

Servers Today, January 14, 2024

The Announcement of John's Birth (Luke 1:5-25)

Speaker: DODOY SAMEON

Song Leader: JESSE BESTRE

Invocation: ERNIE WAGANG

Intercessory Prayer: NOEL ESPINOSA

Communion Text: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

Scripture Reading: JOSHUA MARTIN

Prayer for the Bread: SAM QUEZADA

Prayer for the Cup: DONNEL GONZALES

Prayer for the Giving: LEM GLORI

Closing Prayer: TERI DENIS

Announcement: ANDY BESTRE

Afternoon Speaker: DODOY SAMEON

Song Leader: JESSE BESTRE

To Bring Flowers: JANET RAMOS

To Bring Biscuits: C/O MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/O MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: KITMA FAMILY

Communion: JANE BESTRE

Worship Coordinator: 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 January 21, 2024

The Announcement of Jesus' Birth (Luke 1:26-56)

Speaker: GREG KITMA

Song Leader: KAJEM KITMA

Invocation: JULIUS ROJO

Intercessory Prayer: CHARLIE ABANCE

Communion Text: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Scripture Reading: GASPAR BALDO, JR.

Prayer for the Bread: JERRY MARTIN

Prayer for the Cup: DANTE BADDAS

Prayer for the Giving: RICHARD BESTRE

Closing Prayer: JOJO RAMOS

Announcement: ARNAN BAYLA

Afternoon Speaker: GREG KITMA

Song Leader: KAJEM KITMA

To Bring Flowers: JANET RAMOS

To Bring Biscuits: C/O MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/O MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: GONZALES FAMILY

Communion: JANE BESTRE


Worship Coordinator: JESSE BESTRE | ART TACAY

THE

MIDTOWN

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

INFORMER



Vol. XL No. 2 January 14, 2024 Baguio City, Philippines

Sameon and Olidan serve as guest sermon speakers

Brother Felix Olidan Jr. was the invited guest speaker for the Thanksgiving Day of the brethren of the DUNGON CHURCH OF CHRIST, Sison, Pangasinan last Sunday, January 7, 2023. His discussion revolved around the topic, “MAKING THE MOST OF THE NEW YEAR 2024” based on Proverbs 17:24. He reiterated that disciples are to FIND WISDOM IN THE WORD OF GOD AND NOT ELSEWHERE. Luncheon fellowship immediately followed the Worship Assembly. Thereafter, spouses Felix & Luz Olidan together with sister Jane Bestre visited a former member of the Wanchai congregation who now lives in Asan Norte, Sison, Pangasinan. Meanwhile, brother Dodoy Sameon, one of Midtown’s elders, served as Guest Speaker during the ORDINATION OF NEW DEACONS and the JOINT WORSHIP ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP of the BAGUIO CHURCH OF CHRIST, Rimando Road, this city last Sunday, January 7, 2024. He encouraged the brethren to serve by “LOVING THE LORD, LOVING ONE ANOTHER, AND LOVING TO SERVE” based on various Bible passages. He was accompanied by his wife, sister Sarah Sameon. To God be the glory!Ω

Youth minister officiates Madriaga-Manaois nuptial

Brother Ezra A. Valdez, Midtown’s youth minister and licensed Solemnizing Officer officiated the wedding of sister Alyssa Gene Marie Sombero Madriaga of Lower Kitma Village, this city, and Clifford Jan De Leon Manaois of Labrador, Pangasinan at the Infinity Garden of the BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB last December 28, 2023. Reception followed thereafter at the same venue. The couple completed the Pre-marriage Course, “PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE GOD’S WAY” with brother Ezra Valdez through Zoom Cloud Meetings. In another development, brother Ezra Valdez served as speaker during the vigil devotional service conducted by the WEDNESDAY CARE GROUP at the YANG RESIDENCE at Purok 2, Barangay Irisan, this city, last Wednesday evening, January 10, 2024. Praise the Lord God Almighty!Ω

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice when there is someone who has not heard of it once."

READ Romans 15:17-21

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Kitma residents baptized into Christ at Midtown

Brother Greg Kitma, one of Midtown’s deacons, baptized spouses Joel & Mary Rose Quirimit at Midtown’s baptistery the other past Saturday afternoon, January 6, 2024. The new Christians are residents of Lower Kitma, Bakakeng Central, this city. Sister Mary Rose is a relative of the Kitmas. They are also regular participants of the KITMA CARE GROUP that meets at the Kitma Compound Friday evenings. The spouses completed the SEEKERS LESSON SERIES with brothers Greg Kitma and Ezra Valdez. Midtown rejoices with this development and keeps the new disciples of Christ in prayers. They will be continuing their New Life Lesson Series. Saturday afternoons. The EVANGELISM MINISTRY solicits the congregation’s unceasing prayers for all ongoing studies. The Lord God reigns!Ω

Midtown brethren console bereaved Garcia family

Midtown brethren conducted vigil services to comfort the bereaved family of the late sister ADELINA CRUZ GARCIA who passed on to Abraham’s side last December 30, 2023 at the age of 79. She was born again sometime in January 2023 in Luna, La Union. On December 31, brother Ezra Valdez served as speaker while brother Felix Olidan led the singing with a good number of Midtown brethren. Another vigil service was conducted last Tuesday evening, January 2, 2024 with brother Jessie Bestre speaking and brother Felix Olidan Jr. songleading. The FUNERAL SERVICE was conducted by the brethren from the HERITAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST at the HEAVEN’S GARDEN CREMATORIUM, Loakan Rd., this city last Thursday, January 4, 2024. The CRUZ—GARCIA FAMILY extends their gratefulness for the comfort and for nightly vigil services. Thanks and praises to God! Ω

LAST SUNDAY’S RECORD

January 7, 2024

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY AM & PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL + Virtual Class PRESCHOOL.....8 GRADES 1-26 GRADES 3-4.....10 GRADES 5-6.....5 H.S./COL.....18 YAs15 TOTAL.....62

ADULTS.....187 YPEEZ.....33 CHILDREN.....33 GUESTS.....3 TOTAL.....256

OFFERING

AM & PM TOTAL: PhP69,860.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

• TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM—On January 16, 2024 | EVERYBODY WELCOME!

• 46TH NATIONAL LADIES RETREAT—FCG HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER, KIDAPAWAN CITY, COTABATO | JULY 16-19, 2024 | REGULAR REGISTRATION FEE: P6,000.00 | SENIOR CITIZENS & PWDs AND EARLY REGISTRATION UNTIL MAY 31, 2024—P5500.00

• LADIES MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL & LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP—SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024 |

• SIGN UP FOR THE LADIES STEERING GROUP FOR THE MONTHLY LADIES DEVOTIONAL & LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP—LADIES WHO WERE UNABALE TO JOIN THE DRAW LOTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE STEERING GROUPS MAY SIGN UP ON ANY OF THE GROUPS AS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

• DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO THE ALVAREZ—YANG FAMILY WHOSE LOVED ONE, MR. CHING CHIH YANG, PASSED AWAY JANUARY 5, 2024 | INTERMENT TODAY AFTER LUNCH AT THE BEYOND THE SUNSET CREMATORIUM.

• P R A Y E R L I S T •

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

Safe Travel:

*JAMES & KRISTELLE CADIZ (HK)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JOHN
LUKE 1:5-25

REFLECTION: GOD’S SCHEDULING

God's scheduling is always the best. He knows better than we do. In the case of the couple Zechariah and Elizabeth, it took a long while for their consistent prayers of being heard. The joyous reaction of Zechariah to the announcement almost surrendered their hope of attaining a child of their own and most probably accepted their predicament. However, God has not given up on them!

1. FACTS PRIOR PROCLAMATION (Lk.1:5-7)

Herod, a Nabatean (Arab nomad from Arabia and Trans-Jordan), descendant of Ismael and Nebajoth's-Gen.25:13, of Edomite and Moabite lineage. Appointed governor at 25, he was called “a madman”, who murdered his own family and many rabbis, who prepared to commit any crime in order to gratify his ambition.

Zechariah means “whom Jehovah remembers” Zechariah's father chose a prophetic name to encourage the name-bearer to remember something about God. His father give him a name that came with a history and a legacy.

Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth “one who swears by God” were both from priestly descent, from Aaron's line (1st chief priest). It was an honor to have a wife of priestly descent, as Zechariah himself was a priest. Luke said, they were quite old, and childless. In Jewish rabbinic law, failure to produce a child was a ground for divorce, a disgrace and a cursefrom God in the Middle Eastern culture.

Zechariah lived at a time referred as the “silent years,”(Intervening years) a period between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament when in effect God seemed silent to the Jewish people, for what they called “prophecy” had ended. Since returning from their Babylonian exile, the Jewish people experienced a seeming faraway and distant God. Nevertheless, they still prayed and hoped that Christ, the Messiah and Savior would come. And Zechariah was one of the priests selected to lead the people in this hopeful prayer.

2. SITUATION DURING PROCLAMATION (Lk.1:8-10)

The priests cast lots to determine who would keep the incense burning in the most holy place in the temple. At that time there were approximately 20,000 priests who rotated service which included: teaching of the Scriptures, directing worship, and maintaining the upkeep of the temple. Each group serves two weeks every year in the temple. They cast lots to determine which of these priests would go and burn the incense. Normally, a priest would only get to light the incense once in a lifetime. In this case,the lot fell on Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. For a priest to offer incense was a great honorbeing allowed to perform only once.

3. SUBSTANCE OF THE PROCLAMATION (LUKE 1:11-17; MAL. 4:5,6)

While filling the incense and praying with reverence and apprehension, an angel named Gabriel appeared between the altar of incense and the golden candlestick, and said to him, “Your prayer has been heard.” You will have a son and that son will “prepare the people for the Lord.”

His son is John the Baptist with the following characteristics:A. He would be great in the sight of GodB. He would drink no wine and live a celibate life of a Nazarene.C. He would be filled with the Spirit from his conceptionD. He would prepare for the Messiah and be a catalyst between Israel and God.

God's answers sometimes come at a surprising time, in a surprising place, and in a surprising way. (Darrell Bock)

4. UNBELIEF RESPONSE TO THE PROCLAMATION (Lk. 1:18-23; Num. 6:24-26)

There was confusion on his part but there was also the sense that he was objecting, as he asked for a sign – just as Abraham did (Gen. 15:8), and Gideon (Judges 6:36-40) and Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:8-11).

Silence is often God's prescription for those times when we are having difficulty listening to Him, when we are so preoccupied with our own issues that we don't hear, or can't take time to listen to God.

5. JOY ON THE REALIZATION OF THE PROCLAMATION. (LUKE 1:24,25)

Two announcements – the Messiah's coming and the coming of a son.Old and childless, Zechariah and Elizabeth are to receive a son who fits into the larger purpose of God in their nation, the coming of their Messiah.

God always keeps his promises: His promise to Israel, to Zechariah,to us and in causing Elizabeth to become pregnant in her old age. One of the great promise which God has given to each of us islike Elizabeth's,He took away our reproach and our great sin and shame.

CONCLUSION: We learned the:1.Facts Prior Proclamation(Lk.1:5-7)2.Situation During Proclamation (Lk.1:8-10), 3. Substance of the Proclamation (Lk. 1:11-17; Mal. 4:5,6) 4. Unbelief Response to the Proclamation (Lk. 1:18-23; Num. 6:24-26)and 5.Joy on the Realization of the Proclamation(Lk.1:24,25).(SBS II, 1.14.2024)

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

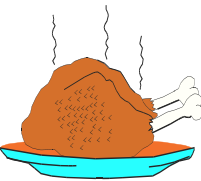
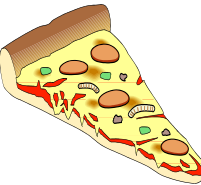
To enrol in any of the lessons, feel free to contact :
Arnan Bayla @ 0918-698-6470
Andy Bestre @ 0916-343-8539

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



January Celebrators

- 01 - Felicisima S. Flores
- 02 - Kevin Dennis
- 02 - Jocelyn K. Abance
- 02 - Priscilla P. Bayasen
- 04 - Pearl C. Bestre
- 05 - Leah V. Tada
- 05 - Khryz Xyryll B. Gomowang
- 08 - Jarialle Taltala
- 09 - Jane U. Donato
- 09 - Romelyn E. Wagang
- 10 - Sean R. Viduya
- 10 - Ernesto Orduña, Jr.
- 10 - Henrietta R. Espinosa
- 12 - Dionesia Gorio
- 12 - Lorenza Losnong
- 14 - Anastacia S. Palaoag
- 15 - Jan Arthur Tacay
- 15 - Ronnilie Corisay
- 18 - Macrina Espiritu
- 20 - Cindy K. Abance
- 22 - Antonita Orduña
- 23 - Dexter R. Wagang
- 23 - Lorna B. Montes
- 23 - Vangie C. Glori
- 26 - Richard Montes
- 26 - Christian Paulo T. Cordero
- 27 - Loida C. Baddas
- 27 - Rachel Ann R. Torres
- 28 - Ernesto B. Wagang
- 28 - Myra O. Manansala
- 29 - Charis Grace D. Bayla
- 30 - Marie Joy Lacambra
- 31 - Abigail A. Kitma



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
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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
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