

Servers Today, August 16, 2026

Becoming Godly Leaders  
(1 Timothy 3:1-13)

Speaker: GREG KITMA

Song Leader: KAJEM KITMA

Invocation: DODOY SAMEON

Intercessory Prayer: NOEL ESPINOSA

Communion Text: COLOSSIANS 1:13-23

Scripture Reading: RIVU ALBAY

Prayer for the Bread: JASPER PERDIGON

Prayer for the Cup: ART TACAY

Prayer for the Giving: CHRIS OLIVA

Closing Prayer: EZRA VALDEZ

Announcement: ANDY BESTRE

Speaker: GREG KITMA

Song Leader: KAJEM KITMA

To Bring Flowers: CRISTY AUSTRIA

To Bring Biscuits: C/o MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/o MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: KITMA LADIES

Communion: AMBER PHOLEN PO

Worship Coordinator: EZRA VALDEZ | ART TACAY

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 August 23, 2026

The Mystery of Godliness  
(1 Timothy 3:14-16)

Speaker: JESSE BESTRE

Song Leader: ANDY BESTRE

Invocation: MARIL P. BAYATING SR.

Intercessory Prayer: DEXTER WAGANG

Communion Text: ROMANS 8:1-4

Scripture Reading: LIAM SALUD

Prayer for the Bread: RON VILLARUZ

Prayer for the Cup: MARK QUIZANA

Prayer for the Giving: SAM QUEZADA

Closing Prayer: DODOY SAMEON

Announcement: ANDY BESTRE

Afternoon Speaker: JESSE BESTRE

Song Leader: ANDY BESTRE

To Bring Flowers: CLARITA CACHERO

To Bring Biscuits: C/o MIDTOWN

To Bring Drinks: C/o MIDTOWN

Usher/ettes: QUEZADA FAMILY

Communion: AMBER PHOLEN PO

Worship Coordinator: ART TACAY | LEM GLORI

LAST SUNDAY'S RECORD  
August 9, 2026

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY AM & PM

ADULTS.....110

YPEEZ.....13

CHILDREN.....10

GUESTS.....1

TOTAL.....137

SUNDAY SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL.....5

GRADES 1-2 .....1

GRADES 3—4.....2

GRADES 5-6.....2

J.H.S.....7

SHS/COL.....2

ADULT.....88

TOTAL.....107

OFFERING

AM&PM: P61,888.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM — AUGUST 18, 2026 | 12:00—2:30 PM | EVERYBODY WELCOME!

• BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR— ASIAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, SALOMAGUE SUR, BUGALLON, PANGASINAN | AUGUST 31—SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 | OPEN TO PREACHERS, CHURCH LEADERS—WORKERS, YOUTH LEADERS, STUDENTS | 8:30 AM—4:30 PM | FREE FOOD AND LODGING || CONTACT 0917-700-6744 OR 0917—720—8891 TO SEND YOUR NAME TO RESERVE ACCOMMODATION | SPEAKER: BROTHER KIRK BROTHERS.

• WANTED: FULL-TIME INTERN EVANGELIST — PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATION LETTER AND RESUME ADDRESSED TO THE ELDERS & DEACONS. KINDLY REFER TO LAST SUNDAY’S ISSUE OF THE MIDTOWN INFORMER FOR DETAILS.

THE MIDTOWN

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

INFORMER



Vol. XLII No. 33

August 16, 2026

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.

Brother Don Huddleston speaks in midweek devo

Midtown warmly welcomed brother Don Huddleston and his wife, Litha, during the MIDWEEK CARE GROUP DEVOTIONAL held at the MIDTOWN ASSEMBLY HALL on Wednesday evening, August 12, 2026. Brother Don, a former American missionary who served in the Philippines during the 1970s, expressed his appreciation for the good number who attended the devotional. He was especially grateful for the warm hospitality and vibrant spirit of the congregation, which were evident through the efforts of the MIDWEEK CARE GROUP, who hosted a FELLOWSHIP DINNER immediately following the Bible study. Brother Don was particularly delighted to meet several children and relatives of fellow laborers in the Kingdom whom he had known during his years of missionary work, including brethren Jun Reyes, Nelly Bayla, and Glen Gawe. He was also impressed to learn that the Midtown congregation is served by elders and deacons, noting that this is a relatively uncommon among congregations in the Philippines. He was happy to have met one of them, brother Ernie Wagang, who also attended his seminar held at the BAGUIO CHURCH OF CHRIST. More than thirty brethren, including a few children, were in attendance. Brothers Rolly and Phillip Dumawa, who served as hosts for the Huddlestons, were also present. On behalf of the Midtown congregation, spouses Arnan & Nelly Bayla presented a simple token of appreciation to brother Don and sister Litha in grateful recognition of their visit and their service in the Lord’s work. Meanwhile, an upcoming 5-day BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR will be held at the ASIAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY in Bugallon, Pangasinan on August 31—September 4, 2026. It is open to anyone interested. Registration is free including food and lodging al through out the event. Register early at 0917-700-6744. To God be all glory and praise! Ω

“Leadership in the Kingdom of God begins with a towel, not a title.”

READ John 13:1-17

INSIDE PAGE:  
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August Birth Anniversaries...page 3  
Evangelistic Lesson Series...page 3

Midtown brethren preside in Friday funeral service

Brothers Arnan Bayla and Andy Bestre, together with many brethren from Midtown, presided over the FUNERAL SERVICE in honor of the late ELIZABETH SIMEON BAYATING at BAHAY DAMAYAN BY COSMOPOLITAN SF FUNERAL HOMES along Km. 5 Marcos Highway, Baguio City, last Friday, August 14, 2026. The COMMITAL and CREMATION SERVICE followed at the Crematorium of HEAVEN’S GARDEN MEMORIAL PARK in Loakan, Baguio City. Mrs. Elizabeth Bayating, who passed away from cancer at the age of 61 on August 9, 2026, was the sister-in-law of brother Maril P. Bayating. Some of her children, as well as a son-in-law, are active members of the CHURCHES OF CHRIST in the country and abroad. The SIMEON–BAYATING FAMILY expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Midtown congregation for the nightly vigil services and the funeral service. They were especially grateful for the presence of the brethren who offered support and prayers, led songs, and shared messages of comfort and hope during their time of grief. To God alone be all the glory and praise! Ω

MARCH for Christ builds house for PWDs

Two persons with disabilities and members of the Piglusungan congregation in Jose Abad Santos became recipients of the benevolent program of MARCH FOR CHRIST. Their house crumbled during the earthquake. Through the benevolent efforts of March for Christ, a new house was provided and turned over to them on August 9, 2026 marked by a Thanksgiving devotional service conducted by the local preacher and members of the congregation. Glory be to God alone! Ω

# TRUE PROSPERITY

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” — 3 John 2

This verse is often misused by proponents of the modern **health-and-wealth gospel**, who teach that every believer should experience physical healing and financial success if his or her “soul prospereth.” Such teaching wrongly suggests that Christians who experience illness, poverty, or hardship must somehow lack faith or be outside God’s will. The life of the apostle **Paul** clearly disproves this idea. Paul was an exemplary servant of Christ, yet God did not remove his “thorn in the flesh” despite his earnest prayers (2 Corinthians 12:7–9). He also endured poverty, suffering, persecution, and eventually martyrdom. His hardships did not indicate a lack of faith; rather, they demonstrated the depth of his faith and commitment to Christ. Throughout history, many faithful servants of God have likewise endured physical limitations and material hardship while remaining spiritually fruitful.

We should also remember that **3 John 2 is a prayer, not a promise of guaranteed health and wealth.** John was expressing his desire that Gaius would enjoy good health and well-being just as he was prospering spiritually. **The verse does not teach that physical health and material abundance are automatic measures of one's faithfulness.**

The Bible does, however, point us toward a **true and lasting prosperity**—one that will be fully realized in eternity. Revelation 21:4 promises a time when God will wipe away every tear, and there will be no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain. This is the ultimate prosperity God has prepared for His people.

Therefore, our greatest concern should not be how wealthy we are, how healthy we remain, or how comfortable our present circumstances may be. **Our greatest prosperity is the prosperity of the soul.**

Jesus promised:  
“My reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” — Revelation 22:12

Earthly prosperity is temporary. **Spiritual prosperity is eternal.** True prosperity is not measured by what we possess, but by **the condition of our souls and our faithfulness to God.** Let us therefore seek first the things that have eternal value and strive to be spiritually rich before God. HMM

## 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)

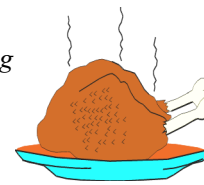
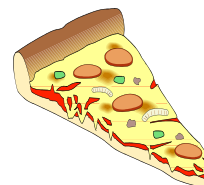
- LESSON NO. 1 – Assurance of Salvation
- LESSON NO. 2 – Obedient Living
- LESSON NO. 3 – Dealing With Temptations
- LESSON NO. 4 – Developing a Devotional Life
- LESSON NO. 5 – Developing a Prayerful Life
- LESSON NO. 6 – Discerning God’s Guidance
- LESSON NO. 7 – My Church Involvement & Spiritual Gifts
- 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  
Ezra Valdez @ 0977-160-8271  
Angela Ramos @ 0995-463-3686

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

## August Celebrators

01 - Ryan Anthony Bestre  
01 - Lorena Ariston-Baban  
02 - Aubrey Abance—Flores  
03 - Pia Guelles  
03- Ronald Villaruz  
04 - Jeremiah N. Licupa  
04 - Kendall Alvarez  
07 - Maril A. Bayating Jr.  
07 - Renzo W. Allaria  
08 - Melina Igoy  
08 - Belen A. Navalta (+)  
09 - Kheif Walang  
10 - Sarah M. Sameon  
10 - Janet K. Perdigon  
11 - Manolo A. Bayla  
12 - Fely R. Rojo  
15 - Jehzeel Diane A. Martin  
15 - Jacob U. Donato  
16 - Llona Manalo  
16 - Bibita ‘Bing’ T. Buendia  
17 - Pia T. Lopez  
20 - Norma B. Abance  
20 - Renian Keith A. Nawew  
20 - Elizabeth C. Eudela  
20 - Jennifer Yaneza  
23 - Anthony R. Wagang  
23 - James Kevin O. Cadiz  
24 - Henry C. Sunggay Jr.  
25 - Bernabe P. Ignacio (+)  
26 - Kesha Kitma—Oliva  
26 - Erah Azumi G. Elipane  
27 - Jill B. Cados—Bugnay  
28 - Gian Zharlo B. Gomowang  
29 - Jacinth K. Perdigon  
31 - Rodeliza Q. Enecillo



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

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSEMBLY

|                                                                 |                                           |                                                 |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Singing & Prayers<br>LORD’S SUPPER<br>and OFFERING<br>9:00–9:30 | Prayers<br>&<br>BIBLE STUDY<br>9:35–10:25 | Singing, Prayers<br>&<br>MESSAGE<br>10:30–11:10 | Greetings<br>&<br>ANNOUNCEMENTS<br>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

Top Floor Marlett’s Bldg.  
KM 4 MARCOS HIGHWAY, BAGUIO CITY, PHILS.  
e-mail - [midtownphcoc@yahoo.com](mailto:midtownphcoc@yahoo.com)  
Midtown website: [www.midtownchurchbaguio.org](http://www.midtownchurchbaguio.org)

Editorial Staff & Ministers:  
Arnan A. Bayla | Phone: 0918-698-6470  
Ezra V. Valdez | Phone: 0977-160-8271  
Angela Ramos | Phone: 0995-463-3686  
ELDERS: Maril P. Bayating Sr., Jonathan A. Ramos,  
Santiago B. Sameon II, Ernesto B. Wagang  
DEACONS: Gregory C. Kitma, Felix L. Olidan Jr.