

Servers Today, January 7, 2024

Investigating the Truth
(Luke 1:1-4)

Speaker: JONATHAN A. RAMOS

Song Leader: MERVIN OLIVA

Invocation: JESSE BESTRE

Intercessory Prayer: EZRA VALDEZ

Communion Text: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-26

Scripture Reading: ALTON BAYLA

Prayer for the Bread: KAJEM KITMA

Prayer for the Cup: KEMUEL PERDIGON

Prayer for the Giving: GIL GERON

Closing Prayer: SOL PALAYPAYON

Announcement: ARNAN BAYLA

Afternoon Speaker: JONATHAN A. RAMOS

Song Leader: MERVIN OLIVA

To Bring Flowers: JANET RAMOS

To Bring Biscuits: C/o MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/o MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: BADDAS FAMILY

Communion: CHARIS & NELLY BAYLA

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, 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 14, 2024

Lessons from 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: GLORI FAMILY

To Bring Biscuits: C/o MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/o MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: KITMA FAMILY

Communion: CHARIS & NELLY BAYLA


Worship Coordinator: EZRA VALDEZ | ART TACAY

THE

MIDTOWN

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

INFORMER



Vol. XL No. 1 January 7, 2024 Baguio City, Philippines

Midtown minister speaks in Isabela youth fellowship

Brother Jesse Reuben Bestre, one of Midtown’s ministers, was invited to speak at the NORTH EASTERN LUZON CHURCHES OF CHRIST YOUTH CAMP 2023 held at the SAGUDAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Saguday, Quirino last December 27, 2023. The camp theme was based on the words of Jesus in John 8:32, *“And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”* The camp covers topics from the book, TRUTH BE TOLD: EXPERIENCING BIBLE AND SCIENCE. He talked about the ILLUSION OF EVOLUTION in which he pointed out how unreliable the theory of evolution is as compared to the BIBLICAL CREATION NARRATIVE. He was accompanied by brother Johnny Payangdo. There were more or less Two Hundred young people in attendance. Praise the Lord God Almighty!Ω

Olidan and Gawe serve as guest sermon speakers

Brother Felix Olidan Jr. was the invited guest speaker for the Year-end Thanksgiving Day of the brethren of the UPPER SESSION ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST last Sunday, December 31, 2023. His discussion revolved around the topic, “LIVING FOR THE LORD IN THE NEW YEAR 2024” based on Ephesians 5:15-17. He reiterated that disciples are to live with the conscious effort to please the Lord. There were more than a hundred in attendance. Luncheon fellowship immediately followed the Worship Assembly.

Meanwhile, brother Jerry Gawe served as Guest Sermon Speaker for the JOINT WORSHIP ASSEMBLY AND THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP of the NANGALISAN CHURCH OF CHRIST at the AMBI RESIDENCE at Lasilas, Nangalisan, Tuba. He encouraged the brethren to press on towards the goal by "LEARNING CONTENTMENT THROUGH GRACE" based on Philippians 4: 12-20. There were more than sixty in attendance. The LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP was followed by the traditional exchange of gifts among the adults. The children received gifts courtesy of Mordecai Udan in celebration of his turning nine months old last December 17, 2023.Ω

"Beware of 'easy' routes for they often become expensive detours that are difficult and painful."

READ Ecclesiastes 7:7-9

INSIDE PAGE:

Past Adult Bible Study Outline...page 2

January Birth Anniversaries...page 3

Evangelistic Lesson Series...page 3

Sookan brethren appreciate visit of Midtown brethren

Brethren Ernie Wagang, Sotero Denis, and spouses Felix & Luz Olidan Jr. were in the Municipality of Bakun, Benguet last December 24, 2023 and have visited and served with the brethren in the SOOKAN GAMBANG CHURCH OF CHRIST. The congregation was where brother Felix Olidan Jr. served as an apprentice preacher before moving to Midtown in 1989. Also, Bakun is brother Ernie Wagang’s dear hometown.

The Midtown brethren are happy to find the brethren in Sookan faithful, actively serving the Lord’s church, and have in fact built a modest chapel in the area. The children of the late brother Danny Calapen have taken the leadership and responsibilities in the congregation. The Sookan brethren were very appreciative of the visit and are looking forward to another like occasion in the near future. Praises to the Lord God Almighty!Ω

TGIF concludes 2023 in Irisan; resumes meeting January 12

More or less sixty brethren and guests were present at the YEARENDER ACTIVITY of the FRIDAY CARE GROUP AKA THANK GOD IT’S FRIDAY OR TODAY GOD IS FIRST (TGIF) CARE GROUP held at the ROJO-PALAYPAYON RESIDENCE on Tamangan Road, Irisan, this city Friday evening of December 15, 2023.

The Devotional was spearheaded by brother Ezra Valdez with group discussions focusing on “COUNTING YOUR BLESSINGS AND LIVING IN CONTENTMENT.” The usual “*Greedy Man’s Gift Game*” reinforced the message of being content with one’s lot in life.

Many thanks to the Rojos and Palaypayons for traditionally hosting the annual activity.

The TGIF CARE GROUP usually meet at MIDTOWN’S ASSEMBLY HALL. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the said CARE GROUP even as it looks forward to resume on January 12, 2024 at 6:30—8:30 PM.Ω

LAST SUNDAY’S RECORD
December 31, 2023

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY SCHOOL + Virtual Class

PRESCHOOL.....6

GRADES 1-22

GRADES 3-4.....6

GRADES 5-6.....1

H.S./COL.....13

YAs20

TOTAL.....48

ADULTS.....140

YP EEZ.....28

CHILDREN.....18

GUESTS.....5

TOTAL.....188

OFFERING

AM & PM TOTAL:
PhP66,250.00

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:

*JONAH & CELIA CIRILO (FROM CANADA TO PHILIPPINES)

*ABRAM CIRILO & FAMILY (JAPAN)

*FELIX & LUZ OLIDAN (DUNGON CHURCH, SISON, PANG.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM—RESUMES JANUARY 9, 2024 | EVERYBODY WELCOME!

FRIDAY CARE GROUP AT MIDTOWN HALL AKA TGIF CARE GROUP—RESUMES JANUARY 12, 2024.

FIRST QUARTER LADIES STEERING GROUP—TO MEET TODAY, JANUARY 7, 2024 | KINDLY STAY FOR A BRIEF MEETING REGARDING THE FIRST OF THIS YEAR’S MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL & LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP.

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

LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

Luke 15:11-32

ARNAN BAYLA | MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST | DECEMBER 10, 24, 31, 2023

LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

Luke 15:11-32

- LEARNING FROM THE YOUNGER SON'S ACTIONS
 - Luke 15:11-20a
- LEARNING FROM THE FATHER'S ACTIONS
 - Luke 15:20b - 24
- LEARNING FROM THE OLDER SON'S ACTIONS
 - Luke 15:25-32

APPLICATION:

1. When can we be like the prodigal son in the Parable of the Lost Son?
 - When we have a foolish ambition to be independent and do not acknowledge God's part in our lives or parts of it.
 - When we think that we are entitled to claim our rights any time feeling that we have the right to do or have what we want without having to work for it just because of who we are.
 - When we make reflections on our lives, we lay aside all pride and feelings of entitlement. We bring nothing of value with us to the Heavenly Father.
 - When we realize that the Heavenly Father is all-merciful, we develop a longing to return to fellowship with Him, and thus genuinely repent.

APPLICATION:

2. When can we be like the father in the Parable of the Lost Son?
 - When we show compassion ("to suffer together") especially towards those who have wronged us and we are ready to forgive them.
 - When we choose to be merciful ("price paid") towards those in distress, especially when it is within one's power to punish or penalize them.
 - When we choose to be generous ("to favor") to someone especially of lower position or of lower condition.
 - When we realize others' condition of being lost, unknowing, and dead. And show them that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

APPLICATION:

3. When can we be like the older son in the Parable of the Lost Son?
 - When we as Christians harbor wrong thoughts and intentions about other Christians especially about those who fall into sin.
 - When we as Christians fail to maximize our relationship with the Heavenly Father. As children of God, we are blessed with all the spiritual blessings in Christ but whether we enjoy them or not depends on our relationship with the Father.
 - When we as children of God still live like a slave. Some of us could be living as slaves of God, not as His children. As His children, our motivation to serve Him is because we love Him. We don't seek rewards, instead seek Him who wants to reward us.

What are important lessons do we learn from the Parable of the Lost Son?

1. Like the prodigal son, let us learn to acknowledge our capacity to sin and rebel against God and so develop a repentant attitude in order to choose to return to the Heavenly Father.
2. Like the Father, let us learn to be loving, merciful, and gracious to those who sin against us.
3. Unlike the older son, let us learn to avoid pharisaical attitudes, legalistic attitudes, and selfish motives as we serve in the kingdom of God.

“

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3: 12-14 niv ”

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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)

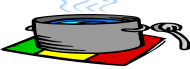
- LESSON NO. 1 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - A. God's Plan for Man
- LESSON NO. 2 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - B. The Fall of Man
- LESSON NO. 3 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - C. Jesus the Savior
- LESSON NO. 4 – The Scheme of Redemption:
 - D. The Steps of Salvation
- LESSON NO. 5 – The Scheme of 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

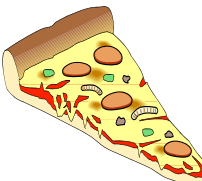
To enrol in any of the lessons, feel free to contact :
Arnan Bayla @ 0918-698-6470
Andy Bestre @ 0916-343-8539

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. Bayases
- 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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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
Top Floor Marlett's Bldg.
KM 4 MARCOS HIGHWAY, BAGUIO CITY, PHILS.
e-mail - midtownphcoc@yahoo.com
Midtown website: www.midtownchurchbaguio.org
Editorial Staff & Ministers:
Arnan A. Bayla Phone: 0918-698-6470
Andres E. Bestre Phone: 0916-343-8539
Ezra V. Valdez Phone: 0977-160-8271
Jesse M. Bestre Phone: 0916-543-7746
ELDERS: Maril P. Bayating Sr., Jonathan A. Ramos,
Santiago B. Samcon II, Ernesto B. Wagang
DEACONS: Gregory C. Kitma, Felix L. Olidan Jr.