

Servers Today, December 12, 2021

Standing On God's Promise (Hebrews 6:13-20)

Speaker: *Ezra Valdez*
 Song Leader: *Aldian Po*
 Invocation: *To Be Assigned (TBA)*
 Intercessory Prayer: *TBA*
 Communion Text: *1 Corinthians 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: *Andy Bestre*
 Afternoon Speaker: *Ezra Valdez*
 Song Leader: *Aldian Po*
 To Bring Flowers: *Bayating Family*
 To Bring Biscuits: *Suspended*
 To Bring Drinks: *Suspended*
 Usher/ettes: *Volunteers*

Communion: *Charis Grace Bayla*
 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 December 19, 2021

PASASALAMAT: Going on to Maturity (Heb 5:11-6:12)

Speaker: *Arnan Bayla*
 Song Leader: *Andy Bestre*
 Invocation: *To Be Assigned (TBA)*
 Intercessory Prayer: *TBA*
 Communion Text: *Hebrews 9:11-15*
 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: *Arnan Bayla*
 Song Leader: *Andy Bestre*
 To Bring Flowers: *Montes Family*
 To Bring Biscuits: *Suspended*
 To Bring Drinks: *Suspended*
 Usher/ettes: *Volunteers*

Communion: *Charis Grace Bayla*
 Worship Coordinator: *Lem Glori | Art Tacay*

PM Bible Study:



Vol. XXXVII No. 50 December 12, 2021 Baguio City, Philippines

Simple Pasasalamat celebration next Sunday

The brethren are enjoined to celebrate Midtown's PASASALAMAT & 38TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION this coming Sunday, December 19, 2021 in a simple and yet grateful commemoration, even without the usual festivity and luncheon fellowship which is how Midtown usually celebrates the PASASALAMAT or THANKSGIVING for many years.

This year, for the second time, due to the restrictions brought about by the pandemic, the PASASALAMAT goes on in the three worship assemblies which will include the presentation of CERTIFICATES OF BAPTISM to those who have been baptized this year.

TAKE HOME PACKED LUNCH will be distributed to the congregation after every worship assembly. Those attending the afternoon worship assembly are encouraged to come earlier and eat their lunch at the ASSEMBLY HALL right before the WORSHIP ASSEMBLY starts at one o'clock. Ω

Young preacher appeals for help and prayers

The TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM recently received a letter from a young preacher, brother Marvin D. Subillaga, serving with the San Manuel congregation in Isabela. At the young age of 24, he was recently diagnosed with CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE STAGE V which is secondary to CGN OR CHRONIC GLOMERULONEPHRITIS. He now undergoes dialysis twice a week and costing him PhP3,000.00/ week. Without a family to help him, the brethren in Isabela and elsewhere have helped sustain his medical needs for the past year.

In response to the appeal, the TCF approved the release of PhP10,000.00 as benevolence from Midtown. Individual members of the congregation are encouraged to extend their personal donation by coursing it through brother Andy or Jesse Bestre who shall send the same through G-Cash.

Please include this matter in your personal prayers as well as in prayers in GROUP DEVOTIONALS.Ω

"It's not where you are in life, it's who you have by your side that matters."

READ Hebrews 13:5-6

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54 celebrate Bokod church anniversary

Contrary to what was announced earlier, the 13TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of the three congregations in Bokod, namely, Poblacion, Pito, and Pened, was held in a nearby resort last November 28, 2021.

Spouses Jojo & Janet Ramos graced the occasion and refreshed the hearts of the saints there (Philemon 7). Brother Jojo Ramos, in his message, encouraged the brethren to "ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR FIRST LOVE" based on Revelation 2:1-7.

There were fifty-four (54) in attendance including 39 adults and 15 young people who were all refreshed and eager to have more of this kind of fellowship in the near future.

Meanwhile, brother Julius Udan reports that there were forty-two (42) in attendance in last month's JOINT WORSHIP ASSEMBLY of the Nangalisan congregation at the AMBI RESIDENCE in Lasilas last November 28th.

Midtown Church calendars were distributed to the attendees in both occasions. The brethren appreciated the same and are also looking forward to a scheduled regular meet up with Midtown brethren in such gatherings in the next opportune time. Ω

Staff ministers grateful of generous yearend bonus

Midtown's staff ministers, brothers Arnan Bayla, Andy Bestre, Jesse Bestre, and Ezra Valdez thank the Midtown family for the generous gesture of sincere love and undying support expressed through the SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION for their YEAREND BONUS done on November 28 & December 5, 2021.

Total contribution reached P65,500.00. Thus, each staff minister received a bonus of PhP16,375.00. Such gifts are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God (Phil 4:18-19). GLORY BE TO GOD!Ω

LAST SUNDAY'S RECORD
 December 5, 2021

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL
ADULTS.....109	PRESCHOOL.....4
YPEEZ.....16	GRADES 1-316
CHILDREN.....4	GRADES 4-6.....3
GUEST.....1	H.S./COL.....5
	YAs.....17
TOTAL.....130	TOTAL.....45

OFFERING

AM & PM TOTAL:
 PhP33,607.00

• P R A Y E R L I S T •

FOR GOOD HEALTH & RECOVERY [ASSEMBLY 1] BRETHREN:

- *Gloria Yang
- *Josefa Josayan
- *Gil, Diana, Donna Geron
- *Andy & Jane Bestre
- *Priscilla Bayasen
- *Rolito & Pina Tugay-an
- *Dave & Sharon Mcmillin
- *Dan & Dodoy Sameon
- *Dith Zamora
- *Tess Kitma
- *Loida Baddas
- *Marina Mabesa
- *Bernard Ignacio
- *Jonathan Enerva
- *Dick Baguioen
- *Nida Gabriel
- *Thaddeus Baggao
- *Bernabe Ignacio
- *Alan Patrick Akia

- *Melba & Jerry Licupa
- *Primitiva Ridon
- *Aries John Igoy & Family
- *Maryann Valdez
- *Cesar Acosta
- *Jess Perdigon
- *Marvin Subillaga

- [ASSEMBLY 2] REQUESTED BY BRETHREN:**
- *Ian & Beth Pajantoy Family
 - *Arian Kaith Igoy
 - *Robinson Palaypayon
 - *Carmen Villanueva
 - *Menchie Mojica
 - *Jennilyn Villanueva
 - *Mary Elaine Dolteo
 - *Susan Porte Aballa
 - *Melanio Carreon
 - *Mary Jane Acdang
 - *Domingador Malatag
 - *Camelia Luna
 - *Karen Castillo

[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
 - *Alex & Ella Ciencia

OTHER CONCERNS

- *Ella Badua-Ciencia (SafePregnancy)

A N N O U N C

E M E N T

- TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM— DECEMBER 14, 2021 | 12:00—2:30 PM |
- FRIDAY CARE GROUP YEARENDER— ROJO-PALAYPAYON RES. | DECEMBER 17, 2021 | 5:30—8:30 PM
- YOUNG PEOPLE'S VIRTUAL MEETINGS/ CARE GROUP—EVERY THURS & SAT @ 5-6 PM
- MIDWEEK DEVOTIONAL @ MIDTOWN—WEDNESDAYS @ 6-8 PM | FRIDAY CARE GROUP—@ 6-8 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 PM.....C/O MAUREEN SORIANO—09756895950
 - GRADES 4-6 CLASS @ 3:30—4:30 PM.....C/O KANA PERDIGON—09158639845
 - HIGH SCHOOL CLASS @ 3:30 PMC/O ALTON MARK BAYLA—09610166351
 - COLLEGE/YAS CLASS @ 4:30 PMC/O JESSE BESTRE—09165437746

THE BASIS OF SPIRITUAL SECURITY

Let anyone should misinterpret his exhortation to spiritual maturity, the writer ended this section with a tremendous argument for the assurance of salvation. All of us Christians are not making the spiritual progress we should, but we need never fear that God will condemn us. The writer gave three arguments for the certain salvation of true believers. [Read Hebrews 6:13-20]

1. GOD'S PROMISE (vv. 13-15). God's main promise to Abraham is recorded in Gen 22:16-17. In spite of Abraham's failures and sins, God kept His promise and Isaac was born. Many of God's promises do not depend on our character but on His faithfulness. The phrase "patiently endured" (Heb 6:15) is the exact opposite of "slothful" (Heb 6:12). The readers of this letter were about to give up; their endurance was running out (see Heb 12:1-2). "You will obtain and enjoy what God has promised if you diligently apply yourself to the development of your spiritual life," is what the writer stated.

We Christians today have more of God's promises than did Abraham! What is keeping us from making spiritual progress? We do not apply ourselves by faith. To return to the illustration of the farm, the farmer does not reap a harvest by sitting on the porch looking at the seed. He must get busy and plow, plant, weed, cultivate, and perhaps water the soil. The believer who neglects church fellowship, ignores his Bible, and forgets to pray is not going to reap much of a harvest.

2. GOD'S OATH (vv. 16-18). God not only gave Abraham a promise, but He also confirmed that promise with an oath. When a witness takes an oath in court, he is confronted with the words "so help me God." We call on the greater to witness for the lesser. None is greater than God, so He swore by Himself!

But God did not do this only for Abraham. He has also given His promise and oath to "the heirs of promise" (Heb 6:17). Abraham and his descendants are the first of these heirs (see Heb 11:9), but all believers are included as "Abraham's [spiritual] seed" (Gal 3:1-29:21). So our assurance of salvation is guaranteed by God's promise and God's oath, "two immutable [unchangeable] things" (Heb 6:18). We have "strong consolation" (or "great encouragement") concerning the hope set before us! Hebrews is a book of encouragement, not discouragement!

The phrase "fled for refuge" (Heb 6:18) suggests the Old Testament "cities of refuge" described in Num 35:9 ff and Josh 20. God appointed six cities, three on each side of the Jordan, into which a man could flee if he had accidentally killed someone. The elders of the city would investigate the case. If they determined that it was indeed manslaughter and not murder, they would permit the man to live in the city until the death of the high priest. Then he could return to his home. The members of the slain man's family could not avenge themselves so long as the man remained in the city.

We have fled to Jesus Christ, and He is our eternal refuge. As our High Priest, He will never die (Heb 7:23-25); and we have eternal salvation. No avenger can touch us, because He has already died and arisen from the dead.

3. GOD'S SON (vv. 19-20). Our hope in Christ is like an anchor for the soul. The anchor was a popular symbol in the early church. At least sixty-six pictures of anchors have been found in the catacombs. The Greek stoic philosopher Epictetus wrote: "One must not tie a ship to a single anchor, nor life to a single hope." Christians have but one anchor - Jesus Christ our hope (Col 1:5; 1 Tim 1:1).

However, this spiritual anchor is different from material anchors on ships. For one thing, we are anchored upward - to heaven - not downward. We are anchored, not to stand still, but to move ahead! Our anchor is "sure" - it cannot break - and "steadfast" - it cannot slip. No earthly anchor can give that kind of security!

The writer then clinches the argument: this Saviour is our "forerunner" who has gone ahead to heaven so that we may one day follow!

The Old Testament high priest was not a "forerunner" because nobody could follow him into the holy of holies. But Jesus Christ has gone to heaven so that one day we may follow.

If we start to drift from the Word (Heb 2:1-4), then we will also start to doubt the Word (Heb 3:7-4:13). Before long, we will get dull toward the Word (Heb 5:11-6:20) and become lazy believers. The best way to keep from drifting is - to lay hold of the anchor! Anchored heavenward! How much more secure can you be? Ω

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HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS DURING THE GCQ & NEW NORMAL

For the safety of everyone, the congregation is urged to cooperate and strictly follow the following HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS during the QUARANTINE and the NEW NORMAL.

1. Wear facemasks & face shields properly at all times. The only time to remove them briefly is when partaking of the Lord's Supper. After which, facemasks and face shields must be worn again all throughout.
2. Every person must submit for body THERMAL SCANNING. Anyone with a body temperature higher than 37.5 will not be admitted and be sent home.
3. Persons with coughs and colds and with underlying ILL-HEALTH CONDITIONS are advised to stay home to stay safe.
4. Every person must have his or her hands sprayed with Sanitizing Alcohol before entry.
5. Observe physical distancing. Be at a safe distance from one another at least one (1) meter radius apart.
6. No handshakes, hugs, kisses, fist bumps, or any physical contact. Greet one another verbally, bowing to each other, or waving hands to each other.
7. Observe safe foot traffic at the stairways. GIVE WAY TO EXITING PERSONS. No counter flow.
8. Every person must step on the SANITIZING FOOTBATH MAT before entry.
9. Every person must bring his or her own BALLPEN to fill in the LOGBOOK before entry.
10. The sink at the kitchen shall serve as HANDWASHING STATION. Feel free to wash hands.
11. In the observance of the LORD'S SUPPER, pick up the CUP AND UNLEAVENED BREAD without touching other cups and other pieces of bread. Both Cup & Bread trays will be held by the server and not to be handed from one person to another. Used cups must not be returned into the tray but must be placed into a separate receptacle held by the server.
12. The COLLECTION BAG shall be held by the server and not to be handed from one person to another.
13. Please use the Restrooms neatly and responsibly.
14. The SUNDAY SCHOOL (face-to-face) remains suspended until further notice from the government authorities. This is to reduce exposure of the vulnerable age under 21.
15. Worshipers are advised to leave the Assembly Hall after an assembly to give way to the next one.
16. The premises, chairs, handrails, microphones, and restrooms to be disinfected every after each WORSHIP ASSEMBLY. Ω

EVANGELISTIC LESSON SERIES [VIRTUAL OR FACE-TO-FACE]

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
- LESSON NO. 7 - Supplement:
 - Becoming Christians Only
 - Biblical Church Organization
- LESSON NO. 8 - Partaking of the Lord's Supper
- LESSON NO. 9 - Living Abundantly & My Giving
- LESSON NO. 10 - Becoming an Effective Soul-winner
- LESSON NO. 11 - Victorious Christian Living
- LESSON NO. 12 - Everyday Righteousness & Commitment to Moral Excellence

To enrol in any of the lessons, feel free to contact :
 Arnan Bayla @ 0918-698-6470
 Andy Bestre @ 0916-343-8539

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP ASSEMBLY



ASSEMBLY 1 - 9:00 - 10:15

ASSEMBLY 2 - 10:30 - 11:45

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONALS

6:00-8:00



SUNDAY PM WORSHIP

ASSEMBLY 3:
1:00 - 2:00



MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
 SERVING TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
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