



What does man gain by all the toil  
at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

VOL 13 NO 3  
16 January 2022

**English Services & Livestream**

***Order of Service***

Call to Worship

Gloria Patri

Opening Hymn: Give Them All to Jesus

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:11 ESV

Message: Striving After Wind

Response Hymn: My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

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

**8.30am** Mandarin/Cantonese service

**9.00am** Hokkien service

**9.30am** Tamil Service

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

English service

**11.00am** Mandarin-English service

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

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

**8.30am** Mandarin & Cantonese service

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

English service

### **Join DHF Bible Study Groups**

*(Registration required):*

[www.zionbishan.org.sg/dhf](http://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](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/cd-yd)

### **Songs for personal worship and reflection:**

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

## Serving You Today

### **Speakers:**

Ps Dev Menon (10.30am & 1pm)

Ps Vernon Quek (3pm & 5pm)

### **10.30am**

*Service Coordinator:* Joel Khoo

*Worship Leader:* Dn Sunil Peter

*AV:* Goh Han Teck, Gary Lee, Steven Tan

*Music Team:* Morning Team 3

### **1.00pm**

*Service Coordinator:* Dns Alice Koh

*Worship Leader:* Dn Joseph Chan

*AV:* Benny Ling, Jeffery Kow, Matthew Neo

*Music Team:* Morning Team 3

### **3.00pm**

*Service Coordinator:* Vanessa Lee

*Worship Leader:* Dn Mervyn Phan

*AV:* Eugene Poh, Bethia Soh, Paul Huang

*Music Team:* Afternoon Team 3

### **5.00pm**

*Service Coordinator:* Danny Chua

*Worship Leader:* Dn Justin Low

*AV:* Nicklaus Yu, Lence Teh

*Music Team:* Afternoon Team 3

## Pastors and Ministry Staff

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Rev Dr Alby Yip, <i>Senior Pastor</i>        | 9844 9536 |
| Rev Dr Dev Menon, <i>Pastor</i>              | 9829 6051 |
| Rev Zheng Haoren, <i>Pastor</i>              | 6353 8081 |
| Rev Ebinezar Mohan, <i>Pastor (Tamil)</i>    | 8198 9696 |
| Rev Kew See Seong, <i>Pastor (Mand)</i>      | 9489 4967 |
| Rev Lim Jit Thye, <i>Pastor (Cant-Mand)</i>  | 9182 6957 |
| Rev Daniel Nge, <i>Pastor (Mand-Eng)</i>     | 8428 0525 |
| Rev Vernon Quek, <i>Pastor</i>               | 9796 0196 |
| Mrs Emily Quek, <i>Special Projects</i>      | 9001 2926 |
| Mrs June Tan, <i>Children's Ministry</i>     | 8388 1883 |
| Mrs Ruth Quek, <i>Children/Y. Adults</i>     | 8833 0196 |
| Mrs Sharon Quek, <i>Trg/Mobilisation</i>     | 9788 0195 |
| Mr Linus Koe, <i>Family/Media</i>            | 9728 9343 |
| Mr Danny Chua, <i>AG/Safeguarding</i>        | 9239 4160 |
| Mr Paul Yeo, <i>Hokkien Ministry</i>         | 9751 1897 |
| Mr Quek Tze-Ming, <i>Assoc Min Staff</i>     | 9060 8340 |
| Mr Ng Zhi-Wen, <i>Community Engagement</i>   | 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](mailto:care@zionbishan.org.sg)

# **Striving After Wind**

Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26

## **Introduction**

## **Testing Pleasure**

## **Considering Wisdom**

## **Hating Life**

## **Conclusion**

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. What do you remember from the sermon or the passage?
2. What was the preacher's original goal in life?
3. What was his conclusion at the end?
4. What does that mean for your lifegoals?

## **Striving After Wind**

**Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26**

**Intro:** A Meaningful Life?

### **A Quest for the Meaningful Life (1:12-18)**

Led by *Qoheleth*:

- a. The Preacher, the one who speaks to the *ekklesia* (the Assembly)
  - Ecclesiastes = *Qoheleth*
- b. The Wise King (1:1,12,16, 2:9,12)

### **Qoheleth's Method:** Fulfilment in Pleasure and Enjoyment (2:1-11)

- i) The vanity of Wisdom, 'Madness', and Folly (2:12-17)
  - ii) The vanity of Toil (2:18-26)

**Conclusion:** For us the *ekklesia*

- A note on Ecclesiastes and Jesus

### **Questions for Discussion and Reflection:**

1. Do you agree with Qoheleth's assessment that everything under the sun is a striving after wind? Share why you agree or disagree.
2. Try to summarise how he attempts to persuade us in 2:1-26 that everything is vanity.
3. In what ways have you been finding fulfilment in pleasure, wisdom or work? Has today's passage changed any of that?
4. How are you feeling about the rest of Ecclesiastes? How are you personally planning on joining Qoheleth in his quest to understand the meaning of life?

## *Prayer Points*

### **Our Church**

**Youth Ministry** – Keep our youths in prayer! Pray that every youth in our church will grow in their understanding of God’s plan for their lives. Pray for the Youth Fellowship (YF) activities and Youth Discipleship (YD) classes to build them up in Christ. Pray for parents to impress the command of the Lord onto their children, to love Him with all their heart, soul and might (Deut 6:4-9).

### **Our People**

**Action Group (AG) Leaders** – Pray for our AG leaders as they prepare to lead their small groups in the year ahead. Pray for good time growing in training in Leaders Prep (LP) sessions and for time to spend building up individual members with God’s Word and love.

### **Our World**

**Brother S Thulung** – His parents travelled from the UK back to their home country Nepal in December 2021 so that his Father, diagnosed with end-stage throat cancer in recent months, could live out his last days there. Pray for strength and wisdom for Brother S’s nephews who are caring for his father, while he takes care of his mum who suffers from dementia.

**India** – Pray that the Lord will protect and increase His work among the Hindi speaking peoples in N India. Our partner has requested prayers for the Lord’s provision of believing spouses for new

believers in all fields. Our partner writes a prayer request, “Our Lord is our sovereign provider, may He grant healing to those who are suffering from various sicknesses - liver, gastric problems, cough, flu, fever, kidney, ulcers and mental issues. For believers who have lost their loved ones, pray for our God to comfort those who mourn. For churches who are in need of a place to worship, we pray for the Lord’s provision, according to His will and timing.”

We have also received good news of ongoing baptisms taking place amongst our partners, and new churches being built. Pray for the continued protection and equipping of these new believers. May the seed be planted on good soil, producing a crop, yielding a hundred times what was sown. Pray for the Lord to continue raising up new leaders who follow Jesus to lead His flock.

**Central Asia** – We thank God for our brothers and sisters faithfully sharing the gospel in this region. Praise God that they were recently able to visit various churches, families and explore working with youth and children in various cities. In these areas, there are few churches and the people are unreached. Pray that our brothers and sisters working here will have a heart for the local people, grow spiritually in their own lives and for God’s wisdom for their personal ministries and other ministry efforts like, an English club and youth engagement.

## Last Week

| Sunday Service               | Attendance  | Offering (\$)     |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| English Service Livestreams# | 245         |                   |
| English Service 10.30am      | 244         |                   |
| English Service 1pm          | 86          |                   |
| English Service 3pm          | 190         |                   |
| English Service 5pm          | 125         |                   |
| Mand/Cant Livestream#        | 54          |                   |
| Mand/Cant 8.30#              | 70          |                   |
| ME Service & Zoom            | 70          |                   |
| Hokkien Service              | 43          | 5,000.00          |
| Tamil Service                | 12          | 309.00            |
| DHF                          | 17          |                   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>1156</b> | <b>\$5,309.00</b> |

All in-person attendance includes serving personnel

#Livestreaming peak concurrent viewers

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Electronic Transfer | \$84,866.17        |
| <b>WEEKLY TOTAL</b> | <b>\$90,175.17</b> |

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

## ZB COVID-19 Mission Relief Fund

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Received to-date             | \$356,208.83 |
| Giving Received from 3 Jan – 9 Jan | \$1,315.00   |
| Amount Disbursed to-date           | \$266,997.38 |

## Land Lease Renewal Fund

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Electronic Transfer                        | \$39,090.35        |
| <b>Weekly Total</b>                        | <b>\$39,090.35</b> |
| <i>(Weekly Target: \$118,238)</i>          |                    |
| Total Gift Received To-Date                | \$8,495,659.52     |
| Total Interest-free loan collected To-Date | \$3,908,000.00     |

## Church Family News

1. Pastor Alby is preaching at Hokkien service this morning.

## 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, 21 Jan**

**8.00pm:** Prayer Meeting

(Register at [www.zionbishan.org.sg/fpm](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/fpm))

**Saturday, 22 Jan**

**4.00pm:** Youth Fellowship

(Register at [www.zionbishan.org.sg/yf](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/yf))

**Sunday, 23 Jan**

English Worship Services

(Register at [www.zionbishan.org.sg/english-services](http://www.zionbishan.org.sg/english-services))

**10.30am**

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

**1.00pm**

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

**3.00pm**

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

**5.00pm**

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

### **Ecclesiastes Series Sermon:**

**23 Jan** (Ecc 3:1-22) A Time for Everything  
*Ng Zhiwen/Danny Chua*

**30 Jan** (Ecc 4:1-16) Oppression, Friends, and Advancement  
*Ps Alby/Quek Tze-Ming*

## **Your Response**

16 January 2022

*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.*

**THANKS FOR YOUR RESPONSE!**

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

In a portion of the BAGLE course reading materials, one Christian author presents what he thought was a hypothetical situation at the time of writing:

*“Imagine that the pandemic swept through your part of the world, and that all public assemblies of more than three people were banned. And let’s say that, due to some catastrophic combination of local circumstances, this ban had to remain in place for 18 months. How would your congregation of 120 members continue to function—with no regular church gatherings of any kind, and no small home groups (except for groups the size of three)?”* (‘The Trellis and the Vine’, Matthias Media 2013)



In a way, confronting this scenario was a little moment of painful irony or comic tragedy for the 8 AG Leaders who took part in the Nov-Dec 2021 run of BAGLE. After all, this scenario has been anything but hypothetical for us over the past two years. Time and time again, week in and out, over phase this and phase that, Zion Bishan AG Leaders have been asking themselves questions with no simple answers:

*“How can we be the gathered Body of Christ in the present situation? What is the balance I should strike with a virtual and physical mode of discipleship and pastoral care? How are my AG members doing – I haven’t seen them in person for a long time! Is Jesus still keeping His promise to build His church and draw others into His family?”*

These questions, along with what we aim to do in the course, pushed us back to basics. To be clear, the word ‘Basic’ in ‘Basic AG Leaders Equipping’ does not mean simple or easy. Think more along the lines of foundational, non-negotiable, and critical. We’re revisiting the very rocks on which we stand and the pillars of what Church means in all of Scripture.



In particular, we spent time exploring Paul's letter to the Colossian church and what he says about helping each Christian take a S.T.E.P closer towards Christ-maturity: **S**(peaking God's Word to each other); **T**(oiling in the hard work of Word and Discipling ministry); **E**(veryone being a part of this work); **P**(raying in dependence of the Spirit's power).

At the end of the day, we also considered the all-important question, "How can we 'do' Church in a 'COVID-proof' way that is also faithful to the New Testament model of more maturity and more multiplication?" Answer: it all boils down to individuals, brothers and sisters we know by name, personal ministry and discipleship down to each and every member. What we need across the board in every ministry, every congregation, and every AG is more not less personal relationships centered on God's word, prayer and regular fellowship.

As you can imagine, this means incredibly hard work (and lots of discouragement at times!) for every AG leader. Yet, if we could just look very carefully, we will surely see that God has been keeping His promise to build His church in the past two years – *not in spite of but especially through the pains of the pandemic.*

Here are some reflections from the participants:



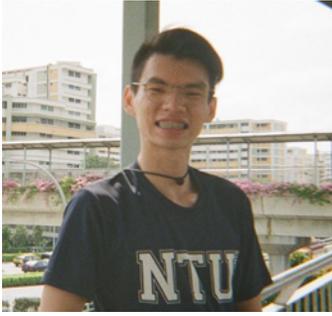
**Lim Meng Ean (AG40, 10.30am Congregation):** *It was especially insightful for me to be able to discuss issues with other AG leaders and hear about the different challenges they face. It also helped to discover how different or similar we are in leading our AGs, and there draw new energy to lead my own AG. I was also reminded that I am the shepherd led by the Trinity of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. I must tend my lambs like the Good Shepherd Himself.*

*This does not necessarily mean AG-leading is a lighter burden or greater joy; I guess that comes with experience and trust over time.*



**Shyen Lee (AG2, 3.00pm Congregation):** *Something that I was quite personally struck by was that God doesn't need me at all to fulfill His will and for His work to be done, and I'm really not doing Him any favours by serving with a heart that isn't joyful. The fact is that the only work that matters – that of heart change and subsequent life change – is all completely 100% the work of the Spirit, and I just have to faithfully hold out God's Word the best I can. We also talked quite a lot about personal work, people work, as part of discipleship.*

*This is an area I'm really lacking in, and want to make a more concerted effort to focus on in the coming year.*



**Jarius Goh (AG40, 5.00pm Congregation):** *I think it's easy to assume that we are the shepherds guiding our AGs, but really our real role is first as mere sheep following the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus. It helps to be reminded that we are disciples ourselves and should constantly seek to find solace and joy in our own reading of the Word, not just in leading commitments. I really felt the Session on Pastoral Care helped to ground the idea that we are not here to solve our peers' spiritual 'shortcomings'; rather, we*

*are to redirect and "prescribe" God's Word to them so that they may be made aware of Jesus's love and His healing for their current troubles.*



**Benjamin Ng (AG52, 5.00pm Congregation):** *I think it was helpful to see that other AG leaders had the same insecurities and fears as me, and that we could all learn and grow together to better lead our AGs. In particular, the idea that pastoral care is mutual was especially empowering to me - that the burden of leading and caring is meant to be shared, and that it is the Shepherd's voice that actually leads them to Christ, not mine. Also, I am reminded that being an AG leader is a lot more than just "teaching the Bible" and it's a lot about pastoral care. I think I can do more to*

*meet members one to one to find out how they're doing, so AG sessions are more than just tutorial sessions.*

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## **Action Groups (AGs)**

The life of God must be experienced in the teaching, prayer and friendship of Christian community in the local church. In Zion Bishan, AGs are the spiritual families within which every member follows Jesus and lives out the Gospel with fellow brothers and sisters. If you are not presently in an AG, it is urgent and essential that you do join one. Please contact Danny Chua ([danny@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:danny@zionbishan.org.sg)) or your Congregational Shepherding Team to be connected.

## Announcements

### **Extraordinary Congregational Meeting 26 Feb, 4.00pm, Saturday**

Due to the pandemic restrictions, this year's ECM will be conducted online via livestream. Just like the previous ACM, attendance and voting will be via proxy. Questions & Answers will be done in advance on our website. ECM materials will be emailed to communicant members by the end of the week. Please email [lydia@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:lydia@zionbishan.org.sg) if you have changed your email address.

### **ADC: Work and the Workplace 26 Jan & 9 Feb, 8.00-9.30pm, Two Wednesday Sessions, on Zoom**

Title: "With our own hands" - What Paul says about Work and Workplaces  
Facilitator: Quek Tze-Ming  
Register at [zionbishan.org.sg/adc](http://zionbishan.org.sg/adc)

### **Dedication List 2022**

We will be compiling the Dedication List for 2022. All departmental heads, please submit the names of your committee members, helpers, and others to [doreen@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:doreen@zionbishan.org.sg) by Monday, 14 Feb.

### **Table Hosts for Catechism Class**

Come be an integral part of someone's spiritual journey. Upcoming catechism class starts 19 Feb.

Contact Ps Dev ([dev@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:dev@zionbishan.org.sg))/  
Dn Timothy ([timothy@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:timothy@zionbishan.org.sg))  
for details.

### **Youth Ministry Announcements**

If you're a youth, aged 13–18 years old, we're calling you to be connected back to the Church family in the new year!

#### **Youth Discipleship (YD) Every Sunday, 10.00am-12.00pm**

Weekly classes to grow in your knowledge of the Bible and who Jesus is.

#### **Youth Fellowship (YF) Every Saturday, 4.00-6.00pm, Chapel**

Follow us on Instagram [@zionbishanyf](https://www.instagram.com/zionbishanyf).  
Weekly registration link will be posted.

#### **Looking for Host Families!**

If your family would like to host youths for Saturday night dinners, let us know too.

Contact Dns Ee Wern (9650 5440) or  
Jacqueline (9322 7629) to find out more  
about Youth Ministry!

#### **Looking for a Youth Ministry Apprentice**

Zion Bishan is looking for Christians who are active in their spiritual community, and desire to invest time in the discipleship of the next generation. Applicants must have served 2–3 years in youth-related ministry, preferably aged 25–45, and possess strong Christian values. Fresh graduates may apply. Training will be provided through EXCEL Apprenticeship.

To apply for this position, or to find out more, please email Ps Dev Menon at [dev@zionbishan.org.sg](mailto:dev@zionbishan.org.sg)