



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

Vol. XL No. 13 March 31, 2024 Baguio City, Philippines

Mission & Vision We are committed to give God glory, praise, and honor as we serve in making disciples of Christ. We envision ourselves to be a congregation of worshippers of God in spirit and in truth, and to be a living demonstration of the presence and power of our Lord Jesus Christ in a community of faith, hope, and love.

"The church is one institution that exists for those outside it."

READ Matthew 5:13-16

INSIDE PAGE:
Post-pandemic Evaluation...page 2
3-Year Term Goals...page 2
2024 Annual Plan...page 3

Servers Today, March 31, 2024

SYMPOSIUM on Midtown's Vision, Mission, Goals

Speaker: GREG C. KITMA
 Song Leader: CHRIS OLIVA
 Invocation: GIL GERON
 Intercessory Prayer: NOEL ESPINOSA
 Communion Text: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-26
 Scripture Reading: DONNEL GONZALES
 Prayer for the Bread: IRA PO
 Prayer for the Cup: SAM QUEZADA
 Prayer for the Giving: LEM GLORI
 Closing Prayer: JULIUS ROJO
 Announcement: ARNAN BAYLA
 Afternoon Speaker: GREG C. KITMA
 Song Leader: CHRIS OLIVA
 To Bring Flowers: BAYATING FAMILY
 To Bring Biscuits: C/O MIDTOWN
 To Bring Drinks: C/O MIDTOWN
 Usher/ettes: BADDAS FAMILY

Communion: NELS & CHARIS BAYLA
 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 April 7, 2024

The Authority of Jesus Over Disease (Luke 4:38-44)

Speaker: EZRA VALDEZ
 Song Leader: JUN REYES
 Invocation: CHARLIE ABANCE
 Intercessory Prayer: NOEL ESPINOSA
 Communion Text: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8
 Scripture Reading: KEMUEL PERDIGON
 Prayer for the Bread: O'NIEL GONZALES
 Prayer for the Cup: JERRY MARTING
 Prayer for the Giving: MERVIN OLIVA
 Closing Prayer: ERNIE WAGANG
 Announcement: ANDY BESTRE
 Afternoon Speaker: EZRA VALDEZ
 Song Leader: JUN REYES
 To Bring Flowers: GLORI FAMILY
 To Bring Biscuits: C/O MIDTOWN
 To Bring Drinks: C/O MIDTOWN
 Usher/ettes: GERON FAMILY

Communion: PERDIGON FAMILY
 Worship Coordinator: JESSE BESTRE | ART TACAY

LAST SUNDAY'S RECORD
March 24, 2024

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY AM & PM	SUNDAY SCHOOL + Virtual Class PRESCHOOL.....10
ADULTS.....160	GRADES 1-26
YPPEEZ.....17	GRADES 3-4.....9
CHILDREN.....33	GRADES 5-6.....6
GUESTS.....10	H.S./COL.....15
TOTAL.....220	YAs22
	TOTAL.....68

OFFERING

AM & PM TOTAL: PhP60,847.00

PRAYER LIST

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 BONDOC *ELLA GAROY *LORENZA LOSNONG	*ERNIE ORDUÑA *FLORA CAMPOAS *CLYDE ABANCE *MELBA LICUPA *NIDA GABRIEL *CHARLIE ABANCE *NOVELITO ABANCE *JANET FERNANDEZ *RONELIZA PERALTA *BERNABE IGNACIO	REQUESTED BY BRETHREN: *CARMEN VILLANUEVA *MARILIZA ANDALLO *DIANA TAGUIBA *PHILIP BADUA *HORACIO C. RAMOS *FRANKY SANCHI *RYN EISEN PANGANIBAN *IAN PAJANTOY	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 *DESIREE BADDAS—NIERVES	Safe Travel: *DODOY & SARAH SAMEON (NEGROS MISSION ON MARCH 15—MAY 4, 2024) *FELIX & LUZ OLIDAN (HONG KONG)
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ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- **TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM**—On April 2, 2024 | 12:00—2:30 PM | EVERYBODY WELCOME!
- **STAFF MEETING WITH ELDERS & DEACONS**—MIDTOWN ASSEMBLY HALL | APRIL 1, 2024 | 3:00-4:30 PM.
- **WORKSHOP ON CHURCH FINANCE MANAGEMENT**—MIDTOWN ASSEMBLY HALL | APRIL 11 & 12, 2024 | 8:00 AM—5:00 PM | PLEASE CONTACT BROTHER GREG KITMA FOR DETAILS.
- **46TH NATIONAL LADIES RETREAT**—FCG HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER, KIDAPAWAN CITY, COTABATO | JULY 16-19, 2024 | REGULAR REGISTRATION FEE: P6,000.00 | MIDTOWN TO SHOULDER 50% OF REGISTRATION FEE.
- **BIBLE STUDY CENTER**—AT THE MIDTOWN ASSEMBLY HALL | OPEN MONDAY THRU FRIDAY FOR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY AND BIBLICAL COUNSELLING | BRING ANYONE INTERESTED IN A FORMAL BIBLE STUDY COURSE OR BRING ANYONE WHO WOULD NEED COUNSELING OR NEEDING SOMEONE TO TALK TO.

Ramoses report on mission trip to Vietnam

Spouses Jojo & Janet Ramos report that their recent mission trip to Hanoi, Vietnam on March 14-20, 2024 was blessed by the Lord God Almighty and enabled them to meet up with MRN missionaries, David Allen & Mark Hooper. They met with two Christian families based in Hanoi, namely, spouses Bai & Riza Padua with children Zian, 13 years old, and Zuri, 9 years old, and spouses Ric & Lauren Nel with two young boys. The Paduas are from LA TRINIDAD CHURCH OF CHRIST. Brother Bai is the son of spouses Danilo & Ligaya Padua of La Trinidad. The Nels are from BONTEHEUWEL CHURCH OF CHRIST in Cape Town, South Africa. Together, they made up the first worship assembly of the church of Christ in Hanoi last March 17, 2024. Spouses Kory & Hannah Alfred, American missionaries living in Da Nang, Vietnam, were there to give their support.

Overall, the mission work in Hanoi was placed on first gear by the MISSIONS RESOURCE NETWORK (MRN). The Ramoses are set to mentor, counsel, and guide the two families in their purpose of sharing the good news to the people of Vietnam. Prayers are solicited for this worthy endeavor and that Midtown will also take the challenge to be involved in this and in carrying out the GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 28:18-20) into all the world. Praises to the Lord!Ω

Olidans leave for HK for a month-long visit w/ brethren

Spouses Felix & Luz Olidan left for Hong Kong Saturday for a month-long visit with family, friends, and brethren in Wanchai. Brother Felix Olidan Jr. will serve as speaker in Wanchai March 31, 2024. Last Sunday, they served with the SAPANG CHURCH OF CHRIST in Moncada, Tarlac. Earlier, they served as principal witnesses in a wedding. After the worship assembly, they paid a visit to three families who formerly served at Wanchai. Bon voyage! For God's glory and praise!Ω

Upper Kitma residents baptized into Christ

The congregation gives all praises and glory to the Almighty God for the new birth of spouses OSCAR & MELISSA SISON last Saturday afternoon, March 23, 2024. Brother Arnan Bayla baptized them into Christ after having earlier completed the SEEKERS LESSON SERIES Friday afternoon, March 22.

The new disciples of Christ are good neighbors of the Kitmas at Upper Kitma Village, this city. The Sison family actively attends the worship assembly at MIDTOWN. Their children attend the BAGUO PINES FAMILY LEARNING CENTER (BPFLC) as well as Midtown's Sunday School. Sister Melissa is a former faculty who served with BPFLC for almost a decade. Brother Oscar teaches at the Saint Louis University.

Midtown brethren welcomes the newest disciples of Christ in the congregation and prays for their continued spiritual growth. All glory to the Heavenly Father!Ω

FCG first to welcome Palaypayon kin born anew

The FRIDAY CARE GROUP meeting at Midtown's Assembly Hall was the first to welcome sister MARILYN PALAYPAYON—NACATAB, who was baptized by brother Arnan Bayla last Friday evening, March 22. She earlier came to the city from her hometown in Tadian, Mt. Province purposely for a Bible study and completed the SEEKERS LESSON SERIES with sister Ruth Trinidad. She went back home to give herself time to count the cost of discipleship until she returned to the city that Friday, decided to be born again and be a disciple of Christ. She is the older sister of brother Solomon Palaypayon. The Palaypayons are truly grateful for this development. All glory to God Almighty.Ω

EVALUATION OF THE POST-PANDEMIC PERIOD (2022-2023)

A. STRENGTHS

1. EVANGELISM
a. On-going Bible Studies for Seekers; b. On-going implementation of the Bible Study Center (BSC) for evangelism; c. On-going outreach missions; d. Availability of Lesson Materials (i.e. Introductory Lessons, Seeker's Lessons, Tracts, Church Library and Internet Resources); e. Realized consistent number of baptisms for the past years (15 in 2022; 17 in 2023).

2. EDIFICATION

a. At least 10 on-going and active care groups; b. United leadership and membership; c. Consistent number of attendance in the Sunday worship assembly; d. Availability of volunteer teachers for Sunday School and adult classes; e. Availability of Lesson Materials (i.e. New Life Lessons, Sunday School Lessons, Church Library and Internet Resources); f. On-going Bible studies for New Life Lessons; g. On-going Sunday School for children and adult classes; h. On-going Youth Ministry and Ladies Ministry.

3. BENEVOLENCE

a. Benevolent members

4. ADMINISTRATION

a. Presence of 4 full-time staff workers; b. Weekly Tuesday Church Forum; c. Newly installed Elders (4) and Deacons (2); d. Financially capable of supporting the needs of the church and its ministries; e. Able to utilize technology for various ministry work; f. Availability of needed facilities and equipment; g. Accessibility and visibility of the Worship Assembly Hall; h. Members are well informed through the Weekly Midtown Informer.

B. WEAKNESSES

1. EVANGELISM

a. Lack of evangelistic thrusts (objectives), strategies and campaign; b. Lack of thrusts (objectives) and strategies in strengthening existing CARE groups to be productive; c. Some leaders and members are not open-minded regarding new strategies of evangelism.

2. EDIFICATION

a. Lack of involvement of some members in church ministries; b. Lack of thrusts (objectives) and strategies in equipping the saints for discipleship; c. Lack of hospitality/warmth towards members and visitors during worship assemblies and fellowships; d. Not all inactive, needy, sick, and aged members are visited; e. No existing Men's Ministry; f. Aging members prone to becoming inactive in church fellowship and ministry.

3. ADMINISTRATION

a. Lack of parking spaces; b. Difficulty of availing transportation to and from the Worship Assembly Hall; c. Some facilities not friendly to the elderly and sickly (i.e. stairs); d. Potential lack of space in the Worship Assembly Hall due to the increasing number of church members; e. Lack of supervision of the full-time workers; f. Incurred deficit in finances; g. Church's website not updated.

C. OPPORTUNITIES

1. EVANGELISM: a. On-going church and school cooperation (BPFLC); b. On-going partnership with the Family Life Center (FLC) as an avenue for fellowship and evangelism; c. Potential revival of the prison ministry; d. Harvest is plentiful around Midtown. 2. EDIFICATION: a. Existing/potential partnerships with other congregations and institutions. 3. BENEVOLENCE; 4. ADMINISTRATION: a. Potential partnership with private shuttle services to address the transportation needs of some members.

D. THREATS/CHALLENGES

1. EVANGELISM: a. Aggressive denominations in preaching their faith and beliefs to some members and potential members. 2. EDIFICATION: a. Unregulated external church related activities and commitments of leaders/full-time workers affecting focus for local church ministry. 3. BENEVOLENCE 4. ADMINISTRATION

3-YEAR TERM GOALS (2024-2026)

A. EVANGELISM

Lord willing, by the end of 2026, we will have: 1. Maximized all evangelistic campaign strategies and resources to evangelize at least five Barangays surrounding the Midtown church resulting to at least 100 baptisms. 2. Equipped and maintained the competence of the Mission Outreach Ministry to evangelize far flung but accessible communities resulting in the strengthening and growth of 4 partner local congregations in current mission fields.

B. EDIFICATION

Lord-willing, by the end of 2026, we will have: 1. Continued discipling all newly baptized members by teaching them at least the New Life Lessons and mentoring them for church ministry. 2. Consistently encouraged 100% of the membership to actively participate in various ministries by helping them identify and develop their gifts/talents resulting to at least 75% membership involvement in church ministry. 3. Encouraged all members to be part of any CARE GROUP or to organize their own if needed, resulting in at least 75% of the membership actively participating in one CARE GROUP.

4. Encouraged and equipped at least 12 more prayer leaders and 3 more song leaders to serve in worship assemblies.

5. Reached an average Sunday Worship Assembly attendance of at least 350 by maintaining a steady church growth.

6. Provided access to a sponsorship or scholarship program for willing and deserving members to study Theology or Bible Course at any affiliated institutions resulting to at least three graduates, fully-equipped to serve as full/part-time ministers.

C. BENEVOLENCE

Lord willing, by the end of 2026, we will have: 1. Consistently provided visitation, counseling, prayer, and benevolence to all members and to referrals who are needy, sick, hospitalized, elderly, also to inactive members by equipping the Visitation, Guidance, Counseling, Prayer, and Benevolence ministries, and involving all other ministries and the CARE GROUPS for benevolent work.

D. ADMINISTRATION AND EQUIPPING

Lord willing, by the end of 2026, we will have: 1. Improved church management by developing a functional Ministries Handbook serving to provide information, procedures, guidelines, policies, and principles of the congregation accessible and usable to all members. 2. Equipped and maintained the competence of all ministries and CARE GROUPS for the 3-fold church function of benevolence, edification, & evangelism, and through combined holistic equipping methodologies such as seminars, trainings, mentorship, access to teaching aids & technology, access to project funds, access to guidance by elders, deacons, volunteers and full-time church workers.

2024 ANNUAL PLAN

A. EQUIPPING MINISTRY

OBJECTIVE 1: To provide awareness campaign to all members of the congregation and its partners on the 3-fold function of benevolence, edification, and evangelism.

OBJECTIVE 2: To conduct training for leaders and members of the various CARE Groups and ministries and partner groups on the 3-fold

function of benevolence, edification, and evangelism.

OBJECTIVE 3: To develop and make available tools (Information, Education, Communication materials) on the 3-fold function of benevolence, edification, and evangelism.

OBJECTIVE 4: To develop and make available training/workshop modules on the following: Identification of gifts/talents and how to harness it for church ministry; Leading Public Prayers; Song leading; Discipling/Mentoring/Coaching; Understanding the 3-fold Function of the church; Mission work, etc.

OBJECTIVE 5: To develop a work plan for mission outreach activities and to implement the same.

OBJECTIVE 6: To develop a work plan for the Bible Study Center and to implement the same.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRY

OBJECTIVE 1: To develop and implement the management scheme of church funds.

OBJECTIVE 2: To develop and implement the management scheme of church logistics.

OBJECTIVE 3: To develop and implement the management scheme of church staff.

OBJECTIVE 4: To develop and implement proper office management.

OBJECTIVE 5: To maintain the management of church physical assets and equipment.

OBJECTIVE 6: To maintain the management of Sunday Worship Assemblies.

OBJECTIVE 7: To maintain the publication of the Weekly Midtown Informer.

OBJECTIVE 8: To maintain the compliance of the BIR and SEC requirements.

OBJECTIVE 9: To maintain current church partnerships.

OBJECTIVE 10: To develop and complete the first draft of the Ministry Handbook of the Midtown church of Christ.

OBJECTIVE 11: To provide awareness campaign to all members of the congregation on the VMG, Post-pandemic Evaluation, and New Organizational Structure.

OBJECTIVE 12: To conduct training for leaders and members of the various CARE Groups and ministries on church planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

*From Results of Planning by Elders & Deacons and the TCF.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

Table with 4 columns: 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

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