

# BETHANY

## INDEPENDENT- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*God's Kind of Church...*

*Where God is touching lives...*

*And people care for people.*

*Bethany IV ... 29 August 2021 ... Happy 48+8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

## MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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**TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 33**

**“ YES, HE LOVES HIS  
PEOPLE ”**

**THANK GOD FOR HIS WONDROUS  
BLESSINGS**

It is right that we should give thanks to God for His many and wondrous blessings on Bethany! We cannot but note that it has been 48 years of blessings bestowed on us!

*(Continued on page 2)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 1)*

<sup>3</sup> Yes, He loves the people;  
All His saints *are* in Your hand;  
They sit down at Your feet;  
*Everyone* receives Your words.

<sup>4</sup> Moses commanded a law for us,  
A heritage of the congregation of Jacob.

<sup>5</sup> And He was King in Jeshurun,  
When the leaders of the people were gathered,  
All the tribes of Israel together.      Deuteronomy 33:3-5

1. Yes, He loves the people  
a) God's love for His people was highlighted

b) It was out of love:

i) Redemption  
God redeemed Israel from Egypt

ii) Protection  
He protected Israel for 40 years

iii) Provision  
He provided miraculously throughout

c) His love for us is also unmistakable!

2. All His saints are in Your hand  
They sit down at Your feet

a) The word "saints" can refer to holy angels

b) This word can also be used to describe "holy people"

*(Continued on page 3)*

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# MEDITATION

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*(Continued from page 2)*

c) It was a term the Apostle Paul used to describe all true believers

3. *Everyone* receives Your words

a) This was a reference to the laws that Moses gave

b) This was regarded as a “heritage”

c) Let us learn how to treasure the heritage of God’s word given to us

## THE LORD AS KING

Let us truly rejoice in all that God has blessed us with. Let us honour the Lord as our King! May we ever seek to serve the Lord faithfully and fruitfully!

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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 to be able to have on-site Worship today!  
Thank God for every opportunity to offer Worship!



### **NEW SERIES OF PULPIT MESSAGES**

We begin a new series of Pulpit Messages (September- October 2021)  
Theme: The Fruit of the Spirit  
May the Lord bless His word!



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## CHURCH TOILETS

Our contractor Multicon has informed us that the Toilets at Levels 2 and 2M are fully functional.



## CELEBRATING BETHANY'S 40+8 ANNIVERSARY

1. Looking back at the 48<sup>th</sup> Year
  - a) Thank God for His provision
  - b) Thank God for His protection
2. Missions
  - a) Thank God for further growth
  - b) Thank God for His wonderful Presence
3. New Ordained Ministers
  - a) Thank God for 2 more ordained ministers
  - b) May the Lord help us to bear even more fruit



## ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS #1 Myanmar

Dear Pastor,

Happy and Blessed 40 + 8 Anniversary!

We bless the Name of the Lord our God for all His faithfulness towards

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Bethany for these 40 + 8 years. We are deeply grateful to God that we are part of you and of God's people (1 Thessalonians 1:6, Cf. 1 John 2:19). We are doubly blessed!

We greatly rejoice with you in the Lord as you celebrate the 40 + 8 Anniversary of Bethany today. We pray

That you would *continue to serve the Lord gloriously* as you preach and teach the hidden wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 2:7);

That Bethany would *continue to display the manifold wisdom of God* in all that she is as the bride of Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:10).

May the Lord hear us and *establish Bethany for us* – Singapore, Australia, India, Myanmar and Kenya (Psalm 90:17).

In His Grace,  
Tomas Zatel  
Myanmar

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## ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS

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*Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us,  
The years in which we have seen evil.  
Psalm 90:15*

### 1. Afflictions in life

- a) These are painful times
- b) They bring much sorrow too

### 2. Prayer for gladness

- a) This is a valid prayer
- b) Let us pray for gladness of heart and mind as a blessing from God

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# BIBLE MEMORY WORK

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## **TODAY: 29 August 2021**

**Text: John 15:16**      I chose and appointed you

*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

### 1. Chosen

a) It is the Lord who has chosen us!

b) We did not choose Him!

### 2. Appointed

a) To bear fruit

b) To bear fruit that remains

### 3. Prayer

a) Thank God for the promise that He will answer

b) Let us ask that we may bear lasting fruit for the Lord!

## **NEXT SUNDAY: 05 September 2021**

**Text: Galatians 5:22-23**      The fruit of the Spirit

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control.*

*Against such there is no law.*

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# WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

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## Psalm 119:85-86

*<sup>85</sup> The proud have dug pits for me,  
Which is not according to Your law.*

*<sup>86</sup> All Your commandments are faithful;  
They persecute me wrongfully;  
Help me!*

### 1. The proud

- a) They dig pits to entrap
- b) They persecute the faithful
- c) Problems in life will never cease

### 2. Praying to God

- a) For needed help
- b) With confidence in God's faithful commandments!
- c) God's power will keep all His saints in His will

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 1

## **“YES, HE LOVES HIS PEOPLE”**

God’s Love for His people has no parallel;  
In this Love, all may wonderfully revel!  
What are some reasons why such Love was given?  
Truth to tell, His Love is not based on human reason.

As human beings, our love is tied in to human reasoning;  
We may speak of love if we discover good feelings.  
We love because we receive something back in return;  
Behind human love, there is almost always a reason.

But God love for Israel was astonishing;  
The people kept on choosing the wrong things.  
They chose sin and disobedience and even idolatry;  
Yet, God continued to love the people faithfully.

“Yes, He loves His people” with deepest affection;  
He seeks to lead and guide them, in sweet communion.  
But even when the human heart is unable to respond fully;  
God continues to love His people, most wondrously!

Charles Tan  
Deuteronomy 33:1-5



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# POETRY CORNER

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# 2

## **Bethany's 40+8th Anniversary**

Anniversaries are as good as any time to commemorate;  
God's blessings in our lives, which we must celebrate.  
But perhaps it is also when we can reflect and recalibrate;  
The lessons He has taught us, to re-appreciate.

Do we blame God when difficult circumstances emanate?  
And relegate unfavorable outcomes to our ill fate?!  
Why not pause and take stock of what is on our plate?  
It had always been His loving kindness which enabled every progress made.

Now is also a time to prepare for future challenges we can anticipate;  
Challenges which are not up to us to negotiate.  
May we depart from sin and a deeper faith in God, cultivate;  
Pray the Lord teach us wisdom and on Him, to continually wait.

As Bethany, her 40+8th Anniversary, celebrate;  
We pray for God's Spirit to continue to invigorate.  
May the oneness of the church which took the last 48 years to propagate;  
Be honoured, cherished and preserved for those who come after to emulate.

Dr. Sng Li Wah

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# POETRY CORNER

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# 3

## Stop and return to the Lord

When troubles pursue us we tend to assign blame  
Our lack of perspective and wisdom makes us wallow in self-pity  
Many a time holding the Lord responsible is our proclaim  
And question His absence amidst our pain and suffering unjustly

Let us put a stop to our complaints and numerous accusations  
Revert humbly to the Lord and approach Him with reverence  
God has His reasons to raise problems and aggravations  
Over time we may be able to deduce their inference

When we cannot detect His presence, we have sin problems  
They will have to be dealt with properly in full repentance  
The Lord will chasten sinners but will not utterly remove His lovingkindness  
He is immutably faithful and we shall sing of His compassionate essence

Our praise of God must never be allowed to diminish  
Rejoice in His many mercies and express thankfulness in daily endeavour  
Therefore, do not forget His Grace when facing hard times in anguish  
May we pile our blessings on the Lord forever and ever

Jessie Quek  
Inspiration: Psalm 89



Dear Brethren,

Happy 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Today, it is my great privilege and joy to stand before God and all of you (physically and virtually) to be ordained as a pastor in Bethany. I am deeply humbled and grateful to God for His exceedingly abundant grace, and to all of you for your love, prayers, encouragement and support. As I reflected on my journey to be a pastor, I would like to share a few lessons that the Lord has been teaching me in the last few years.

#### Servanthood

When I first began as a Student-Pastor, I was apprehensive about serving in areas beyond my comfort zone. I thought how nice it would be if I could focus on the ministries that I was comfortable with... but the Lord had other plans! He gave me opportunities to serve Him in new capacities, from preaching to children and seniors to planning our church concerts. Through these varied experiences, the Lord was teaching me that being His servant is not about my wants and preferences, but about His bidding for me as my Master. My part is to be faithful and responsible with every task He entrusts me to do. I am deeply challenged to live out the Lord Jesus' words in Luke 17:10 – To be an unprofitable servant, doing what is my duty to do.

#### Sonship

There were difficult moments in ministry where I struggled with discouragement and feelings of inadequacy about being a pastor. In fact, there were a couple of times where I felt like doing a "Peter" in John 21:3, giving up and going back to my old trade! I thank God that in these low moments, I had Pastor to turn to. He gently encouraged me to focus on the fundamentals of being in ministry – my sonship with God. As I considered what it means to be a son to God through the Lord Jesus' example in John 5, I found a renewed perspective towards my calling as a pastor. It is not about the skills or gifts that I can offer to God, but about loving Him, obeying Him and being committed to do His will, even when the going gets tough. Thank God for this perspective of sonship, for it has helped me many a time to stay the course!

#### Discipleship

A perennial feature of our pastoral training is the study of the Scriptures. Every morning for over 4 years, Pastor would devote much time to teach us the Word of God. He would correct our bad habits (e.g. reading our thoughts into a text, applying a verse out of context), instill the importance of being accurate, and inspire us to approach the Scriptures with rever-

ence and freshness. Through his example, I began to understand Paul's words in 2 Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". It is not enough to merely spend time reading the Bible; one must be diligent to carefully interpret and apply the Word. Without the right approach and attitude towards the Scriptures, God would not open up His Word to me, and I would be found wanting. I am committed to learning how to be a good student of the Word, that I may rightly divide it and be approved to God!

### Shepherding

With front-row seats to ministry in Bethany, the Lord helped me to see the importance of being a good shepherd. As a good shepherd knows his sheep by name and cares for each one in a personal way (John 10), a pastor needs to know his brethren and care for each one personally. He must go beyond the confines of the pulpit to meet them where they are, for the needs are great. Over these years, I caught a glimpse of some of the needs among our brethren. Some of us struggle with physical and mental health challenges, relationship and family problems, as well as worries over studies, career and the future. There is so much that we can do as pastors to reach out and care for our brethren, to walk alongside you in your journey with the Lord. As I continue to serve the Lord in Bethany, I desire very much to be a good shepherd who knows and cares for our brethren.

### Spirit-filled

If there is one thing a pastor must endeavour to seek for all his life, it would be the filling of the Spirit of God. These formative years of training opened my eyes to the difficulties of being a good pastor. He needs to feed his congregation with a sound and relevant word from God every single week; he needs the wisdom to navigate difficult situations inside and outside the walls of the church; he must have the courage to stand for the Lord and His truth against opposition; he needs the Lord's leading to bring the church forward by faith. No man is sufficient for these things; it is a work that can only be undertaken by one who is filled with the Spirit of God. I thank God that we have such a Spirit-filled leader in Pastor, whom I can learn from and be inspired by. It is my challenge to humbly and earnestly seek the Lord for His Spirit's filling, that I may one day play my part to support His work in Bethany.

As I bow my knees before God and all of you to be ordained this morning, I am deeply conscious that ordination does not mark the end of my training, but a commencement of my journey to fulfil this calling, and a commitment to give my life and my all to the Lord and His people. May I continue to learn these lessons well, and press on in the upward call of God in Christ!



Dear Brethren,

A most blessed 40+8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to all at Bethany! This day marks a significant milestone in my life as I am ordained for the Lord's work in Bethany.

I am grateful to God for His leading, and to Bethany for all the love and support extended to me as I sought to pursue and prepare for the full time ministry.

In this testimony, I would like to share the significant milestones of my life in the past few years, and bear witness of God's wonderful work in my life.

#### Answering God's call

Ever since I found personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I sought to discover God's plan for me as a believer. It took me years to discern and respond to God's call to serve in the full time ministry.

Despite the Lord stirring my heart towards the full time ministry in Bethany, I dismissed it foolishly at the beginning. I felt that I was not worthy to be a pastor because I had not grown up in Bethany, nor was I walking with the Lord in my younger days. However God was teaching me a most important lesson as He continued to stir in my heart. Ministry was never about me, but what God has purposed and would do in my life for His work.

God was patient and gracious toward me. God's call continued to grow until I could no longer ignore it. I confided in Pastor to understand what God was doing in my heart. God's confirmation came through His continued leading. The Church Session received me into pastoral training, and I was commissioned as a Student Pastor with Eugene on Christmas 2016.

#### Training for the pastoral ministry

The first three years as a Student Pastor were marked by correction and change. There was much joy as I studied the Word of God each day, and as I learned to serve in the pastoral ministry. But there were also many moments of rebuke as God revealed to me the problems in my life that were hindering me from growing as a servant of the Lord. Through the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17), God did a necessary work of correction and change in me before I could learn to build the right foundations for pastoral life and ministry.

As an Intern Pastor, I was challenged to go deeper in the cultivation of the following areas of my life.

1. Personal faith and the fruits of the Spirit
2. Prayer and meditation
3. The ability to rightly divide the Word of truth
4. The cultivation of a heart of a shepherd
5. The development of pastoral ministry skills

The 8-month Road to Ordination reading programme (Gospels and Epistles) was immensely helpful. I learnt to cultivate a personal discipline of dwelling on His Word, prayer, and reflecting on a weekly basis. Through this process, God made known to me the progress (and the lack of) that I had in these areas. He was always there to lovingly guide, encourage, and strengthen me to press on.

I give thanks for the work that He has done in my life as I trained for the pastoral ministry. These training years have been most enriching. As I consider the many valuable lessons that God had taught me over the past few years, I am aware that these initial years are but the beginning of a lifelong process of the continual training of a servant of God. I recognize how there is still so much more for me to learn and grow. I am challenged to always be sensitive and obedient to what God is teaching, to diligently follow the Example of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to constantly seek the Spirit's leading and filling for life and ministry (Numbers 27:18).

#### Ordination and beyond

As I take the step of Ordination, my heart is filled with thanksgiving to God and to Bethany.

I am grateful to God for the awesome privilege of being called and ordained into the glorious ministry of the Gospel. I am a sinner saved by grace. It is by His grace that I can be counted as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am also grateful to Bethany, the precious spiritual family that God has blessed me with. Bethany has received, encouraged, supported, ministered, and loved me and my family each step of the way.

As I begin ministry as an ordained pastor, I am challenged to walk worthy of calling with which I have been called (Ephesians 4:1), and to live up to the hopes and expectations of all in Bethany. I pray that I would be a shepherd to the flock of God according to what we read in Psalm 78:72.

"So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands."

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## **PRELUDE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Rev. Dr. Charles Tan*

### **THANKSGIVING PRAYER #1**

*Rev. Benjamin Chong*

### **THANKSGIVING PRAYER #2**

*Rev. Benjamin Quah*

## **ORDINATION**

### **SPECIAL ITEM**

*“O Jesus, I have promised”*

*Crossroads*

*(Continued on page 16)*

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# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## READING OF A CHARGE

1. 1 Timothy 4:12-16

*Rev. Mark Tan*

2. 2 Timothy 4:1-5

*Rev. Mitchell Tan*

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

*Rev. Dr. Charles Tan*

1. *Moses Kwek*

2. *Eugene Seow*

## MESSAGE

“A man of Your right hand”

Text: Psalm 80

## PRAYER/ BENEDICTION

*Rev. Moses Kwek*

*Rev. Eugene Seow*

## POSTLUDE



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