

Servers Today, September 3, 2023

The Vain Pursuit of Worldly Wisdom
(Ecclesiastes 1:12-18)

Speaker: DODOY SAMEON

Song Leader: ANDY BESTRE

Invocation: MERVIN OLIVA

Intercessory Prayer: DEXTER WAGANG

Communion Text: HEBREWS 10:1-10

Scripture Reading: JANRIEL ABANCE

Prayer for the Bread: RICHARD BESTRE

Prayer for the Cup: DONNEL GONZALES

Prayer for the Giving: DANTE BADDAS

Closing Prayer: EZRA VALDEZ

Announcement: ANDY BESTRE

Afternoon Speaker: DODOY SAMEON

Song Leader: ANDY BESTRE

To Bring Flowers: GLORI FAMILY

To Bring Biscuits: C/O MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/O MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: VOLUNTEERS

Communion: LADY ANGELA RAMOS

Worship Coordinator: JESSE BESTRE | ART TACAY

PM Bible Study:

How To Become a Biblical Christian

1). Admit that you are a sinner and in need of salvation, I 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 September 10, 2023

The Vain Pursuit of Wealth
(Ecclesiastes 2:1-11)

Speaker: JEREMIAH GAWE

Song Leader: JUN REYES

Invocation: JULIUS ROJO

Intercessory Prayer: DAN-GIL GERON

Communion Text: ROMANS 6:1-7

Scripture Reading: GASPAR BALDO, JR.

Prayer for the Bread: KAJEM KITMA

Prayer for the Cup: KEMUEL PERDIGON

Prayer for the Giving: JERRY MARTIN

Closing Prayer: JESSE BESTRE

Announcement: ARNAN BAYLA

Afternoon Speaker: JEREMIAH GAWE

Song Leader: JUN REYES

To Bring Flowers: CLARITA G. CATCHERO

To Bring Biscuits: C/O MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/O MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: VOLUNTEERS


Communion: LADY ANGELA RAMOS

Worship Coordinator: EZRA VALDEZ | ART TACAY

THE MIDTOWN

Official weekly publication of the Midtown Church.
(A Church of Christ Serving You)

INFORMER



Vol. XXXIX No. 36

September 3, 2023

Baguio City, Philippines

Church forum mulls on nominees for elders & deacons

The TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM has recently accepted the proposal of the EDIFICATION MINISTRY for the installation of elders and deacons at Midtown before the end of this year. The proposal is timely as there are qualified nominees among the men of the congregation. The evangelists of the congregation have submitted a list of nominees who are in essence currently doing the roles of elders and deacons.

The screening process is in progress and the final list of nominees will be presented to the congregation in due time. After the presentation, the approval of the congregation will eventually lead to the installation of the first set of elders and deacons at Midtown in its forty years of existence as a local congregation. Incidentally, Midtown will be celebrating its 40TH ANNIVERSARY by the end of this year. This time, it is the prayer of the CHURCH FORUM that one of the highlights of this year's PASASALAMAT OR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION will be the inauguration of the congregation's very first set of elders and deacons.

The CHURCH FORUM solicits the earnest prayers of the congregation on this important matter so that Midtown will be truly organized according to the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-12; Titus 1:5-9) as well as to benefit from the servant-leadership of elders who "direct the affairs of the church" (1 Timothy 5:17-18). All praises to Lord God Almighty!Ω

"He who has the best why to live can bear any how in this life."

READ Ecclesiastes 3:11-14

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BB joint care group held on heroes' day

One Hundred Twelve (112) participants around the Baguio-Benguet area as well as from other regions gathered at the Meeting Place of the NLEX CHURCH OF CHRIST at Juniper Building, Bonifacio Street, this city, for this month's MONTHLY JOINT YOUTH CARE GROUP & FELLOWSHIP last Monday, August 28th. Twelve (12) congregations made it to the event, namely, Ambiong, Tocomo, A-Hill, Midtown, Baguio-Rimando, QM, La Trinidad, Nangalisan, Mangaldan (Pang.), Santiago (Isabela), Solano (NV), and NLEX. Brother Ezra Valdez and sister Vanessa Barad represented Midtown.

In association to the NATIONAL HEROES DAY celebrated last August 28th, the theme of said fellowship was taken from Hebrews 11, also known as the "HEROES OF FAITH CHAPTER." All praises to the Lord God!Ω

Young Bestre is speaker in NCOC's monthly fellowship

Brethren Jesse Bestre, Aldian Po, Sheema Valdez, and Maureen Soriano served with the NANGALISAN CHURCH OF CHRIST during their MONTHLY JOINT WORSHIP ASSEMBLY & LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP at the Riverview Waterpark in Nangalisan, Tuba last Sunday, August 27, 2023.

Brother Jesse Bestre discussed in his sermon, "WALKING IN CHRIST" based on Col. 2:1-10 underscoring "embracing God's mystery, being Christ-like, and being vigilant so as not to be deceived by Satan's lies."

Sister Maureen Soriano took charge of the SUNDAY SCHOOL. Sister Sheema Valdez and brother Aldian Po assisted in various areas. The LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP followed immediately at the same place.

Today, brother Jesse Bestre is serving as sermon speaker at the MARIKINA CHURCH OF CHRIST. He will be speaking on the same topic mentioned earlier. Glory to God!Ω

BPFLC parent baptized into Christ on Baguio Day

Immediately after having completed the SEEKERS LESSON SERIES, Ms. Norma D. Andaya of Purok 1, Dontogan, this city, and a parent of one of the pupils of BAGUIO PINES FAMILY LEARNING CENTER (BPFLC), was baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) by brother Arnan Bayla last Friday afternoon, September 1, 2023. A good number of brethren graced the occasion in which they congratulated the newest disciple of Christ, and welcomed into the body of Christ at Midtown. All praise and glory to God!Ω

LAST SUNDAY'S RECORD

August 27, 2023

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

ADULTS.....125

YPEEZ.....24

CHILDREN.....21

GUESTS.....3

TOTAL.....173

SUNDAY SCHOOL + Virtual Class PRESCHOOL.....5

GRADES 1-25

GRADES 3-4.....6

GRADES 5-6.....5

H.S./COL.....26

YAs14

TOTAL.....61

OFFERING

AM & PM TOTAL: PPh43,174.00

ANNOUNCEMENT

• TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM—SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 @ 12:00—2:30 PM | EVERYBODY WELCOME!

• EVERYONE (ADULTS & CHILDREN) ADVISED TO HAVE THEIR NAMES WRITTEN ON THE ATTENDANCE LOG— FOR AN ACCURATE CHECKING OF ATTENDANCE. THANK YOU!

• MONTHLY LADIES DEVO & LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP — SEP. 16, 2023 @ 11:30 AM—2:30 PM.

• WEEKLY RS (READING, REFLECTION, AND RESPONSE) — ON FACEBOOK LIVE THURSDAYS @ 9:00 PM .

• ID PICTURES FOR PICTURE DIRECTORY—KINDLY SUBMIT YOUR 2x2 ID PICTURES IF YOUR LATEST PICTURES HAVE NOT APPEARED IN THE UPDATED DIRECTORY. THANK YOU!

• P R A Y E R L I S T •

FOR GOOD HEALTH & RECOVERY BRETHREN:

*GLORIA YANG

*JOSEFA JOSAYAN

*DONNA GERON

*PRISCILLA BAYASEN

*DAN SAMEON

*DODOY & SARAH SAMEON

*DITH ZAMORA

*TESS KITMA

*LOIDA BADDAS

*BERNARD IGNACIO

*JONATHAN ENERVA

*CESAR ACOSTA

*JOCELYN CALIXTRO

*JOVITA "BETH" BONDOC

*FLORENCE MAGALONG

*RAFAEL OZO

*ELLA GAROY

*LORENZA LOSNONG

*ERNIE ORDUÑA

*FLORA CAMPOAS

*CLYDE ABANCE

*MELBA LICUPA

*NIDA GABRIEL

*CHARLIE ABANCE

*MIA KITMA—ACENA

REQUESTED BY BRETHREN:

*CARMEN VILLANUEVA

*MARILIZA ANDALLO

*MARIFE SALVIEJO

*DIANA TAGUIBA

*MICHAEL TRINIDAD

*PHILIP BADUA

*LILIAN JADORMIO GUMBAN

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

*LOCAL, NATIONAL, WORLD LEADERS & GOVERNMENT

*ON-GOING SEEKERS' BS

*ON-GOING FOLLOW-UP BS

*OPPORTUNITIES TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

OTHER CONCERNS

Safe Pregnancy:

*DYANE ERIN P. SIMON

*RAQUEL MAGALONG -SAGULO

Government Exams:

*JEREMIAH GAWE

Safe Travel:

*JESSE BESTRE (MARIKINA)

*FELIX & LUZ OLIDAN (NANGALISAN)

WORLDLY WISDOM

(Ecclesiastes 1:12-18)

Santiago B. Sameon II, BTh, EdD

INTRODUCTION: “The Scriptures nowhere condemns the acquisition of knowledge. It is the wisdom of this world, not its knowledge, that is foolishness with God” -H.A. Ironside – *The Speaker’s Quote* Book, p.538

WORLDLY WISDOM is anything that comes against God's wisdom in the Bible. It is ultimately part of the ungodly world attitude and beliefs that is against everything God stands for. Worldly wisdom is not concerned with honoring God but concerned with pleasing self.

Ecc.1:12 - I the Preacher was king - "I, *Choheleth*, have been king over Israel, in Jerusalem." The book was speculated by some to have been written about the time Ptolemy Philadelphus formed his great library at Alexandria, about two hundred and eighty-five years (285) before our Lord; and from the multitude of Jews that dwelt there, it was said there was an Israel in Alexandria.

A. THE PURSUIT FOR WORLDLY WISDOM (Ecc.1:13-15)

Ecc. 1:13---The preacher describes God as one who simply keeps humans busy with a cruel game of hide and seek. God hides the truth from people so that they have to spend all their days seeking out understanding. As soon as you grasp one truth, you will be stunned by another. <Ecc.3:11> The ff. chap. the Preacher will make it clear that God gives “*wisdom, knowledge, and joy*” (Ecc. 2:26).

Ecc. 1:14 ---The Preacher compares the search for wisdom to “*chasing after the wind.*” It is a fruitless endeavor, attempting to enclose the wind and vanity chasing after the wind. Part of the reason the Preacher considers life under the sun as vanity, is because he feels somewhat helpless attempting to enact any change.

Ecc. 1:15; 7:13 --“*What is crooked cannot be made straight*” - There are many irregularities and anomalies in nature for which we cannot account; and there are many defects that cannot be supplied. No one can reverse what God has done. If God chooses to make something crooked, we have no hope of making it straight. This isn’t a reflection of God’s perfect creation, but creation in its fallen state. It is the fall of mankind, the sin of our first parents, that brought “*thorns and thistles*”: **Gen. 3:17,18**

Rom. 8:20,21 agrees with Paul who approves the Preacher regarding the futility of creation. But he also points out God’s goal in subjecting creation to futility, namely the hope of being “*set free from its bondage to corruption.*”

Rom. 8:22,23 -The groaning of creation is joined by our own inward groaning for adoption and redemption. In other words, the **chase for wisdom increases within us a greater desire to receive the reward.**

B. THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE PURSUIT FOR WORLDLY WISDOM (16-18)

Ecc. 1:16 - I communed with mine own heart - Literally, “*I spoke, I, with my heart, saying.*” **When successful in my researches, but not happy in my soul, though easy in my circumstances, I entered into my own heart, and there inquired the cause of my discontentment. He found that, though...**

1. He had wisdom beyond all men; 2. Wealth and honors more than any other; 3. Practical wisdom more than all his predecessors; 4. Had tried pleasure and animal gratification, even to their extremes; yet after all this he had nothing but vexation of spirit.

None of these four things, nor the whole of them conjoined, could afford him such a happiness as satisfies the soul. Why was all this? Because the soul was made for God, and in the possession of him alone can it find happiness.

Ecc. 1:17 --In order to understand wisdom, the Preacher needed to consider its related opposites of “madness and folly”. But this would amount to an endless pursuit, a never ending chasing after the wind. In other words, **our knowledge has limitations, and those limitations will continually frustrate us.**

Ecc. 1:18 --The Preacher introduces another outcome of this endless pursuit. Not only will we be filled with frustration and vexation, **but our sorrow/pain/suffering will also increase.** What? Not only is the pursuit of wisdom endless, but it is the cause of much of our emotional and intellectual suffering.

C. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PURSUIT FOR WORLDLY WISDOM

1. CAN MAKE ONE UNWISE. Worldly wisdom makes one foolish in their folly, thinking they are wise in their own ways, seeking their own pleasure, but not wise as only godly wisdom from above can make one wise (*Jas. 3:17 “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”*)

2. CAUSE DISORDER. **Jas. 3:16** says, “*where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice*” (ESV). Worldly wisdom is a wisdom of confusion, despair, resentment, and conflict which is contrary to 1 Cor.14:33 “*God is not a God of confusion, but of peace*”.

3. COMPLETE DISSATISFACTION. The phrase “*every evil practice*” is often used in Scripture to contrast the works of true believers of God. E.g. “*we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil*” (2 cor. 5:10). It means useless works, empty toiling. Worldly wisdom results in complete dissatisfaction. It strives for the wind, works for what it cannot have and grabs for what it cannot hold.

4. CAN SEPARATE YOU AWAY FROM GOD. Worldly wisdom draws you away from God due to its carnal, sensual and devilish nature, as we are told in Jas. 3:15,16 “*This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, and demonic.*”

5. CANNOT GIVE ETERNAL LIFE. Worldly wisdom cannot give eternal life to spend eternity with God in heaven. In contrast, heavenly wisdom brings eternal life (**John 3:16**).

CONCLUSION: In our study we learned: 1. The pursuit of wisdom devoid of God, 2. The consequence of the pursuit for worldly wisdom 3. Characteristics of the pursuit for worldly wisdom and the 4. The alternative to replace the pursuit for worldly wisdom. (Matt. 11:28-30)

SBSII: 08/3/2023

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 :

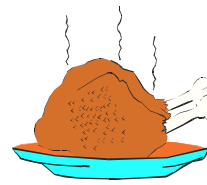
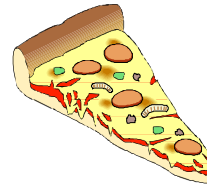
Arnan Bayla @ 0918-698-6470

Andy Bestre @ 0916-343-8539

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

September Celebrators

01 - Micqh Jane T. Banatao
02 - Elpidio Mariano
05 - Katrina B. Oliva
05 - Edgar Enecillo
06 - Josephine W. Selmo
07 - Jemuel S. Reyes
08 - Michael A. Yang
09 - Ellen B. Bugnay
10 - Alma C. Reyes
11 - Ricardo A. Bondoc III
11 - Mahaysha W. Kijima
11 - Julieann Terry P. Badecao
13 - Alton Mark D. Bayla
13 - Kristine B. Sameon
13 - Sonia C. Abance
14 - Abraham Insas
15 - Sixto B. Aqas
15 - Brent Carl W. Anonas
15 - Aracelli Pelle
16 - Jeremiah Gawe
16 - Hannah B. Ignacio
17 - Ricardo R. Bondoc Jr.
17 - Jhovrick Baban
17 - Efren Colcol
18 - Arturo Arambulo
18 - Leemar P. Simon
19 - Kristina Alcantara-Gawe
20 - Faith A. Bayating
20 - Emelda G. Bugtong
20 - Failyln Campoas
21 - Mark Wagang
22 - Joyce A. Kijima
23 - Virgie D. Baldo
24 - Jonathan A. Ramos
24 - Jerry Martin
24 - Kathryn Booc
26 - Nathaniel B. Ramos
26 - Celia A. Cirilo
26 - Thea Marie B. Austria
26 - Lawrence B. Austria
28 - Dan-Gil Geron
29 - Nainer P. Nawew
30 - Glen Gawe
30 - Zelfa Baoid



Please notify the M.I. Staff if your name should have been included in this list. Thank You.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

Singing & Prayers
LORD’S SUPPER
and OFFERING
9:00–9:30

Prayers
&
BIBLE STUDY
9:35–10:25

Singing, Prayers
&
MESSAGE
10:30–11:10

Greetings
&
ANNOUNCEMENTS
11:10–11:20

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONALS



6:00-8:00 PM



SUNDAY PM ASSEMBLY

•Singing & Prayers & MESSAGE: 5:30–6:15
•LORD’S SUPPER & GIVING: 6:15–6:30
•Greetings & ANNOUNCEMENTS: 6:30–6:40



MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVING TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

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