

Servers Today, July 22, 2018

The Letter to the Church in Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7)

Speaker: Jesse Bestre
 Song Leader: Mervin Oliva
 Invocation: Charlie Abance
 Intercessory Prayer: Julius Rojo
 Communion Text: Hebrews 10:1-10
 Scripture Reading: Donnel Gonzales
 Prayer for the Bread: Jasper Perdigon
 Prayer for the Cup: Kayem Kitma
 Prayer for the Giving: Dexter Wagang
 Closing Prayer: Sol Palaypayon
 Announcement: Mervin Oliva
 Evening Speaker: Jesse Bestre
 Song Leader: Mervin Oliva
 To Bring Flowers: Lara Montes
 To Bring Biscuits: Jzza Aquino
 To Bring Drinks: Jizza Aquino
 Usher/ettes: Baddas Family

Communion: Cot Espinosa
 Worship Coordinator: Tada | Glori | 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 July 29, 2018

Symposium on Varied Queries on Diverse Issues Related to Worship

Speaker: Santiago Sameon II
 Song Leader: C.D. Espinosa
 Invocation: Abe Insas
 Intercessory Prayer: June Reyes
 Communion Text: Galatians 3:26-29
 Scripture Reading: Kemuel Perdigon
 Prayer for the Bread: Richard Bestre
 Prayer for the Cup: Eugene Aquinaldo
 Prayer for the Giving: Sam Quezada
 Closing Prayer: Mar Bayating
 Announcement: C.D. Espinosa
 Evening Speaker: Santiago Sameon II
 Song Leader: C.D. Espinosa
 To Bring Flowers: Josie Baban
 To Bring Biscuits: Josie Baban
 To Bring Drinks: Volunteers Needed
 Usher/ettes: Gonzales Family

Communion: Cot Espinosa
 Worship Coordinator: Tada | Glori | Tacay



Vol. XXXIV No. 29 July 22, 2018 Baguio City, Philippines

Brother Terry Denis writes thank you letter

Brother Sotero 'Terry' Denis, included as subject of intercessory prayers at Midtown, writes a thank you letter to the Midtown brethren after an eye surgical operation. He writes: "I give thanks to God for your prayers and supplications. The surgery went well. It is the day after my surgery and my vision is slightly improving. Thanks be to God. I am now typing this letter, which I couldn't do for a long while. I had a partial cornea transplant. It will take a year before the cornea will finally see. Please continue in prayer. Now that I can do some reading by the grace of God, I am eager to hear from you. Please get in touch with me when you get a chance. Thank you brothers and sisters. God listened to the prayer of many. May the grace of God be with you. Amen. In Christ we have victory!" tbdenis@gmail.com

Midtown ladies & youth participate in lectureship

Twelve (12) ladies from Midtown, namely, sisters Ruth Trinidad, Lorigrace Austria, Josie Baban, Carina Lacaba, Norma Aping, Corazon Ozo, Rowana Ozo, Nancy Bayla, Ofelia Abance, Minda Oliva, Sarah Sameon, and Sonia Insas, were among the participants in the recently concluded LADIES DAY during the FIRST HERITAGE BIBLE LECTURESHP held at the Philippine Bible College the other past Saturday, July 14, 2018.

The participants enjoyed the various activities as well as the discussions presented by two American sisters, Penny Kendall and Betty Garnett. Discussions centered on "OUR TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST," "OVERCOMING & BECOMING," "LIVING A THANKFUL LIFE," as well as "SISTER TO SISTER MENTORING."

Meanwhile, a dozen young people, namely, Jesse Bestre, Maureen Soriano, Amber Po, May Flor Aquiadan, MJ Dugaysan, Alec Likigan, Kaesha Palaypayon, Melchi Aquino, Dan-gil Geron, Ezra Valdez, Kana Perdigon, and Earl Sameon actively participated in the youth challenge workshop that same day. They were among eighty (80) young people challenged to make a Godly difference. Ω

"Too much love never spoils children. Children become spoiled when we substitute 'presents' for 'presence'."

READ 1 Thessalonians 2:8

INSIDE PAGE:
Forever Be In Love...page 2
Evangelistic Lesson Series...page 3
Schedule of Devotionals...page 3

Care Group participant baptized into Christ

Midtown congratulates and welcomes sister REBECCA DE LUNA GARCIA who was baptized into Christ by brother Arnan Bayla at Midtown's baptistery last Wednesday evening, July 18, 2018. She had been studying the pure gospel of salvation through the SEEKERS LESSON SERIES with brother Arnan Bayla and sister Lily Soriano every Wednesday afternoon for the past number of weeks. The WEDNESDAY CARE GROUP meeting at the Midtown Hall which she attends witnessed her baptism as well as celebrated with her afterwards.

The new sister in Christ is a resident of Malasiqui, Pangasinan but currently lives with the Soriano family at 118 Teachers Village, Marcos highway, this city. She conveys her appreciation for the kindness of the Sorianos and the Midtown brethren for helping her find the truth and the Lord Jesus Christ. She looks forward to learning more of the Word and to be of service to the Lord and His church. Congratulations and praise the Lord Almighty!Ω

Bible lessons via solar players for distribution at FLC

The Bible, Bible Studies, Lessons, SIBI Courses, and A'capella Albums can be accessed or heard through a Solar Audio Player known as "PAPYRUS" being distributed by the SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE (SIBI) based in Lubbock, Texas, USA. Anyone interested in having a unit for personal use are requested to contact brother Jojo Ramos at the FAMILY LIFE CENTER, Session Rd., the official distribution center of the said device in the Philippines. It is given for FREE and should not be sold, and anyone who receives it makes a commitment to use it for one's personal spiritual growth.

Meanwhile, brother Jojo Ramos will be travelling to Sultan Kudarat, Mindanao on July 25—31, 2018 to meet with the brethren there for the purpose of distributing Solar Audio Players in that area.Ω

Last Sunday's Offering July 15, 2018

AM COLLECTION P35,884.05

PM COLLECTION P850.00

AM/PM TOTAL COLLECTION P36,734.05

MOM - P500 + P500

ATTENDANCE

AM	PM
Adults - 115	Adults - 12
YP - 45	YP - 4
Children - 32	Children - 0
Guests - 12	Guests - 0

TOTAL - 204 **TOTAL - 16**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE (AM/PM) 220

PRAYER LIST

Good Health & Fast Recovery:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| *Ian Pajantoy | *Jeremy Denis |
| *Gloria Yang | *Eduardo Ganga |
| *Marina Gawe | *Linda Yaneza |
| *Sotero Denis | *Florence Magalano |
| *Bernie Austria | *Bernard Ignacio |
| *Norma Aping | *Dave Mcmillin |
| *Josefa Josayan | *Dan Sameon |
| *Arian Kaith Igoy | *Sophia Tanicala |
| *Robinson Palaypayon | *Lucia Entera |
| *Carmen Villanueva | *Felix & Layola Bravo |
| *Lily Soriano | *Clabern Sharlo Abance |
| *Andy Bestre | *Katrina Oliva |
| *Gil & Diana Geron | *Jane S. Abance |
| *Rodrigo Tada | *Maky Walang |
| *Ofelia Abance | *Octavio Abance |
| *Cecilia Alvarez | *Jonah & Cel Cirilo |
| *Paulina A. Factora | *Dith Zamora |
| *Priscilla Bayasen | *Cory Baggao |
| *Rolito Tugay-an | *Nelly Bayla |
| *Maria Elena Lachica | *Ernie Wagang |

Pray for on-going Seekers' Bible Studies.



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

James 5:15

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

SAFE TRAVEL

Jojo Ramos & Co. (Mindanao)

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- **YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING** — MEZZANINE FLOOR, RIGHT AFTER THE WORSHIP ASSEMBLY TODAY
- **TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM**—MIDTOWN HALL | JULY 24, 2018 @ 12:00—2:30 PM | EVERYBODY WELCOME
- **SYMPOSIUM ON VARIOUS QUERIES ON DIVERSE ISSUES RELATED TO WORSHIP**—MIDTOWN HALL | JULY 29, 2018 | 9:45—11:00 AM | KINDLY SUBMIT QUESTIONS TODAY UNTIL TUESDAY (JULY 24) FOR INCLUSION IN THE DISCUSSION NEXT SUNDAY. PLEASE SUBMIT TO BROTHER DODOY SAMEON.
- **BAGUIO—BENGUET LADIES FELLOWSHIP**—HOST: MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST | NOV. 30, 2018
- **NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP**—LIVING HOPE CAMP, TAROY, WANGAL, LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET | MAY 28—31, 2019 | HOST: MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST | REGISTRATION FEE: P1400.00

“Forever be in love with the Lord”

The message of the Lord to the Ephesian church should help churches of Christ today to be warned and remain faithful and forever be “in love” to the Lord Jesus, to His pure teachings and to His intents. Only the Head of the church, Jesus Christ, can accurately inspect each church and know its true condition, because He sees the internals, not only the externals.

APPROVAL (vv. 2-3, 6). How gracious of the Lord to start with words of commendation! To begin with, this was a serving church, busy doing the works of the Lord. No doubt their weekly schedule was filled with activities. It was also a sacrificing church, for the word labor means *toil to the point of exhaustion*. “The Ephesian Christians paid a price to serve the Lord. They were a steadfast assembly, for the word patience carries the meaning of *endurance under trial*. “They kept going when the going was tough. The Ephesian church was a separated people, for they carefully examined the visiting ministers (see 2 John 7-11) to see if they were genuine. Paul had warned the Ephesian elders that false teachers would come in from the outside and even arise from within the church (Acts 20:28-31), and John had instructed them to *try the spirits* (1 John 4:1-6). Indeed, Satan has his false ministers and the church must be constantly alert to detect them and reject them (2 Cor 11:1-4, 12-15).

Ephesian Christians separated themselves not only from false doctrine but also from false deeds (Rev 2:6). The word Nicolaitan means *to conquer the people*. “Some Bible students believe this was a sect who *lorded it over*” the church and robbed the people of their liberty in Christ (see 3 John 9-11). They initiated what we know today as *clergy* and *laity*, a false division that is taught nowhere in the New Testament. All God’s people are *kings and priests* (1 Peter 2:9; Rev 1:6) and have equal access to the Father through the blood of Christ (Heb 10:19 ff).

The believers at Ephesus were a suffering people who patiently bore their burdens and toiled without fainting. And they did all of this for His name’s sake! No matter how you examine this congregation, you conclude that it is just about perfect. However, the One among the lampstands saw into their hearts, and He had a different diagnosis from ours.

ACCUSATION (v. 4). This busy, separated, sacrificing church really suffered from *heart trouble*! they had abandoned their first love!

They displayed *works, labor, and patience* (Rev 2:2), but these qualities were not motivated by a love for Christ. (Compare 1 Thess 1:a - *work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope*.)

What we do for the Lord is important, but so is why we do it!

What is “first love”? It is the devotion to Christ that so often characterizes the new believer: fervent, personal, uninhibited, excited, and openly displayed. It is the *honeymoon love* of the husband and wife (Jer 2:1-2). While it is true that mature married love deepens and grows richer, it is also true that it should never lose the excitement and wonder of those *honeymoon days*. “When a husband and wife begin to take each other for granted, and life becomes routine, then the marriage is in danger. So it is with our relation with the Lord.

Just think of it: it is possible to serve, sacrifice, and suffer *for My name’s sake* and yet not really love Jesus Christ! The Ephesian believers were so busy maintaining their separation that they were neglecting adoration. Labor is no substitute for love. The church must have both if it is to please Him.

ADMONITION (vv. 5-7). “First love” can be restored if we follow the three instructions Christ gave. First, we must remember (literally *keep on remembering*) what we have lost and cultivate a desire to regain that close communion once again. Then we must repent or change our minds - and confess our sins to the Lord (1 John 1:9). Third, we must repeat the first works, which suggests restoring the original fellowship that was broken by our sin and neglect. For the believer, this means prayer, Bible reading and meditation, obedient service, and worship. In spite of the privileges it had enjoyed, the church of Ephesus was in danger of losing its light! The church that loses its love will soon lose its light, no matter how doctrinally sound it may be. The *overcomers* are not a *spiritual elite*, but rather the true believers whose faith has given them victory (1 John 5:4-5). Sinful man was banned from the tree of life (Gen 3:22-24), but in Christ we have eternal abundant life (John 3:16; 10:10). We enjoy this blessing now, and we shall enjoy it in greater measure in eternity (Rev 22:15).

The church of Ephesus was the *Careless church*, made up of careless believers who neglected their love for Christ. Are we guilty of the same neglect? Ω

(Condensed by Arnan Bayla from The Bible Exposition Commentary. Copyright © 1989 by Chariot Victor Publishing. All rights reserved. Used by permission.)

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 @ 0918-698-6470
 Andy Bestre @ 0916-343-8539

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

VENUE	TIME	FACILITATORS
TUESDAY		
Bayating Residence Poblacion, Tuba	6:30–8:30 PM	Arnan Bayla & Andy Bestre
College & Young Adults @ Family Life Center	6 – 7:30 PM	Ezra Valdez
WEDNESDAY		
Midtown Assembly Hall	7–9 PM	Arnan Bayla, et. al.
Irisan Mobile (Baban, & Yang residences)	7 – 9 PM	Andy Bestre/ Sixto Aoad
Geron Residence @ Queen of Peace Road	5 – 6:30 PM	O’neil Gonzales
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 4th 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 @ Family Life Center	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



MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVING TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

TOP FLOOR MARLETT'S BUILDING,
KM 4 MARCOS HIGHWAY, BAGUIO CITY, PHILS.
074.427.2729

TOP FLOOR MARLETT'S BLDG.
 KM 4 MARCOS HIGHWAY, BAGUIO CITY, PHILS.
 e-mail - midtownphcoc@yahoo.com

Midtown website: www.midtownchurchbaguio.org

Editorial Staff:

Arnan A. Bayla | Phone: 0918-698-6470
 Andres E. Bestre | Phone: 0916-343-8539