



Not one word has failed  
JOSHUA 23:14

**English Services & Livestream**

*VOL 11 NO 31*  
**2 August 2020**

## ***Order of Service***

Call to Worship

Meditative Hymn: Never Once

Scripture Reading: Joshua 1:1-18 ESV

Message: Inheriting the Promise

Response Hymn: Lead On, O King Eternal

Corporate Life & Prayer

Offering

Benediction

Announcements

*Note: Holy Communion will be served at all in-person services*

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## Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you to worship with us! If you are new to Zion Bishan, do drop us a note on our contact form and our hospitality team will get in touch with you in the coming week. <http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/rf>

## Our Sunday services at a glance

### ***In-Person Sunday Services in August***

*(Registration required):*

[www.zionbishan.org.sg/phase-2](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/phase-2)

**8.30am** Mandarin/Cantonese service

**9.30am** Tamil (only 2 Aug)/Hokkien service

**10.30am/1.00pm/3.00pm/5.00pm**

English service

### ***Join us for our livestream***

**8.30am** Mandarin & Cantonese service

**10.30am** English service

[www.youtube.com/zionbishan](http://www.youtube.com/zionbishan)

### ***Join us for Zoom Services***

*(Registration required):*

[www.zionbishan.org.sg/services](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/services)

**8.45am/2.30pm**

Domestic Helpers Fellowship

**9.30am** Tamil service

**10.30am** Mandarin-English service

## Serving You Today

*Speaker:* Pastor Alby Yip

*Worship Leaders:* Elder Reginald & Elder Michael

*AV:* Soh Kok Hong, Nicklaus Yu, Maybelline Tan & James Kok

*Pianists:* Lee Ping Lin & Mary Seah.

*Songs for personal worship and reflection:*

[www.zionbishan.org.sg/songs-for-reflection](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/songs-for-reflection)

**English Services:** Light & Joy Cluster

*Pastor:* Alby Yip

*Elders:* Elder Reginald & Elder Michael

*Deacons:* Dn Benson, Dn Kin Yip,

Dn Justin & Dn Jerry

*Staff:* Emily & Jacqueline

## Pastors and Ministry Staff

Rev Dr Alby Yip, *Senior Pastor* 9844 9536

Rev Dr Dev Menon, *Pastor* 9829 6051

Rev Zheng Haoren, *Pastor (Comm Dev't)*  
6353 8081

Rev Ebinezar Mohan, *Pastor (Tamil)* 8198 9696

Rev Kew See Seong, *Pastor (Mand)* 9489 4967

Rev Lim Jit Thye, *Pastor (Cant-Mand)* 9182 6957

Rev Daniel Nge, *Pastor (Mand-Eng)* *sabbatical*

Mrs Emily Quek, *Special Projects* 9001 2926

Mrs June Tan, *Children's Ministry* 8388 1883

Mrs Ruth Quek, *Children/Y. Adults* 9728 7145

Mrs Sharon Quek, *Trg/Mobilisation* 9788 0195

Mr Vernon Quek, *Y. Adults/Evang.* 9796 0196

Mr Linus Koe, *Family/Media* 9728 9343

Deacon Paul Yeo, *Hokkien Ministry* 9751 1897

Mr Quek Tze-Ming, *Assoc Min Staff* 9060 8340

Rev Dr David Wong, *Advisory Pastor*

Rev Dr Quek Swee Hwa, *Pastor Emeritus*

**Confidential Care & Counselling e-mail:**

[care@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:care@zionbishan.org.sg)

# **Inheriting the Promise**

Joshua 1:1-18

2 August 2020

Pastor Alby Yip

## **Introduction**

## **In Boldness**

## **In Obedience**

## **In Unity**

## **Conclusion**

## **Reflection and Discussion**

1. What do you remember about the passage/message?
2. What are God's promises to you and how have they worked out in your life?
3. How do blessings and obedience work out in the Christian life?
4. How is your "fight" in your spiritual war? Why?

# *Prayer Points*

## **Our Church**

**Joshua Sermon Series** – As we embark on a new sermon series starting this month, pray that the hearts of every listener will grow in their understanding and appreciation of God’s word. May we deepen our knowledge and love for God as we learn more about His promises, faithfulness and love towards His people.

**Christianity Explored (29 Jul)** – Praise God for 36 non-Christians who joined CE this past week via Zoom. Do keep our facilitators and table hosts in prayer as they continue meeting them for the next few Wednesdays. Pray that every participant will come back each week, to have their questions answered and to discover who Jesus is.

## **Our People**

**AG Leaders** – Do uphold our AG leaders in prayer. Their act of love and service towards the body of Christ is often time-consuming, and sometimes the role isn’t always clear. Thank God for the recent BAGLE course (p.8) that managed to discuss some of these issues that AG leaders face. Do pray for our leaders to be continually convicted by the gospel to carry on this important work of discipleship of every member so that the church will be a city on a hill, and a light to the nations.

**Marriages** – SingStat published on 28 Jul showed that there were less marriages and more divorces in the last year. Pray that as a church, we will support the

husbands and wives in our midst, to honour God in their marriage relationship. May husbands be convicted by God’s word to love and lead as Christ does His church. May wives understand their role in this covenant relationship.

Pray also for couples considering marriage that the time spent in pre-marital counselling will prepare them well for a lifetime together. May Christ be placed first in every couple’s lives.

## **Our World**

**Singapore** – This past week we witnessed the swearing in of our cabinet ministers. We thank God for a capable government who have prioritised peace and prosperity for our nation. May we uphold our country’s leaders in prayer and seek direction from our Father with how we can best use the blessings we have for the furtherance of His kingdom in Singapore and beyond. Pray also that we do not lose sight of the spiritual war that goes on even in the safety we live in.

**Tibetan Buddhists (TBs)** – Having heard the sharing of Brother AB of how God reached him and gave him a burden for his own people at Friday Prayer & Praise (31 Jul), let us pray that more Tibetans will be open to the peace and freedom Jesus can bring. They are often bound to rituals and practices that revolve around seeking blessing or preventing curses from the gods. Pray that the light of Jesus will shine into their lives and lift that burden from their hearts.

## Last Week

Service	Attendance	Offering (\$)
English 10.30 Livestream	*422	3,820.00
English Services <sup>#</sup>	139	
Mand/Cant 830 Livestream	*95	150.00
Cantonese Service <sup>#</sup>	45	
Hokkien Service <sup>#</sup>	33	
Tamil Zoom Service	22	
ME Zoom	68	
DHF Zoom	27	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>\$3,970.00</b>

*\*Peak concurrent viewers/<sup>#</sup>All in-person services*

Electronic Transfer \$48,685.06  
**WEEKLY TOTAL \$52,655.06**

*Weekly offering to meet budget for 2020/21: \$62,189*

### ZB COVID-19 Mission Relief Fund

Total Received to-date \$173,966.88  
Giving Received from 20 July to 26 July \$1,914.00  
Amount Disbursed to-date \$63,253.43

### Land Lease Renewal Fund

Gift Nos. 1555-7 \$2,200.00  
Electronic Transfer \$11,633.69  
**Weekly Total \$13,833.69**

*(Weekly Target: \$113,854)*

**Total To Date \$4,556,642.44**

## Info for Giving

### For tithes and offering:

#### General & Missions Fund

DBS Current A/C: 070-901056-3  
PayNow: T10SS0029GGMF  
ZION BISHAN BP CHURCH

### To donate towards the

#### ZB COVID-19 Mission Relief Fund:

#### General & Missions Fund

(Use information above)

*Indicate "CV19 MRF" in remarks*

### To give towards the

#### Land Lease Renewal Fund:

#### General Project Fund

DBS Current A/C: 070-901055-5  
PayNow: T10SS0029GGPF  
ZION BISHAN BP CHURCH – GPF

(please indicate *Land Lease Renewal Fund* on back of cheque)

Please provide your *CONTACT NUMBER* on each cheque



## Your Response

2 August 2020

*Thank you for joining us today!  
If there's anything you would like the church to know, do reach out to us online or via email.*

Get in touch with us:

- If you are joining us for the first time
- to find out more
- to request prayer
- to provide feedback
- to send a word of encouragement

*You may find our response form [www.zionbishan.org.sg/rf](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/rf)*

*Or email us at [office@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:office@zionbishan.org.sg)*

*Confidential care & counselling matters, please email [care@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:care@zionbishan.org.sg)*

*Please note that the church will retain and use your submitted data as needed to process your indicated response.*

## *Church Family News*

1. Deepest condolences to the family of Mdm Low Poh Choo who went home to be with the Lord on 23 July 2020. She was a member of our Mandarin 8.30 Service.

### *Looking Ahead*

#### **Friday, 7 Aug**

**8 pm:** Zoom Prayer Meeting (Registration required):  
[www.zionbishan.org.sg/friday-prayer-meeting](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/friday-prayer-meeting)

#### **Sunday, 9 Aug**

**English Services:** Faith & Patience Cluster

*Pastor: Pastor Dev Menon*

*Elders: Elder Say Chiang & Elder Jeffrey*

*Deacons: Dns Sherena, Dn Mervyn,*

*Dn Benjamin & Dn Timothy*

*Staff: Linus & Zhiwen*

#### **Sermon Series: The Book of Joshua**

9 Aug "Entering the Land"

Ps Alby Yip (10.30am/1.00pm)

Ps Ebinezar Mohan (3.00pm/5.00pm)

16 Aug "Crossing the Jordan"

Mr Ng Zhi-Wen (10.30am/1.00pm)

Ps Dev Menon (3.00pm/5.00pm)

23 Aug "Covenant: Circumcision & Passover"

Mr Ng Zhi-Wen (10.30am/1.00pm)

Ps Dev Menon (3.00pm/5.00pm)

## **Genocide in Bible?**

*As we begin our sermon series on Joshua, the question of wholesale extermination of ethnic groups may trouble us. Here is a reprint of an article by Pastor David published in IMPACT magazine, Feb/Mar 2018.*

Does the Bible allow, encourage, even command genocide, the wiping out of entire tribes and communities? If so, are we Christians guilty of ethnic cleansing?

The answer to the questions, as in any complex issue, is Yes and No. Yes, the Bible does record instances of genocide sanctioned by God. But no, the Bible does not sanction genocide as a practice for Christians.

The Israelites, on entering the Promised Land, were commanded to “completely destroy” the tribes of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (Deut 29.16-17). Joshua devoted the city of Jericho to the LORD and destroyed all life in it, animal and human, except for the family of Rahab.

In each case, reasons were given by God for such wholesale destruction. When the Israelites entered Canaan, it was a land steeped in idolatry compounded with immorality. Eliminating the inhabitants was akin to radical surgery. “Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshipping their gods, and you will sin against the LORD your God” (Deut 20.18). Hence Jericho, the gateway city of Canaan, was utterly destroyed.

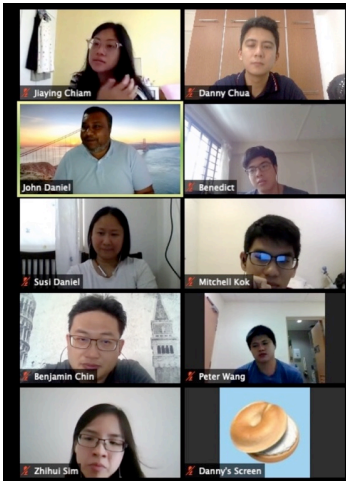
But note that the harlot Rahab was spared with her family. Despite her sordid background, she expressed faith in the God of Israel (Josh 2.11-13). The fact that she was subsequently grafted into the family line which produced the Jewish messiah (Matt 1.5) is evidence enough against the charge of ethnic cleansing.

In contrast, one of their own, Achan, an Israelite, was severely punished in the aftermath of the Jericho battle. He with all he had was put to death for disobeying God. Moreover, unlike ethnic cleansing as we know it today, Israel then was not a majority ethnic group oppressing the minorities; it was God acting on behalf of a young emerging nation, ensuring their survival.

Each instance of total destruction was specially ordered by God and for specific reasons. Assigning a tribe or people for destruction remains God’s prerogative, an extreme measure chosen when all other options are exhausted. Thus divine chemotherapy operates to save the body by ruthlessly excising all cancer cells.

As God’s people, we have no biblical grounds to target unbelievers or any ethnic group for harm or extermination. Instead, God called on Abraham and his descendants to be a blessing so that “*all* peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Gen 12.3). Likewise, Jesus calls on us to “preach the good news to *all* creation” and to “make disciples of *all* nations” (Mark 16.15; Matt 28.19).

## Basic AG Leaders Equipping (BAGLE) Course – Leaders’ Reflections



PARTICIPANTS



SEMI-VIRTUAL/PHYSICAL MEET UP

Leading an AG can be quite a perplexing role. Most people *sort of* know what an AG Leader does. AG Leaders themselves have a *rough idea* of what’s required of them. But somehow, what the AG Leader *actually* does can be quite different from all of the above! It’s a little like that meme where “what my friends think I do” versus “what my parents think I do” versus “what I think I do” and “what I *really* do” are all completely different. I know this from personal experience as an AG Leader too!

This, of course, shouldn’t be the case – helping our AG Leaders in Zion Bishan be both *clear and convicted* of their roles in God’s church is what the Discipleship Team strives towards. Such clarity is really crucial if every member in Zion Bishan is to be actively engaged in our vision together – to #GetDeep in God’s Word, #GetReal with one another and ultimately #GetLost for our Lord Jesus.

While there is already a regular structure in place for the past 3-4 years to equip our AG Leaders (i.e. the weekly Leaders Prep Bible handling training), leading an AG also comes with many other challenges.

*What does my role as an AG Leader truly entail?*

*How can we grow our members to Christlikeness and healthy service of the Body?*

*What should we do in situations of crisis and pastoral issues?*

*Can I say anything to anyone if I’m on the verge of ministry burnout?*

Those were some of the key questions our AG Leaders grappled with over the duration of the 6-week BAGLE course via Zoom. BAGLE, at its core, is really for every AG Leader (new or weathered) to return to the basics of discipleship – growing disciples who enjoy the beauty of Jesus, who, in turn disciple others for that same



glorious goal. We spent the bulk of our time thinking through what the Bible depicts as a healthy ministry model – one that grows every believer to maturity in Jesus. At the same time, we also acknowledged that such life-giving ministry can be life-draining – so how do we shepherd God’s flock in a manner and at a pace that is sustainable in the long run for every AG Leader?

**Here are some reflections from the participants of our first run from May to June:**

*Q1: Personal Takeaway: What were one or two liberating truths you can remember that can empower you to lead with greater joy and a lighter burden?*

Benedict Tay (AG 40): Naturally, it maybe tiring to continue teaching, leading, planning and there is a tendency for one to have this view of himself as being a “weary sergeant coming back from a battle”. However, we should be reminded that we are not soldiers fighting on behalf of God but a child yearning to spend time to learn more about his father. This greatly reshapes my motivation surrounding AG leading---that leaders are also in the process of learning.

John Daniel (AG 29): It was very heart warming to know that Jesus Christ not only “transfers” us from the domain of darkness to the Kingdom of Christ but also “transforms” us into His likeness. Liberating truth I would remember would be to know that the “Son of man did not come to be served , but to serve.” God is the one serving us. Freedom and blessing are found in being a slave.

Peter Wang (AG 50): Helped to remind me that Jesus is the ultimate AG leader. The true shepherd. Knowing that takes a great load off having to worry about outcomes so much as being faithful to Christ and the gospel.

*Q2: Discipleship: What was something new you learnt about discipleship, or a revisited truth that was reaffirmed for you?*

Benjamin Chin (AG 30): Often I try to solve problems in AG (attendance, participation, bonds) by thinking about structure like should we shuffle the program, have more social, or better 3-2-1 format ... [Moving forward], I would be personal in terms of discipleship including specific prayer for individuals; spending time in 1-1, listening and praying together.

Susi Daniel (AG 29): I learnt about one-to-one ministry and am reminded about listening... Moving forward, I should start with the people that God has given me, not programs. My desire is for myself and my AG members to richly dwell in the Word of God and be transformed into the image of Christ. Looking forward to start one-to-one ministry.

Mitchell Kok (AG 40): Personal ministry should become more integrated into daily life, as opposed to only on specific days of the week. That also means that a conscious effort should be put in all the time to make sure that those I disciple look more to Christ, and not just when I have a formal role to carry out.

*Q3: Self-Care: What are some practical steps you would take to better safeguard your spiritual health?*

Chiam Jiaying (AG 72): In the past when I was tired and unmotivated, I would just think that I need to rest and then get back again. It was more of start, stop, rest and repeat, without much thought as to how I can keep going or how can this be done better. So, some of the tips that were shared like growing in conviction of the gospel and working on my own relationship with God, were helpful to me because I have never really put much thought into the process of pacing myself.

Sim Zhihui (AG 2): We need right convictions about the gospel and ministry (i.e. what we are doing and why), a right view of God (as our good and loving Father) and a right view of ourselves and our limits. Practical steps: (1) spending non-ministry-related time in the Word to keep on growing and abiding in Christ. (2) experimenting with and finding a work-ministry-rest rhythm that is beneficial for us.

*P.S: Please contact [danny@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:danny@zionbishan.org.sg) if you wish to find out more about BAGLE and the upcoming runs.*

## ***Missions Month Report***

SHARON QUEK

### **Final Frontiers – ZB Missions Month (July 2020)**

*“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matt 24:14 (ESV)*

From the “Unstoppable Gospel” (2019 missions month’s theme) where we learnt about the amazing unstoppable power of the gospel in our lives, workplaces and the WORLD, we, as a church, moved on to focus on “Final Frontiers” this year for missions month.

#### **Sermons**

Ps Haoren, Ps Alby, Ps Dev and Ng Zhiwen, brought the word of God to us and we explored Paul’s heart to go where no church was, and contemplated the cost of what it means to boldly go where the gospel has not yet gone. This could be anywhere, whether nearer in Singapore, in our own social networks, or globally.

#### **Prayer Circles, Prayer Meetings (Mondays & Fridays)**

In all, we prayed for groups in the Muslim, Hindu, Tribal/Ethnic, and Buddhist religious blocs. Prayer circles averaged 7-10 persons while Prayer meetings had between 35 to 50 persons. Prayer Circle participants enjoyed watching prayercast videos while learning and praying together in small groups for specific frontier people groups each week. Each Friday, different AGs hosted the meetings and we had a special time of prayer for a Frontier people group as well.

Just this past Friday (31 Jul), Friday prayer fellowship participants were able to hear the first-hand testimony of Bro. AB who had a very troubled childhood and who was prepared by the Holy Spirit to encounter Jesus through Christians who were sent to him. Now this brother is passionate about reaching his own people for Jesus and to bring His love and life to them.

### **Missions Webinars (Wednesdays, 15 & 22 July)**

On 15 Jul, over 70 participants online had a great time learning about the final frontiers of the gospel here in Singapore. Jose Philip from Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM) shared helpful insights from God's Word on unreached peoples right here at our doorsteps. It involves being willing to enter into brokenness and to let the light of God's love shine through in real, practical ways to those in our communities that may be really hard to reach. Two other guest speakers then allowed us to hear first-hand stories of how Jesus' light and love make a difference to communities that have few opportunities to encounter Jesus. These are things we can do while here in Singapore.

On 22 Jul, about 60 participants explored what God is doing in the final gospel frontiers in our WORLD. Christy Lim (from Interserve), Mark Syn (from Pioneers in Asia), and David Tan (from Wycliffe Bible Translators) shared personal and passionate stories of how they personally were involved in reaching the unreached through their particular agency's focus/ strategy. It was really impactful to hear the many creative ways God is reaching out to a world through His people.

As God's chosen channel of blessing, we want to take seriously God's heart for ALL peoples, not just our own. Among the many good takeaways from our "Final Frontiers at home" webinar, Ng Jit Chin wrote this as a personal takeaway after hearing the personal sharing of the guests : ***"May God make me uncomfortable with my inaction."***

### **Our Response**

Church, let us seriously consider how we can be going to areas where none have heard about Jesus. And that may mean just starting where we are with going to people near to us first and praying hard for those further away.

*Please fill in the response and feedback survey to help us understand how missions month was for you: <https://tinyurl.com/FeedbackMM2020>*

*Do consider and pray for these follow up items:*

- 1. Praying personally for frontier peoples*
- 2. Coordinate prayer for my AG for a ministry partner or people gp.*
- 3. Join the missions interest / prayer group to continue learning and praying for missions (facilitated by Sharon and team, once a mth, for 6 mths)*
- 4. Talk to someone about mission opportunities (in Singapore and beyond)*

*Contact [sharon@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:sharon@zionbishan.org.sg) for any information and questions.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Resumption of In-Person Sunday Services in August

If you wish to attend a Sunday Service in person, please register by the Friday before that particular Sunday using the following links (choose from the 4 available time slots)

**Sun 9 Aug** (Faith / Patience Clusters):  
<https://zb-faith-patience-9aug.eventbrite.sg>

**Sun 16 Aug** (Hope / Peace Clusters):  
<https://zb-hope-peace-16aug.eventbrite.sg>

**Sun 23 Aug** (Mercy / Grace Clusters):  
<https://zb-mercy-grace-23aug.eventbrite.sg>

Please note that each Service time-slot is subject to a cap of 50 worshippers only.

Communion will be served at all services.

If you are unsure of which Sunday you should register for, or if you are a non-member who worships with us, do contact your AG leader or any of our pastors.

Visit [www.zionbishan.org.sg/phase-2](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/phase-2) to view our Safety Management Plan and to check which Cluster your AG is in.

There will be no ADC, CD, YD or other activities on Sunday.

## Annual Congregational Meeting 26 Sep, 4.00pm-6.00pm, via Zoom

Dear Zion Bishan Members,

Following the letter dated 15 May 2020 concerning the postponement of ACM to 27 September 2020, Session has decided to change the ACM date to 26 September 2020, Saturday, 4 to 6pm.

The change in date and timing to a Saturday is necessary to accommodate and encourage a higher virtual attendance by members in view of our multiple in-person worship services on Sunday which was only implemented from July onwards.

Please email [lydia@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:lydia@zionbishan.org.sg) if you need to update your email address in our records by 3 Aug. ACM documents will be sent out via email.

Thank you for your kind understanding.

## Church WhatsApp Broadcast

To receive the church bulletin and announcements via WhatsApp, please follow **both** steps below:

1. **Save 9422 5703 to your contacts**
2. Send a WhatsApp message with your full **name and contact number** (e.g. *Freddie Mao 98765432*)

**PDPA Notice:** By providing your name and contact to this number, you agree that Zion Bishan BP Church may collect, use and disclose your personal data for the purpose of disseminating the church bulletin and announcements to you, in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act 2012 and our data protection policy.