

Servers Today, April 18, 2021

Yielding to God's Righteous Judgment (Romans 2:1-16)

Speaker: *Jesse Reuben Bestre*
 Song Leader: *Annan Bayla*
 Invocation: *To Be Assigned (TBA)*
 Intercessory Prayer: *TBA*
 Communion Text: *1 Cor. 15:1-8*
 Scripture Reading: *TBA*
 Prayer for the Bread: *TBA*
 Prayer for the Cup: *TBA*
 Prayer for the Giving: *TBA*
 Closing Prayer: *TBA*
 Announcement: *Annan Bayla*
 Afternoon Speaker: *Jesse Reuben Bestre*
 Song Leader: *Annan Bayla*
 To Bring Flowers: *Bayating Family*
 To Bring Biscuits: *Suspended*
 To Bring Drinks: *Suspended*
 Usher/ettes: *Volunteers*

Communion: *Loida Baddas*
 Worship Coordinator: *Lem Glori | Art 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 25, 2021

Keeping God's Commandments (Romans 2:17-29)

Speaker: *Jojo Ramos*
 Song Leader: *Aldian Po*
 Invocation: *To Be Assigned (TBA)*
 Intercessory Prayer: *TBA*
 Communion Text: *Galatians 3:23-29*
 Scripture Reading: *TBA*
 Prayer for the Bread: *TBA*
 Prayer for the Cup: *TBA*
 Prayer for the Giving: *TBA*
 Closing Prayer: *TBA*
 Announcement: *Andy Bestre*
 Afternoon Speaker: *Jojo Ramos*
 Song Leader: *Aldian Po*
 To Bring Flowers: *Montes Family*
 To Bring Biscuits: *Suspended*
 To Bring Drinks: *Suspended*
 Usher/ettes: *Volunteers*

Communion: *Loida Baddas*
 Worship Coordinator: *Lem Glori | Art Tacay*



Vol. XXXVII No. 16 April 18, 2021 Baguio City, Philippines

Midtown's MOM invited to NCOC joint worship next Sunday

As scheduled by the Nangalisan congregation, a JOINT WORSHIP ASSEMBLY will be held at the AMBI RESIDENCE at Lasilas, Nangalisan every last Sunday of the month. Thus, the brethren meeting at the chapel at RIVERVIEW WATER PARK Sunday mornings will be assembling with the brethren at Lasilas this coming Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 10 o'clock in the morning.

In line with this, Midtown's MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY (MOM) are cordially invited to grace the occasion. Their presence will greatly contribute in the edification of the brethren there says brother Julius Udan.

Midtown brethren who are interested to join the delegation are encouraged to contact brother Greg Kitma, chairman of the MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY (MOM) @ 0947-424-9427 for inquiries and for more details.Ω

Recipients of benevolence from Midtown thankful

A number of brethren from Midtown expressed appreciation for the congregation's BENEVOLENCE, VISITATION, GUIDANCE & COUNSELING, AND PRAYER MINISTRY chaired by brother Julius Rojo for the gestures of brotherly concern and expression of Christian love recently. A number of these brethren were recipients of some financial aid to ease them of constraints brought about by illness and death in the family. The families represented by brethren Maribel Sunggay, Alec Likigan, Jocelyn Calixtro, Eugene & Maricel Aguinaldo, Beverly Bugtong, Joyce Kitma, Eric Sacayanan, and Carlos Murayao conveyed their gratitude to the congregation as well as expressed praises to the Almighty Father through the Lord Jesus Christ for the gestures of love.

Meanwhile, the congregation's fervent prayers are requested for the increasing number of brethren being afflicted with the Covid19 virus both locally and around the world. Requests for prayers and updates of prayer concerns will be highly appreciated by the PRAYER MINISTRY.Ω

"The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

READ Psalm 119:153-160

**INSIDE PAGE:
Correcting Commonly
Committed Errors in
Public Prayers...page 2&3**

NCOC minister was speaker in Dungon chapel inauguration

Brother Julius P. Udan, minister serving with the Nangalisan congregation was the invited guest speaker in the inauguration of the newly constructed chapel of the DUNGON CHURCH OF CHRIST in Barangay Dungon, Sison, Pangasinan last Sunday morning, April 11, 2021. He spurred the congregation to be unceasingly thankful for the goodness of the Heavenly Father in the Lord Jesus during the sermon.

The first floor of the two-storey facility serves as a chapel and the second floor serves as quarters for the minister and his family. Brother Jeffrey Martin, serving as minister for the Dungon congregation expressed praises to the Heavenly Father as well as appreciation for the generous donors that led to the completion of the project. He also mentioned his appreciation to the Midtown congregation and the Sameons for having helped them in the improvement of the old chapel in the past. The former chapel will now serve as children's classrooms.Ω

Construction of Negros chapel commences

Brother Santiago B. Sameon II reported lately that the construction of a chapel measuring 16ft x 30ft for the BUNGAY-BUNGAY CHURCH OF CHRIST has started last week on a lot measuring 20x30 square meters located in Bungay-bungay, Tayasan, Negros Oriental. The congregation, established about four years ago, has grown and is actively carrying out the GREAT COMMISSION of making disciples of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20).

The Sameons together with the NEGROS EVANGELISM SUSTAINED CAMPAIGNS (NESC) have contributed a substantial amount for the funding of this project. It is believed that the completion of the project will greatly contribute in the advancement of the Lord's work in the area. Glory to God!Ω

**LAST SUNDAY'S RECORD
April 11, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL
ADULTS.....103	PRESCHOOL.....3
YPEEZ.....18	GRADES 1-310
CHILDREN.....1	GRADES 4-6.....4
GUEST.....1	HS/COL/YAs.....15
TOTAL.....123	TOTAL.....32

OFFERING

**AM & PM TOTAL:
PhP39,435.00**

• P R A Y E R L I S T •

FOR GOOD HEALTH & RECOVERY [ASSEMBLY 1] BRETHREN:

- *Gloria Yang
- *Bernie Austria
- *Josefa Josayan
- *Gil, Diana, Donna Geron
- *Ofelia Abance
- *Andy Bestre
- *Priscilla Bayasen
- *Rolito & Pina Tugay-an
- *Dave & Sharon Mcmillin
- *Dan & Dodo Sameon
- *Dith Zamora
- *Tess Kitma
- *Jun Bondoc
- *Loida Baddas
- *Marina Mabesa
- *Bernard Ignacio
- *Jonathan Enerva
- *Dick Baguioen
- *Nainer Nawew
- *Mercy Bayot
- *Sony Abance
- *Jess Perdigon
- *Nida Gabriel
- *Thaddeus Baggao

***Khen & Espie Villamueva**

- *Bernabe Ignacio
 - *Noel Espinosa
 - *Eugene & Maricel Aguinaldo
 - *Alec Likigan
 - *Alan Patrick Akia
 - *Virgie Sanchi & Family
 - *Amber Po
- ASSEMBLY 2] REQUESTED BY BRETHREN:**
- *Ian Pajantoy
 - *Arian Kaith Igoy
 - *Robinson Palaypayan
 - *Carmen Villanueva
 - *Menchie Mojica
 - *Magdalena A. Gavino
 - *Marjorie C. Credo
 - *Ricardo Malapit
 - *Teresita De Leon
 - *Zion Delizo
 - *Philip Badua
 - *Roberto Acosta
 - *Jennilyn Villanueva
 - *Ron Paul Gavino
 - *Mary Elaine Dolteo
 - *Noel Madarcos
 - *Jose Avagan

[ASSEMBLY 3] SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

- *Local, National, World Leaders & Government
- *On-going Seekers' Bible Study

SAFETY Medical Frontliners:

- *Shinar Sameon—Ciencia
- *Aurma Sacayanan
- *Che Astadan
- *Lorigrace Austria
- *Rossana Andaya
- *Donnel Gonzales

OTHER CONCERNS

- *Denise Wagang (Pregnancy)
- *Darylle Walang (Pregnancy)

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

- **TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM**— APRIL 20, 2021 @ 12:00—2:30 PM
- **YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIRTUAL MEETINGS/ CARE GROUP**—EVERY TUES & THURS @ 5-6 PM
- **LADIES DEVOTIONAL & LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP** — MAY 15, 2021 @ 11:00 AM—2:00 PM
- **DAILY Rs (READING, REFLECTION, AND RESPONSE)** — ON FACEBOOK LIVE EVERYDAY @ 9:00 PM
- **VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE**— PLEASE COORDINATE WITH TEACHERS.
 - PRESCHOOL CLASS @ 3:30—4:30 PMC/o KESHA OLIVA—09955633844
 - GRADES 1-3 CLASS @ 3:30—4:30 AM.....C/o MAUREEN SORIANO—09756895950
 - GRADES 4-6 CLASS @ 3:30—4:30 AM.....C/o KANA PERDIGON—09158639845
 - H.S./COLLEGE/YAS CLASS @ 4:30 PMC/o JESSE BESTRE—09165437746

CORRECTING COMMONLY COMMITTED ERRORS IN PUBLIC PRAYERS

1. Prayers not addressed to the Heavenly FATHER

(Tagalog/Iloko, "AMA")
The RECIPIENT or RECEIVER of our prayer is God the FATHER. The DISCIPLE'S PRAYER as taught by the Lord Jesus begins with "Our Father who art in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9-13) Therefore, let us address our prayer to God the Father. In this MODEL PRAYER, Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to address prayers to the HEAVENLY FATHER.

MATTHEW 6:6-9 "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and PRAY TO YOUR FATHER, who is unseen. Then YOUR FATHER, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for YOUR FATHER knows what you need before you ask him. 9 This, then, is HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY: 'OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, hallowed be your name...' *(Emphasis mine)*

Since disciples received the spirit of SONSHIP, we now have become related to God as OUR FATHER.

ROMANS 8:14-17 "Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the SPIRIT OF SONSHIP. And by him we cry, 'Abba, FATHER.'" 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are GOD'S CHILDREN. 17 Now if we are CHILDREN, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." *(Emphasis mine)*

2. Starting the prayer by addressing it to the LORD

(Tagalog, "PANGINOON" Iloko, APO")
As taught by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, let us start our prayer by addressing it to God the Father and not by addressing it to the Lord Jesus Christ. When we address our prayer to the LORD, what we have in mind is the Lord Jesus Christ and not the Heavenly Father.

3. Prayers not prayed through or in the name of he LORD JESUS CHRIST.

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.

• **PHILIPPIANS 2:11** "And every tongue confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of GOD THE FATHER." *(Emphasis mine)* ACTS 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this JESUS, whom you crucified, BOTH LORD AND CHRIST." *(Emphasis mine)*

• **EPHESIANS 5:20** "Always giving thanks to GOD THE FATHER for everything, IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." *(Emphasis mine)*

4. Petitions are not specific and are too general.

Let us be more specific in our prayers to truly communicate our desires and concerns. For example: "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?

5. Petitions are lopsided or not well-rounded.

Generally, our prayer should be well-rounded, or balanced. **Philippians 4:6** "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by

prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.

Prayers should at least include the following elements: a. Praise and adoration for God, b. Thanksgiving, c. Supplications, requests, or petitions (our needs and desires we express to God), d. Confessions

6. Private personal requests prayed for in public.

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.

7. Trying to mention everything in one prayer inappropriately.

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 bread in the Lord's Supper, then things mentioned in that prayer should be centered on that. Don't mention about the cup, about the speaker, about the sermon, about the weather, about the brethren still on their way to the assembly place, and the like in here.

8. Trying to preach a sermon in the prayer.

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. It originated from Him.

9. Prayers are too long.

For PUBLIC prayers, it need not be too long to be eternal. Just like in sermons, we all know that the attention span of people is rather brief. But of course, we ought to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

10. Prayer is spoken in an inaudible voice that it is impossible for the congregation to say AMEN to it.

As much as possible, since prayer leaders are directing the whole congregation in prayer, he should speak as loud as he can such that everyone in the congregation can hear him and say AMEN to the prayer uttered.

11. Prayers spoken too fast to be understood.

It is our intention to lead the congregation in prayer, therefore, it is important to always keep in mind that our prayers are to be well understood by the congregation so that there will be no impediment or hindrance in saying AMEN to it. Say prayers in moderate speed – not too fast, not too slow.

12. Praying 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.

13. Using worn out phrases or clichés such as:

"...in the next appointed time." (We may say "until we meet again soon", "as we look forward to seeing each other", etc.)

"...bless all those for whom it is our duty to pray..."

"...forgive our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us..." (We may say "thank you for having forgiven us of our offenses/wrongdoings/shortcomings as we have forgiven those who wronged/offended us.")

14. Inappropriate or wrong choice of words and phrases such as the following:

a. "...sa ngalan ni Hesus na nagpakamatay para sa aming kasalanan..." (Si Hesus ay hindi nagpakamatay or nagpatiwakal o nagsuicide. Siya ay nagbuwis ng kaniyang buhay o namatay para sa ikapagpapatawad ng ating mga kasalanan.)

b. "Bless this small (little) amount..." In praying for the giving,

certainly, compared to the riches of the Lord Almighty, whatever amount we give is small (little). But mentioning this in prayer may get the wrong impression about giving sparingly instead of generously. (2Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:6-8)

c. "...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 Matthew 16:18, Jesus said: "I will build MY church," so it must be referred to it as such.)

d. "...as we leave this church." God forbid, we don't like 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 hall," when referring to a place where the church is gathered.) (Ephesians 1:22,23; 1Corinthians 12:27).

e. "...for this bread that will nourish us..." "...ang tinapay o kupa / katus ng ubas na ito na magbibigay ng kalakasan sa aming pangangatwan..." It is not the purpose of the emblems of the Lord's Supper to nourish us but to remind us of Christ's sacrifice.

f. "...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 (2Corinthians 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. Avoid using the word *tithes* or *tithing* as it is not in the New Testament.

15. Prayer mentions that 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 who died and shed His blood on the cross. (John 3:16,17; John 19)

16. The 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 Corinthians 11:23-26).

17. Prayer mentions that the partaking of the Lord's Supper 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 Corinthians 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.

18. Prayer for giving mentions that the offering is for the evangelists or ministers.

Our giving is our worship to God. We are giving to God. While it is true that part of our contribution is budgeted for salaries and wages for our 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. (Romans 12:1-8)

19. Prayer for giving concentrated on asking for benefits instead of concentrated on sacrificial giving.

The FOCUS of the prayer for giving is giving, therefore, our prayer should not be focused on receiving. Let us reserve the asking for the intercessory prayers when we present to God our requests, petitions and supplications. That's where we ought to pray for our businesses and "sources of income". In fact the ultimate "source of income" is actually God (1Chronicles 29:11-14).

20. Petitions are jumbled or disorganized.

For the sake of continuity and brevity, let us organize our prayer such that... a. Thanksgivings are mentioned altogether, b. Congregational supplications, requests or petitions are mentioned altogether, c. Personal supplications, requests or petitions are mentioned altogether, d. Petitions and concerns for the sick are grouped together, e. Requests for safe travel as one, etc.



Organizing a prayer will also eliminate the probability of missing out some requests.

21. Prayer leader NOT focused on the prayer assigned to him.

The prayer leader should FOCUS on the specified prayer he is assigned to lead. If assigned for the OPENING PRAYER, focus on invoking God's presence, adoring Him, and calling on God for guidance for the things about to be done in worship. In the CLOSING PRAYER, focus is to invoke God's blessings of direction upon the worshippers as the congregation moves out and influence the world. In THE PRAYER FOR THE BREAD, focus is on the partaking of the bread in which we acknowledge that as believers, we belong to the one body of Christ, the church, which Jesus bought with His own blood. In the PRAYER FOR THE CUP, focus on acknowledging that as believers, our sins have been washed away (forgiven) by the blood of Jesus Christ, and not by our own merit and works. In the PRAYER FOR THE GIVING, focus on the purpose of giving which is to contribute to the financial needs of the work of the church, and to exercise benevolence (contributing for the needs of others). For the INTERCESSORY PRAYER, focus on the petitions or requests of individuals as requested.Ω

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction."
II Timothy 4:2

THE EDIFICATION MINISTRY

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	
	ASSEMBLY 1 - 9:00 - 10:15
MIDWEEK DEVOTIONALS	ASSEMBLY 2 - 10:30 - 11:45
SUSPENDED	SUNDAY PM WORSHIP
	ASSEMBLY 3: 12:45 - 2:00 

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST <small>TOP FLOOR MARLETT'S BUILDING, 4M & MARCOS HIGHWAY, BAGUIO CITY, PHILS. SERVING TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST 074.427.2729</small>	
TOP FLOOR MARLETT'S BLDG. KM 4 MARCOS HIGHWAY, BAGUIO CITY, PHILS. e-mail - midtownphcoe@yahoo.com Midtown website: www.midtownchurchbaguio.org	
Editorial Staff: Arnan A. Bayla Phone: 0918-698-6470 Andres E. Bestre Phone: 0916-343-8539	