

AND IN ANTIOCH THE DISCIPLES WERE FIRST CALLED

Χριστιανοί

CHRISTIANS.
ACTS 11:26



VOL 12 NO 23
6 Jun 2021

English Services & Livestream

Order of Service

Call to Worship

Gloria Patri

Opening Hymn: Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

(10.30 am & 1 pm)

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 12:1-5; 19-25 ESV

Message: #GettingReal About Growing Old

(3 pm & 5 pm)

Installation of Leaders

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:6-7; 17; 25-35 ESV

Message: #GettingReal about Singleness

Response Hymn: My Worth is Not In What I Own

Corporate Life & Prayer

Offering

Benediction

Announcements

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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

(Registration required):

www.zionbishan.org.sg/services

8.30am Mandarin/Cantonese service

9.30am Tamil/Hokkien service

10.30am/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

Speakers: Ps David Wong (10.30 am & 1 pm),
Mr Danny Chua (3 pm & 5 pm)

10.30 am

Service Coordinator: Dn Sunil Peter
Worship Leader: Eld Foo Say Chiang
AV: Wee Aik Koon, Samuel Bin
Pianist: Tim Hia

1.00 pm

Worship Leader: Eld David Leong
Zoom Admin: Ng Zhi-Wen
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7287548423>
Meeting ID: 728 754 8423

3.00 pm

Service Coordinator: Jacqueline Lie
Worship Leader: Eld Michael Gan
AV: Darren Lee, Jared Koh
Pianists: Koh Zhihui, Paul Low

5.00 pm

Service Coordinator: Dn Danny Chua
Worship Leader: Eld Jeffrey Lim
AV: Nicklaus Yu, Chiam Da Ren
Pianist: Timothy Low

Pastors and Ministry Staff

Rev Dr Alby Yip, Senior Pastor	9844 9536
Rev Dr Dev Menon, Pastor	9829 6051
Rev Zheng Haoren, Pastor	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)	8428 0525
Rev Vernon Quek, Pastor	9796 0196
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 Linus Koe, Family/Media	9728 9343
Mr Danny Chua, AG/Safeguarding	9239 4160
Mr Paul Yeo, Hokkien Ministry	9751 1897
Mr Quek Tze-Ming, Assoc Min Staff	9060 8340
Mr Ng Zhi-Wen, Community Engagement	9092 6095
Rev Dr David Wong, <i>Advisory Pastor</i>	
Rev Dr Quek Swee Hwa, <i>Pastor Emeritus</i>	

Confidential Care & Counselling e-mail:

care@zionbishan.org.sg

#GettingReal About Growing Old

1 Samuel 12:1-5; 19-25

Introduction

Growing Older or Old?

“...I am old and gray ... I have walked before you from my youth until this day”

1 Sam 12.2 ESV

1. Maintaining Life of Integrity

“...Here I am; testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed...” *1 Sam 3*

2. Closing Chapters of Disappointment

Mentor Eli failed as Role Model *1 Sam 3:13*

Sons Joel & Abijah turned Bad *1 Sam 8: 3*

People rejected him *1 Sam 8: 6-7*

King Saul disobeyed God *1 Sam 15: 28*

3. Continuing Ministry of Prayer

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you...” 1 Sam 15: 28

Conclusion

Faithful to the End: Samuel’s Secret

‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’ *1 Sam 3:10 (NIV)*

“And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and let none of his words fall to the ground.” *1 Sam 3:10*

Reflection Questions:

1. As I grow older, am I growing closer to the Lord or drifting farther from Him? Or stagnant?
2. Consider the areas of Integrity, Disappointments and Prayer. Which is my strongest? Which the weakest?
3. How do I cultivate the lifelong habit of Samuel, to say, “Speak, Lord, I am listening”?

#GettingReal About Singleness

1 Corinthians 7

6 Jun 2021

Mr Danny Chua

Truth #1: Singleness is a gift from God – just as marriage is

- *Lie #1: “Singleness is a curse Christians need to get out of ASAP”*
- “Each has his own gift from God one of one kind and one of another” (v.6-7)
- ‘Paul’s Remain Rule’: “Lead the life that the Lord has assigned and called you to!” (v.17)

Truth #2: Marriage is just as hard – *if not harder* – than singleness!

- *Lie #2: “Marriage would be so much easier than singleness”*
- The “worldly troubles” of marriage (v. 28-35)
- The ‘one-flesh’ commitment in marriage is heavy! (Matt. 19:3-12)

Conclusion: What ultimately matters?

- Securing our undivided devotion to the Lord (v.35) because...
- This temporal age is passing away (v.29,31)

Discussion Questions:

1. What was one thing about the sermon and testimonies that struck or surprised you?
2. How has 1 Cor 7 challenged your existing views about Christian singleness (or marriage)?
3. In what ways do you think Christians in general have made it harder for singles among us to be a part of the church family or even thrive in the life God has assigned them?
4. What are some practical ways we can shape Christian community to be a true, spiritual family for singles in (i) our Action Groups, and (ii) our Congregations?

Prayer Points

Our Church

#GettingReal about Growing Old and Singleness – As we hear the exhortation from our preachers this week, let us pray that God will help our church family support the seniors among us to find purpose, and be faithful and fruitful in their season of life. Pray also for singles among us who struggle in their present season. May God help us be a safe and nurturing community to our single brothers and sisters.

Bishan Home – With news of a COVID cluster at MINDSville@Napiri Adult Disability Home, pray for the residents in Bishan Home, and in other care homes, to be able to handle any increase in safety measures. Pray for the residents, especially those who are feeling isolated during these times. Pray for our church to find ways to bless and minister to the workers and residents at Bishan Home.

Land Lease Renewal – Continue to pray for our Land Lease Renewal process. Pray for a favourable response from SLA in the upcoming days.

Our People

Premkumar Family – Pray for our Tamil Service brother, Mr Premkumar Ebenezer, and his family as they grieve the loss of both parents in Chennai, India (see p6).

Our World

India: Pandemic Infections – Praise God that India's new COVID cases are trending down. Pray for the vaccination

programme to proceed quickly and smoothly. However, North-eastern India has become a COVID hotspot. Our partner there reports that “the gory images which we saw from Delhi and other parts of India a few weeks back are now seen here”. Pray for God's mercy and deliverance from fatal COVID infections affecting many families.

India: Economic Hardships – We thank God for our mission partners who are continuing with COVID relief efforts to help families affected by the lockdown, one partner shortlisted 423 families while another hopes to reach out to 1000 families, and they are raising the resources from within their respective community of believers. Pray that these efforts to share God's love will provide many open doors for the Gospel.

India: Online Training – Praise God that many of our partners are holding training and discipleship programmes online to help keep the relationships and connections going for their workers and congregants. Pray that our partners will continue to find good ways to conduct and improve their online training programmes as lockdowns continue to affect many in-person ministries.

Myanmar – The rainy season has started and our partner requests prayer for the provision of resources to make urgent repairs to roof leaks in homes of their friends and families. Pray also for healing for others who are unwell and are unable to find treatment due to lack of funds or availability of hospital facilities.

Last Week

Sunday Service	Attendance	Offering (\$)
English Service Livestreams#	424	
English Service 10.30am	38	500.00
English Service 1pm on Zoom	107	
English Service 3pm	31	
English Service 5pm	17	
Mand/Cant Livestream#	89	
Mand/Cant 8.30#	25	
ME Service & Zoom	55	
Tamil Service	21	
DHF	21	
TOTAL	828	\$500.00

All in-person attendance includes serving personnel

#Livestreaming peak concurrent viewers

Electronic Transfer	58,400.16
WEEKLY TOTAL	\$58,900.16

Weekly offering to meet budget for 2021/22: \$65,298

ZB COVID-19 Mission Relief Fund

Total Received to-date	\$293,882.17
Giving Received from 24 May to 30 May	\$1,935.00
Amount Disbursed to-date	\$219,507.69

Land Lease Renewal Fund

Gift NO: 1725	200.00
Electronic Transfer	17,031.75
Weekly Total	\$17,231.75
(Weekly Target: \$118,238)	
Total Gift Received To-Date	\$7,512,207.74
Total Interest-free loan collected To-Date	\$3,808,000.00

Church Family News

1. Congratulations to Samuel Lim & Lim Xiao Qi on their Holy Matrimony on Sat 5 June.
2. Congratulations to Joshua & Shiya Sim on the birth of their 2nd son, Sim Kng Khey Gamaliel on 1 June.
3. P. E. J. Samuel & Melunshia Ebenezer, parents of our Tamil Service member Mr Premkumar Ebenezer, parents-in-law to Lydia Premkumar and grandparents of Naethan and Jonathan, passed away on 30 May in Chennai, India. Please pray for the family as they grieve the loss of their parents at the same time.
4. Mdm Tham Kah Song (ZBCS), aged 99, went Home to be with the Lord on 29 May 2021. She was the mother of Dr Yong Chee Kong, mother-in law of Ang Ai Tin, grandmother to Caleb, Christl, Clarisse and Charles.

5. 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)

Session Meeting Highlights

1. Session met twice in May; the scheduled meeting on 18 May and an emergency meeting on 14 May on in-person worship matters, currently still in force, in the light of the Phase 2 Heightened Alert and its corresponding restrictions.
2. A new Mission Steering Committee (MSC) will be piloted for two years. The MSC seeks to integrate our Foreign and Home Missions in order to streamline our training, education, policies and mobilization.
3. Session approved the Project Love Bishan outreach, carried out on 29 May, to distribute grocery packs to about 90 needy households from the Mission Relief Fund.
4. Bro Tan Seng Chai has been appointed to the ZBK Management Committee.
5. Sis Goh Bee Wan and Sis Yam Jia Hui were reappointed, and Sis Winnie Liew and Bro Marvin Cheong were appointed to the Finance Committee.

Looking Ahead

Friday, 11 Jun

8 pm: Zoom Prayer Meeting

(Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/fpm)

Saturday, 12 Jun

4 pm: Youth Fellowship

(Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/yf)

Sunday, 13 Jun

10.30 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5pm: English Services:

(Register at www.zionbishan.org.sg/english-services)

June Sermon Series - #GetReal

13 Jun Getting Real about Race & Ethnicity

Ps Dev/Ng Zhi-Wen

20 Jun Struggles of the Young:

Getting Real about Singleness

Mr Danny Chua (1030am/1pm)

Getting Real about Growing Old

Ps David Wong (3pm/5pm)

Your Response

6 Jun 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.

THANKS FOR YOUR RESPONSE!

Alone Again, (Naturally)?

While we #GetReal about the struggles of the young in navigating Christian singleness, we acknowledge Christians at a senior stage of life also grapple with it for various reasons (circumstances, widowhood, etc.). Elder David Leong shares his honest testimony here about his own journey.

“To think that only yesterday, I was cheerful, bright and gay. Looking forward to who wouldn’t do. The role I was about to play...” I found myself chiming in with the lyrics of that old song, ‘Alone Again’ (Naturally) by Gilbert O’Sullivan.

Quite involuntarily, I have spent the last 12 years back as a single after living 20 years in marriage and a significant part of that in parenthood. Although our family had grappled with cancer for some years, the sudden turn for the worst in a week for my late wife was hard to bear those 12 years ago. You could say that it is with great reluctance I entered a second season of singleness. Both of us enjoyed time with one another and our daughters. In fact, we looked forward to growing old with one another.

The Struggles - The first couple of years of the second singleness was hard firstly because the loss of physical and emotional intimacy was palpable. It was hard when, from time to time I start looking at other families and realised how blessed it was to have a partner by my side.

My daughters were then still young. Without the help and support of grandparents, the full load of both fathering *and* mothering was upon me. Having to juggle bringing my younger daughter to school and going through her homework with her each day on top of working a full-time job was hard, not forgetting serving God.

I remembered the time when my younger daughter, Miranda had acute appendicitis and I had to rush her to A&E because it was ruptured. I camped over with her in the hospital for 4 days leaving my older daughter Melissa to manage on her own. You could say the desire then to be remarried was there although it may have been mixed with hopes to make life easier for myself!

The Gift - Singleness is often seen as a problem compared with marriage, especially when the latter is often deemed the ‘better’ option. This is not helpful. I am glad that God has constantly reminded me how I should be seeing the matter. Firstly, marriage was instituted by Him as *a blessing in the context of our stewardship of creation* (Gen. 1:27-28). Procreation therefore was only *part of God’s bigger plan for the world and His people*.

In His dialogue with the Sadducees on marriage in the resurrection (Luke 20:27-40), Jesus explained that in the resurrection age, temporal human marriage is no longer needed. In the new creation, intimacy and companionship will instead be fully restored to God’s original intention, i.e., Christ and the Church. Hence, marriage is no longer needed to model it.

Jesus Himself was single during His life on earth, and said that His “food” is to do the will of God (John 4:34). In other words, Jesus embodied the complete and true fulfilment one can find in single-mindedly living out God’s will. Elsewhere, He also affirmed the legitimacy of *singleness that is devoted to Kingdom service*, urging the one who can receive this way to receive it (Matt. 19:12).

Therefore, is singleness a curse? No. In fact, it indirectly highlights the *sufficiency of Jesus* for God’s blessings in the new covenant. Singleness reminds me that as God’s people, being spiritually reborn into *God’s spiritual family* is more important than an earthly, nuclear family for displaying God’s love, grace, and salvation to a broken world.

Exhortation - It is also important for us to affirm singleness as a calling and a gift for some. Ultimately, we should remember that there will be seasons in life where *all of us will be single again*. All of us come into this world single and all would inevitably end up single again when our spouses die.

To those married: Singles (especially those in our church family) need community so that they may continue to thrive and find companionship in their season of singleness. What helped me in my role as a single and a father in particular was being connected to an AG. I was blessed to be in one that has been inclusive and very supportive. Whenever we had social activities, my daughters were always invited.

Unlike the lyrics of the song which I mentioned in the beginning which concluded that God didn’t seem to care, He does. The church family is needed for us to be able to share a certain level of spiritual intimacy which can help point us towards the end goal of perfect relationship with Jesus. So, may we in word and deed learn to display God’s Kingdom tangibly by having singles as a regular and consistent part of our fellowship groups. This will do much more to help them grow and gain spiritual intimacy and companionship between the now and not yet.

To us singles: We have an important role in reminding married people in church that the Kingdom has already been inaugurated in Christ and awaits consummation at God’s appointed time! This will, by far, be a more beautiful and greater reality that stands beyond our current cultural preoccupations with marriage.

Brothers and sisters, God does not waste our lives. So, in our season of singleness may we serve God wholeheartedly rather than desperately wish we were married to someone. For me, I found in my season of singleness more time to focus on what God has called me to do. I have now transited out from the marketplace and new opportunities to serve God have given me options to re-engage for the Kingdom in the next phase of life.

Brothers and sisters, the Body of Christ needs and benefits from having *both* singles and married people fully embody the Gospel. May we therefore catch and live out the right biblical vision of singleness and marriage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Communion Suspension in June

In the light of the current advisory on heightened alert and for the safety of our worshippers, Holy Communion will be suspended for the month of June. God willing, if restrictions permit, we will serve Holy Communion at all services in July. Let us be in prayer for our national leaders that they may steer Singapore back to safety.

Worshipping With Our Whole Beings Through Sign Language Can't sing? Then sign!

The Hearing Impaired Ministry (HIM) has helpfully prepared tutorials which will be released in a few parts for us to learn how to sign the Gloria Patri.

Learn how to sign the first line of the doxology, Gloria Patri so that we can express our worship in action together. View the first video at www.zionbishan.org.sg/HIMtutorials

CE Table Host Training

Starts 7 Jul, 7.30pm, for 4 Wednesdays

Is it time for you to share Jesus with someone? Train to be a Christianity Explored Table Host! Sign up with timothy@zionbishan.org.sg

Peer Support Program

We have Peer Supporters ready to talk

Any church member facing depression or anxiety concerning COVID, WFH, or from other matters, please speak with our Peer Supporters. Contact your CST or Dns Siew Choo to find support: zbpeersupp@gmail.com

Urban Missions Conference 2021

Look forward to 4 sermons, 4 workshops (Families, Seniors, Professions and Businessmen/Managers in missions) and prayer sessions in July that would help us understand why and how we can "Go Urban!" Go with the gospel to an increasingly *urban* world. For more workshop information and to sign up click on tinyurl.com/ZBGoUrban2021

Men's Ministry:

Taking Charge - Called to Work II

26 Jun, 7.30 – 9.30 am, Saturday, Zoom

What we do and how are we doing it to experience God's pleasure at our work? Come journey with other men in Zion Bishan to reflect on how we are taking charge in the call to work.

"I can do all things in Christ who strengthen me" - Philippians 4:13

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/nd75ukhw>

A Christian Perspective on Chinese Medicine (co-hosted by BGST)

15 Jun, 8.00pm, Tuesday, Zoom

Dr Pak-Wah Lai, Principal of BGST, will bring Chinese medicine into dialogue with modern medicine and evaluate both traditions from biblical, theological and philosophical perspectives.

Join the book launch with Graceworks and BGST. The event is hosted by STM.

Register: bit.ly/Christian-ChineseMeds