

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

### English Services & Livestream

VOL 12 NO 11 14 March 2021

# Order of Service

Call to Worship

Meditative Hymn: Hear the Call of the Kingdom

Scripture Reading: Acts 8:1-25 ESV

Message: Authentic Spirit-Empowered Witness

Response Hymn: O Church Arise (Arise, Shine)

Corporate Life & Prayer

Offering

Benediction

Announcements

	page
TODAY	2
SERMON NOTES	3
PRAYER POINTS	4
NEWS	5
LOOKING AHEAD	5
WORD IN SEASON	6
ANNOUNCEMENTS	8



## 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 (Registration required): www.zionbishan.org.sg/services

8.30am Mandarin/Cantonese service
9.30am Tamil/Hokkien service
10.30am/1.00pm/3.00pm/5.00pm
English service
11.30am Mandarin-English service

Join us for our livestream www.youtube.com/zionbishan

8.30am Mandarin & Cantonese service 10.30am English service

#### Join DHF Bible Study Groups

(Registration required): www.zionbishan.org.sg/dhf

8.45am Domestic Helpers Fellowship 1 (English, Tagalog & Myanmar groups)
2.30pm Domestic Helpers Fellowship 2 (Indonesian group)
9.15pm Domestic Helpers Fellowship 3 (in English)

Join Children/Youth Discipleship Classes (Registration required): www.zionbishan.org.sg/cd-yd

Songs for personal worship and reflection: www.zionbishan.org.sg/songs

# Serving You Today

Speaker: Mr Vernon Quek

#### 10.30 am

Service Coordinator: Deacon Tiew Chew Meng Worship Leader: Elder Foo Say Chiang AV: Steven Tan, Wee Aik Koon, James Kok, Samuel Bin Pianist: Goh Su-ling. Vocalists: Selena Hia & Grace Ho

#### 1.00 pm

Service Coordinator: Dn Joseph Chan Worship Leader: Ng Zhiwen AV: Sean Yang, Jeffery Kow Vocalists: Jeremy Khoo, Chua Siang Chuan

#### 3.00 pm

Service Coordinator: Jacqueline Lie Worship Leader: Elder Michael Gan AV: Soh Kok Hong, Paul Huang, Bethia Soh Pianist: Deborah Koh Vocalists: Jeannette Thia & Lydia Ng

#### 5.00 pm

Service Coordinator: Dn Danny Chua Worship Leader: Elder Jeffrey Lim AV: Matthaeus Lim, Jonathan Teo, Kim Seo Yeon Pianist: Tammy Ng Vocalist: Ee-Ling Shankar & Jerry Tan

### **Pastors and Ministry Staff**

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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)	Sabbatical
Rev Kew See Seong, Pastor (Mand)	9489 4967
Rev Lim Jit Thye, Pastor (Cant-Mand)	9182 6957
Rev Daniel Nge, Pastor (Mand-Eng)	8428 0525
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, <i>Family/Media</i>	9728 9343
Dn Danny Chua, AG/Safeguarding	9239 4160
Dn Paul Yeo, Hokkien Ministry	9751 1897
Mr Quek Tze-Ming, Assoc Min Staff	9060 8340
Mr Ng Zhiwen, Community Development	9092 6095
Rev Dr David Wong, Advisory Pastor	
Rev Dr Quek Swee Hwa, Pastor Emeritus	
Confidential Care & Counselling e-mail:	
care@zionbishan.org.sg	

### Sermon Notes

### **Authentic Spirit-Empowered Witness**

Acts 8:1-25

14 March 2021 Mr Vernon Quek

Intro: (v1-4)

### Spirit-Empowered Witness to Samaria (v5-8)

• Philip the Evangelist

### Simon and the Samaritans Believe (v9-13)

• Neither Place nor Race (Remember Stephen!)

### The Authentic Spirit-Empowerment (v14-25)

- Authenticated by the Apostles (v14-17 & 25)
- The Authentic Spirit: God's Free Gift (v18-24)

### Conclusion: Spirit-Empowered Witnesses (2:17-18; 2:38-39)

### **Reflection Questions:**

- 1. What exactly are we to be certain about from today's passage (Luke 1:1-4)?
- 2. What does it mean for a Christian to have received the Holy Spirit today? Can you see points in your life where you were empowered by the Spirit?
- 3. What do we learn today about our role as Spirit-empowered witnesses? Where are you personally in your witnessing journey?
- 4. Is there someone in your life whom God is calling you to be a witness to? Someone who might be an unlikely Samaritan to you?

## **Prayer Points**

## **Our Church**

In-Person Worship – Thank God for enabling the majority of people at ZB to attend in-person services. As mentioned in last week's Word in Season, around 10-20% of our members in both the English and Chinese congregations have not returned. The Shepherding Teams are reaching out. Pray for more to return and worship in person with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Children's Ministry - Pray for the CD teachers who have to (1) deliver quality Bible lessons; (2) manage mixed age groups; (3) implement COVID-safety measures; and (4) ensure childsafeguarding protocols are strictly adhered to. Pray that parents will understand that all this means that each congregation can handle only a limited number of children in CD for the time being (though there is still space for CD children at the 1, 3 & 5pm services), and will not be able to accommodate 'walkins'. Thank God also for the growing number of parents who are now training their children to sit with them throughout the worship services.

# **Our People**

### Mdm Kuan Lin Sau, aged 87 (Moh Han's

**mother)** – Praise God that she is overall well, stable and improving from the accident. Pray that the therapy she is doing will improve her physical condition. Pray also that some deep blood clots in her nasal cavity can be cleared and that she will be able to swallow more easily. May she also receive God's peace and comfort through this recovery period.

**Pastor Alby** – Thank God for the healing of the wounds from the first surgery. Pray for the second surgery on 17 Mar to detach the fingers and to close up the remaining grafted surfaces.

# Our World

**Indonesia** – Pray for discernment, and perseverance for Partner G's workers as they look for persons of peace amongst the harvest field in area M here. Praise God for one woman who has come to faith this week.

Pray for the ministry of BT who is reaching her local community at N. May more be open to the good news of Jesus as she serves the women and children with the love of Christ in her neighbourhood.

Thank God for blessing the ministry of Mr. M in South Sumatra and for the new group of believers from a place where there are few believers. Pray that he and his team can be effective in training local leaders and building up the believers there.

**Nepal** – Praise God that partner MS is setting up 2 homes, one for orphans and the other for developmentally delayed children. May they bring the love of Christ to these children and their families and for the provision of qualified staff to operate the homes.

4

If you have something you need prayer for, please fill in the response form. You may also would like to join an AG where we pray and encourage one another.

## Last Week

Sunday Service	Attendance	Offering (\$)	
English 10.30 Livestream	164		
English Services <sup>#</sup>	727	10,600.00	
Mand/Cant 8.30 Livestream	39		
Mand/Cant Service <sup>#</sup>	154	8,004.00	
ME Service <sup>#</sup> & Zoom	72		
Hokkien Service <sup>#</sup>	40		
Tamil Service <sup>#</sup>	16	1,092.00	
DHF	18		
TOTAL	1230	\$19,696.00	
*Peak concurrent viewers/#All in-person services			
Electronic Transfer		56,395.56	
WEEKLY TOTAL		\$76,091.56	
Weekly offering to meet budget for 2021/22: \$65,298			

ZΒ	COVID-19	Mission	Relief	Fund
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Total Received to-date	\$273,495.57
Giving Received from 1 Mar to 7 Mar	\$1,045.00
Amount Disbursed to-date	\$212,788.67

#### Land Lease Renewal Fund

Gift Nos. 1692-96	2,320.00
Electronic Transfer	88,381.25
Interest-free loan #LL027/21	100,000.00
Faith Art Gallery Sales for Feb'21	6,000.00
Weekly Total	\$196,701.25
(Weekly Target: \$113,238)	
Total Gift Received To-Date	\$6,736,956.86
Total Interest-free loan collected To-Date	\$2,253,000.00

## **Church Family News**

- Our condolences to Belinda Poon on the Homegoing of her sister, Diana Poon, aged 66, on 8 March 2021
- Janet Wang and family wish to thank the pastors, leaders, AG members and church friends for their prayers and support during their recent bereavement on the Homegoing of Janet's mother, the late Mrs Joyce Fung.

# 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:

(Use GMF 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

Indicate "Land Lease Renewal Fund" on back of cheque (Please provide your CONTACT NUMBER on each cheque)

# Looking Ahead

#### Friday, 19 March 8 pm: Zoom Prayer Meeting (Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/fpm)

### Saturday, 20 March

**4 pm:** Youth Fellowship (Register at <u>www.zionbishan.org.sg/yf</u>)

### Sunday, 21 March

English Services: (Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/english-services-200pax)

### 10.30 am

Shepherding Team: Ps Alby Yip, Eld Foo Say Chiang & Eld Chuah Chin Yew

### 1.00 pm

Shepherding Team: Ps Zheng Haoren, Ng Zhiwen, Eld Sonny Tan & Eld David Leong

#### 3.00 pm

Shepherding Team: Ps Alby Yip, Vernon Quek, Eld Roland Low & Eld Michael Gan

#### 5.00 pm

Shepherding Team: Ps Dev Menon, Eld Jeffery Lim & Eld Reginald Tan

### 2021 Sermon Series: Acts of the Apostles

21 Mar Acts 8:26-40 Ps Haoren & Ps Dev

### Lent Services:

- 28 Mar Palm Sunday Rev Daniel Tan (Hermon) & Rev Luwin Wong (Hermon)
- 1 Apr Maundy Thursday (8 pm)
- 2 Apr Good Friday Service (Livestream @10.30am) Rev Dr Edwin Tay (TTC)

### Your Response

14 March 2021

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** 

Or email us at office@zionbishan.org.sg

Confidential care & counselling matters, please email care@zionbishan.org.sg

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

## **Be Constant in Prayer**

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." Romans 12:12

One of the first things God taught me in full-time ministry was to value prayer. He did this through the godly example of a volunteer. It was a Saturday morning. My colleagues and I had planned for a prayer meeting and we thought the volunteers could be given a break as they had been tirelessly serving week after week in outreach work and discipleship. This volunteer called. When told of the prayer meeting, he immediately said, "I'll be there as soon as I can. Prayer meetings are important!" I was so moved. This volunteer continues to set the example, even after 18 years.

What does *"be constant in prayer"* mean? It means persistence in prayer. The author Paul is calling on God's people to persevere in and be devoted to prayer. It means we are **to cultivate praying as a habit** and not be negligent. We are to be unceasing in prayer and not reduce this spiritual discipline to just an occasional exercise.

"For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." Romans 8:29

Who do we pray for? As a framework, we pray for Our People, for Our Church, and for Our World. When we see this framework as concentric circles, we will realise that the core strength that propels the outward ripples comes from **"Our People"**. It is crucial that we constantly pray for two groups of people – the servant-leaders and the congregation members.

What do we pray for? It is God's will that His elect **conform to the image of Jesus**. Our task is therefore to pray for our people to become more and more like Jesus. When Christlikeness prevails and matures in a Church, the impact on the communities beyond will be God-honouring. But how do we know what to specifically pray for each individual? Well, the key lies in knowing our people. It is an integral matter. We need to make the effort in investing time to relate with one another. So being real and relational helps us pray better for each other.

Beloved, let's "be constant in prayer", asking God to help us **be resolved to this task** and make it happen!

# Announcements

### TraceTogether, Safer Together

We have noted that there are some who are not doing SafeEntry via TraceTogether app or token when coming for the Sunday worship services. Please be reminded that using TraceTogether allows for greater safety. It is also an act of civil responsibility (Matt 22:20-21) and most of all, an act of loving God expressed through loving our neighbours (Matt 22:37-39). We keep others safe by keeping to all reasonable safety measures.

We encourage all worshippers to download the TraceTogether app or collect and bring along your TraceTogether token. If you require assistance with downloading the app, please approach any of our Deacons or Staff who will be happy to help you. In the same spirit of love, please plan to arrive early for service. Many of our registration personnel and ushers have missed the early parts of the service as they were still assisting late-comers.

### Maundy Thursday Service 1 Apr, 8.00pm, Sanctuary

A solemn service with prayers and reflections on Luke 22. Holy Communion will be served.

In-person only. No livestream. Register by 31 Mar, Wednesday. www.zionbishan.org.sg/maundy-thurs

### BPCIS Combined Good Friday Service 2 Apr, Friday, 10.30am, Livestream

Sermon: "Worthy is the Lamb" (Rev 5:12) Speaker: Rev Dr Edwin Tay Organised by BPCIS

### Women of Zion: Circles of 8

WOZ is organising small group activities of up to eight ladies per group in April and May. These Circles of 8 aim to foster fellowship and support for one another, spiritually and physically; for prayer and emotional support; and for outreach. Sign up and join a Circle of 8 in one of the following interests.

Book/Movie Club - Discuss life and faith through the stimulus of books and movies.
Nature Walks - Connecting with God through nature and prayer.
Fellowship - Walking with Jesus & Writing your daily journal.
WhatsApp Kuan Ying (9367 1280) or Lydia (8338 3982)
by 27 Mar to sign up or if you have any queries.