

Servers Today, December 17, 2023

Thanksgiving Message
(Pasasalamat & 40th Anniversary)

Speaker:

Song Leader:

Invocation:

Intercessory Prayer:

Communion Text:

Scripture Reading:

Prayer for the Bread:

Prayer for the Cup:

Prayer for the Giving:

Closing Prayer:

Announcement:

Afternoon Speaker:

Song Leader:

To Bring Flowers:

To Bring Biscuits:

To Bring Drinks:

Usher/ettes

FELIX OLIDAN JR.

ANDY BESTRE

ERNIE WAGANG

GREG KITMA

HEBREWS 10:1-10

KAJEM KITMA

JESSE BESTRE

EZRA VALDEZ

LEMUEL GLORI

JOJO RAMOS

ARNAN BAYLA

FELIX OLIDAN JR.

ANDY BESTRE

BAYATING FAMILY

C/O MIDTOWN

C/O MIDTOWN

YOUNG ADULTS

Communion:

Worship Coordinator:

LADY JANET RAMOS

EZRA VALDEZ | ART TACAY

PM Bible Study:

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 24, 2023

Living for the Lord
(Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8)

Speaker:

Song Leader:

Invocation:

Intercessory Prayer:

Communion Text:

Scripture Reading:

Prayer for the Bread:

Prayer for the Cup:

Prayer for the Giving:

Closing Prayer:

Announcement:

Afternoon Speaker:

Song Leader:

To Bring Flowers:

To Bring Biscuits:

To Bring Drinks:

Usher/ettes

JEREMIAH GAWE

ARNAN BAYLA

JULIUS ROJO

NOEL ESPINOSA

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

DONNEL GONZALES

RICHARD BESTRE

SAM QUEZADA

DANTE BADDAS

DODOY SAMEON

ARNAN BAYLA

JEREMIAH GAWE

ARNAN BAYLA

GLORI FAMILY

C/O MIDTOWN

C/O MIDTOWN

GONZALES FAMILY

Communion:

Worship Coordinator:

LADY JANET RAMOS

JESSE BESTRE | ART TACAY

THE

MIDTOWN

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

INFORMER

Vol. XXXIX No. 51 December 17, 2023 Baguio City, Philippines

Midtown celebrates 40th anniversary & Pasasalamat today

The Midtown congregation celebrates forty years of blessed existence today with great joy and thanksgiving for the Lord Almighty’s manifold graces and mercies! Through the years, Midtown has always been thankful of the opportunities to freely serve in aiming to give praise, glory and honour to God the Creator.

Midtown annually celebrates “PASASALAMAT DAY” as an avenue to express corporate gratitude to God for establishing the labours of this congregation in which we continually remember before our God and Father the work produced by faith, the labour prompted by love, and the endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess 1:3).

Moreover, the PASASALAMAT or THANKSGIVING is an opportunity to count our blessings, triumphs, and even the challenges throughout the forty years of labouring in the Lord’s vineyard.

This time, the celebration is highlighted by the occasion of installing Midtown’s first set of elders and deacons. It is indeed a sign of a maturing church that there are men who would qualify to lead and serve in these tasks.

The leadership of this congregation enjoins everyone to give all thanks, praises, and adoration to God as well as to consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds! (Heb 10:24)Ω

"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count."

READ Psalm 36:5-10

INSIDE PAGE:
Brief History of Midtown...page 2
December Birth Anniversaries...page 3
Guidelines for the Pasasalamat...page 3

Certificates of baptism to be awarded today

Midtown praises the Lord Almighty for the opportunity of preaching and teaching the pure gospel of Christ Jesus which brought the addition of sixteen (16) new brethren to the Lord’s church at Midtown to date. They will receive their certificates of baptism today. So far, the Lord has entrusted to the Midtown congregation the following this 2023:

1. Vanessa A. Barad—baptized March 6
2. John Gehris Oyler—baptized March 14
3. Mark N. Quizana—baptized April 3
4. Sherman C. Bestre—baptized April 4
5. Jephtha Fernandez—baptized April 21
6. Sonia Cariño Abance—baptized May 7
7. Eric K. Quijencio—baptized May 24
8. Kimberly I. Golingab—baptized May 24
9. Ruby A. Suanding—baptized June 11
10. Noelle Jane A. Barad—baptized July 14
11. Norma D. Andaya—baptized September 1
12. Kheif A. Walang—baptized October 29
13. Juanita Fernandez—baptized November 5
14. Rhianne Nawew—baptized November 17
15. Charmaine Rivera—baptized November 25
16. Mary Rose Cayabyab—baptized Dec. 2 Ω

LAST SUNDAY’S RECORD
December 10, 2023

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY SCHOOL + Virtual Class

PRESCHOOL.....11

GRADES 1-26

GRADES 3-4.....10

GRADES 5-6.....9

H.S./COL.....19

YAs14

TOTAL.....69

TOTAL.....221

OFFERING

AM & PM TOTAL:
Php59,043.00

PRAYER LIST

FOR GOOD HEALTH & RECOVERY BRETHREN:

*ELLA GAROY

*LORENZA LOSNONG

*ERNIE ORDUÑA

*FLORA CAMPOAS

*CLYDE ABANCE

*MELBA LICUPA

*NIDA GABRIEL

*CHARLIE ABANCE

*MARIL BAYATING SR.

REQUESTED BY BRETHREN:

*CARMEN VILLANUEVA

*MARILIZA ANDALLO

*DIANA TAGUIBA

*PHILIP BADUA

*LILIAN JADORMIO GUMBAN

*HORACIO C. RAMOS

*FRANKY SANCHI

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:

*MICHELLE YANG—OYLER

Safety in Israel:

*JESSICA MARIANO

Safe Travel:

*MYRNA BRAVO POBLETE & Co. (BACK TO USA)

*BONDOC & COLCOL FAMILY (BACK TO CANADA& USA)

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM—ON DECEMBER 19, 2023 |@ 12:00—2:30 PM | EVERYBODY WELCOME!
- SUNDAY SCHOOL MERGER CLASSES—GRADES 3-4 WITH HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE CLASSES AND GRADES 5-6 WITH YOUNG PRO CLASSES | DECEMBER 31, 2023
- NANGALISAN CHURCH OF CHRIST JOINT FELLOWSHIPS—AT LASILAS, ON DECEMBER 24, 2023 AND AT RIVERVIEW ON DECEMBER 31, 2023.
- BIBLE STUDY CENTER OPENING— MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST ASSEMBLY HALL | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023 @ 9:00—11:00 AM | INVITE YOUR FRIENDS.
- YOUNG PEOPLE’S YEARENDER FELLOWSHIP—DECEMBER 31, 2023 | PLEASE CONTACT BROTHER EZRA VALDEZ FOR DETAILS.

Brother Maril Bayating's heart surgery successful at PHC

Midtown brethren thanks and praises the Lord God Almighty for the successful coronary artery bypass graft surgery operation of brother Maril Bayating Sr. at the PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER (PHC) in Quezon City last Wednesday, December 13, 2023. He is still confined at the hospital and may be discharged in a few days, Lord willing.

Brother Maril Bayating Sr., as one of those who is supposed to be installed as elders today will still be installed *in absentia*.

Sister Letty Bayating, spouse of brother Maril, together with family, expressed appreciation to the Midtown family for the unceasing prayers being offered in their behalf. All thanks to the Lord!Ω

Church staff appreciates generous yearend bonus

Midtown’s staff ministers, brothers Arnan Bayla, Andy Bestre, Ezra Valdez, and Jesse Bestre, thank the Midtown family for the generous gesture of love, care, and support expressed in the special contribution for their YEAREND BONUS done on Dec. 3 & 10, 2023. Total contribution reached P90,140.00. Thus, each staff minister received P22,535.00.

The ministers also are thankful for the encouraging notes of appreciation that were clipped to some of the cash gifts. They are overwhelmed by the congregation’s kindness as there were other gifts in cash and in kind received by them besides the yearend bonus. May the good Lord of all blessings continue to bless you as you share your blessings!Ω

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

The **MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**, a local church faithful to the pattern of the church of Christ in the first century (33 AD) as can be read in the New Testament Scriptures, began on October 16, 1983 when a handful of faithful Christian families from the **BAGUIO CHURCH OF CHRIST**, namely, the families of brothers Felix A. Bravo, Santiago B. Sameon II, Simeon S. Reyes, Daniel A. Oliva, Paulino Abubo together with some students of the **PHILIPPINE BIBLE COLLEGE** commenced a new work of preaching the pure gospel at the heart of the city and started a Sunday Worship Assembly at the **CONFERENCE HALL OF THE YMCA BLDG.**, Upper Session Road, Baguio City. The congregation was then known as the **SESSION ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**.

After a year, the congregation moved to the Third Floor of the **PUSO NG BAGUIO BUILDING** on Session Road, at the time when brother David Allen Stathopulo, a missionary sponsored by the **SATURN ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Mesquite, Texas, USA, joined the work and started the **BIBLE STUDY CENTER**. Bible teachers then helping in said center were sisters Ruth L. Glori, Janice Reyes, Felix Bravo, Danny Oliva, Santiago Sameon II, spouses David and Sandy Stathopulo, and spouses Simeon Jr. and Phoebe Reyes. Later, two American missionary couples came to help in the work, namely, spouses Eddie and Sherry Poblete and spouses Doug and Sandy Holcomb. Sisters Janice Reyes and Jeanette Fetalino served as secretaries/receptionists for the **BIBLE STUDY CENTER** on Session Road, while sisters Vickie Hombrebueno and Rose Macion served as secretaries/receptionists of the **BIBLE STUDY CENTER** opened by brother Eddie Poblete at the Third Floor, GP Building, Upper Mabini Street.

Between 1983 and 1984, thirty-four people were baptized. In 1985, more than a hundred people have been baptized into Christ resulting mainly from the teaching of the Word at the **BIBLE STUDY CENTERS**.

As the congregation grew numerically, the **CONFERENCE HALL OF THE YMCA** Building can no longer accommodate the growing attendance. As more space was needed, the congregation moved from one rented facility to another at the central business district. With the constant move in the middle of downtown Baguio, the congregation was renamed **MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST**.

The first move was to the Third Floor of the **MAHARLIKA LIVELIHOOD CENTER** (1985-1986). Then briefly to the **BAGUIO PATRIOTIC HIGH SCHOOL** gymnasium (1987), then to the **UNIVERSITY OF BAGUIO LITTLE THEATER** or **DAP-AYAN** (1987), **UB EDUCATION BUILDING** (1988), **BAGUIO-BENGUET COMMUNITY CREDIT COOPERATIVE CONFERENCE HALL** (1990), and to the **BIBLE STUDY CENTER** opened by brother Sotero B. Denis at the Third Floor, **DANGWA BUS TERMINAL BUILDING** (1991). Having rented another unit in addition to the existing **BIBLE STUDY CENTER** at the **PUSO NG BAGUIO BUILDING** along Session Road, the congregation once more conducted her worship assemblies there until 1993. Due to the high rate of rentals after the 1990 killer earthquake, the church welcomed the generous offer of the **ABANCE-BAYATING FAMILY** for Midtown to hold office and to conduct its worship assemblies at the Fifth Basement Floor of the **MARLETT'S MINIMART BUILDING** located at Km. 4 Marcos Highway in 1993 for free. In 1995, the congregation transferred to the **TOP FLOOR** of the same building and occupied it free of charge and which is currently the congregation's **OFFICE AND MULTI-PURPOSE MEETING PLACE OF WORSHIP ASSEMBLY HALL**.

The congregation has employed full-time staff evangelists and ministers, namely, brothers Arnan Bayla (1987-present), Felix Olidan Jr. (1988-2008), and Andres E. Bestre (1994-present). Later, new staff ministers were added, namely brothers Jesse Reuben Bestre (2016-present) and Ezra A. Valdez (2021-present).

The congregation has since been instrumental in sowing the seed of the Gospel which lead to the establishment of the **CABANATUAN CHURCH OF CHRIST**, **BOKOD CHURCH OF CHRIST**, and the **NANGALISAN CHURCH OF CHRIST**. The Midtown congregation was also instrumental in the establishment of the **MARCH (MEDICAL ACTION FOR RELIEF, COUNSELING, AND HEALING) FOR CHRIST**, a non-stock, non-profit organization that serves as compassion ministry of the churches of Christ in the nation.

The **MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST** was registered as a Non-stock, Non-profit Religious organization with the **SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION** with Registration No. **BN092-000390** on September 18, 1992. Ω (CONDENSED AND EDITED BY ARNAN BAYLA FOR PUBLICATION IN THIS CHURCH BULLETIN.)

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
PASASALAMAT & 40th ANNIVERSARY
Riverview Water Park, Nangalisan, Tuba, Benguet
Sunday | December 17, 2023 | 9:00 AM

PROGRAM

The SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES is as follows:

- 9:00—10:30 AM.....PART ONE
WORSHIP ASSEMBLY
- 10:35—11:15 AM.....PART TWO
INSTALLATION OF ELDERS & DEACONS
- 11:15—11:30 AM.....PART THREE
AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES OF BAPTISM
YOUNG PEOPLE'S PRESENTATION
- 11:30-11:45 AM.....PART FOUR
CONGREGATIONAL PICTURE—TAKING
- 12:00—1:00 PM.....PART FIVE
FELLOWSHIP LUNCH
- 1:00—3:00 PMPART SIX
FUN & GAMES AND SWIMMING
- 3:00—3:30 PM.....PART SEVEN
DEPARTURE TIME FROM RIVERVIEW

GUIDELINES

1. Please strictly observe the resort's rules and regulations.
2. Strictly no swimming before the designated time of swimming which is at one o'clock (1PM). Parents and guardians shall take full responsibility of watching over their children.
3. Lunch will be served through controlled buffet by the catering service authorized personnel only.
4. In going back to Midtown or to downtown Baguio, please note that you are expected to Ride the same vehicle you rode coming to Riverview. If you did not sign up to be serviced by the hired vehicles, please take other PUJs.
5. For PUJ fare refunds, please ask from brothers Sixto Aoas & Julius Rojo.
6. Kindly advise your valued guests to abide by these guidelines. MANY THANKS.

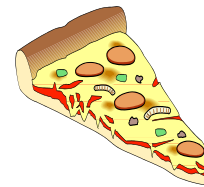
•THE EDIFICATION MINISTRY

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



December Celebrators

- 01 - Denise A. Wagang
- 02 - Linda A. Yaneza
- 02 - Janet B. Ramos
- 02 - Ma. Alexis J. Sunggay
- 03 - Rowena L. Quezada
- 04 - Erika Abijar
- 05 - Daisy Calzo
- 08 - Josephine A. Baban
- 09 - Gracelynn Abance
- 09 - Marilyn Joy B. Gamboa
- 10 - Dencio B. Abance
- 11 - Jovita R. Bondoc
- 12 - Eric K. Quijencio
- 14 - Santiago B. Sameon II
- 16 - Christian S. Parohinog
- 16 - Mark Joseph N. Quizana
- 17 - Jane M. Bestre
- 20 - Gaspar Baldo, Jr.
- 20 - Jess Perdigon
- 21 - Sotero Denis
- 21 - Kinsha C. Glori
- 22 - Jess Solomon
- 22 - Diana Jane Geron
- 23 - Rosita Go
- 23 - Sherman C. Bestre
- 23 - Padmei Lara Geron
- 24 - Noel Espinosa
- 24 - Crispina Tugay-an
- 26 - Arlene G. Rimando
- 26 - Kaesha R. Palaypayon
- 26 - Sharon Kosgey
- 29 - Aldian R. Po
- 29 - Xelli Oea E. Parohinog
- 30 - Analyn B. Aronza



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 SUNDAY PM ASSEMBLY

6:00-8:00 PM	•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
TOP FLOOR MARLETT'S BUILDING
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