

Servers Today, April 23, 2017

**Behaving As We Believe
(James 1:19-27)**

Speaker: Jojo Ramos
 Song Leader: Andy Bestre
 Invocation: Abe Insas
 Intercessory Prayer: Dexter Wagang
 Communion Text: Colossians 3:1-4
 Scripture Reading: Mel Aquino
 Prayer for the Bread: Kajem Kitma
 Prayer for the Cup: Jasper Perdigon
 Prayer for the Giving: Sol Palaypayon
 Closing Prayer: Jhun Bayating
 Announcement: Andy Bestre
 Evening Speaker: Jojo Ramos
 Song Leader: Andy Bestre
 To Bring Flowers: Clarita G. Catchero
 To Bring Biscuits: c/o Midtown
 To Bring Drinks: c/o Midtown
 Usher/ettes: Kitma Family

Communion: Kana Perdigon
 Worship Coordinator: R.Tada | L.Glori | A. Tacay

How To Become a Biblical Christian

- 1). Admit that you are a sinner and in need of salvation, 1 John 3:4,8; Rom.3:10,23; Rom. 6:23.
- 2). Hear the pure New Testament gospel of Christ; Romans 1:16; Rom. 10:17.
- 3). Believe the gospel, Hebrews 11:6; Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- 4). Repent of your sins, Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30.
- 5). Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, Mat. 10:32; Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10.
- 6). Be baptized into Christ, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16.
- 7). Remain faithful unto death, Rev. 2:10;

Servers for April 30, 2017

Symposium: Restoring Erring Brethren (James 5:19-20)

Speaker: Arnan Bayla
 Song Leader: Andy Bestre
 Invocation: Ernie Wagang
 Intercessory Prayer: Greg Kitma
 Communion Text: Hebrews 10:1-10
 Scripture Reading: Rico Ramos
 Prayer for the Bread: Richard Bestre
 Prayer for the Cup: Sam Quezada
 Prayer for the Giving: Jerry Martin
 Closing Prayer: Charlie Abance
 Announcement: Andy Bestre
 Evening Speaker: Arnan Bayla
 Song Leader: Andy Bestre
 To Bring Flowers: Volunteers Needed
 To Bring Biscuits: Volunteers Needed
 To Bring Drinks: Volunteers Needed
 Usher/ettes: Baddas Family

Communion: Kana Perdigon
 Worship Coordinator: R.Tada | L.Glori | A. Tacay



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13 ladies to join NLR in Davao this week

Thirteen (13) ladies, namely, sisters Josie Baban, Janet Ramos, Jane Bestre, Mary Jane Abance, Minda Oliva, Elizabeth Sevilla, Lorenza Losnong, Marina Gawe, Jovencia Mabesa, Lou Villanueva, Ruth Trinidad, Marlene Samonte, and Ruth Camora will be representing the Midtown congregation in the NATIONAL LADIES RETREAT (NLR) that will be held at the Melgrande Resort at Talunan, Davao City, this week, April 26-29, 2017. The retreat's theme is truly promising—"A Woman's Journey to God's Promises." This year's retreat will be hosted by the churches of Christ in Davao.

Midtown delegates expressed their appreciation to the congregation for the subsidy they received for the registration fee. Each received P1000.00 to subsidize the registration fee of P3000.00 per participant. Have a blessed trip!Ω

Three ypeez represent Midtown in metrowide camp

The Midtown congregation was represented by three young people, namely Ezra Valdez, Amber Phoelen Po, and Maureen Soriano in the recent METROWIDE YOUTH CAMP held at the ALTA RIOS NATURE RESORT CAMP, HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, Indang, Cavite on April 12-15, 2017. This year's camp was hosted by the churches of Christ in Dasmariñas, Cavite with the purpose of bringing together the youth and promote "Unity in Christ." Campers were made to reflect on "Loving, One Another," "Bearing One Another's Burden," and "Forgiving One Another." They were also challenged to take practical steps in promoting the same in their respective home congregations.

Dynamic camp speakers include brothers Randy Fernandez, Raj Buo, and Ruben delos Reyes. Devotionals and team-building activities were also enjoyed by One Hundred Eighty Nine (189) dynamic campers coming mostly from the province of Cavite and Metro Manila (NCR).

Midtown's representatives expressed their earnest gratitude to the congregation for the support and for having shouldered the registration fee of P1500.00 each. Praise the Lord Almighty!Ω

"Worse than not having sight is having no vision."

READ John 9:1-41

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Symposium next Sunday; Sunday school suspended

As fifth Sundays are reserved for holding a symposium at Midtown, the Sunday School and Adult Bible Study Hour next Sunday, April 30, 2017, will be suspended. Everyone is expected to participate in the said symposium. Brother Arnan Bayla will be facilitating the discussion on "RESTORING ERRING BRETHREN" at 9:30—11:00 AM. This will include an open forum in which questions, clarifications, and insights will be entertained for the benefit of all learners. The brethren are encouraged to prepare beforehand questions that they would want clarified in the symposium.Ω

10 Midtown ladies attend ACU Ladies Day

Ten Midtown ladies, namely, sisters Josie Baban, Lorenza Losnong, Loida Baddas, Cristy Tacay, Carina Lacaba, Ruth Camora, Minda Oliva, Jovy Mabesa, Leah Tada, and Ruth Trinidad were among the One Hundred Fifty (150) participants in the 6th ANNUAL LADIES DAY hosted by the ASIAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, 159 Salomague Sur, Bugallon, Pangasinan the other past Saturday, April 15, 2017. Various speakers from different parts of the world discussed lessons around the theme based on Isaiah 41:13, "Holding Hands with God." Speakers include sisters Brenda Rayburn (USA), Susan Nool (SFLU), Lolita Seridio (BGO), Agnes Macapagal (CAL), and Jemima Daboan (DVO)

Sisters Leah Tada, Ruth Camora, and Ruth Trinidad actively participated in the open forum. Sister Ruth Trinidad also served as prayer leader. All the ladies were thankful of the opportunity of having attended the LADIES DAY saying "they have learned not to worry anymore and also not to fear anymore because of the blessed assurance that God helps those who truly love the Lord" (Romans 8:28). Glory to God!Ω

Last Sunday's Offering April 16, 2017

**AM COLLECTION
P29,283.70**

**PM COLLECTION
P5,376.00**

**AM/PM TOTAL COLLECTION
P34,659.70**

ATTENDANCE

AM	PM
Adults - 86	Adults -20
YP - 32	YP - 14
Children - 23	Children - 2
Guests - 3	Guests - 0
TOTAL - 143	TOTAL - 36

TOTAL ATTENDANCE (AM/PM) 179

PRAYER LIST

Good Health & Fast Recovery:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| *Rosita Go | *Rodolfo Baggao |
| *Mely Genato | *Jun & Lily Soriano |
| *Meeling Sze | *Andy Bestre |
| *Amy Go | *Gil & Diana Geron |
| *Charity Ong | *Rodrigo Tada |
| *Ian Pajantoy | *Ofelia Abance |
| *Gloria Yang | *Lourdes Cera |
| *Marina Gawe | *Cecilia Alvarez |
| *Mark Poblete | *Carina Lacaba |
| *Sotero Denis | *Gaspar Nawew |
| *Bernie Austria | *Tess & Mahaysha Kitma |
| *Norma Aping | *Brayant Buenaflor |
| *Josefa Josayan | *Maril Bayating Sr. |
| *Arian Kaith Igyo | *Charlie Alvarez |
| *Damian Mercado | *Priscilla Bayasen |
| *Robinson Palaypayon | *Rolito Tugay-an |

Spiritual Guidance and Comfort for some brethren

SAFE PREGNANCY

- * Lorena Baban
- * Andrea Yang



James 5:15

"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up;" NIV

SAFE TRAVEL

Sameons & Co. (Negros) Vacationists



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- **YOUNG PEOPLE'S REGULAR MEETING** — Mezzanine Floor, Right after the worship assembly today.
- **TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM**— April 25, 2017 @ 12:00—2:30 PM
- **LADIES LUNCHEON & DEVOTIONAL**— Sister Lou Villanueva's Residence, Outlook Ridge Residences (Behind Baguio Townhouse), Outlook Drive, Baguio City | April 23, 2017 | 12:00—2:30 PM
- **NATIONAL LADIES RETREAT**—Melgrande Resort, Talunan, Davao City | April 26-29, 2017
- **SYMPOSIUM NEXT SUNDAY**—April 30, 2017 | 9:30—11:00 AM. Sunday School suspended.
- **JOINT MIDWEEK DEVOTIONAL**—Midtown Hall | April 26, 2017 | 6—7 PM | C/o Saturday Mobile CG
- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**—Midtown Hall & BPFLC Facilities | May 22—26, 2017 | 8:00 AM —12:00 PM
- **NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR VBS PROPS PREPARATION**— MIDTOWN HALL | EVERYDAY | 1—5 PM

QUIT KIDDING YOURSELF

The emphasis in this section (James 1:12-27) is on the dangers of self-deception: *deceiving your own selves* (James 1:22); *deceiveth his own heart* (James 1:26). If a Christian sins because Satan deceives him, that is one thing. But if he deceives himself, that is a far more serious matter like kidding oneself.

Many people are deceiving themselves into thinking they are saved when they are not. *Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?' And then will I profess unto them, 'I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.'* (Matt 7:22-23).

But there are true believers who are fooling themselves concerning their Christian walk. They think they are spiritual when they are not. It is a mark of maturity when a person faces himself honestly, knows himself, and admits his needs. In these verses, James stated that we have three responsibilities toward God's Word; and if we fulfill these responsibilities, we will have an honest walk with God and men.

If we are to use God's mirror profitably, then we must gaze into it carefully and with serious intent. No quick glances will do.

RECEIVE THE WORD

(James 1:19-21) One test of salvation is the fruit. This means a changed life, Christian character and conduct, and ministry to others in the glory of God. This fruit might be winning souls to Christ (Rom 1:16), growing in holy living (Rom 6:22), sharing our material possessions (Rom 15:28), spiritual character (Gal 5:22-23), good works (Col 1:10), and even praising the Lord (Heb 13:15). But the Word of God cannot work in our lives unless we receive it in the right way. Jesus not only said, *Take heed what ye hear!* (Mark 4:24), but He also said, *Take heed how ye hear!* (Luke 8:18). Too many people are in that tragic condition in which *hearing they hear not, neither do they understand!* (Matt 13:13). It is possible to be *dull of hearing!* (Heb 5:11) because of decaying spiritual life. If the seed of the Word is to be planted in our hearts, then we must obey James' instructions. Ultimately the key both to responding to trials and resisting temptation is to be found in one's reaction to God's Word. Receptivity to the Word, responsiveness to the Word, and resignation to the Word are essential to spiritual growth. One must accept God's Word, act on it, and abide by it.

PRACTICE THE WORD (James 1:22-25)

It is not enough to hear the Word; we must do it. Many people have the mistaken idea that hearing a good sermon or Bible study is what makes them grow and get God's blessing. It is not the hearing but the doing that brings the blessing. Too many Christians mark their Bibles, but their Bibles never mark them! If you think you are spiritual because you hear the Word, then you are only kidding yourself.

In the previous paragraph, James compared the Word to seed; but in this paragraph, he compared it to a mirror. There are two other references in the Bible to God's Word as a mirror; and when you put all three together, you discover three ministries of the Word of God as a mirror—examination, restoration, and transformation. If we are to use God's mirror profitably, then we must gaze into it carefully and with serious intent (James 1:25). No quick glances will do. We must examine our own hearts and lives in the light of God's Word.

This requires time, attention, and sincere devotion.

SHARE THE WORD

(James 1:26-27)

The word translated *religion* means *the outward practice, the service of a god.* It is used only five

times in the entire New Testament (James 1:26-27; Acts 26:5; and Col 2:18, where it is translated *worshipping*). Pure religion has nothing to do with ceremonies, temples, or special days. Pure religion means practicing God's Word and sharing it with others, through speech, service, and separation from the world. It is the tongue that reveals the heart (Matt 12:34-35); if the heart is right, the speech will be right. A controlled tongue means a controlled body (James 3:1 ff). After we have seen ourselves and Christ in the mirror of the Word, we must see others and their needs. Isaiah first saw the Lord, then himself, and then the people to whom he would minister (Isa 6:1-8). Words are no substitute for deeds of love. As the children of God, we are in the world physically but not of the world spiritually (John 17:11-16). We are sent into the world to win others to Christ (John 17:18). It is only as we maintain our "separation" or of not being a part in the evil deeds of the world that we can serve others. Ω

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EVANGELISTIC LESSON SERIES Midtown Church of Christ

A. INTRODUCTORY LESSONS (5)

- LESSON NO. 1 – The Importance of the Word of God
- LESSON NO. 2 – Introduction to the Bible
- LESSON NO. 3 – How We Got the Bible
- LESSON NO. 4 – Overview of Bible History
- LESSON NO. 5 – Christ's New Testament Replaces the Old Testament

B. SEEKER'S LESSONS (6)

- LESSON NO. 1 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - A. God's Plan for Man
- LESSON NO. 2 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - B. The Fall of Man
- LESSON NO. 3 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - C. Jesus the Savior
- LESSON NO. 4 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - D. The Steps of Salvation
- LESSON NO. 5 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - E. The Cost of Discipleship
- LESSON NO. 6 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - F. Where Will Your Life End?

C. NEW LIFE LESSONS (12)

- LESSON NO. 1 – Assurance of Salvation
- LESSON NO. 2 – Obedient Living
- LESSON NO. 3 – Dealing With Temptations
- LESSON NO. 4 – Developing a Devotional Life
- LESSON NO. 5 – Developing a Prayerful Life
- LESSON NO. 6 – Discerning God's Guidance
- LESSON NO. 7 – My Church Involvement & Spiritual Gifts
 - + Becoming Christians Only
 - + Biblical Church Organization
- LESSON NO. 8 – Partaking of the Lord's Supper
- LESSON NO. 9 – Living Abundantly & My Giving to God
- LESSON NO. 10 – Becoming an Effective Soul-winner
- LESSON NO. 11 – Victorious Christian Living
- LESSON NO. 12 – Everyday Righteousness & Commitment to Moral Excellence

To enroll in any of the lessons, feel free to contact:
 Arnan Bayla @ 09473-423-673
 Andy Bestre @ 0916-425-0138

Midtown Church of Christ SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY / WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL | CARE GROUPS

VENUE	TIME	FACILITATORS
TUESDAY		
Bayating Residence Tuba	5:30-7:30 PM	Arnan Bayla & Andy Bestre
WEDNESDAY		
Midtown Assembly Hall	7–9 PM	Arnan Bayla, et. al.
Irisan Mobile (Baban, & Yang residences)	7 – 9 PM	Andy Bestre/ Sixto Aoas
Congregational Midweek Devotional	6 – 7 PM Every 4 th Wed	Care Group assigned
THURSDAY		
Young People Family Life Center	5:30 – 7:30 PM	O'neil Gonzales, et. al.
FRIDAY		
Midtown Assembly Hall	7 – 9 PM	Lemuel Glori / Arnan Bayla
Upper Kitma Village	7 – 9 PM	Greg Kitma / Chris Oliva
SATURDAY		
Sports & Jogging Panagbenga Park	8 – 10 AM	YPeez Sports Enthusiasts
Mobile Saturday Care Group	3 – 5 PM	D. Sameon, E. Wagang, R. Tada
Couples Care Group	5 – 7 PM 4 th Saturday	Jun Bondoc / Lemuel Glori
High School -College Care Group @ FLC	5 – 7 PM	Young Adults and College students
SUNDAY		
All YPeez Care Group	12 – 3 PM Fourth Sunday	YPs in charge
All Ladies Fellowship	12 – 3 PM Third Sunday	Ladies in charge: 2nd Q Steering Group
Young Adults FLC	3 – 5 PM	YAs in charge

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP ASSEMBLY



Communion - 9:00 - 9:30
 Bible Classes - 9:30 - 10:30
 Message - 10:45 - 11:15

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONALS

SUNDAY PM WORSHIP

See schedule



Worship Assembly
5:30 - 6:30 PM



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