February 2020

Text: Isaiah 8:13 Let Him be your fear

The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow;

Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread.

POETRY CORNER

#1

A BANNER GIVEN TO ALL WHO FEAR YOU

There are battles to be fought, physical and spiritual;
There are situations that may cause life to be imperiled.
Doubts and fears can assail the heart and the mind;
Fears can cause the soul to be fretful and blind.

The LORD graciously provided a War Banner;
This was a Banner of Truth like no other.
It symbolized God's personal involvement;
The weary soldier may find encouragement.

"God has spoken in His holiness;"
Thank God for this blessedness!
God will lead His people to victory;
He will divide the spoils in His mercy.

Those who truly fear the LORD may take heart;
From His beloved people, He will not depart.
The challenge is to look up at God's Banner;
Let us find fresh courage in our Endeavours.

Charles Tan

Inspiration: 1 Chronicles 18; Psalm 60

POETRY CORNER

#2

The Duty of Man

It's hard to reconcile that the pursuit of knowledge is vanity;
Since we grew up being told scholarship is priority.
Knowledge and experience make for wiser life choices, maybe?
But self-transcendence prompts the need to seek God urgently!

Worldly wealth and pleasures are all very attractive;
But surely they are merely transient and short-lived.
For naked we came to this earth, and naked we shall return;
What must count would be the treasures we lay up in heaven.

We know that for everything there is a season;
That all who are born must die one day is a given.
But God has given us our portions to attend to while we are alive;
Let not cynicism thwart our instinct to survive!

The point is that all things in this world are fleeting and ephemeral;
The gratification gained from worldly pursuits is at best temporal.
For the sole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments;
Only by walking in His ways, loving and serving Him will we find true fulfillment.

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration:

Ecclesiastes 1-3; 12; Job 1:21; Matthew 6:19-20; Deuteronomy 10:12-13

POETRY CORNER

3

Learn to Fear God

Stories of empty shelves at the supermarket produce many a chuckle;
How quickly a herd mentality can be developed when fear is bred.
Remember the folktale “Chicken Little” causing his feathered friends, a great muddle;
Proclaiming “the sky is falling” when an acorn fell on its head.

The world is working hard to figure out the novel corona virus;
Not much is known except that it is easily transmissible.
If afflicted it will attack the lungs and cause;
Severe problems especially affecting the already frail and vulnerable.

We must be discerning and precautions as advised, we should take;
But we ought not to be afraid nor be under stress.
For the Lord is in charge of the outbreak;
Rest in Him and trust that His eye is on each one of us.

Fear of the Lord is the only fear that we should contend with;
As He is the only One who can deliver us from our afflictions.
Let us practise to fear God by walking in His righteous path;
Seek His Face, sing and praise Him in exaltation.

Jessie Quek
(Inspiration: Psalm 34)

POETRY CORNER

#4

FEAR GOD AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

The Book of Ecclesiastes is sobering to read,
There are candid lessons which we must heed.
We must understand the place of God in life.
Without Him, the heart will be full of strife.

Solomon was a prominent king who had wisdom,
He acquired vast possessions in his kingdom.
Despite his achievements, he still felt empty,
No pleasure could satisfy and all was vanity.

Even with great achievements, life can still be bleak,
What should drive us and what should our heart seek?
Man's all is to Fear God and Keep His Commandments,
For God will bring every work of man into judgement.

We do not need the things which the world can offer,
We must receive the truth which Solomon proffered.
May we always remember our God and Creator,
May He give us joy and purpose in every endeavor!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: Ecclesiastes 12

POETRY CORNER

#5

Focusing in the Face of an “Invisible Enemy”

A new “invisible enemy” brings great disruption, it’s threat so imminent,
Uncertainties plentiful, its source and target unseen, no discriminant.

Fears may abound, worries disproportionate, suspicions excessive,
Hearts and minds wearied with fearful thoughts experienced, so intrusive!

This sort of enemy is however not something ever so recent,
History tells of numerous such occurrences from days that are ancient.

These lessons caution us of the vulnerability of the mortal being,
These enemies bring a reminder that we are but dust with lives so fleeting!

The fear is real, but it is ever so important to thoughtfully recalibrate,
Seek the Lord for His refuge and His strength, to Him we must gravitate.
For He can move the mountains and the seas, His sovereignty is undeniable,
Yet in His grace and mercy He provides a river of salvation ever so reliable!

As humble sparrows we must thus return to our spiritual home where faith lies,
Focusing our attention and fears on the Almighty unceasingly will be truly wise.
For the Fear we must have should only be the Fear that our hearts have misplaced,
No matter what sorrows, what hardship, what suffering, our faith must never be displaced!

Dr. Tan Kok-Yang

Inspiration: Psalm 46

My response to dealing with COVID-19

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

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

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SINGAPORE

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PASTORAL LETTER

16 FEBRUARY 2020

SENIOR PASTOR : REV DR CHARLES TAN

Dear Brethren,

SUSPENSION OF WEEKDAY PROGRAMS

This was announced a little while ago. Thank God for understanding and support.

SUSPENSION OF FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

This was also announced. It follows the same logic. We will try and minimize social contact.

HAVING ONLY ONE COMBINED SERVICE

This was what we did last Sunday, 9 February 2020. All the other Sunday ministries were suspended.

CANCELLATION OF CHURCH FAMILY CAMP AND EASTER CONCERT

This was an inevitable decision. It is prudent that we are consistent in our decision-making.

SUSPENSION OF THE SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

It was with a heavy heart that we have had to decide to cancel this Sunday's Worship Service. But this should not come as a great surprise. The same logic was applied:

1. An attempt to stem the spread of COVID-19
2. Great concern for our Church brethren
3. Great concern also for the corporate witness we have as a Church

NEW AVENUES OF MINISTRY ARE BEING EXPLORED

We will be looking into new avenues of ministry. The direction seems to be in two areas:

1. Literature
 - a) ICARE
 - b) Devotionals
2. Digital
 - a) We will explore the following:
Prayer Meeting, Bible Study, Catechism Class
 - b) We will study how we can continue to be closely linked as a Church

We will get through this crisis! We will be more than conquerors (Romans 8:37)

*Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie*