



Vol. XL No. 52 December 29, 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 only way to get rid of your past is to make a future out of it. God will waste nothing.”

READ Jeremiah 29:11

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Servers Today, December 29, 2024

A Personal Question About Danger (Luke 13:31-35)

Guest Speaker: *PHILLIP DUMAWA*
 Song Leader: *ANDY BESTRE*
 Invocation: *FELIX OLIDAN JR.*
 Intercessory Prayer: *EZRA VALDEZ*
 Communion Text: *ROMANS 6:1-8*
 Scripture Reading: *ALTON MARK BAYLA*
 Prayer for the Bread: *JHUN REYES*
 Prayer for the Cup: *LEMUEL GLORI*
 Prayer for the Giving: *SAM QUEZADA*
 Closing Prayer: *JOJO RAMOS*
 Announcement: *ANDY BESTRE*
 Afternoon Speaker: *PHILLIP DUMAWA*
 Song Leader: *ANDY BESTRE*
 To Bring Flowers: *MELECIA ABANCE*
 To Bring Biscuits: *C/O MIDTOWN*
 To Bring Drinks: *C/O MIDTOWN*
 Usher/ettes: *BAYLA FAMILY*

Communion: *NELLY & 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 January 5, 2025

The Parable of Excuses (Luke 14:1-24)

Speaker: *JOJO RAMOS*
 Song Leader: *ARNAN BAYLA*
 Invocation: *NOEL ESPINOSA*
 Intercessory Prayer: *DEXTER WAGANG*
 Communion Text: *ROMANS 6:9-14*
 Scripture Reading: *JEREMIE CRAIG LICUPA*
 Prayer for the Bread: *MARK QUIZANA*
 Prayer for the Cup: *LEEMAR SIMON*
 Prayer for the Giving: *MARIL BAYATING SR.*
 Closing Prayer: *ERNIE WAGANG*
 Announcement: *ARNAN BAYLA*
 Afternoon Speaker: *JOJO RAMOS*
 Song Leader: *ARNAN BAYLA*
 To Bring Flowers: *CLARITA CACHERO*
 To Bring Biscuits: *C/O MIDTOWN*
 To Bring Drinks: *C/O MIDTOWN*
 Usher/ettes: *AUSTRIA FAMILY*

Communion: *LORI AUSTRIA*
 Worship Coordinator: *EZRA VALDEZ | ART TACAY*

Bestre and Alegrid tie knot at historic Bell amphitheater

The Midtown congregation praises the Lord God Almighty as well as congratulates brother Jesse Reuben Bestre and sister Riza Aneline Alegrid who tied the knot in a fitting wedding ceremony held at the historic BELL AMPHITHEATER at CAMP JOHN HAY, this city. Brother Arnan Bayla solemnized their marriage afternoon of December 12, 2024. Reception followed immediately at the same venue with a good number of brethren from Midtown and Manila gracing the momentous occasion. Many of the Principal Witnesses who stood to attest to the exchange of the newlywed's vows and rings are married couples from Midtown.

Earlier, the couple completed the Premarital Course, PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE GOD'S WAY, with brother Arnan Bayla.

The couple has gone to Morocco for their honeymoon and are expected to return to the country any time soon. Again, congratulations to the newlywed! To God be the glory!Ω

Over 70 crowds TGIF yearender in Irisan

Over seventy (70+) Midtown brethren and guests gathered for the ANNUAL YEARENDER FELLOWSHIP sponsored by the TGIF (THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY) CARE GROUP which was hosted by the Rojos and the Palaypayons in their residences on Tamangan Road, Irisan, this city, last December 20, 2024.

As had been in the past years, everyone enjoyed the sharing of insights, thoughts, thanksgiving, and prayers during the DEVOTIONAL facilitated by brother Dexter Wagang and the Young Adults. Participants enjoyed the food, fun, fellowship together with all the laughter in the games.

Many thanks again to the Rojos and the Palaypayons for their hospitality and the generosity! For God's glory and honor!Ω

LAST SUNDAY'S RECORD
December 22, 2024

ATTENDANCE

REGULAR WORSHIP ASSEMBLY AM & PM	SUNDAY SCHOOL
ADULTS.....170	PRESCHOOL.....6
YPEEZ.....23	GRADES 1-27
CHILDREN.....26	GRADES 3-44
GUESTS.....1	GRADES 5-65
TOTAL.....220	H.S.....15
	COL/YAs.....13
	ADULT Classes..112
	TOTAL.....164

OFFERING
AM & PM: P57,425.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WELCOME TO THE DUMAWA FAMILY** —BROTHER PHILLIP DUMAWA, MINISTER OF THE INSTRUCCION CHURCH OF CHRIST, SAMPALOC, MANILA IS OUR GUEST SERMON SPEAKER TODAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024.
- **NO TUESDAY CHURCH FORUM** —ON DECEMBER 31, 2024 | RESUMES JANUARY 7, 2025 | 12 PM
- **YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PARENTS CARE GROUP & FELLOWSHIP**—MOVED TO NEXT YEAR AND WILL SERVE AS A YEARSTARTER ACTIVITY | PLEASE WATCH FOR THE UPDATES TO BE RELEASED SOON.
- **NATIONAL LADIES RETREAT**—TAGAYTAY CITY | APRIL 22-25, 2025 | SIGN UP UNTIL DECEMBER 15, 2024.
- **READING CENTER**—AT THE MIDTOWN ASSEMBLY HALL | EVERY FRIDAY | OPENS 9 AM—CLOSES 3 PM
- **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.

PRAYER LIST

FOR GOOD HEALTH & RECOVERY BRETHREN:
 *GLORIA YANG
 *JOSEFA JOSAYAN
 *DONNA GERON
 *PRISCILLA BAYASEN
 *DODOY & SARAH SAMEON
 *DITH ZAMORA
 *TESS KITMA
 *BERNARD IGNACIO
 *JONATHAN ENERVA
 *JOCELYN CALIXTRO
 *JOVITA BONDOC
 *ELLA GAROY
 *LORENZA LOSNONG
 *ERNE ORDUÑA, JR.
 *FLORA CAMPOAS
 *CLYDE ABANCE
 *MELBA LICUPA

*NIDA GABRIEL
 *CHARLIE ABANCE
 *BERNABE IGNACIO
 *MARIL BAYATING, SR
 *LILY SORIANO
 *CARLOTA CERA
 *SHAMAE RAMOS
 *AIKO PAROHINOG—GOMEZ

REQUESTED BY BRETHREN:
 *CARMEN VILLANUEVA
 *MARILIZA ANDALLO
 *DIANA TAGUIBA
 *PHILIP BADUA
 *FRANKY SANCHI
 *RYN EISEN PANGANIBAN
 *JAN PAJANTOY
 *JAYVEE MAGPAYO
 *GASPAR NAWEW
 *JERALD BACOY
 *JEHMEL OFRENEO

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE
 *LOCAL, NATIONAL, WORLD LEADERS & GOVERNMENT
 *ON-GOING SEEKERS' BS
 *ON-GOING FOLLOW-UP BS
 *OPPORTUNITIES TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

OTHER CONCERNS
Safe Travel:
 *BRETHREN TRAVELLING FOR THE HOLIDAY BREAK.
 *DIANE MARTIN (NZ)
 *ANGELICA WAGANG (CH)
 *JESSE & RIZA BESTRE (MA)
 *LOUISE BAWAS (JP)



Acosta laid to rest on Kennon mountaintop

Midtown conveyed sympathies to the bereaved family of the late brother CESAR M. ACOSTA who succumbed to complications caused by diabetes and passed on to Abraham's side on December 15, 2024. A couple of vigil services were conducted by brethren including Julius & Fely Rojo, Lori Austria, Jun Reyes, and the Perdignons at Gusaran, Camp 6, Tuba, Benguet with brothers Arnan Bayla and Ezra Valdez alternating as devotional speakers.

The funeral service was held at the CAMP 6 PUBLIC CEMETERY located on a mountaintop. Brother Arnan Bayla officiated the committal together with spouses Felix & Luz Ovidan, Ezra Valdez, and Nelly Bayla the other past Saturday, December 21, 2024.

The ACOSTA FAMILY and relatives expressed appreciation for the unceasing prayers, support, and benevolence. For God's glory and praise!Ω

Midtown brethren serve as speakers in sister congregations

Brother Greg Kitma served as speaker for the YEAREND THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP of the NANGALISAN CHURCH OF CHRIST last Sunday morning, December 22, 2024. The Riverview brethren and the Lasilas brethren gathered at the Riverview Meeting Place for a joint worship assembly and fellowship.

Meanwhile, brother Felix Ovidan Jr. served as sermon speaker for the UPPER SESSION CHURCH OF CHRIST last Sunday.

Spouses Jojo and Janet Ramos served as one of the invited RESOURCE SPEAKERS in the CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP hosted by the Asian Christian University in Bugallon, Pangasinan on December 22-25. The couple discussed about MARRIAGE: FREE TO SERVE, BOUND TO EACH OTHER.” There were six young people from Nangalisan whose Registration Fees were sponsored by Midtown. For God's greater glory!Ω

FEARLESS LIVING

My favorite verses to begin any New Year come from **Lamentations 3:19-24**. I have given you three translations for this passage. Each one brings new things to light and causes us to begin this year anew for the Lord with great Hope.

"Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall!²⁰ My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.²¹ But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope.²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.²⁴ "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." (ESV)

"The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words.²⁰ I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.²¹ Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this:²² The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease.²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.²⁴ I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" (NLT)

¹⁹⁻²¹ I'll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness, the taste of ashes, the poison I've swallowed. I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—the feeling of hitting the bottom. But there's one other thing I remember, and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:

²²⁻²⁴ God's loyal love couldn't have run out, his merciful love couldn't have dried up. They're created new every morning. How great your faithfulness! I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over). He's all I've got left. (MSG)

The people of Israel were rebelling against God and Jeremiah felt that deeply as he sought to speak to the people about God. The prophet Jeremiah, had seen and experienced great hardship both physically and spiritually. In spite of trials, will you like Jeremiah place your trust and hope in the Lord?⁹ *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."* (1 Peter 2:9-10). **THROUGH CHRIST WE HAVE RECEIVED GOD'S GREATEST MERCY.**

If you don't feel His mercy in the midst of your turmoil, turn to Him and ask Him for insight to see where He is being merciful to you. No place else can we get that assurance and hope. He alone is faithful and will give us new mercies each and every morning. Sending Jesus was God's greatest gift of mercy towards us, and so begin this New Year with thanksgiving on your lips. Walk the next 365 days with the Lord and experience His mercies each and every morning! Happy New Year!

Condensed from the work of Linda Knight, daybydayfearlessliving.com

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)

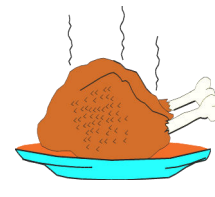
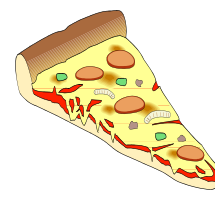
- LESSON NO. 1 – Assurance of Salvation
- LESSON NO. 2 – Obedient Living
- LESSON NO. 3 – Dealing With Temptations
- LESSON NO. 4 – Developing a Devotional Life
- LESSON NO. 5 – Developing a Prayerful Life
- LESSON NO. 6 – Discerning God's Guidance
- LESSON NO. 7 – My Church Involvement & Spiritual Gifts
- 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

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
- 10 - Lara Chauncey Montes
- 12 - Dionesia Gorio
- 12 - Lorenza Losnong
- 14 - Anastacia S. Palaoag
- 15 - Jan Arthur Tacay
- 15 - Ronnilie Corisay
- 18 - Macrina Espiritu
- 18 - Oscar Sison Jr.
- 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 (deceased)
- 27 - Rachel Ann R. Torres
- 28 - Ernesto B. Wagang
- 28 - Myra O. Manansala
- 29 - Charis Grace D. Bayla
- 29 - Xyrus Macario
- 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

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

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