



Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Week 1	5 October – Cultivating a life of gratitude.
Week 2	12 October – Remember, rejoice, rededicate.
Week 3	19 October – Recognizing grace through the years.
WEEK 4	26 OCTOBER - REMOVING BARRIERS AND BUILDING BRIDGES FOR RENEWAL



Psalm 100:4-5, “Enter His gates with praise...His goodness endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations”.

Thessalonians 5:16-18, Always rejoice.... give thanks to God for all things”

Matthew 13:1-13, vv. “A farmer went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop...”

We begin this month of October in a celebration mood as we commemorate the 69th birthday of Bryanston Methodist Church. Generally, church birthdays hold a special place in the life of a congregation. They are opportunities to reflect on the faithfulness of God, celebrate milestones, and envision the future. With every passing year, we have a chance to share our stories of how God has worked in our lives.

Our church's birthday is a reminder of God's perfect guidance that leads us through the uncertain terrains of life. It points us to the power of God's Word, which illuminates our path, providing the direction and strength we need to continue our pilgrimage. We have seen God's faithfulness in our lives and in the life of the church. Our theme, therefore, for this month of October is: **“Celebrating God's faithfulness”**.

This theme honours our church's rich history, bringing to the fore the blessings and grace God has showered upon our community over the years. Over this month of October, we will be affirming the Lord's guidance over our church. He has led us through the pastures and along the waters, offering rest amidst turbulence and hope during the droughts. This month as a community we reflect on the works of God, reaffirming our commitment to faith and to the values that unite us as the church. This birthday is a celebration of God's enduring faithfulness and the loving community called BMC He has built. Life is a celebration. This birthdate is a reminder to celebrate the life as well as to update the life. Celebration is an active state, an act of expressing reverence or appreciation.

A church anniversary is much more than a celebration, it is a profound occasion to honour spiritual heritage, celebrate the unity of the present, and look with hope to the future. We celebrate BMC's

witness, and recounting God's work. We celebrate BMC's missional calling through outward-focused worship that leads to action.

It is a privilege for the church to still be here after so many years. It is refreshing and speaks to the church's hospitality. BMC has weathered the seasons because its foundation is solid rock. On this anniversary, we stand on the foundation of God-self. We 've built our church upon Him in the past and we will continue to build upon Him in the future. We can know that He will sustain us and continue to build us. And so, whatsoever you do, don't do it as a duty, do it from your love, don't do it as a burden, do it as a celebration. Come let us celebrate together our victorious journey in Christ Jesus so far. Let us rejoice in the never-ending blessings He has poured out upon us. Let us make this anniversary a moment of spiritual reflection for our community.

An anniversary is vital signpost in the life of the church. Just as the Israelites would celebrate God's great faithfulness and deliverance, so should we commemorate and give thanks for the ways God has led us and blessed us. May this be a month filled with joy and celebration. May we be filled with gratitude and praise for all that God has done for us. May we rejoice in the faithfulness of God, knowing that He will continue to be faithful to us for many years to come. Be good; Be well, and my wish for you is joy! Rev Zamani.

Home Groups and classes guide:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: What have we learned that we can apply in our lives in this session? Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).

CELEBRATING GOD'S
Faithfulness

Week 4: 26 October – Removing barriers and building bridges for renewal



This anniversary is not only a time to look back, but also a time to look forward and see the potential for change in our own lives and in the world around us. Through this anniversary theme of the church, the community reaffirms its commitment to preserve the traditions of our faith and to transmit them to the next spiritual generations. To reach peripheries, seeking to serve the marginalized, link faith with justice, and advocate for human dignity, as exemplified in Matthew 25. This anniversary is a call to step into the world and share the Good News that has sustained us for years. We celebrate our growth and the new people who have joined us.

We also look forward to the many more who will join us in the coming years. We eagerly anticipate the new faces and stories that will enrich our community and strengthen our faith. Let us never tire of fulfilling the Great Commission and bringing others to know the love of Jesus Christ. Reach out to those on the edges of society, embodying a humble, person-centred ministry that brings the Gospel to all. To turn our celebration into a moment of service and compassion for the most vulnerable. To, not just be a place of worship but an active community, committed to serving others and reflecting God's love through tangible acts. It is by our faith that we stand strong and continue to grow. Our faith is what sets us apart and it is what will continue, to carry us forward. We are instruments in God's hands, ambassadors for Christ in a world that desperately needs renewal.

WORSHIP SONG: Lord, You Give the Great Commission

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=309hyKA2VQ4`](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=309hyKA2VQ4)

READINGS: Psalm 119:105 - 112; Isaiah 41:1-10; Ephesians 6:10-18 & Matthew 28:19-20

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As we step into the final week of celebrating Bryanston Methodist Church's 69th anniversary, we are reminded that this moment is not only about looking back on God's faithfulness, but also about looking forward with hope and courage. Renewal begins when we recognize that God has called each of us, not by accident, but by divine purpose.

In Isaiah 41, God assures us that He has chosen us, taken us from the ends of the earth, and called us to be His servants. We do not stand on the periphery; we belong. Therefore, we need not fear nor feel inadequate, for God Himself strengthens and upholds us.

With this confidence, we are called to build bridges, between the church and the world, between faith and action, between tradition and transformation. This is not easy work. It demands courage, persistence, and spiritual readiness. That's why Ephesians 6 reminds us to put on the full armour of God: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

These are not just symbols, they are tools for mission. They prepare us to engage the world with love, truth, and conviction. When we are fully clothed in God's armour, we can remove barriers and extend bridges of compassion, understanding, and grace.

As Psalm 119 reminds us, God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, it guides us as we go out into the world to fulfil the Great Commission in Matthew 28. We are sent to make disciples, to serve with humility, and to bring others across the bridge, to the table of the Lord, where all are welcome.

So, as we celebrate this anniversary, let us also recommit ourselves to being bridge-builders, those who bring light where there is darkness, hope where there is despair, and renewal where there is brokenness. May next year's celebration find our table larger and our hearts even more open to God's mission in the world.

GROUP/CLASS QUESTIONS:

1. What barriers, personal, relational, or spiritual, might be preventing us from fully engaging in God's mission?
2. How can we, as a church, build stronger bridges between our congregation and the wider community?
3. Which part of the armour of God (Ephesians 6:10–18) do you find most essential in your current season of faith, and why?
4. How can we ensure that our celebration of God's faithfulness translates into ongoing service, outreach, and renewal throughout the coming year?

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Psalm 119:105 *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*

Tuesday: Isaiah 41:10 *"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God."*

Wednesday: Ephesians 6:11 *"Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*

Thursday: Psalm 28:7 *"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me."*

Friday: Matthew 28:19 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."*

Saturday: Galatians 6:9 *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Scripture Readings:

- Psalm 119:105–112
- Isaiah 41:1–10
- Ephesians 6:10–18
- Matthew 28:19–20

Opening Prayer

Lord, help us see the barriers that keep us and others from fully experiencing Your love. Teach us to build bridges of kindness, service, and faith, so that we may share Your Good News and bring renewal to our families, church, and community. Amen.

Short Summary of the Readings

- **Psalm 119:105–112:** God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. It guides us in faith, strengthens our commitment, and helps us remain steadfast even in challenging times.
- **Isaiah 41:1–10:** God promises His presence, strength, and help to His people. We do not need to fear because He upholds us and empowers us to face obstacles with courage.
- **Ephesians 6:10–18:** Paul encourages believers to put on the full armour of God — truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God — to stand strong against challenges and obstacles.
- **Matthew 28:19–20:** The Great Commission calls us to go into the world, make disciples, and teach others God's ways. It reminds us that God's presence is always with us as we serve and share His love.

Reflection

This church anniversary is a time to celebrate growth, transformation, and the potential for renewal. It is both a look back at God's faithfulness and a look forward to the work He is calling us to do.

We are called to:

- **Remove barriers** that prevent people from experiencing God's love — social, cultural, personal, or spiritual obstacles.
- **Build bridges** to reach others, serve the marginalized, and share the Good News.
- **Serve the next generation** by transmitting traditions of faith, teaching others, and living examples of God's love.

Celebrating the church is not just about looking inward; it is about stepping outward in service and compassion. Like the Great Commission teaches, we are ambassadors for Christ — instruments of God's love, bringing renewal and hope to the world. Our faith is what sets us apart, strengthens us, and carries us forward as a community of believers.

Discussion Questions

For Teenagers:

1. What barriers do you see in your life or community that prevent people from experiencing God's love?
2. How can you personally help build bridges of kindness and faith?
3. Why is it important to pass on faith to the next generation?
4. How can putting on the "Armor of God" (Ephesians 6) help you face challenges in school or friendships?

For Younger Children:

1. Can you think of someone who needs help or kindness? How can you reach out to them?
2. What is one way you can show God's love to your friends or family this week?
3. How does it feel to know God is always with you when you try to do good things?
4. Can you name one thing you want to learn about God and share with someone else?

Family Activity Ideas

1. **Bridge of Kindness** – Create a paper bridge with each plank representing an act of kindness your family can do this week.
2. **Armor of God Craft** – Make a simple craft representing the pieces of God's armour and discuss how each helps you live faithfully.
3. **Community Walk** – Take a walk and identify people or places in your community that might need help or encouragement. Pray for ways your family can serve.
4. **Story Sharing** – Share stories of how God has helped people in your family, church, or neighbourhood overcome barriers.

Memory Verse

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." — Matthew 28:19–20

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for calling us to remove barriers and build bridges for Your kingdom. Help us share Your love, serve others, and teach the next generation about You. May our actions reflect Your grace and bring renewal to the world around us. Amen.

Child-Friendly Prayer Poem: "Building Bridges with God"

Dear God, help me see today,
The walls I build that get in the way.
Give me courage to reach out,
To help, to share, to live without doubt.
Teach me to build bridges strong,
With love, with faith, and right from wrong.
Let my hands and heart reflect,
Your grace and care in all I do and say.

Amen.