

Servers Today, August 6, 2017

The Work & Qualifications of Elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

Speaker: Jojo Ramos
 Song Leader: Arnan Bayla
 Invocation: Jhun Bayating
 Intercessory Prayer: Julius Rojo
 Communion Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
 Scripture Reading: Melchi Aquino
 Prayer for the Bread: Sam Quezada
 Prayer for the Cup: Art Tacay
 Prayer for the Giving: Dexter Wagang
 Closing Prayer: Jun Bondoc
 Announcement: Arnan Bayla
 Evening Speaker: Jojo Ramos
 Song Leader: Arnan Bayla
 To Bring Flowers: Laisha Montes
 To Bring Biscuits: c/o Midtown
 To Bring Drinks: c/o Midtown
 Usher/ettes: Gonzales Family

Communion: Loida Baddas
 Worship Coordinator: R.Tada | 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 August 13, 2017

Becoming Better Servants (1 Timothy 3:8-16)

Speaker: Arnan Bayla
 Song Leader: Andy Bestre
 Invocation: Santiago Sameon II
 Intercessory Prayer: Jesse Bestre
 Communion Text: 1 Corinthians 10:1-7
 Scripture Reading: Rodrigo Bondoc
 Prayer for the Bread: Kajem Kitma
 Prayer for the Cup: JJ Ramos
 Prayer for the Giving: O'neil Gonzales
 Closing Prayer: Mar Bayating
 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: Kitma Family

Communion: Loida Baddas
 Worship Coordinator: R.Tada | A. Tacay



Vol. XXXIII No. 31 August 6, 2017 Baguio City, Philippines

Midtown brethren serve in Bokod and Dungan

The last couple of Sundays, a number of Midtown brethren served with the Bokod and Dungan congregations. Brother Greg Kitma and family visited and edified the brethren in Poblacion, Bokod last July 23, 2017. He served as the sermon speaker and discussed "THE SINGLENES OF PURPOSE" based on the book of Nehemiah. Last Sunday, July 30th, brother Greg was with the brethren in Poblacion in a home worship assembly. He also followed up on the progress of the preachers' quarters being constructed in the congregation's property.

Meanwhile, spouses Dodoy and Sarah Sameon, together with John Mark and Rochelle Callao, served with the brethren in Dungan, Rosario, La Union. Brother Dodoy facilitated the Bible studies and served as sermon speaker also. There were 28 in attendance including the guests. The Sameons also donated and delivered floor tiles for use in the improvement of the Dungan chapel. Brother Jeffrey Martin, preacher at the Dungan congregation conveyed gratitude and warmest regards to the Midtown brethren for the undying encouragement.Ω

Midtown rejoices with August celebrators

Midtown brethren praise the Almighty God the Creator and rejoice with the following brethren who are celebrating their birth anniversaries this month. Also, let all be reminded to "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, I find no pleasure in them"— Ecclesiastes 12:1

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 - Ryan Bestre | 12 - Fely Rojo |
| 03 - Pia Gueles | 15 - Jehzeel Diane Martin |
| 04 - Jeremiah Licupa | 16 - Llon B.Manalo |
| 04 - Kendall Alvarez | 20 - Norma B. Abance |
| 07 - Jun Bayating | 20 - Renian Keith Nawew |
| 08 - Melina Igoy | 23 - Anthony Wagang |
| 10 - Sarah Sameon | 24 - Henry C. Sunggay Jr. |
| 10 - Janet Perdigon | 26 - Kesha Kitma |
| 11 - Manolo Bayla | 28 - Gian Gomowang |
| 12 - Lourdes Cera | God bless you richly! Ω |

"When you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you don't fear God, you fear everything else."

READ Psalm 112
INSIDE PAGE:
Symposium Outline
On Improving Congregational Public Prayers...pages 2 & 3

Sunday school teacher needed; room assignments next Sunday

The Education Ministry chaired by brother Arnan Bayla announced that a co-teacher for sister Maureen Soriano for the Grades 1&2 class is needed. Said position was recently vacated by sister Louise Bawas. Kindly contact brother Arnan Bayla if interested to fill in the position as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the various classes of the Sunday School and some Adult Bible Classes will soon be occupying new rooms at the newest additional facilities of the Baguio Pines Family Learning Center. Room assignments will be announced next Sunday, August 13, 2017.Ω

Youth minister serves spiritual needs of OSCAR

Midtown's youth minister, brother Jesse Bestre, served as facilitator for the 56th Regional Formation Week for the TEN OUTSTANDING STUDENTS - CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (OSCAR) at ICM, Navy Base, this city on July 28-31, 2017. He also served in leading prayers during the AWARDING CEREMONY AND ALUMNI NIGHT held at the Hotel Supreme, Magsaysay Avenue, this city, evening of July 31, 2017.

Brother Jesse, himself a member of the OSCAR has since been serving the spiritual needs of the organization being known to the said organization as an active Christian.Ω

Glori-Trinidad hosts Friday Care Group

At the invitation of the Glori-Trinidad family, the Friday Care Group enjoyed an evening of candlelight dinner in celebration of sister Ruth Trinidad's birthday at their residence at Sto. Nino Subd., Bakakeng, this city, last July 28, 2017.

After having facilitated a study on SERVING WITH PURE MESSAGE, PURE MOTIVE, & PURE METHOD based on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20, brother Arnan Bayla led in congratulating the celebrator for her dedicated and untiring service in the Lord's vineyard. Ω

Last Sunday's Offering July 30, 2017

AM COLLECTION
P24,533.50

PM COLLECTION
P3,385.00

AM/PM TOTAL COLLECTION
P27,918.50

ATTENDANCE

AM Adults - 83 YP - 36 Children - 29 Guests - 1	PM Adults -15 YP - 12 Children - 2 Guests - 0
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TOTAL ATTENDANCE (AM/PM) 178

PRAYER LIST

Good Health & Fast Recovery:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| *Rosita Go | *Lily Soriano |
| *Mely Genato | *Andy Bestre |
| *Meeling Sze | *Gil & Diana Geron |
| *Amy Go | *Rodrigo Tada |
| *Charity Ong | *Ofelia Abance |
| *Jan Pajantoy | *Lourdes Cera |
| *Gloria Yang | *Cecilia Alvarez |
| *Marina Gawe | *Carina Lacaba |
| *Sotero Denis | *Gaspar Nawew |
| *Bernie Austria | *Tess & Mahaysha Kitma |
| *Norma Aping | *Brayant Buenaflor |
| *Josefa Josayan | *Maril Bayating Sr. |
| *Arian Kaiih Igoy | *Charlie Alvarez |
| *Damian Mercado | *Priscilla Bayasan |
| *Robinson Palaypayan | *Rolito Tugay-an |
| *Carmen Villanueva | *Maria Elena Lachica |
| *Rhea Mae Wais | *Dave McMillin |

Spiritual guidance and comfort for some brethren; world, national, and local leaders.

SAFE PREGNANCY

- * Andrea Yang
- * Denise Wagang
- * Rachele ozo



James 5:15

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

SAFE TRAVEL

Kitmas, Baddas, YPeez & Company (Esperanza)

A N N O U N C E M E N T S !

- **YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING** — MEZZANINE FLOOR, RIGHT AFTER THE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY TODAY.
- **TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM**— MIDTOWN ASSEMBLY HALL | AUGUST 8, 2017 | 12:00—2:30 PM.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL STEPPING UP & ROOM REASSIGNMENTS**— AUGUST 13, 2017
- **LADIES DEVOTIONAL & LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP**— MIDTOWN HALL | AUG 20, 2017 | 12:00—2:30 PM.
- **PREACHERS & CHURCH LEADERS SYMPOSIUM** — PHILIPPINE BIBLE COLLEGE, 18 RIMANDO RD. | AUGUST 26, 2017 | 8:00 AM—4:00 PM. REGISTRATION FEE: P75.00 (FOR MEALS)
- **YOUNG ADULTS CAMP**—AUSTIN HEIGHTS, JOHOR BAHRU, MALAYSIA | AUG 29—SEPT 3, 2017

YPE first

SYMPOSIUM ON IMPROVING CONGREGATIONAL PUBLIC PRAYERS

INTRODUCTION. "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction." 2 Timothy 4:2. This discussion is in keeping with this directive but is limited to the form in which prayers are delivered. It is given that the prayer is being presented in spirit, in faith and with pure motives and with correct attitude - the substance of our prayers. The following discussion is based on the "DISCIPLE'S PRAYER" - commonly known as "THE LORD'S PRAYER." It is to be more appropriately referred to as the Disciple's Prayer since it was taught as how the disciples should pray. Jesus said this is HOW to pray, not WHAT to pray. (Matthew 6:9-15 and Luke 11:1-4)

A. PRAYERS BETTER ADDRESSED TO THE FATHER. The Disciple's prayer begins with "Our Father who art in heaven,..." (Matthew 6:9-13) Therefore, let us address our prayer to God the HEAVENLY FATHER. Better to start by addressing God the Father in order to set the direction of our prayer. Sometimes, when we address our prayer to the LORD, what we have in mind is the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 6:9-13) Since disciples received the spirit of SONSHIP, we now have become related to God as OUR FATHER (Rom 8:14-17)

B. PRAYERS SHOULD BE PRAYED THROUGH OR IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. Jesus Christ is our MEDIATOR (1 Tim. 2:5; John. 14:6) Jesus Christ INTERCEDES for us (Rom. 8:34). Therefore, let us pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches us to confess that Jesus Christ is LORD to the glory of the FATHER (Phil 2:11; Acts 2:36) Moreover, we are instructed to always give thanks to GOD THE FATHER for everything in the NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (Eph 5:20)

C. PRAYERS BETTER IF FOCUSED ON ITS PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Focusing on the specified purpose of the prayer we are leading should guide us as to what to mention in the prayer. For example, if one is assigned to pray for the partaking of the bread in the Lord's Supper, then things to be mentioned in that prayer should be centered on that. Don't mention about the cup, about the speaker, about the sermon, about politics, and other matters here. Be direct to the point.

1. OPENING PRAYER OR INVOCATION. To invoke the Almighty God to cause the congregation to set our minds on things above (Col 3:2); To invoke the presence of the Almighty God to cause the congregation to worship in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24); To invoke the Almighty God to cause the congregation to be one in mind in giving the Father praise, glory, and honor (2Cor 13:11, Phil 2:2). It carries the idea of adoration, devotion, and worship.

2. CLOSING PRAYER. Praise God the Father and give Him thanks for the celebration of fellowship and the worship experience, and for what has transpired in the assembly. Pray for guidance and the ability to live by the lessons learned or in applying the lessons learned, taking heed of warnings or counsel through the studies and sermons, mentioning them specifically. It should include petitions for another opportunity of Christians assembling for fellowship and worship.

3. INTERCESSORY PRAYER. Praise God the Father and give Him thanks for the opportunity to present to Him our requests, petitions and supplications, thanking Him for previous answers to prayers, etc. Offer the petitions or requests in an organized manner: Group all requests for the sick or health-related concerns, mentioning them specifically by name, their circumstances, and for recovery or for God's own will

on the matter. Include here the prayers for good health for expectant or pregnant mothers. Group all requests for those who are traveling and in mission trips. Again mention them by name or by group if traveling together. Pray for safety and protection. Group all requests for other special circumstances such as special meetings, projects, significant local and world events, comfort for the bereaved, rejoicing for achievements, anniversaries, etc. Remember to pray for world, national, and local leaders or authorities (1 Tim 2:1-8).

4. PRAYER BEFORE THE PARTAKING OF THE BREAD. Praise God the Father and give Him thanks for the opportunity of commemorating or remembering this event. Praise God the Father for His undying love for us, etc. Pray that the Father will cause the partakers to celebrate the breaking of the bread with contrite but glad hearts. Take note that the BREAD is the symbol of Jesus Christ's BODY that was nailed on the cross, causing believers to be saved. When we partake of the bread, we acknowledge that as believers, we belong to the one body of Christ, the church (Ephesians 5:27)

5. PRAYER BEFORE THE PARTAKING OF THE CUP OR THE "FRUIT OF THE VINE." Praise God the Father and give Him thanks for the opportunity of commemorating or remembering this event. Praise God for His undying love for us. Pray that the Father will cause the partakers to celebrate the drinking of the cup or fruit of the vine with contrite but glad hearts. Take note that the CUP or FRUIT OF THE VINE is the symbol of Jesus Christ's BLOOD that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. When we partake of the cup, we acknowledge that as disciples, our sins have been washed away or forgiven because of Jesus death, and not by our own merit. (Also, take note that when we partake of the bread and the cup, it will not cause us to be forgiven of our sins; we are actually partaking of them to remind us that because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and us receiving Him in baptism, were forgiven of our sins, and therefore saved.) Take note of the proper conduct in partaking of the Lord's Supper or communion. First, partake of it in a worthy manner. Second, examine yourself. Third, wait for each other. (1 Corinthians 11:27-33). At Midtown, our waiting time for communion is 9:00-9:30 AM or at 5:30 - 6:30 PM

6. PRAYER FOR THE GIVING. Praise God the Father and give Him thanks for the opportunity to give our offering, enabling us to be made use for His purposes, causing us to put as top priority the work and mission of the church. Pray that each giver becomes a cheerful giver, giving out of his or her own freewill as purposed in his/her heart, thankful of the opportunity to give, giving generously and sacrificially just as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did. Summon the Almighty God to cause the worshiper to be focused on giving, contributing, offering and not on the getting and receiving (John 4:2). Let us reserve the asking for the intercessory prayers where we present to God our requests, petitions and supplications. That's where we ought to pray for our "businesses" and "sources of income." Take note that in fact, the ultimate "source of income" is actually God (1Chronicles 29:11-14) and not the jobs or occupations we hold.

D. PRAYERS BETTER IF ORGANIZED AND WELL-ROUNDED. Generally, our prayer should be well-rounded. (Phil 4:6-7) Generally, prayers should at least include the following elements: 1. Praise and adoration for God, 2. Thanksgiving, 3. Requests or petitions (our needs and desires we express to God), 4. Intercessions (the requests we make for others

and projects) 5. Confessions. For the sake of continuity and brevity, let us organize our prayer such that probability of missing out some requests will be avoided.

E. PRAYERS BETTER IF SPECIFIC AND NOT TOO GENERAL. "Bless us all Father..." What do we want to be blessed with? "Guide us Father..." What do we need to be guided with? "Forgive us Father..." What have we done or have not done that needs confessing and forgiving?

F. PRIVATE AND PERSONAL REQUESTS BETTER AVOIDED IN PUBLIC PRAYERS. For public prayers, it is rather inappropriate to be mentioning private and personal requests and desires. Public prayers should encompass generally acceptable topics or concerns.

G. PRAYERS BETTER IF PREACHING A SERMON WITHIN A PRAYER IS AVOIDED. Again, remember we are talking to God, not to the congregation. To mention the book, chapter or verse in the Bible is not necessary. God knows that for it originated from Him.

H. PRAYERS BETTER IF SPOKEN IN AUDIBLE VOICE TO BE HEARD BY ALL. As much as possible, since prayer leaders are directing the whole congregation in prayer, he should speak loud enough for everyone in the congregation to hear him and be able to say "AMEN" to the prayer uttered. Mind the use of the microphone.

I. PRAYERS BETTER IF NOT SPOKEN TOO FAST TO BE UNDERSTOOD. Since it is our intention to lead the congregation in prayer, it is important to always keep in mind that our prayers are to be well understood by the congregation such that there will be no impediment or hindrance in saying AMEN to it. Say prayers in moderate speed - not too fast, not to slow.

J. PRAYERS BETTER IF NOT SPOKEN IN A SING-SONG MANNER. Let us remember that prayer is an intimate and a personal conversation with our heavenly Father. Therefore, let us maintain a conversational tone or manner of talking to God, avoiding a sing-song or an unnatural way of uttering our prayers.

K. PRAYERS BETTER IF SPOKEN IN GENERALLY USED LANGUAGE. Since Midtown's membership is largely composed of different ethno-linguistic backgrounds, it is best to make use of the more common dialects or languages. However, worshipers who may not totally understand the language used by the prayer leader may exercise tolerance and may be one with them in praying, believing that the "Holy Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." (Rom 8:26-27).

L. PRAYERS BETTER SPOKEN WITH CAREFUL CHOICE OF WORDS. Take note of some of the following phrases usually heard that needs correcting.

"Sa ngalan ni Hesus na nagpakamatay para sa aming kasalanan..." (Si Hesus ay hindi nagpakamatay or nagpatiwakal o nag-suicide. Siya ay nagbuwis ng kaniyang buhay o namatay para sa ikapagpapatawad ng ating mga kasalanan.); "Mahal na Poon" - refers to the image or idol; "Luwalo" - "kararag" is better; "Dasal" - "Panalangin" is better; "Bless this small (little) amount" Certainly, compared to the riches of the Lord Almighty, whatever amount we give is small

(little). But mentioning this in prayer may give the wrong impression about giving sparingly instead of generously. (2Cor 8:1-9; 9:6-8); "Our church" We don't refer to the church as ours but the Lord's. Better to say "in this congregation" when referring to the Lord's local church here at Midtown. (In Matt16:18, Jesus said: "I will build MY church"); "As we leave this church." God forbid, we don't want people to leave the church. That would be disastrous. Take note that the church is referred to as the assembly or community of believers - refers to the saved people. It does not refer to a place. So, better to say "as we leave this place or hall of worship" when referring to a place where the church is gathered (Eph1:22,23; 1Cor12:27); "For this bread that will nourish us" Referring to the bread as symbol of the body of Christ at the Lord's Supper, its purpose is not to nourish our bodies but to remind us of Christ's sacrifice; "As we offer our tithes" Tithing or 10% giving is an Old Testament practice for the Israelites only. Subsequently, it was replaced by SACRIFICIAL GIVING (which is more than 10%) in the New Testament (2Cor 8:1-4). In fact Jesus said that we should exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law - Matthew 5:20; 23:23; "We know that we are not perfect in your sight." But Scriptures say we are made perfect by our Savior Jesus Christ in Heb 12:22-23 and Eph 5:25-27; "The Father died on the cross and shed his blood for the forgiveness of our sins." God the Father did not die on the cross nor did He shed His blood. It was the SON, Jesus Christ that died and shed His blood on the cross (John 3:16,17; John 19); "Bread and cup or fruit of the vine forgives or cleanses us from sins." The bread and cup or the fruit of the vine (grape juice) are emblems or symbols of the body and the blood of Jesus Christ respectively. As such, it cannot forgive sins (1 Cor 11:23-26); "Partaking of the Lord's Supper or communion will cause us to be forgiven of our sins." The Lord's Supper is a memorial meal. It reminds baptized believers that because of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, we were forgiven of our sins, and now we are celebrating that through this memorial meal (1 Cor 11:23-26). We are privileged to partake of the Lord's Supper BECAUSE we have been FORGIVEN of our sins, and NOT for the purpose of being forgiven; Prayer for giving mentions that the "offering is for the evangelists." Our giving is an act of worship to God. While it is true that part of the contribution is budgeted for salaries and wages for the evangelists and other workers, we don't make our giving for their sake...but for Christ and His kingdom's sake and as an avenue of worship or as an exercise of our spiritual gifts (Rom 12:1-8).

M. PRAYERS ARE RATHER TOO LONG. For public prayers, it need not be too long to be eternal. If and when the aforementioned guidelines and improvements are considered, a rather too long prayer may be avoided. We all know that the attention span of people is rather brief. However, we ought to always be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and not by the clock. Ω

This material prepared and presented by Arnan A. Bayla in a SYMPOSIUM ON IMPROVING CONGREGATIONAL PUBLIC PRAYERS | Midtown Church of Christ | July 30, 2017 | 10 AM.

SCHEDULE

A. INTRO

- LESSON NO. 1
LESSON NO. 2
LESSON NO. 3
LESSON NO. 4
LESSON NO. 5

B. SEEKER

- LESSON NO. 1
LESSON NO. 2
LESSON NO. 3
LESSON NO. 4
LESSON NO. 5
LESSON NO. 6

C. NEW LI

- LESSON NO. 1
LESSON NO. 2
LESSON NO. 3
LESSON NO. 4
LESSON NO. 5
LESSON NO. 6
LESSON NO. 7
Gifts

- LESSON NO. 8
LESSON NO. 9
God
LESSON NO. 1
LESSON NO. 1

Fellowship
Young FLC
To enroll

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP ASSEMBLY
HOLY COMMUNION
Communion - 9:00 - 9:30
Bible Classes - 9:30 - 10:30
Message - 10:45 - 11:15
MIDWEEK DEVOTIONALS
SUNDAY PM WORSHIP
Worship Assembly 5:30 - 6:30 PM

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
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