

ISSUE NO. 11

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# BURNING BUSH

THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

# 13<sup>th</sup>

# Anniversary

## THE LOVE *for* JESUS

*Jesus  
answered  
and said unto  
him, If a man love  
me, he will keep my words:  
and my Father will love him, and we will  
come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

*John 14:23*

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

# HAPPY *Birthday*

## Pastor Erwin

Pastor Ian Alix

**H**onestly, I don't know where to start, there are millions of thoughts that run in my mind whenever somebody would ask me, "Who is Pastor Erwin to you?" Basically, there's just 13 years of memory I got in here. (Smile) But I believe, this story would summarize it all for you.

One of the most unforgettable moments with Pastor Erwin was the day when I took the practicum exam during our Hermeneutics class. It was the summer of 2008 held in Manama Villa. As far as I can remember, I was the last student to stand up to preach. I was confident and ready to impress my classmates with my tone of voice, English accent, good posture, all tucked in with my dashing formal outfit. I said to myself, "I will stand out to be the Preacher of the night." I remember I was preaching through 2 Timothy chapter 2, choosing an outline about spreading the gospel about how Paul charge Timothy to be faithful to the Word and that he may be able to teach others also. Verses 1 and 2 were good. But when I came to verse 3-14, it was all about suffering in the ministry. And I don't like that. So I skip that whole section and literally avoided it, and came back to verse 15. I was preaching something that only conforms to what I want. Not what God desires.

Immediately, I started to recognize those who are cheering up with my 'witty preaching style' and they seem to

have enjoyed it. To my surprise, I've noticed Pastor Erwin shaking his head in despair. I knew he was not pleased. After the preaching, he told me in his open comment in front of everybody in the room that he was not listening after verse 2. He was disappointed because after all the long and tedious 6 months class study, I am still missing the point of being a Bible teacher. He emphatically told me, "You are preaching for yourself and not for God."

He made sure that night that goal of preaching is not to impress people but to make the Word of God clear and that Jesus would shine into the hearts of men. The biggest lesson I've learned as a Pastor.

To me he is not only a Minister or a Mentor but a trusted friend. Pastor Erwin together with his wife Sister "Tita" Beth left those fine footprints to become our Godly example, not only in the church ministry, but also in our marriage and family relationship with Sherylle and my young boys Shadrach and Meshach.

### **Truly a man who "walks the talk"**

1 Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

I thank the Lord that in my lifetime, I have witnessed a man whose character reflects a faithful servant of God. Indeed, we saw Jesus in you, Pastor Erwin!

A blessed and joyful birthday to you! **BB**





**B B B C**

***BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH***

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*DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES*

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“We believe that  
it is the obligation of the  
Saved to witness by life and by  
word to the truths of the Holy Scripture and  
to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind.”

***MISSION STATEMENT***



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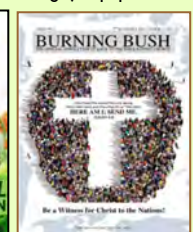
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Burning Bush as the Official Annual Magazine of Back to the Bible Baptist Church has primarily this mission we called 3Es explicitly to Encourage, Equip and Edify the readers; thus, boiling down to point out God's magnificence.

We laud God that in 4 Years, His grace abounds in us, evident of the issues we have already published as seen on the right side of this page. God's grace is enough and His provision is well-timed in every edition – mere reasons why upon every release, the joy is wholly felt and celebrated. Indeed, by Him all things are possible. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:3)

Hence, in awe of His faithfulness as a team working in the vineyard of the Lord, we bring back the glory to the Giver of all gifts – God, Himself! (James 1:17)

The Burning Bush Team





FROM THE  
*Editor's Desk* 

We have an infinitely gracious and loving God who has un-faillingly bestowed us fortitude and patience to persevere. It has been 13 years and the Back to the Bible Baptist Church continue to thrive as the Lord empowers us to serve Him and obey His words in every aspect of our lives. Our Burning Bush Magazine also celebrates its 4th Anniversary and our gratitude lies on the Lord's grace in favouring us with diverse gifts and strengths that allowed us to serve Him through this ministry.

In line with our anniversary's theme: *The Love for Jesus*, I entreat you with these words; let all our employment be to know our Lord and the deeper is our knowledge of Him the greater will be our love for Him. Let us give ourselves up to GOD. Seek our satisfaction only in fulfilling His will, whether He leads us by suffering or by consolation, for all would be equal to a soul truly resigned.

To God be the Glory!

*Sola Gratia,*

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**YOUR BURNING BUSH TEAM**




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*Dear Brethren and Friends,*

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Back to the Bible Baptist Church! The celebration of this anniversary is to thank God for choosing us worthy to be counted for as one of the channel of His blessings to the lost world.

Serving the Lord requires patience, perseverance, hard work, and lots of encouragements in order to endure pressure and trials in the mission field. God is so gracious to BBBC, amidst limitation of activities and restrictions governing the law of the land. By His grace, we are rejoicing in serving Him because we are ever united in love with one goal, one service, and one aspiration – to make the name of Jesus known in this part of the world.

In our previous years, we dedicated our anniversaries solely to evangelism, using the opportunity to preach the Gospel to those who have not heard it. This year though evangelistic, yet a thanksgiving year for His goodness to the church fulfilling His great commission that was entrusted to us as we continue to preach the Gospel to this part of the world. We were always been reminded of the command of the Lord:

**Mark 16:15**, “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

**Matthew 28:18-20**, “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

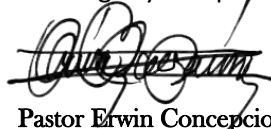
**Acts 1:8**, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

As we experience His glory every day, we will also continue to lift up His cross in the pulpit, in our workplaces, and anywhere we go to fulfill His Word in John 12:32, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”

May the Lord graciously bless your day in celebrating with us the glory that only belongs to Him, to celebrate another year of His continued blessings!

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen!

For His glory and praise,



**Pastor Erwin Concepcion**  
Senior Pastor  
Back to the Bible Baptist Church  
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## Can I really know that God could ever love me?

Have you ever had a conversation with an unbeliever who knew *some* of the Bible just enough to be angry and confused? If so, you probably heard questions (accusations) like these: "What kind of God allows catastrophe such as Tsunami which wipes out an entire city including helpless women, children, and babies? Why does God allow so much pain, suffering and evil in the world? How do you reconcile the love of God with the eternal flames of hell?"

So often, the attribute of God that confuses most people is His love. They can't fathom the depth of God's love in the person of Jesus Christ. But beyond that, they refuse to see *other* expressions of God's love, expressions that sometimes escape our notice, too. There is that unconditional love of God which we can see clearly seen around us, and it extends to all people throughout the times. Titus 3:4, "But after the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared." It is the general love for all mankind. That is why God can say, that "...he is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:10b. If we just open our eyes His love can be seen in many ways.

### Three ways in discovering God's love:

#### 1. God's love through common grace

It is an old term in which means there is certain kindness and goodness that God does commonly to everyone in the world. If you question the Love of God, then you should look again at the world in which you live. You say, "But there's a lot of sorrow in the world!" Yes, but the reason you recognize the sorrow is because you also experience that there's so much joy. The reason you recognize the ugliness is because there is so much beauty. The reason you recognize the failure is because there's a lot of fulfillment. You just need to look at the other side of it and understand that you are a fallen and unworthy sinner, and the only reason that God gives you something to sustain your life and to be happy and fulfilled is because He is a loving God. Romans 5:8

That's called common grace Matthew 5:45 says, "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Even though there are chaos in this world, if you look on the other side there are still lots and lots of people that enjoy the beautiful sunshine, the joyful moments of life, and the beauty of the creation around us. And it has nothing to do if whether they know God or not.

Act 14:17, Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

#### 2. God's love through His compassion

God's love manifest itself with His compassion, it is the love of His pity. We hear people say, "You know, God loves you because of who you are" and we hear most of the time. God does not love you because you are so lovable and kind. In fact, all of us are nothing but vile sinners, (Romans 3:10-11, Isaiah 64:6) unworthy people. Isaiah 53:6 says, "All we like sheep gone astray we have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord hath laid him the iniquity of us all." that if not for His grace through His son Jesus, we have no special value to God.

God's compassion is also evident when He constantly warns people of His judgment. If God really don't love mankind he didn't have to warn them. Any single person who knows about the bible knows that it is filled with warning – about judgment, and about the punishment of hell for those who will not believe Jesus. Why? Because God loves man enough to love them and warn them. In Luke 13:1-5 Jesus said twice to emphasize the warning. "Unless you repent you should all likewise perish." That is the message of the New Testament. That is the message of the Old Testament. That is the message of the Bible.

#### 3. God's love through His call to salvation

Then lastly, it is manifested in the gospel being offered. The Love of God is manifested in the call to salvation that's why Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) The angel said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy...For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11) That is good news for all people. God's Love for mankind is evident in the Gospel offered to all people. Why did Jesus said to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 to go and teach all Nations? Why did he make sure it is recorded for us? Because God's Love is extended in his bountiful grace. The Love of God is offered for all.



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# THE LOVE *for* JESUS

Pastor Erwin Concepcion

## Love

Unselfish, loyal, and benevolent concern for the well-being of another. In **1 Corinthians 13**, Paul described “love” as a “more excellent way” than tongues or even preaching. The New Testament maintains this estimation of love throughout. The King James Version uses the word charity instead of “love” to translate the Greek word Paul used (agape). The word charity comes from the Latin **caritas** which means “dearness,” “affection,” or “high regard.” Today, the word charity is normally used for acts of benevolence, and so the word love is to be preferred as a translation of **agape**. Nevertheless, the reader who comes to the **agape** of the New Testament with the idea of benevolence in mind is better off than the reader who comes with the idea of physical pleasure and satisfaction.

## In the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, the verb “to love” has a range of meaning as broad as the English verb. It describes physical love between the sexes, even sexual desire (Judges 16:14; 2 Samuel 13: 1- 4). It describes the love within a family and among friends (Genesis 22: 1-2). Love as self-giving appears in the significant commandment that Israelites love the stranger. The basis for such selfless love is God’s act of redemption (Leviticus 19:33-34).

Hosea used the image of married love to teach us understand both the faithlessness of Israel and the faithfulness of God. Israel’s love is “like a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away” (6:4). God desires steadfast love, but Israel had been unfaithful. His own relationship with an adulterous wife allowed Hosea the insight that God had not given up Israel in spite of her faithlessness. The **Shema** (Hebrew for “hear”) of Deuteronomy 6:4-6 is echoed in Paul’s declaration that love is the fulfillment of the Law (Romans 13:10).

## In the Teachings of Jesus

In Jesus’ teachings in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the **Shema** of Deuteronomy (the command to love God) is united with Leviticus 19:8 (“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”) (Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10: 25-28). Just before the parable of the good Samaritan, a Lawyer quoted the two commands to love and then asked Jesus: “And who is thy neighbor?” (Luke 10:29) Jesus gave the story of the Samaritan who took care of the man who fell among robbers to illustrate the selfless love which is to be characteristic of citizens of the Kingdom.

In Matthew 5:43-48, Jesus gave the radical command to love one’s enemies and to pray for those who persecute. Loving only those who love you is, according to Jesus, no better than those who are not His disciples. The love that Jesus’ disciples have for others is to be just as complete as God’s love (Matthew 5:48; compare Romans 5:8).

**The** theme for this anniversary is **The Love for Jesus**. Love for Jesus is always been the backbone of faith and the holding force for unity among the culturally diversified people of God living in this world today. Love for God is a common word in the Christian community; however, it is usually misunderstood. Many cannot differentiate between the love for God, the love for brethren, the love for pets, and the love for material things.

Understanding the love of God for His people will lead us to understand why Christian love is different from that love expressed by non-believers. Study will give us clear understanding of the love of God to His people and the response of the children of God to his Creator:



In these teachings, of course, the selfless love is a response to God's prior activity. It is a way of living, expected of those who are citizens of the Kingdom. The teachings of Jesus on love of enemy, it will be noted, are a part of the Sermon on the Mount which is directed to Christian disciples. See Sermon on the Mount.

### **In the Teachings of Paul**

In the poem on love in I Corinthians 13, Paul associated love with the all important biblical words of faith and hope (see also I Thessalonians 5:8; Galatians 5:6) and declared love the greatest. The context for this poem on love is Paul's discussion of relationships within the church. First Corinthians 13: 1-3 indicates that the gifts of the Spirit (ecstatic speech, wisdom, faith, and self-sacrifice) are good for nothing without love; only love builds up. The Spirit distributes His gifts for the common good (I Corinthians 8: 1; 12:7). First Corinthians 13: 4-7 characterizes love: Love is patient and kind, not jealous or boastful, not arrogant or rude. Love is not selfish, irritable, or resentful. Love does not rejoice at wrong but in the right. Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things.

Finally, I Corinthians 13: 8-13 contrasts love with preaching and knowledge, on one hand, and faith and hope, on the other. All of these (with love) are important aspects of our lives here and now. Love in contrast to these, however, is not only for the here and now; it is forever. Love, therefore, is "the greatest" of the most significant realities we experience as Christians.

Paul's understanding and discussion of love make love the central theme and his use of the noun **agape** makes that term almost technical. Prior to Paul, in fact, the Greek term **agape** was little used. Instead of using a word for love already filled with meaning, Paul took the seldom used term and filled it with Christian meaning. This love of which Paul wrote is somewhat different from the love we normally experience and speak about. Christian love is not simply an emotion which arises because of the character of the one loved. It is not due to the loving quality of the lover. It is a relationship of self-giving which results from God's activity in Christ. The source of Christian love is God (Romans 5:8), and the believer's response of faith makes love a human possibility (Romans 5:5).

Even though love does not begin in the human heart, the believer must actualize love. In Paul's admonition to Christians to love, the nature of love as self-giving is manifest (Galatians 5:13-15). The Christian walk is to be characterized by love so that Paul could even speak of

"walking in love" (Romans 14:15). The Christian is to increase and abound in love (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

Love is vitally connected with faith in that the believer's faithful response is one of love. Love is also connected with hope. In his prayer for love to increase and abound, Paul indicated that this increase of love has the end that the hearts of Christians might be established "unblameable in holiness" before God when Jesus returns with all His saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13). Paul also wrote of the hope we have of sharing the glory of God and declared that this hope does not disappoint us, because our hearts have been filled God's love through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:2, 5). Christian love is evidence of and a foretaste of the goal of God's purpose for His children.

### **In the Writing of John**

The Johannine writings magnify the significance of love as forcefully and fully as any other writings. John's writings account for only one tenth of the New Testament but provide one third of the references to love.

The key text in the first half of the Gospel of John is John 3:16. This passage indicates the relationship of the Father's love to the work of Christ and of both to the life of believers. These themes are repeated throughout the Gospel of John. The second half of the Gospel of John emphasizes the ethical dimension of love among Christians. The key passage is Jesus' new commandment in John 13:34-35 (see also John 14:15, 21, 23, 24; 15:9, 12, 17).

This command of Jesus to love one another gives us insight into the nature of Jesus Christ for the church and the nature of Christian love. What is commanded is not an emotion; it is the disciplined will to seek the welfare of others. Jesus speaks with the authority of the Father, the only One with authority to make such demands of men and women. Jesus speaks as the incarnate Word (John 1:1, 14). He has authority to give conditions for discipleship. The relationship of this commandment to Leviticus 19:18 should be noted. Both command love, but Jesus commandment includes the clause: "as I have loved you."

When the overall importance of love in the Gospel of John is seen, the dialogue between Jesus and Peter concerning Peter's love for Jesus Christ is closely related to our fulfillment of the pastoral task.

The letters of John make explicit statements about the ethical implications of love. Our appreciation of these letters and the command to love is increased when we realize that John's opponents claimed that they love God in spite of their unlovely temper and conduct. They claimed enlightenment

and communion with God. (They were Gnostics or "knowers"). John's distress at the gap between profession and practice is seen in his repeated admonition to love. The "old commandment" which John saw as basic for Christians is belief in Jesus and love for one another (1 John 3:23). This love is to be manifested in deeds (1 John 3:18). John left no doubt about the relationship of love and belief in God. Whoever hates his brother is in the darkness (1 John 2:9). Whoever does not do right and love his brother is not of God (1 John 4:20). First John 4:8 is the climax "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

In 2 and 3 John this command to love is repeated in direct and indirect ways. Second John 5-6 is addressed to the church, and they are explicitly reminded of the command from Jesus to love one another. Third John 5-6 speaks of the love of the "beloved Gaius" in terms of giving service to Christian brothers. Diotrephes, however, will live in infamy, for he put himself first, refused to welcome the brethren, stopped those who wanted to welcome the brethren, and put them out of the church (3 John 9-10).

### **Love and Judgment**

The judgment account in Matthew 25:31-46 illuminates and is illuminated by the New Testament teachings on love. The account depicts not only what happens at the end. The narrative makes plain that what happens at the end is what happens here and now. Christians love because they have been loved. In such love, God's internal purposes are being experienced and carried out by His people (Matthew 25:34-36).

<sup>34</sup> Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

<sup>35</sup> For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

<sup>36</sup> Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

### **BB**

Source:  
Holman Bible Dictionary  
Edgar V. McKnight  
Edgar V. McKnight is research professor and the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Religion Emeritus at Furman University. He received degrees in History, New Testament Studies, and Philosophical Theology from the College of Charleston, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Oxford University.



*The Logical Heart*

# MY HEART, WHY SHOULD YOU LOVE CHRIST?

"Oh thou whom my soul loveth." Song of Solomon 1:7

## C. H. SPURGEON

(1834-1892)

*Charles Hadon Spurgeon*

(/'hædən 'spɜːrdʒən/; 19 June 1834 – 31 January 1892) was an English Particular Baptist preacher. Spurgeon remains highly influential among Christians of various denominations, among whom he is known as the "Prince of Preachers". He was a strong figure in the Reformed Baptist tradition, defending the Church in agreement with the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith understanding, and opposing the liberal and pragmatic theological tendencies in the Church of his day.

**W**ith what argument will you justify yourself?

Strangers stand and hear me tell of Christ, and they say "Why should you love your Savior so? My heart, you can not answer them so as to make them see his loveliness, for they are blind, but you can at least be justified in the ears of those who have understanding; for doubtless the virgins will love him, if you will tell to them why you love him. Our hearts give for their reason why they love him, first, this: We love him for his infinite loveliness.

If there were no other reason, if Christ had not bought us with his blood, yet sometimes we feel if we had renewed hearts, we must love him for having died for others. I have sometimes felt in my own soul, that setting aside the benefit I received from his dear cross, and his most precious passion, which, of course, must ever be the deepest motive of love, "for we love him because he first loved us;" yet setting aside that, there is such beauty in Christ's character such loveliness in his passion such a glory in that self-sacrifice, that one must love him.

Can I look into your eyes and not be smitten with your love? Can I gaze upon your thorn-crowned head, and shall not my heart feel the thorn within it? Can I see you in the fever of death, and shall not my soul be in a fever of passionate love to you. It is impossible to see Christ and not to love him; you cannot be in his company without at once feeling that you are wedded to him. Go and kneel by his side in Gethsemane's garden, and I am persuaded that the drops of gore as they fall upon the ground, shall each one of them be irresistible reasons why you should love him. Hear him as he cries "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Remember that he endures this out of love to you, and you must love him.

If you ever read the history of Moses you believe him to be the grandest of men, and you admire him, and look up to him as to some huge colossus, some mighty giant of the olden times. But you never feel a particle of love in your hearts towards Moses; you could not – his is an unlovable character; there is something to admire, but nothing to win affection.

When you see Christ you look up, but you do more, you feel drawn up, you do not admire so much as love, you do not adore so much as embrace; his character enchants, subdues, overwhelms, and with the irresistible impulse of its own sacred attraction it draws your heart to himself. Well did Dr. Watts say,

"  
His worth, if all the nations  
knew, Sure the whole earth  
would love him too."

But still, love has another argument why she loves Christ, namely, Christ's love to her. Did you love me Jesus, King of heaven, Lord of angels, Master of all worlds, did you set your heart on me? What, did you love me from of old, and in eternity choose me to yourself? Did you continue to love me as the ages rolled on? Did you come from heaven to earth that you might win me to be your spouse, and do you love me so that you do not leave me alone in this poor desert world; and are you this very day preparing a house for me where I shall dwell with you forever?

A very wretch Lord I should prove had I no love to you. I must love you, it is impossible for me to resist it, that thought that you love me has compelled my soul to love you. Me! Me! What was there in me, could you see beauties in me? I see none in myself; my eyes are red with weeping, because of my blackness and deformity; I have said even to the sons of men, "Look not upon me, for I am black, because I am darkened by the sun." And do you see beauties in me? What a quick eye must you have, no, rather it must be that you

have made my eyes to be your mirror, and so you see yourself in me, and it is your image that you love; surely you could not love me.

Remember that ravishing text in the Canticles, where Jesus says to the spouse, "You are all fair my love, there is no spot in you." Can you imagine Christ saying that to you; and yet he has said it, "You are all fair my love, there is no spot in you, "he has put away your blackness, and you stand in his sight as perfect as though you had never sinned, and as full of loveliness as though you were what you shall be, when made like unto him at last. Oh brothers and sisters, some of you can say with emphasis, "Did he love me, then I must love him." I run my eye along your ranks, there sits a brother who loves Christ who not many months ago cursed him. There sits a drunkard there another who was in prison for crimes, and he loved you, even you, and you could abuse the wife of your bosom, because she loved the dear name, you were never happier than when you were violating his day, and showing your disrespect to his ministers, and your hatred to his cause, yet he loved you.

And me! Even me! Forgetful of a mother's prayers, regardless of a father's tears, having much light, and yet sinning much; yet he loved me, and has proved his love. I charge you, oh my heart, by the roes and by the hinds of the field that you give yourself wholly up to my Beloved, and that you spend and be spent for him. Is that your charge to your heart this morning? Oh! It must be if you know Jesus, and then know that Jesus loves you.

One more reason does love give us yet more powerful still. Love feels that she must give herself to Christ, because of Christ's suffering for her.

"Can I Gethsemane forget?"  
Or there your conflict see,  
Your agony and bloody sweat,  
And not remember you?"

"When to the cross I turn mine eyes,  
And rest on Calvary  
O Lamb of God! my sacrifice!  
I must remember you."

My life when it shall ebb out may cause me to lose many mental powers, but memory will love no other name than is recorded in it. The agonies of Christ have burned his name into our hearts – you cannot stand and see him mocked by Herod's men of war, you cannot behold him made nothing of, and spit upon by menial lips, you cannot see him with the nails pierced through his hands and through his feet, you cannot mark him in the extreme agonies of his awful passion without saying, "And did you suffer all this for me? Then, I must love you, Jesus.

My heart feels that no other can have such a claim upon it as you have, for no other has spent themselves for me as you have done. Others may have sought to buy my love with the silver of earthly affection, and with the gold of a zealous and affectionate character, but you have bought it with your precious blood, and you have the richest claim to it – yours shall it be, and that forever." This is love's logic. I may well stand here and defend the believer's love to his Lord. I wish I had more to defend than I have. I dare stand here and defend the utmost extravagancies of speech, and the wildest fanaticisms of action, when they have been done for love to Christ. I say again, I only wish I had more to defend in these degenerate times.

Has a man given up all for Christ? I will prove him wise if he has given up for such an one as Christ is. Has a man died for Christ? I write over his epitaph that he surely was no fool who had but the wisdom to give up his heart for one who had his heart pierced for him. Let the Church try to be extravagant in her love for Christ for once, let her break the narrow bounds of her conventional prudence, and for once arise and dare to do wonders let the age of miracles return to us let the Church make bare her arm, and

roll up from her the sleeves of her formality, let her go forth with some mighty thought within her, at which the worldling shall laugh and scoff; and I will stand here, and before the bar of a scoffing world, dare to defend her. Oh Church of God, you can do no extravagance for Christ. You may bring out your Marys, and they may break their alabaster boxes, but he well deserves the breaking. You may shed your perfume, and give to him rivers of oil, and ten thousands of the fat of fed beasts, but he deserves it well.

I see the Church as she was in the first centuries, like an army storming a city that was surrounded with a vast moat, and there was no means of reaching the ramparts except by filling up the moat with the dead bodies of the Church's own martyrs and confessors. Do you see them? A martyr has just now fallen in, his head has been smitten off with the sword. The next day at the tribunal there are twenty wishing to die that they may follow him; and on the next day twenty more; and the stream pours on until the huge moat is filled. Then, those who follow after, scale the walls and plant the blood-red standard of the cross, the trophy of their victory upon the top thereof.

Should the world say, "Why this expense of blood?" I answer – he is worthy for whom it was shed. The world says, "Why this waste of suffering? Why this pouring out of an energy in a cause that at best is but fanatical?" I reply, "He is worthy, he is worthy, though the whole world were put into the censer, and all men's blood were the frankincense, he is worthy to have it all sacrificed before him. Though the whole Church should be slaughtered, he is worthy upon whose altar it should be sacrificed. Though every one of us should lie and rot in a dungeon, though the moss should grow upon our eyelids, though our bodies should be given to the kites and the carrion crows, he is worthy to claim the sacrifice; and it were all too mean a gift for such an one as he is." Oh Master, restore unto the Church the strength of love which can hear such language, and feel it to be true.

# Spreading the GOOD NEWS

Sis. Erlani Maningat

## 12<sup>th</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

**Today** marks the 13th Church anniversary celebration and I am sure a thought is running into your mind. To the world, it is an unlucky number, but for us BBBC, it's 13 years of God's amazing grace and unconditional love bestowed upon His church. As we celebrate today, let us have a glimpse of the celebration we had last year during the church's 12th anniversary. How God is glorified when we obeyed His commandment that is spreading the good news - "The Gospel".

### The View

Afternoon of October 14, 2016, 1 PM to be exact, the big hall of Carlton Palace Hotel opened for BBBC members and visitors. Ladies of BBBC paraded their filipinianas while men their barongs. Children followed in their mini-filipinianas and mini-barongs that are so beautiful to look at. Like the previous celebrations, we always give emphasis on reaching out for lost souls. After the registration, all visitors who have not heard the good news yet are being witnessed by the Evangelism team. As God reminded us to seek ye first the kingdom of God in everything we do, the event started with prayers of men and women for the success of the event, that we may glorify God. Everyone has their part in the program and did it so well – the congregational singing, special numbers, choir songs, testimonies and most of all the preaching of the Word delivered by our guest speaker from Bob Jones Memorial Bible College, Dr. Joel Arnold. He came to Dubai with his wife Sarah Arnold. All numbers prepared and presented by the members of the church went well.



### The Message

We are blessed to have Dr. Joel Arnold with us. Before he delivered God's Message, he applauded choir's wonderful performance and that of the instruments, too. He also admired the emotional and spiritual testimonies delivered, wherein he mentioned that these testimonies showed powerful account of God's forgiveness and spiritual healing. The power of Jesus Christ that can forgive any and every sin, the same power that can free us from physical sickness and struggle.

The Message focused on Mark 1 and 2, introducing Jesus Christ who has the power to forgive sins and change people's lives. He started reading the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is the book of Mark emphasizing on Mark 1 where Mark introduced Jesus as the Son of God, that there is no person like Him in the history of the world for He was and is God. We were introduced to what He did, right away he begins speaking the truth, and begins to minister. Reading verse 15, he asked what is the Gospel and stated that we should believe the good news, the good news about Jesus, believe the good news that our sins can be forgiven, believe the news that the hope of the ages has come – Jesus Christ is here. Jesus begins to minister, looking briefly on few examples, on verse 22, He is teaching with authority. On verse 23, there's one with unclean spirit and He commanded the unclean spirit to come out of that person. Everyone who witnessed was amazed for they saw that He is full of authority,

even the unclean spirits obey Him. His fame began to spread around Galilee. Jesus has done several miracles such as healing the person sick of fever; all who have diseases and possessed of devils, sick of diverse diseases, whatever comes before Him. Jesus Christ has the power to heal the sick, the power to set the captives free. Dr. Arnold continues on chapter 2 of Mark, entering Capernaum, citing all miracles and the healing Jesus did and has attracted huge crowd. Many have gathered together in so much that there was no room to receive them and the Word was preached unto them. There is one sick of palsy who wishes to see Jesus. They bring him down from the roof for the room was crowded with so much people, not even a space to pass. They succeed to bring the sick of palsy inside the room where Jesus is preaching and because Jesus has seen their faith He told the person sick of palsy that his sins has been forgiven. Jesus forgives people that trust in Him, people who put their faith in Him.

There are certain of the scribes sitting there and reasoning in their hearts and accusing Jesus of blasphemy for they know that only God can forgive sins. And immediately Jesus perceived in His spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, so He asked the crowd merely referring to the scribes whether it is easier to say, thy sins be forgiven thee or to say arise and take up thy bed and walk? Jesus is just using words, claiming the authority that He has. Jesus' answer to their charge or to their attack is very simple, "that ye may know that the son of man has power on earth to forgive sins." He talk to the man sick of palsy and asked him to arise and walk and go back to his house and immediately he arose and all who see him was amazed and glorified God.

Dr. Arnold mentioned that the whole issue of the story is who has the power to say your sins has been forgiven you - it's God alone. He has not just the power to heal but also power to forgive sins. He gave emphasis that the Word of God is powerful that when He commands, it happens. When He speaks it's true, it's powerful and it happens. Jesus' Words are true. Jesus is the one that heals the sick and forgives the sinner.

In the question which is much easier to say, "Your sins have been forgiven or get up and walk?" the answer is quite clear. It's so hard, much, much hard to forgive someone of their sins. That day Jesus Christ spoke to the man sick of palsy, "I will heal you, rise up and walk", and that power of His Words was the same power when God created the world.

In chapter 8 of Mark, in order to forgive us of our sins, Jesus Christ had to suffer, He had to die. In Mark 8:31, He suffered many things and have been rejected by the elders, and of the chief priest and scribes and be killed and after 3 days rose again in order to forgive us of our sins. It was declared later on in the book of Mark that He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. He came to give His life a ransom for many, and in order for Jesus Christ to forgive us of our sins he has to suffer and died in the cross, so we may live.

The rest of the New Testament fills out this picture. It's the picture of someone standing in our place, for our just condemnation. If we are guilty criminals and the result of that is we deserve to die. Then someone steps forward and says, "I'll take their place". That for Jesus Christ to be our ransom meant, what we deserve, what should have happened to us was death, death for our sins, for our guilt, being disconnected from God for all eternity, ultimately suffering in hell itself. Those were the right judgment for our sins! Jesus Christ stepped forward as our ransom. Like saying to that man sick of palsy that his sins have been forgiven. You asked why? Because He will die for our sins. Jesus is the only one who has authority to forgive sins because He is the one who died and suffered so that we may live.

Dr. Arnold quoted a statement from a famous American psychologist, after his extensive study on people who faced struggles, he came up to a conclusion that the most powerful thing a person could hear is, "**If they could know authoritatively and for sure confidently that their sins have been forgiven**". Like the forgiveness that God has given us, where all our sins which piled up in our life are completely gone and we are clean and accepted by God with no guilt, no sorry, no threat, no condemnation. All clean!

What shall we do so we may be saved? In Mark 9:24; 10:52; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9 and 10:13, all have the same message - **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.**

Dr. Arnold ended his preaching with the invitation to believe in Jesus Christ, accept what He said, that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that Jesus Christ is God and came here to deal with the problem of our sins and to believe in His claim about His identity. With all the things said about Him in the Bible, we should trust Him. We sinners found freedom because Jesus Christ forgives sin. Jesus Christ forgives us!

#### **Our Heart**

We give reverence and believe in the power of our only God, Savior, Redeemer, the living God who gave His life a ransom for many that we may live. We lift up and surrender everything to our Mighty Father, with the Holy Spirit and the powerful Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **The Challenge**

*Matthew 28:19-20, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Jesus gave His life that we may live. He left us the great commission that the lost will find their way back to God and everyone who will believe, will have eternal life. It is our responsibility as children of God to reach out for the lost and spread the Gospel, the good news from God! That same news that we have heard and received; same news that brought us to salvation! When was the last time you talk about God with someone you don't know? Have you taken your part in the great commission?

Another wonderful celebration of God's amazing grace! It is so good to travel back to those fond memories when we celebrated God's marvelous glory and giving back all the praises and thanksgiving to Him alone.

Today, we will be creating another memory, a new story and more testimonies on how God has worked in our lives. This is the day! A day to lift up God's Holy name for all the things that He has done for us, a chance to delight ourselves in the Lord and remember that without God, we are nothing. **BB**

# Leadership

Bro. Rolando Garcia

**King's Men** have previously discussed about some of the essential qualities of a Leader.

**Leader** is commonly portray to a man in fact, even from the start of human race, Adam is right there.

As a Christian, we look at Jesus Christ our God as a Leader and none is greater.

**One** of the qualities of leader is having Humor, wherein it is normally used to break the ice or relieve the pressure. It is intended to give joy not to throw green jokes or to mock one another. To give a simple smile in a face of someone who is in deep pain by being at his or herside is a lot better, rather than to laugh aloud with the rest of the people because of teasing someone who experience failure. "Come to me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28), maybe God is not in the act of joking or giving humor, but He will give us peace and joy in our hearts that no other comedian can give which will last forever.

Another quality of a leader is building a Friendship with his subordinates, not to the extent that abusing or taking advantage of closeness but to follow instructions from the leader wholeheartedly and just enough to have a working environment in a harmonious manner. "This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:12-14). We become the friend of our Leader Jesus if we know how to

obey on one of His simple instructions which is to love one another. "Henceforth I call you not servants; for servant knoweth not his lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" (John 15:15). In an organization wherein the treatment of one to another is as good as friends, there will be no hidden agenda instead teamwork to attain their objectives and be stronger than ever.



Next to friendship, a leader also have the quality of getting Angry, wherein our Lord Jesus got angry when people used the temple of God as a market place where they bought and sold their goods instead of using as a house for prayer.

“And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of moneychangers, and seats of them that sold doves”. “And He said unto them, it is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves” (Matthew 21:12-13).

People got angry and no one is excuse for that even the leaders, but it should be anger that comes out of love just like the how parents got angry to their son and daughter. Make angry to correct mistakes and not to make the situation worst but rather to make it better.

After Anger, another quality of a leader is having Tact and Diplomacy that means to be careful in every word that comes out of our mouth or to every move that we take which may lead to hurt the feeling of other member. We often feel disappointed, awkward, unworthy to be part of the team, loosing self-esteem and getting angry which leads to revenge to a tackles peer. Thus choosing the words at the right time will be ease the pain and be comforting to a victim and convicting to an accuser. In John 8:1-11, “**He that is without sin among you, Let him first cast a stone at her**” no one who is sinless dare to throw even a single stone as part of a punishment to the woman who committed adultery thus Jesus makes us realize that we are all sinner.

Other quality of a leader is the ability to listen to his member. Oftentimes a leader overlook the real situation on his organization as he is dealing with other serious matter. In production area, normally a problem arise, and listening attentively will help the leader understand the situation and help him decide the most appropriate solution to problems that occur. People are limited with our knowledge but sometimes because of pride, we claim to knows everything and refrain from listening to someone better. Our dear Lord Jesus is all-knowing but still love to have a communication to us that is why He wants us to hear our prayer.

Not all of us BBBC King’s men are aiming to become a leader, may not have an interest or we wanted but not given an opportunity, or we already have experienced but not become a successful leader, and there some of us who are so called natural born leader.

There are lot of essential qualities to know to be a good leader; we can read them from books or learn them from well-experience managers. But the best way to lead an organization, a small group or even to our beloved family, is to lift up unto our Lord Jesus every decision that we are going to take, and Him, through the Holy Spirit will lead you to lead a well-organized team and equip you with well-trusted partners.

We bring back all the glory and honor to our Lord in the name of Jesus our God, our Savior, our provider, our Leader. **BB**



# REMEMBER THY *First* Love

Sis. May Pedico

**God** with His unfathomable and boundless grace loves you and me. It is to the extent of giving His only begotten son Jesus as a ransom to shell out the penalty of our sins which is death and hell. Jesus Christ who abode in heaven left all his glories there to obey God the Father. In humble and virgin birth, did he start; born in a manger to a carpenter and simple woman and his first visitors were the animals. Envision a lowly birth that a common couple of modern times will not consent for their child to experience!

He grew up being acquainted in a modest life-style. He, of course has the choice to be born in the palace living in royalty. But, he served as the best example of humility to mankind. More so, before his life came to an end, Matthew 26:39 says, "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." Yes, 100% man was he that time. He pleaded that if possible, will he not experience that cup of suffering. He knew that it will never be easy but then He let the will of the Father be done. He obeyed Him. Through those wounds of Him in the cross of Calvary, we are healed. His stripes made us whole. Jesus' body was broken for us. He, the perfect Lamb of God was slain for mankind. Let's make it personal, then. Jesus Christ was slain for you and for me.

It should have been you who has been mocked and crucified. And it should have been me, too! But, in God's wonderful plan, it was Jesus! The great Shepherd of the sheep!

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2: 5-8)*

Can you now assess that great unconditional love of God? We love him, because he first loved us (1 John 4:19) was written in the Holy Word of God. Human as we are, we never can boast of our love to Jesus. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). In return, how can we not love Him? The moment we personally encountered the Lord Jesus and accepted Him as our Lord, we realized that we are destined, chosen and loved with an everlasting love. Sinners loved by a Holy God!

In True womanhood Ministry, numerous times we have witnessed and experienced the mighty hand of God moved and touched lives and circumstances. Last TW Anniversary, we have once again have seen how the Lord worked for His own glory from the making of

*True*  
**WOMANHOOD**  
FELLOWSHIP  
A MINISTRY OF BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH







the program 'til the days it was carried out. Struggles and difficulties were never absent but it helped us realized that through them all, God molded us to lift all to Him. True indeed, the Lord carries us when we can't carry on. Hence, victory is in our hands. The Lord Jesus was magnified. In our weakness, Jesus shines!

With the theme, **“Remember Thy First Love”** we celebrated our 8<sup>th</sup> True womanhood Anniversary Retreat. Pastor Erwin Concepcion is the speaker of the event held last 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017 in Royal Palace Hotel, Umm Al Quwain. Quoting the conclusion of his message to us, “What is that first love that gave glory to you? There is always something to remember in the first. Sometimes, it is something that we can treasure but spiritually, it is something that we really treasure because it is life guaranteed. And the promise of the Lord, our first love with him is the first and the last. And will last forever, till eternity. Do not lose that first love in your hand!”

That night, as well, each of us women wrote our love letter to the Lord Jesus, being provided with papers and pens by facilitators. Scores shed tears while jotting down; pouring out their very heart in those small papers! Mind you, it is not just a love letter to an ordinary person. It is a love letter to God. We gathered and prayed altogether in the hall. In the silent of night, we went out of the villa to burn our love letters to Jesus. We believe that those prayers, literally burned with fire reached heaven, and had created a sweet-smelling aroma to our Heavenly Father. What a sweet night to remember!

Such anniversary retreat left marks in our heart. It is to remember Jesus – our first Love! **BB**



# Gameo's

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Sis. Rochelle Maloles

**Healthy marriages don't just happen; they take commitment from both partners. Marriages built by time are built by the love of God in the center and the husband and wife living in His word together, facing the inconsistent & ungodly ways of this world. (Ephesians 5:25).**

**GAMEO** is one of the ministries of BBBC designed to help marriages build a lasting and loving relationship centered on Jesus Christ. Married couple who wanted to grow in the knowledge of God together in the light of biblical truth in this changing and challenging times!

The GAMEO fellowship by God's amazing grace celebrated its 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 14-15, 2017 in Baracuda Beach Resort, Um Al Quwain, United Arab Emirates. It was celebrated by almost twenty families and engaged to be married couples.

The fellowship with the theme "3-IN-1, Understanding Your Spouse ", is supported by Proverbs 24:3, "Through wisdom is a house built: and by understanding it is established: The goal is mainly to focus on God's perspective on marriage, understanding our partner, managing conflicts and differences and creating a mature 3-stranded relationship with God at the center. The other goal is to create a special time & bonding with families. The simplicity of the two-day program made the way for a happy, fulfilled and blessed families whose lives were changed and revived in terms of their understanding of each other based on biblical perspectives and wisdom from our Pastors and their wives and not to mention the joy of Godly fellowship with laughter, games, food and surprises.



The program started with the preparation of activities in the Registration, Food, Task and Main Hall from the ever willing brothers and sisters who made the event organized, unique and God-glorifying from start to finish! The food bazaar showed every family's specialties which made our lunch time one of a kind food tasting experience, with delicacies from different regions of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.



Pastor Welven Salundagit led us in the fellowship songs while Servant and Ministry Leader of GAMEO, Bro. Paul Nena gave us the House Rules. It was followed by a wonderful testimony of the love story of Pastor Welven and Sis. Juny Salundagit. All of us were teary-eyed and inspired at the end of the testimony. The most important part of the program was the seminar entitled,

## “Understanding Your Spouse”

headed by Pastor Rico Bernardo. His energy spreads in the whole room, with wisdom and humor brought altogether. He discussed the languages of love and how it affects marriages. At the end of the seminar, all of us praised God for the gift of marriage built to last with hardwork, commitment, and understanding all with God in the center. A Pastor's Special Prayer for the GAMEO couples followed and hand written loveletters and email messages from brethren whose husbands or wives are in the Philippines filled the room with unspeakable joy. There was so much love in the room, that night.



While having dinner, the Question and Answer led by BBBC Senior Pastor Erwin Concepcion and his wife Sis. Beth and Pastor Rico and his wife Sis. Tes started with all questions from the brethren. It was a about unlimited issues on parenting, intimacy in marriage, in-laws, budgeting and many others, all answers coming from the wisdom imparted by our leaders. It was truly a “Q & A to remember” as everyone describes it. The masters of ceremony Bro. Nel and Sis. Lani Maningat made it a “program to remember”, as well.



The latter part of the night includes the Awarding and the mandatory picture taking, as usual. (Smiles!) The whole activity was not made possible without the group of LYF teachers who patiently gave their time to teach and play with the children! Our heartfelt thanks!

The following day served as a Family Day where we all gathered and happily spend the day as one family. We parted our ways with smiles in our hearts, ready to face the challenges of marriage life in the light of God's wisdom, for His glory, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen. **BB**

# MORE THAN BEING

# Single

Sis. Khaye Fernandez

**C**hristian Sojourners, as one of the BBBC's ministries is a fellowship for all singles that is being used as a platform to increase knowledge about God, to pray together, play together, strengthen and encourage one another. We believe that during this season of our lives, God has purposed a higher calling for us to fulfill while waiting for the "one". As God is interested in whom we are becoming as an entire person and not just the part of us that becomes a husband or a wife. While focusing our gear to God's call *right now*, we are always thrilled to welcome visitors to join our fellowship every first Friday and last Wednesday of the month, as well as fun-filled special events being announced every now and then. Following are the quests we travelled in the past year to date.

## New Grouping

November 24, 2016, Manama Villa 7-9pm

Since there are only few regular attendees of CSJ whom we have regular fellowships with, the leaders decided to create new groupings. It was a good opportunity to give the newcomers a warm

welcome, get to know them more, and make them feel at home away from home. Time spent are short, but all of us went home with a blessing through lifting our voices to sing songs of praises, playing some games to build unity and hearing God's words to strengthen us.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared forehand, that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10

## Prayer Watch

November 4, 2016, Deira City Center Park, 7-9pm

Ephesians 6:18 says, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Every day is a spiritual battle in this world. Thus, having a strong prayer life is a must. But, since we battle with our own self against sin, all the more that we need our brethren's prayer to fight with us. There's a lot difference between fighting alone and fighting as an army. It was all worth it though going farther than the planned location because we are able to lay our

burdens on each other, pour our hearts out altogether unto the Lord in prayer. Each face that night, though no star did appear, is glowing --- reflecting God's glory. Not to mention the laughter we also left in that corner in Deira City Center Park because of the exhilarating *PinoyHeny* and *Picture Perfect* game.

## Global Village Fellowship

December 16, 2016, Meet Up: Union metro station, 3:30pm

We took our fellowship in different parts of the world! Not minding more than an hour travel to Global Village, many took effort to join this event and breathe in a different atmosphere. I am personally struck in awe on how wonderful God's creation was! It was indeed a glimpse of the whole world. Though we haven't done our usual program flow, yet we have fulfilled our purpose that night. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more,



and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching". As we left with seemingly tired legs, the memory of exploring God's wonders together marked our hearts.

**General Assembly: The Assurance of God's guidance**

January 6, 2017, Manama Villa 7 -9pm

A fresh year to begin with! Praises be all to God alone for all the provisions and for continuously motivating us in our walk of faith with Him and in Him. It was another night of fun as it was hosted by Bro. Arthur and Sis. Juvy. We gave most of our time in our assigned group to collaborate ideas to plan for 2017 activities. A lot of ideas came out and all were noted for consideration. We are all excited to what God has in store for us in the coming year. We lifted up all these plans to the Lord on prayer, as how much we wanted to take off the blindfold and have a glimpse of what God will unfold, we still trust His ways. Proverbs 16:9,

“

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.”

**Coffee Fellowship**

April 14, 2017, Tim Hortons – Sheikh Zayed Road, 6-8pm

Who says this fellowship can only be confined in a room and boxed in a fixed program? While other sojourners volunteered to help the Gameo Anniversary fellowship, the rest of the members did not waste their time doing nothing for the Lord. This time, in a much up close and personal arena where they can talk about anything,

especially the matters of the heart! In a more relaxed set up with coffees and doughnuts, each sojourner was able to catch up on what's going on in their busy days. How is everyone, what keeps everyone busy, what's new, what to pray for. The list of what's and why's went on. There are really days when we need this kind of fellowship. We may not be able to sing and pray in this particular public place, but we were able to reach each other's heart condition.

**CSJ Anniversary: Reviving the Heart of the Contribute**

June 30, 2017, Pinoy Palace-Al Rigga 6-9pm

No distraction from surroundings could stop us from having a great night of celebrating another year given by the Lord for this fellowship. Worship songs. A mind-boggling counting game. The testimonies heard from Bro. Noel Gura and Sis. Ella Maralit were truly a blessing to all hearers. Preaching by Pastor Erwin



Concepcion. A commitment ceremony. Induction of new officers. All these summed up our night. Our CSJ Anniversary's theme for this year reminded us that truly, our heart needs constant revival. **BB**



# *SEEK TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE MORE THAN THE GIFT*

Bro. Sandy Soliguen

The world is full of talented people. These days, social media is abuzz with lots of talent spectacles that feature and exploit individuals, even minors all in the name of entertainment. For a typical art enthusiast like me, I too in many instances admire and wonder how on earth these extremely talented young people acquire their skills especially when they exhibit ability that is beyond their years.

Browsing the internet for some of these viral posts circulating online, I stumbled upon a musical group of North Korean kids exquisitely playing guitar instruments literally bigger than their tiny frames. Minors as they were, and with overt forced grins on their cute innocent faces, these children I came to understand would regularly perform to entertain the tyrant ruler along with elite leaders of their and. Their guitar rendition was nothing short of perfection, from first to the last note fiddled, down to the creepy recorded applause that ended the video clip. It would seem unimaginable to think the kind of discipline and training these kids had to endure to reach this level of precision, all for the pleasure of their king. To their masters it does not matter at all as long as they bring gratification to them even at the expense of their childhood.

Similarly in the Bible, during the Old Testament time, this was how a shepherd boy named David with a prodigy skill in playing harp must have had gone through. Although his God-given talent was more



of homegrown, sans tutelage from a great music teacher, honed and crafted in the pasture of humility and time spent with God. David knew that his gift in Music had its purpose, and as he refined this gift through sheer practice and dedication, this one day brought him before then King Saul, a proud and wicked ruler who was in stark contrast to David's noble and godly character, as **Proverbs 18:16** stated, **"A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men"**, it paved the way for him getting a step closer to royalty and eventually becoming Israel's king after Saul's death.

**One important lesson we can learn about David's life is the fact that he made use of his time wisely. In the days of his youth he sought and acknowledged the talents that God had given him. He did not waste his leisure time to harness his skill and made sure he took responsibility of it, submitting to the Lord's directions where this gift will take him to.**

In addition to his ability to soothe and appease even the most disturbed temperaments through his masterful play of harp, throughout his life, he had composed some of the most notable and divinely inspired psalms that we recite and quote from the book of Psalm today. Surely he demonstrated being wise beyond his years as stated in **Ecclesiastes 12:1**. It instructs us to; **"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them"**. Also in the parable of the talents found in **Matthew 25:14-30**, it reminds us the importance of not taking our Master's given talents for granted, and holding us accountable on how we make use of it for a given time.

Taking a cue from related stories, individuals, parables and events mentioned, we can come to a conclusion that every one of us have our own gifts and skills to showcase, small or big surely God has encapsulated a number of special talents right in everyone's DNA that we can explore and develop.

As Christians serving in our music ministry, we do not feel discouraged by the fact that the world will never run out of gifted people who can astonish everyone with their flair and skills. We are aware our limited talents simply cannot hold a candle to David's masterful skill of his art, or pale in comparison to today's viral internet sensations that we see all over the social media. But, one thing we can be sure about is that the most gifted people of today may not always be the most privileged ones. In this lifetime, we may not have the opportunity to showcase our singing ability, or perform our instruments before great men and earthly kings like those amazing North Korean kids, but as long as we stay faithful to our call, however, plain and simple these talents are, we are more than blessed than the most gifted ones who were not called to serve God. Developing our talents takes time and a lot of patience, and our part is to become responsible stewards of these gifts. After all, we have been given the highest privilege and that is to offer them to the King of kings, all for the pleasure and love of Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. **BB**





# Carried In His Arms

Sis. Klariss Bergonio

**It was love before sight. Yes, indeed! Our great Father in heaven has loved us even before our existence on earth. A kind of love that we cannot fathom.**

**A love that is infinite and unconditional.** And a kind of love that no man could ever attain except Him. He, who sent His Son to save us from our sins. He, who gave His life for you and me. He, who redeemed us from the danger of this fallen world and offered an eternal life with Him in heaven, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)*

The Lord's Young Flock Ministry is truly blessed with so many things. First, to parents who guide, support and nurture their children to godliness; the servant leaders and teachers, who dedicatedly impart to our children the Word of God during Bible studies and Friday school. Also, in planning and organizing the events or programs of LYF and most especially, those brethren who voluntarily offer their time and efforts in helping and teaching the children.

By God's grace, the Lord is continuously working in the expansion of the ministry, providing more servants and enriching the children with the Word of God; reaching out other children in knowing Jesus Christ.

This year, the very first activity of LYF was the prayer watch, held last 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2017 in Manama Villa 7. Attendees were composed of children in BBBC and from other churches which made the event a fun-filled learning experience for both children and teachers.

On their first night, Teacher Eng has started it with the rules and regulations, reminding them on their do's and don'ts for the whole activity. Then, devotion was led by Sis. Lani Maningat and Sis. Deds Celebrar; boys and girls were separated. After the short devotion, all students and teachers have introduced themselves to one another and especially the first timers. After that, as a routine in every prayer watch, everybody was given a task including the teachers to recite the memory verses individually in front which made everyone nervous and at the same time excited. Some had a hard time, some got it perfectly and some were too shy being in front. The result was really enjoyable. Before the night ended, children were regrouped and prayed in circles. It really inspires many by seeing the children show their love for God, family and friends.

***Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (Ephesians 6:18)***



The next day, many were awake before the call time at 6:00am while some were only awakened by the noise of others. Everyone started praying, then, fixed their beds and prepared for the next activities. While some volunteer teachers were preparing breakfast, others set an indoor exercise, bible quizzes and devotion. Indeed, a fruitful day it was because of the excitement and joy seen in every child. Everyone's patience, coordination and love for each other was seen in this event.

Second and latest activity LYF had was the prayer watch held at Jope's residence in Abu Dhabi on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2017. It was another memorable experience – new place of event and new people were involved.

After the worship service in Dubai, LYF attendees, leaders, and volunteers prepared and travelled straight to Abu Dhabi. Upon arriving, everyone placed their things and gathered at the hall for the rules and regulations. The event started with a prayer, followed by the devotion led by Bro. Melvin Caba and then recitation of memory verses. The excitement has increased because the kids swam in the swimming pool. Summer in UAE is extremely exhausting but swimming could be enjoyable especially with family and friends. Before night time, children went back to the room for food. Everybody was tired and hungry and so, teachers prepared the snacks plus dinner for all.

The next day, we strolled in Abu Dhabi and went to the park to do the exercise. Before the heat rose, Bro. Jay Jope led our devotion at the park. In a peaceful place, learning the Word of God touched our hearts to be closer to God and give glory to His name.

Another memorable experience of the event was the seminar led by Bro. Rey Bornales. The awareness in social media awakened the children, even the teachers, the cause and effect of it to every person who get involved with it. The benefits and danger of social media helped everyone to be conscious on its uses. It made the audience fully mindful of their actions and respond in the growing world of social media. It made them realized that the focal point should always be to glorify God and to use it to spread the gospel to the lost souls.

***Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28:19-20)***

There may be trials or challenges' going on in our lives but what's important is to finish the race and reach the goal. We are always carried by His arms. No one could ever take us away from God. Let us continue in the path of the Lord. Through this ministry, our children will be enlightened to righteousness. **BB**



# The History Behind

## BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR ERWIN CONCEPCION

The Back to the Bible Baptist Church originally came from the original group called “The Back to the Bible”, a small Bible Study group I started when I & my wife Beth came back to Dubai from Canada on August of 1998.

### 1998

#### How It Started

When I became a Christian in Canada, God gave me the burden to reach my lost family members and friends in Dubai and Philippines. I didn't understand that feeling from the beginning, but irresistible feeling of proclaiming the Gospel prompted me to go back to Dubai to do the work. My wife Beth was holding a good position in Hyatt Regency in Vancouver, and at that time I was employed as interior design consultant in the largest and the most expensive European furniture store in the whole North America, overseeing the interior design projects of three big stores for three years. Although we were living in a quite comfortable life in that country, I remember my family members, loved ones and friends. No one is saved! I believe I was the first Christian in our clan. With this burden for them and my heart for the lost souls, I prayed for many months for God to give me the wisdom on what to do. And as time passed by, my burden for them gets heavier and heavier every day to the extent that I lost excitement anymore to do my routine work in the office. During those times, the only excitement I have is studying the Bible and sharing it to my family, sister and brother back home in Manila. But I want to do more; I was longing to go back to Dubai, maybe to work again there so I can reach out also my friends for Jesus.

After several months of prayer and discerning the will of God, my heart and mind are still pounding to go back to Dubai. Without thinking of what will happen in the future, I asked my wife if she is eager to go back with me to Dubai. And I praised the Lord that she didn't even ask me what made me do such drastic decision as we both are doing well having stable jobs. If she had asked me this question, I didn't have any logical reason to answer her, except my heart and mind is leading me back to Dubai. To make a story short, Beth and I decided to resign from our jobs, sold some of our personal belongings including our car, and went back to Dubai.

On the same day we arrived, while Beth re-joined the Emirates Airline as flight attendant to supply our needs, I formed a Bible Study group with good friends; we are about six (6). It was a great joy and fulfillment when I started sharing the Gospel to these friends of mine. And we started inviting other friends to the Bible study, and in few weeks time, our number increased to about 10 – 15 persons. Since I was the only one who drives the car, it is also I who pick up attendees as far as the desert area of Jebel Ali, cook dinner for them, share the Word of God, then drop off some of them back to their accommodations, while some stay behind to sleep in our flat because I could not accommodate them all in the same car at the same time.

#### How It Grow

I choose Thursday for our Bible study because it's a decision day for those who are truly seeking God, it's weekend and a “Party Night” for many. God always reminds me of the verses in *Romans 12:1,2* “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”. That we Christians should no longer walk and conform to the fashion of this world, as we had already been changed, and continuously being transformed to conform to the image of His Son. Basically, a sacrificial service for His glory rather than enjoying the pleasure of this world is needed to please Him.

### 2004

#### How It Became

#### A Church

Several years later, after I left the church I used to be part of, I joined a newly formed Fundamental Baptist Church in Dubai. However, after a godly pastor of the church confronted a serious issue brought-in by one of the leaders of the church, he decided to leave Dubai and commissioned the work to me and another leader. We all prayed for the name of the church, many suggested to carry the name of their churches, but after several prayers and consultations with other leaders, the “Back to the Bible” name came out strongly, and in late 2004 Back to the Bible became a church. The church started with regular attendees of around thirty people. Almost majority of the members came from Baptist Christian background.

#### Encountering Struggles

During the first year of establishing BBBC, the church encountered several problems mainly church's policy and leadership. I thought, it was a reminiscent of what happened to the church of Corinth where members brought about their own culture and belief, preference of leadership and even doctrinal issues. This problem eventually leads some discontented groups to leave the church. These sad events made many who stayed heartbroken.

Another year passed, another problem came. A partner in the ministry decided to part his ways and decided to form his own church and his own system of leadership. Because I see God as sovereign in all things, I look at it as His will, to optimize the full potential of His gifts graced to each and every one of us (Romans 12:6-8).

The next three years, BBBC leadership confronted several issues of sins including division. It is on this transitional stage that I experience sleepless nights of burden, worries and discouragements. Inexperience in addressing heavy problems in the church. I spent many times kneeling during early mornings as early as 3am. Maybe because of lack of rest and pressures. One night, during a serious meeting in the church addressing the issue of sins of adultery and fornication committed by members of the church, I was rushed to Dubai hospital due to continuous nosebleed, and was operated twice for 21 days for the same reason.

I remember what the Apostle Paul had gone through in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27. I thought, the righteous church has to undergo trials and purging, sometimes spiritual attack however, I believe God allows it in order for us to experience His power and grace in times of trials. Through this experience, we can claim that He indeed "will not leave us nor forsake us". To God be the glory!

## The Rainbow

I remember Noah after the flood, God showed him the rainbow of covenant and hope (Genesis 9:1-17). This tells us that in every faithful works for God, no matter what comes along the way, God will always protect His people and servants so His name among His people will be protected. The saying says "there is always light at the end of the tunnel" and I do believe it, so as Noah's experience in life.

## After the Flood

These troubled years, made me and the leadership of the church firmer and stronger in its stand for what is right and wrong, and what is godly against ungodly. It strengthens us to trust in Jesus, to love Him more and to seek His guidance more than anything the world can offer.

After few years of struggle, came the revival of the church and blessings poured in. God faithfully send many gifted brethren to help BBBC start a new beginning. At the beginning of 2007, faithful men and women started joining the leadership ministry of the church.

## 2007 The Blessings

There was a time when we were praying relentlessly for a pianist and musicians to help the music ministry of the church as we do not even have a single one who can play a piano. By God's grace, choir was formed and with the help of a faithful sister who had no education in music neither experience leading the music ministry of the church, the music ministry was born. God blessed the church with loving people who wants to offer their voices to the Lord! Today, we keep the same principle in our choir ministry, that any member who are willing to serve the Lord in singing, regardless of whether they have gift or skill in singing, we welcome them to be part of the choir ministry because we know that God searcheth the heart!

## Come Along

During the past few years, we invited several guest pastors to become speakers in our anniversaries and seminars to help strengthen the church. The following pastors who came to visit and help strengthen the church are: Pastor Evan Venegas (CBAP), Pastor Jogli Tupas (AFBC), Pastor Albert Verba (Japan), Dr. Stephen Zeinner (US), Pastor Nel Guiang (BJMBC), Dr. Phil Kamibayashiyama (Director and President, BJMBC) and Dr. Joel Arnold (Director, BJMBC).

## 2017 The Church Today

By the grace of our Almighty God and the love of Jesus Christ, BBBC had grown steadily both spiritually and numerically. Many additional church ministries had been created. Currently, the church has seventeen (17) Bible study groups, and other ministries like the Music Ministry, the Kings Men (KM) Ministry for men, the Gameo Fellowship Ministry for married members, the True Womanhood (TW) for women, the Sojourners Ministry for singles, and the Lord's Young Flock (LYF) Ministry for children. Burning Bush Publication and other ministries being formed. Seeing The Back to the Bible Baptist Church growing in its service to God today is already a great joy of realizing why God brought me back here in Dubai. Together with faithful and loving leaders and members of the church, we truly aim to serve Him in the expansion of His kingdom here on earth as He commanded us to preach the Gospel to the world. We desire to please the Lord as we serve Him with love, for He is worthy of all our sacrificial service, that we may glorify His Name through our ministry!

## The Church Vision

For few years now BBBC has been praying for God's grace to bless us a home church in the Philippines. This is primarily because many of the brethren, who were converted to Jesus through the church, do not have a church to attend and fellowship with back in the Philippines. Many of our brethren who have non-believing family members and relatives want to lead them to Jesus, and would want to entrust them to the home church when they leave back to work abroad. However, because there is none at the moment, we only recommend them to other friend-churches with the same doctrine and practice. We believe, in God's timing and will. He will answer our prayer to have this plan materialized sooner or later.

Seeing The Back to the Bible Baptist Church growing in its service for God today, is already a great joy of discovering why God brought me back here in Dubai from Canada. Together with faithful and loving leaders and members of the church, we truly aim to serve Him in the expansion of His kingdom here on earth as He commanded us to preach the Gospel to all the world (Matthew 28:18-20). Our desire is to bring glory to His name in love, in service, and in reaching the lost for Jesus!

To God be the glory!!! **BB**

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Revelation 4:11

# 13 Years of His Faithfulness

ONE FAITH. ONE CHRIST. ONE FAMILY.

BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH



2008

2009

2010

2011



2015

2016

2017





*13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*"The Love for Jesus"*

*Jesus answered and said unto him,  
If a man love me, he will keep my words:  
and my Father will love him,  
and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

*John 14:23*

Location Map: [Click Here!](#)  
 Carlton Palace Hotel  
 Maktoum Road, Deira, Dubai, UAE  
 Friday, October 13, 2017  
 1:00 - 3:00 PM (Registration)  
 3:00 - 6:00 PM (Worship Service)  
 6:00 pm onwards (Dinner)

www.thebbbc.org



# First

of all, I would like to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for his grace and mercy that were given to me through this ministry the Burning Bush, for the opportunity to humbly serve and be an instrument to edify the body of the Church that the world might see the goodness of God in this kind of Ministry!

The world today is full of Technologies, the rapid increase of the volume of latest gadgets, devices and computers are overwhelming. The people are more attached and connected to the mode such as online, cloud, virtual, etc. We are familiar with World Wide Web or commonly known as Internet while using our latest gadgets or computers to access it. Today, it is very significant in the lives of every person as it makes life easier to access things that we need in workplaces and even in our personal life. But sometimes, this can be deceiving and can be used by the enemy to influence

used by the enemy to influence and manipulate our lives by consuming our time. It drives us to commit sin, to sin, to be allured by temptations, to deceive people or even worst to commit sin by watching and reading worldly pleasures that would affect the mind and body of a person. In the Christian view, the big question is how can we help the people in their personal and spiritual lives and use the technology/Internet as an advantage to bring Glory to God.

It was in January of 2014 when all the leaders of the Back to the Bible Baptist Church came up with the idea to take the opportunity to use the Internet as an instrument to lift up Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom given by God. All the leaders decided to create a BBBC Website, that through this we can use the technology for godly purposes. To

them, they are as follows: to be a channel of blessings to others, proclaiming the Word of God, revealing the truth about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, building up one another and help our spiritual life grow more in the knowledge of God. Also, we want to help others who are seeking for true friendship and are in need of God's shelter, reaching out people all over the world and be continuously connected to the members of the church who are now living in different countries.

Of course, the idea is not easy and the process of creating a website is tedious. There are many hindrances along the way such as: hardship to manage the time in creating the website, sometimes discouragement not to pursue the plan, but thanks to the humble leaders of the church who are always there to give advices whenever they are needed and also to my wife who serves as a permanent encourager to me.

BIBLE VERSE OF THE DAY

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

Proverbs 14:34(KJV)



Finally after a year, on January 2015 the BBBC Website was launched and made live online. Only by the mercy and grace of God, it was realized.

Praying that this instrument serves its purpose which is to uplift Christ and bring glory to Him. Surely, through the BBBC Website, some people who are searching to congregate with God's people found their way in and now serving Christ in the church, working in different ministries for the glory of God. Some of them are attending the Bible Study groups and some people from other countries are sending prayer requests through the BBBC Website. Isn't it amazing that God always make a way to lift His Son Jesus Christ's name everywhere and anytime?

This year 2017, the Data Access Statistics of BBBC Websites are shown below and we thank the Lord for reaching these countries for Christ Jesus! To God be the Glory! **BB**



# KEEP UP THE CHALLENGE FOR BETTER HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Sis. Cherrie Toquero

**H**ow do you feel when you wake up this morning? Does your body feel young and energetic as you get up or achy and groggy from another restless night's sleep? In this article, we want to consider the need and importance of living a balanced Christian life.

The road to becoming a healthy person is not easy, but it's more than worth it if we focus on positive results. For example: If we have proper nutrition, adequate rest and regular exercise we probably wouldn't have a weight problem, in the first place.

We all know that many of us today are interested in diet and fitness but more and more people are overweight, out of shape and in poor health condition.

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

We are work in progress and God isn't finished on us yet (Ephesians 2:10). You'll need to set goals and make plans to put this biblical principle into practice in order to live a healthier and balanced life.

## First rule is know the basic

**What is Food?** It is a nourishing substance that is eaten, drink or otherwise taken into the body to sustain life, provide energy and promote growth. The kind of food you eat can affect the efficiency of these processes.

**What is Diet?** A sum of food and drink consumed by a person.

**What is Nutrition?** Intake of food, considered in relation to the body's dietary needs. It's about nourishment on every level. Diet and Nutrition linked to human choices, healthy or unhealthy. It has a great impact on decision making. It involves relationship with family, friends, nature, community and the world. Let me give you a brief advice that will identify the MYTH and FACT.

**MYTH:** Cut back on carbohydrates to lose weight.

**FACT:** Carbohydrates comes in different forms: simple and complex, **Simple** carbs found in foods like cookies and candy that lack vitamins, minerals and fiber. Cutting back on these sweets is a great way to eat healthier. Foods with **Complex** carbs like whole -wheat bread, beans and fruit have lots of nutrients that are good for you. Cut on simple carbohydrate but keep complex carbohydrate on the menu.

**MYTH:** If the label says "non-fat" or "low-fat", you can eat all you want and not gain weight.

**FACT:** Many low-fat or non-fat foods have added sugar, starch or salt to make up for the reduction in the fat. These wonder foods often have just many calories, or more than the regular version. Check the **nutritional label** to see how many calories are in a serving. Be sure to check the serving size too.

**MYTH:** Skipping breakfast makes you gain weight.

**FACT:** Eating a healthy breakfast can help you manage your hunger later in a day and help you say, "No, thanks," to unhealthy snacks. If you are not hungry first thing, listen to your body. When you are ready to eat, help yourself to a healthy option like oatmeal with fresh berries.

**MYTH:** Fasting can help you lose weight quickly.

**FACT:** Fasting is not healthy if you go hungry all day and cover it off with a huge meal that replaces all the calories you skipped earlier. \*Watch out for *empty calories* (foods with energy but little or no nutrition) such as refined grains and sugary drinks. Do not cut out meals entirely, especially without a doctor's supervision.



If you are interested in a diet that encourages faster weight loss, be sure to work with your healthcare provider to make sure you are getting all nutrients you need.

Apostle John links our overall well-being to our spiritual vitality: Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth (3 John 1:2). A healthy person results in healthy lifestyle



and healthy relationships with God and others. Proverbs 17:22 says, “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones”. On the other hand, guilt over wrong doing adversely affects our physical, spiritual, relational and emotional health.

So more than any other factor, it is our food choices, lifestyle that causes us to be unhealthy. Here is a sample meal repartition over the day. As soon as you wake up, drink a cup of lukewarm water mixed with juice of half a fresh lemon.

<b>BREAKFAST</b>	<b>Dairy</b> (any among these options)	125g natural yogurt w/ 0% fat OR 125g fat-free fresh soft white cheese OR 100g fat-free natural greek yogurt OR 100g Cottage cheese 0% fat or 125g natural soya yogurt OR 200ml skimmed milk
	<b>FRUIT</b>	150g Fruit OR mixed fresh fruit salad OR 100g stewed fruit(no added sugar)
	<b>STARCH</b>	2Tbsp oat flakes or 2pcs Ryvita Original crackerbread light & crispy OR 1pc of another Crispbread
<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>PROTEINS</b> (any among these options)	100g Meat(chicken, turkey, beef tenderloin steak or max 5% fat, veal) OR 120g white fish OR 130g Shellfish/Seafood OR 80g tuna(canned in water) OR 2eggs(twice a week only) OR 80g lean ham
	<b>VEGETABLES</b>	250g raw or cooked vegetables, Green leaves salad and mushroom as much as desired. OR 1 bowl vegetable soup
	<b>FRUIT</b>	150g Fruit or mixed Fruits salad or 100g stewed fruit (no added sugar)
<b>SNACK</b>		1 Fruit OR 1 natural yogurt 0% OR 1 slice of lean ham
<b>DINNER</b>	<b>PROTEINS</b> (any among these options)	100g Meat (chicken, turkey, beef tenderloin steak or max 5% fat, pork fillet, veal) OR 120g white fish OR 130g Shellfish/Seafood OR 80g tuna(canned in water) OR 2eggs(twice a week only) OR 80g lean ham Have a wide variety of protein choices over the week!
	<b>VEGETABLES</b>	250g raw or cooked varied vegetables. If eaten raw, make sure you eat a form of cooked stewed fruit for dessert. Green leaves salad and mushroom as much as desired!
	<b>DAIRY</b>	125g natural yogurt 0%fat OR 125g fat-free fresh soft white cheese OR 100gm fat-free natural greek yogurt OR 100g cottage cheese 0% fat

### **FOOD CHOICES**

**PERMITTED:** Apple, pear, all berries, kiwi, Clementine, redcurrant, peach, nectarine, grapefruit

Max 1x/week: Pineapple, melon, papaya, watermelon, Apricot, Courgette/Zucchini, green beans, broccoli, spinach, cucumber, Kale, Asparagus, Brussels, sprouts, cabbage, fennel, lettuce, leek, lettuce, bell pepper, okra, chicory, radish, carrot, mushroom, cauliflower, artichoke, tomato, eggplant, turnip, bitter melon, oats flakes, Ryvita Original Cracker, bread light and crispy or other crisp bread

**LESS PERMITTED:** Banana, dates, grapes, mango, leeches, persimmon, cherry, pomegranate, fig, plum, Mirabelle plum, guava, dried fruits, Beetroot, avocado, pumpkin/squash, parsnip, yam, Pasta, rice, potatoes, corn, couscous, barley, quinoa, bread

All: chickpeas, lentils, baked beans, fava beans, green beans, dhal, all nuts

### **RULES TO RESPECT:**

\*Less or No Fat or Oil

\*Less or No sugar, no sweets, pastries, cakes, biscuits, chocolates, candies, soft drinks

\*No sparkling drinks

\*No skipping of Meals

\*Drink regular water and/or green tea

We have the responsibility to care of the Lord’s temple which is our body. Changing old and unhealthy habits is not easy but it’s essential if we want to become healthier and live a better quality of life. God’s health rules have much to say about what we eat or drink (Isaiah 55:2). No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly (Psalms 84:11). **BB**

“She was only five days young when our daughter Daniela Marie was diagnosed of a congenital heart defect called Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD). Her heart has a hole and the possibility of a surgery to close it is high.”

# Meant To Make Us Grow

Sis. Angeli Cruz



**Our hearts** were crushed upon hearing this from the doctors. At first we cannot believe it; it feels like a bad dream that you want to wake up from. How could this thing be happening to such a tiny innocent human? We had a lot of questions in mind but we chose to trust God for a miracle to happen. Together with our loved ones and church family, we plead to God for His healing power upon the condition of Daniela.

Raising a newborn baby in itself is a lot of hard work, all parents know about it, and it is extra challenging to tend a baby with special needs. Some of our days were filled with doubts and worries and fear for the life of our daughter. Weekly trips to the hospital, twice she was admitted at the ICU, a lot of laboratory tests, a scare that she might end up in a life support with just a simple cough or cold; all of this Daniela has to endure in the early months of her life. We feel sorry for her and are helpless at times. But God is good, He kept Daniela and made her strong.

As we waited for God's answer, there are days that our faith is being shaken. We begin to blame ourselves and question God for what has happened to our daughter. And just as we start to weaken God is gracious

to send someone to encourage us and remind us to keep our anchor on Jesus.

Time is precious in the condition of Daniela. During her 4<sup>th</sup> month check up with her pedia-cardio he advised us that the likelihood of her hole to close up in its own is very little. We need to make a decision as soon as possible to avoid any complications since Daniela is now suffering from heart failure and other symptoms like fast breathing and slow weight gain begin to show.

Hard decisions have to be made. Having operation done in Dubai means shelling out a huge amount of money and a whole lot of considerations with regards to doctors, medical facilities, procedure, recovery and all. How can one make such a quick and tough decision like this to your child where her life is at stake? We realized that we cannot do this without faith in God. Faith was the answer in our prayers. God was with us from the start, guiding every step of the way. We just need to trust Him fully and acknowledge that He is in control in this entire ordeal.

“In this testing of faith, **we now see the ever present constant hand of God.** It is true, when the Psalmist says that, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

God blessed us with a kind-hearted cardiologist in Dubai who looked after the welfare of our daughter and even recommended a good doctor in Manila because he knows fully well the financial burden of a surgery in Dubai. After much prayer, hearing counsels and considering the condition of Daniela, we have decided to go back to Manila to proceed with the operation. We met the pedia-cardio who will handle the case of our daughter. After two meetings with him, he confirmed the heart defect of Daniela and another possible problem that would arise. In a week's time, he was able to schedule Daniela's surgery at the Philippine Heart Center. March 8, 2017 was the day. At six in the evening, we handed our little heart warrior to the doctors. As a parent this is the toughest part in this whole journey, giving our precious baby to

to the hand of doctors, not seeing her for the next hours, unsure of what will happen after, and you got no choice but to be strong and pray harder that everything will turn out well.

At the Operating Room waiting area, we met a couple who's child was also inside the OR. We see the mother crying inconsolably and the father hugging her. We learned afterwards that they just received news from the surgeon that their child's heart stopped beating during the procedure and they are reviving her. After a while, they were again called in and this time the doctors told them that they had revived the child. Tears flow again from the mother and the father keeps on praying and praising God. We joined them in praying for the successful operation of our children. They are Christians from the province of Abra. During the whole duration of our waiting time, we busied ourselves sharing testimonies of the goodness of God. This couple was a blessing to us! It's as if God was saying that we are not alone in this journey and provided us with someone to share our burden with and who are in the same boat as we are and therefore, understands what exactly we are going through.

After the longest six hours of our lives, we were called in by the surgeon to announce that the surgery was a success and Daniela is in stable condition. She was immediately transferred in the ICU, where we cannot go inside to be with her but rather just looking at her from a far. While Daniela was there, we stayed in a room designated for the guardians of patients. There, we met a lot of parents from all walks of life. All of us in the same situation, constantly worrying for the lives of our dear children and at the same time, hoping and praying for their healing and quick



recovery. Sometimes, it is so hard to comfort someone, when you yourself is in dire need of it. But, thanks be to God because we know that we have the greatest Comforter abiding in us. We had an opportunity to pray for some of the parents and their sick children, telling them that we are not alone in this battle and there is always hope in God.

Daniela stayed for almost 7 days in the ICU because of some setbacks along the way. Nonetheless, she was transferred to us in a regular room to continue her recovery. Some of the tubes and wires are still attached to our poor little baby but we are more than glad that she is finally back in our arms. It was also the first time that we see her stitches at her chest. It was long. It is her battles' scars. Scars that will forever be a reminder of God's special plan for her and our family.

Sharing this testimonies brings back some of painful memories, but they are now all just those, memories. Five months post-operation, Daniela Marie is now on her way to full recovery. Her recent 2D echo says that her heart is adjusting and functioning well. She is turning one year old on October 10 and growing to be a happy baby. Praise God!

In this testing of faith, we now see the ever present constant hand of God. It is true, when the Psalmist says that, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." We just need to ask from Him and acknowledge Him, have faith and trust Him.

Let us conclude with these words from JC Ryle, which speaks to us, as parents enduring a trial of faith;

"Sicknesses and losses and crosses and anxieties and disappointments seem absolutely needful to keep us humble, watchful and spiritually-minded. They are as needful as the pruning knife to the vine and the refiner's furnace to the gold.

They are not pleasant to flesh and blood. We do not like them and often do not see their meaning...

We shall find that all worked for our good when we reach heaven. Let these thoughts abide in our minds, if we love growth in grace. When days of darkness come upon us, let us not count it a strange thing. Rather let us remember that lessons are learned on such days, which would never have been learned in sunshine.

Let us say to ourselves, 'This also is for my profit, that I may be partaker of God's holiness. It is sent in love. I am in God's best school. Correction is instruction. This is meant to make me grow.'" – John Charles Ryle, Holiness (Moscow, Idaho: Charles Nolan, 1877/2002). 118



All things  
are *possible* with God

Bro. Crespín Mesicula

“ But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. ”

*Matthew 19:26*

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God has been so good to me!  
Glory to God forever and ever more!  
Thank You, God for giving me the opportunity to  
share it!

**T**o begin with, I grew up in a family that seldom goes to church. We'll only attend during church anniversary and thanksgiving. During high school, I was surrounded with people who drink alcohol and smoke and so to fit in I started smoking cigarettes and drinking liquor.

When I turned fifteen, I began to smoke marijuana. In college, my companions were heavy drinkers and we hang out in various bars around the town. It was my second year in college when I met Rica; we had the common friend who introduced me to her. Our first year being together was very exciting but it comes with a lot challenges. About a month earlier, when I realized that there is another girl, who I admire and felt attracted to but that hasn't changed my love for Rica. I have decided that I won't let this feeling spoil our relationship. Then, I told everything to Rica but I knew things would be different between us. I thank the Lord that she forgave me after she found out that I cheated her. From then on, she's always suspicious that I am cheating on her but I tried everything I can to make our relationship better and to gain her trust again. It was on our 3<sup>rd</sup> year when she got pregnant. I was elated but scared at the same time. At first, she tried to keep the pregnancy a secret. She also thought of abortion. Thankfully, God was at work in my life even when I didn't realize it. We chose to keep our baby boy and I guess the hardest part is telling it to our parents. When we told both our parents, they were upset but very supportive. Her mother is present on my behalf every antenatal appointment which was a great help since I was studying that time. My life changed when I finally held my baby boy.

After I graduated in college, I went to Manila to find job so that I can financially support my family. But I realized that seeking my own pleasure was way more important than what I promised to my family. In 2012, I got addicted in drinking liquor. I moved to my uncle's house hoping that he could help me but things only got worse from there. Later, I found out that he's a drug addict. Nothing could keep me away from drugs and alcohol since I am working in a bar where it revolves around people who are drunkard, smokers and drug addicts. It becomes a snare to me. I always denied having an alcohol problem even my parents reprimanded me. Life becomes miserable to me that time. I can't even send money to my family. I was drowning my sorrow with alcohol and drugs. I remember that day I sat on a chair feeling sick from a week of heavy drinking pondering about what happened to my life and realized that this is not the life I wanted to be. I need something and I need a sense of direction. Then, I decided to try my fate abroad but I failed on my first attempt. I tried again and by God's grace I passed. I was so happy knowing that I can start my new life there away from my bad habits. God brought me here in Dubai. I thought I was in control of my life. But alcohol has always been part of my life. I am spending most of my rest day in

of my life. I am spending most of my rest day in drinking session. After my vacation, I took my wife for us to earn for our son and since we're both unbelievers, we're only planning on our own ways without acknowledging God.

After 2 months, she got sick, and I really don't know what to do. I can vividly remember that night, sitting next to her and seeing her extremely sick. I found myself crying and praying fervently to God to heal my wife. From that moment, I realized that I can do nothing and only God can do impossible things. It was my rest day when my housemate Jerlyn invited us to a Bible study. I was hesitant at first and continue my established lifestyle. But my wife did not give up on me and she began asking me to come to Bible study with her. I have granted her request to attend the Bible study out of curiosity. May 2015 God used Pastor Erwin in declaring the Gospel to me and from then on my life changed. Something wonderful happened. I had totally lost the desire of drinking and I started seeking God's word since I don't know much about Him. I don't know anything about repentance, forgiveness, justification and sanctification. I heard about God and of course, I heard about Jesus that He died on the cross to bear my sins but I never really understand what it means. Reading God's Word opened my eyes to a whole new perspective on life. I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. Today, I'm so grateful to God that He continues to change my life day by day. I may not be worthy to be called His son but through His mercy and grace I am today, and I am keeping my faith in Him. Nothing is impossible with God. (Matthew 19:26) His power makes all things possible!

**“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”  
Matthew 19:26**

To God be the glory! **BB**



# MY *Life* TESTIMONY

Bro. Rey Javellana

**I**t is a great privilege for me to impart the story of how the LORD changes my life. I was raised in a Catholic dominated family and following the beliefs and traditions that I woke up with life is simple, no major issue with spiritual things and it seems that everything is normal as what others are also doing under this beliefs, enjoying sins as normal part of daily life. I don't even open a bible. When I'm about six years old my parents always quarrel, sometimes to the point that my mother is being hurt badly by my father and because of this my sister and I were so afraid of our father. We can do nothing but to cry and get terrified. I was the youngest in the family with a sister and five brothers. I grew up as a shy and private kind of person. I don't want to be exposed rather always wanted to be on the backstage. I remember when I was young I want to break and dismantle things in order for me to learn how to fix it, but many remain broken and end up in a trash.

During my college years I work at my Aunt's pharmacy as a part time salesboy in order to support my studies. I work in the morning and attend school in the afternoon. One morning, I was riding on a bicycle to deliver some orders. While crossing the street I was hit by a fast moving vehicle and was thrown afar. Many who saw the accident thought that I died that day. I didn't even know what happened to me until my mother told me a day after when I woke up. Second year in college, a classmate of mine invited me in a martial art training, I was convinced and did join for the purpose of self-defense. As we go deeper, the trainer introduced to us a sort of lessons – a Bible study which they say part of the training. In short I was into a religious kind of martial art "Won wha do" present name "Tong-il moo do". Many students and young ones were easily convinced by their doctrines and taught another kind of gospel which I realized later it is unbiblical and completely perverting the true message of the Bible. This group was a Cult and the members are being brainwashed. It originated in South Korea by the name of "Unification Church" or "Moonies". They operate in many organization and thousands even millions are being deceived by this group yearly, introducing what they call "The Divine Principle" which they say The Christ Testament Age doctrine or next after the New Testament. They are famous in a Mass Wedding in Korea. I was into this group for almost two years and

many of my friends and classmates are active until now with this group.

I got married in 2001 and as my family is growing, I thought I need to have a better source of income. March 2007 an opportunity opened up for me here in the UAE



with a help of a friend from BBBC. My first 3 years abroad was really a struggle both in my work and personal life. Trying to overcome the hardship and temptations of life, I've motivated myself that the very reason why I'm here is to work, earn and support my family and go home someday not knowing that behind this, God is working and has His own purpose why He sent me here in this part of the world.

By God's grace in March 2012 my wife, two kids and I reunited here in the UAE. Five years without the presence of my family my spiritual life was unclear up and down, on and off not taking seriously what my friend had shared with me about the Lord Jesus Christ and the words of Salvation. It's like those words just passed through my ears and retains a fragment of it or might be that the seed that was sown grew slow, or didn't even grew at all in my heart. But by God's grace, through follow up and series of Bible studies finally, the seed rooted up, with my wife we both surrendered our life to the Lord Jesus and were baptized on June of 2013. As newly born Christians aside from joy, burden also filled our hearts that we need to share this Good News to others especially to our family. We prayed and ask guidance to the LORD and the answer is to go home at the earliest. Financially, going home with the family of four is difficult on my side but we are determined to do it so I approached my Muslim employer for my plan but in return he questioned me, "Why do you need to go home? Your family is here?" I told him the reason and he understand and in addition he asked me, "Do you have money to buy tickets? For he knows me in terms

of my finances and said, "I will provide all your tickets!" From that moment on, I'm beginning to understand how God works and provide for his Glory.

It was night of July 2013 when we got home, my sister and I had a serious discussion until two o'clock in the morning, sharing how the Lord changed my life's direction and declared to her the words of Salvation. On that early morning of the first day, the Spirit of the Lord touched her heart and she repented, surrendered and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Both of us are laughing and crying out of joy that we cannot explain. The next few days, we gathered our family and friends for a bible study. It's my first time talking in front of them telling God's great love and judgment. Two years later, we returned for a vacation and invited my brother and his wife to come and worship with us. As usual, there were many alibis but were convinced later. On that week, my sister in law was crying as she tells us the result of her laboratory test because she was sick. She can't believe it and even asked the nurses to double check the result for it was all normal. Prior to that she suffers in different physical illnesses including serious liver issue and takes medicine for it. I just smiled at her and give thanks to the Lord for touching them in His own unique way. Now, both of them are faithfully serving the Lord. Lately, she is having issue again in her spleen, causing platelet count abnormal that leads to sudden bleeding. Her doctor cannot determine the cause saying, "I don't know what is going on inside your body". Having faith and holding to the Lord's promises she said, "I leave it all to the LORD and I am ready anytime". I'm so blessed to know how the LORD increased her faith.

I believe God leads his children to the right path and that things happen for a purpose. Following days on my way to Iloilo city on a fast ferry, a man seated beside me trying to get my attention and he did, so we had a long conversation and later on told me that he is a worship leader and his brother was a Pastor in Bacolod. By God's grace, members of my family are now being fed and are growing there but still the battle continues. Many of my relatives and friends have not been won yet to Christ, but I hope and believe that the Lord will draw them closer as He continues to work and water those seeds that have been sown. That it will grow in his own and perfect time!

Year 2014 we are blessed again with another son named Emmanuel. At the moment, I was separated again from my family. Being alone again and far from them is a great challenge than before to overcome, to remain faithful not only to my family but to the Lord. I know there will be time that I will be lonely and will cry, be weakened and fall, be tempted and discouraged but I know I will not be alone again to face all of these trials because the Lord will be at my side to strengthen, direct, comfort me and will never leave me. A relationship has been established that cannot be broken when the Lord found me and when I surrendered my life to Him.

Before, I do break things in my life that I cannot fix, do and enjoy things that is unpleasant and sinful, almost died, lost and being deceived, terrified and can do

nothing. All of these are just parts of my old life which I passed through the grace of the Lord and by His own purpose. Now, everything becomes new. He fixed things in my life that I cannot fix, forgiven my sins, saved me from death and protects, leads and redirects me to the right track and gives comfort to me in times of loneliness. I know many greater things are still coming ahead as part of this new found Life.

It's been four years now since I surrendered my life to the Lord and many things happened and changed, many are on process and many more still need to be learned and discover in this life. I already spent almost half of my lifetime. Now, I leave the rest to the Lord. Serving Him of what is remaining by sowing seeds for the grace of service He has given me while He populates heaven for His glory.

Now, running in this Christian race, I may run slow or fast and might fall down but He will be there stretching His hands for me to stand up again, for the Lord is running together with those who abides in Him until the finish line. I don't know what lies and which road ahead maybe, but only one thing I'm sure that the Lord has a purpose for my life and to those that truly believes in Him.

Before Jesus Christ ascended to heaven he entrusted these words to His disciples, *Mark 16:15* "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" and *Matthew 28:19* "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

We, as Christians and true followers of Jesus Christ have parts of this Great Commission that has been passed on from generation to generation. This is the major role of the Church and as member of the body we have our individual assignment. *Romans 10:14* "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher."

We may not all be gifted to be teacher, evangelist, preacher or singer in the Church, but we all have a testimony to tell to all those who are lost and doesn't know who Jesus Christ in our life... We, as the Church are assigned to do this and no one else. **BB**



# BIBLE STUDY

## Groups

Al Nadha Group





# Abu Hail and Mamzar Groups



# Al Rigga Group



Satwa 1 Group



Abu Hail Villa - 15 Group



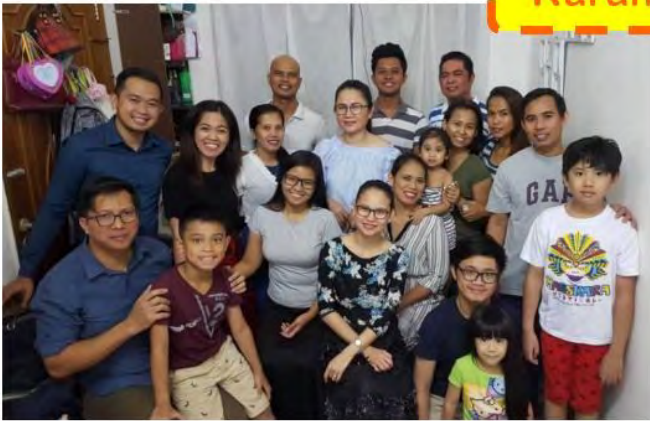
Satwa 2 Group



Sheikh Zayed Group



Karama Group



Sharjah Group



Abu Dhabi Group



Muhaisna Group



Al Qusais Group



# THE DOCTRINE

# OF *Angel*

Bro. Dario Lausa

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God.

<sup>3</sup>All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. **John 1:1-3**

<sup>33</sup>For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. **1 Corinthians 14:33**

<sup>1</sup>Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise Him in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts.

<sup>3</sup>Praise ye Him, sun and moon: praise Him, all ye stars of light. **Psalms 148:1-3**

<sup>12</sup>How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

<sup>13</sup>For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

<sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

<sup>15</sup>Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. **Isaiah 14:12-15**

**I**t is my privilege to write for our church' magazine the "Burning Bush" pertaining to the doctrine of "ANGELS". Most of us are excited about this particular teaching. What you are about to read is just a simple overview, humble learning and most importantly the biblical truth about the realm of this being.

The word "angel" can be found 300 times in the Bible. It is referred to 120 and 180 times in 17 of the Old and New Testament books respectively.

Angels, like everything else in this universe, were made by God, the Father, through Jesus Christ in the energy of the Holy Spirit. (John 1:1-3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16). Their number was forever fixed once completed at creation. Jesus said in (Matthew 22:30) they do not reproduce. It is clear then that they can't procreate "giants" as what other doctrine teaches in Genesis 6 of the Bible. Let us remind ourselves that our God is not the author of confusion (1Corinthians 14:33). These beings are innumerable in numbers. But God knows all of them, of course. There may be as many angels as there are stars in the universe, for they are always associated with it. (Psalms 148:1-3; Judges 5:20)

The angels were created to glorify God, to worship Christ, to do the will of God, to assist the people of God and to observe the plan of God. Two attributes of God that angels have never, and indeed, can never personally experience, namely his mercy and grace. These attributes are what the true believers were embracing right now. However, these celestial beings can gain wonderful insights by observing God's blood washed sons and

daughters. They are invisible beings. One basic reason for this is to prevent unsaved and saved men from worshipping them. Paul warned us against angelic worship (Colossians 2:18). The apostle John, attempted to worship angels on two occasions (Revelations 19:10, 22:8-9).

They are mightier, smarter and swifter than man. They are unbounded by the laws of gravity and time. But they are and will always be inferior to our Almighty God. They have the three essential features required of personality namely: Intelligence, Will and Emotion. Lucifer willfully left his first estate (Isaiah 14:12-15). A number of angels willfully sided with Satan during his revolt (Jude 1:6). One third of these beings were cast out from heaven with him (Revelation 12:4). That is huge in number and Satan as we know is the ultimate deceiver.

In conclusion, it is a great challenge for us true believers to go deeper in our study pertaining to the realm about the Angels. In as much as I want to explain in a concise manner about these beings is impossible. The truth about their existence and whole being are contained in the Holy Bible. Let us encourage one another to continue our study beyond the four walls of Manama Villa 7. To our dear Pastor Erwin Concepcion, may the God of wisdom and knowledge continue to bless you in His own special way.

To God be the Glory! **BB**

# A LOVE MESSAGE FROM A MISSIONARY PASTOR

Pastor Cornelio Guiang

**Love for Jesus.** Nowadays, the subject of love, in general, is getting shallower and shallower as we are nearing the Day of the Lord. This syndrome is very much affecting even the love of the believers as seen in the relationships in homes, in the churches and more so with the love for Jesus Christ as being displayed by the believers' commitment. Agape love is now overwhelmed by materialism that blurs its real meaning and it even defies its genuine practices. Because of this, may I call on your attention to dredge the true meaning of love for Jesus in the life of Paul?

**Paul's love for Christ was a result of his deep conviction of the Lord.** The unbelieving Paul was one, if not the toughest enemy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 3:6) due of unbelief. But when he personally met the risen Lord, on the road to Damascus, who said unto him, "*I am Jesus whom thou persecutes...*", he trembled in terror with fear for he found himself fighting against the Christ (Acts 9:5-6) who loved him and gave himself for him (Galatians 2:20). He was also astonished in amazement that the crucified Jesus is alive and was speaking to him. Sparing him from death, the love of Christ captured his interest and constrained him to serve the risen Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14).

**Paul's love for Christ was the result of his deep communion with God.** Experiencing a deep conviction, Paul said, "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" He then followed the instruction of the Lord and went to Damascus. From thence, was his deep communion with God started. He prayed and fasted for three days (Acts 9:6-11) while waiting for further instruction. "*Pray without ceasing.*" (1Thessalonians 5:17) because his custom in life and also in the ministry. (Romans 1:9; Ephesians 1:16-19; 3:14-21; Philippians 1:4; 9-11; Colossians 1:9-13; 1Thessalonians 1:2; Philemon 1:4)

**Paul's love for Christ was resulted to his deep compassion for the lost.** At the closing of the Lord's earthly ministry, He rebuked Peter by asking him, "*Do you love me more than these?*" Jesus continued on to say, "*Feed my sheep.*" (John 21:15-17). The extent of those questions then is that if anyone says he or she loves Jesus, his or her love for the Lord should be expressed to the souls whom Jesus gave Himself as ransom. This is also clearly demonstrated by Paul in his deep compassion for the lost when he said, "*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*" (Acts 20:24) In his missionary journeys, he went to every city preaching the gospel. And though he was persecuted in almost all the cities that he went to (2 Corinthians 11:24-33), still he went back to those same cities to edify the believers and to establish the churches (Acts 14:22-23).

**Love for Jesus to Paul means "to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).**



# MISSIONS

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**MATTHEW 28:18-20**

## BBBC Abu Dhabi City Mission History

Bro. Jay Jope

**God** has created all things for a purpose to give Him back all the glory and honour and power (Revelation 4:11). In January 2010, moving to Ruwais, a remote area that takes 4 hours travel from Abu Dhabi City was so difficult for me to move out from my spiritual comfort zone which is BBBC Dubai. But Christ sent out His seventy disciples by two as lambs among wolves (Luke 10:3). I started Bible Study in Ruwais but didn't last long. My heart's desire is to start a Bible Study wherever I go.

End of 2012, my former HSE Manager in Ruwais called me and told me that I need to work under him. However, he stated that I need to sacrifice my money and position if I will decide to move to Abu Dhabi as I will lose big amount of money. Money in the sense that some of my allowances will be cut off; position in the sense that he promoted me as HSE Engineer which he started my HSE Engineer program before he leaves Ruwais.

I and my wife Razel discussed and prayed for it and finally, we decided to move to Abu Dhabi for God's glory and honour as we desire to have a ministry in Abu Dhabi. In July 2013, we officially moved to Abu Dhabi and praying continuously to have BBBC Abu Dhabi Bible Study. By God's grace, we are so grateful that He granted our hearts desire to start a Bible Study on 25 November 2013.

**"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."**

Psalms 27:13-14

The attendees in Bible Study come and go and I encountered some problems as nobody will handle new attendee(s) for evangelism. However, I thanked God for sending two faithful men from BBBC Dubai namely, Bro. Sidney Guiang and Bro. Edward Perez who supported Abu Dhabi Bible Study. God is so faithful in His promises; He will never leave thee nor forsake thee (Hebrews 13:5). As we continue studying God's Word, some of the attendees received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour and were baptized by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In 2015 last quarter, Bro. Melvin Caba came to Abu Dhabi to look for a job as he desired to serve God in Abu Dhabi. I, Bro. Melvin and Bro. Rey Bornaes prayed continuously to start BBBC Abu Dhabi City Mission and through fervent prayers, discernment and guidance of BBBC Sr. Pastor Erwin Concepcion, last 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 2016, the three of us were commissioned before BBBC Dubai congregation to start worship service in Abu Dhabi. First worship service finally started on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2016 with Pastor Erwin as our speaker.

Furthermore, by the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit, we started our 1<sup>st</sup> prayer meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2016 where we can corporately lift to God our thanksgiving, requests, prayers and supplication.

By God's goodness and faithfulness, the **1st anniversary of BBBC Abu Dhabi City Mission** was held last 24<sup>th</sup> of March, 2017 to give back the glory, praises and honour to our Almighty God.



**ACTIVITIES**





# BANGYAI BAPTIST CHURCH

51/9 Bangyai City Soi 23, Kanchanapisek Road, Bangyai, Nonthaburi, Thailand 11140

Dear Pastor Erwin and BBBC Brethren,

God is to be praised in what He has done through His Son Jesus Christ. We have reached our first year of serving here in Bangyai Baptist Church in Thailand. It is all of His mercy and grace.

One thing we have learned with our ministry this year is the transitory nature of the people we minister to. Except of course for the Thais who are local permanent residents, the Filipino congregation we minister to, they come and go because of their work. So we realized that we have to adjust and maximize the ministry that we do with them in the limited time God gave us.



**Our campers at LIFE Camp (Evangelistic English Camp)**

## Prayers

We plead that you pray with us for the following:

- Language Center ministry** – that the seed of the Gospel may be firmly planted in the hearts of our unbelieving students, and the seed will be blessed by God to grow unto salvation according to his will.
- Discipleship ministry** – both to the Filipinos and the Thais. Pray especially for Ms. Nat, a new believer, whom we will invite to be a candidate for baptism this coming December.
- Bible School ministry** – many missionaries who are teaching at our Bible school had to go home for furlough (ministry vacation). So they asked me to teach two subjects. Please pray for wisdom and fruitful ministry in training future local church leaders and workers.

In the gospel ministry of Christ,

Jeph Acosta  
Missionary Pastor

## Praises

We praise God for the following:

- New ministry partner** – we thank God for a new volunteer pastor who joined our ministry team. Pastor Reniel and his wife Joy came from Iloilo, Philippines to work here as teachers. But God has led them to help with our ministries here.
- Ministry opportunities at English Camp** – we had 11 campers from our church who joined the annual evangelistic English Camp (LIFE Camp). Though they are already believers, yet we praise God that these believers were able to share the gospel to unbelievers in this camp.
- English students** – our free English Language Center started the first semester with around 25 children and adult regular students, an opportunity for the gospel to be shared weekly.
- Provision** – God has provided our every need. We thank you for your commitment in supporting the gospel ministry here through your prayers and financial support.



**Prayer of dedication for Pastor Reniel Lasap, our**



# BRINGING LOVE TO THE NATION

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### Cornerstone Church, Phnom Penh at 6

We are so thankful to God for putting people who work alongside with us for the growth of His Church. Indeed with God nothing is impossible - no sinner is too worst that God cannot save and transform for His glory and honor. In this occasion we have invited other fellow Christians to rejoice with us.



### Small Groups - Discipleship Ministry

Pray for God's protection and spiritual growth for the ongoing around 15 small groups and one on one (Khmer and Expats), a total of around 95 individuals from Phnom Penh, Kampong Chhnang and Battambang.



Phnom Penh City, Cambodia



Kampong Chhnang Province, Cambodia

**“For Thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.”**

**Psalm 86:10**

To our beloved brethren, churches and friends,

Greetings from Cambodia!

God is always faithful and His grace is sufficient every day. We want to give all the glory and praises to our great and almighty God. We are thankful for the privilege He has given us everyday to serve Him in a foreign land. We praise Him for molding us and for accomplishing His purpose for our lives for His glory. We are grateful to Him for allowing us to go home last mid of May to attend the PABWE congress and EMC training for us to be refreshed, trained and encouraged.

It has been a wonderful time and blessed experiences to be with our co-laborers, brethren in the Lord and most of all to spend time with our families. We spent a lot of time with our families during our short furlough. It has been our prayers and great desire to minister to our respective families. We praise God for granting our prayers, and some of the members of our family got saved, relationships were restored and forgiveness was rendered by His grace. Hallelujah! We are very thankful to the Lord to see what He is doing! Indeed He is at work!

We would like to apologize that we were not able to visit all of you in our short furlough in the Philippines. We would like to say that we are thankful to God for all of you our brethren, friends, churches who did not stop praying for us and supporting us through the years by His grace and for His glory. God is not unjust to reward you all in your partnership for the furtherance of the Gospel here in Cambodia.

In Christ,

Rogil and Janice



Training Missionaries (On The Field Category)

**Greetings to the Back to the Bible Baptist Church family and congratulations to Pastor Erwin on the occasion of his birthday!**



My mind returns to a conversation I once had with Dr. Phil Kamibayashiyama when he was handing over the leadership of Gilarmi Fundamental Baptist Church. We wished to honor him for 2 1/2 years of faithful ministry there. His response was simply that the greatest honor would be for the church to remain faithful to the Lord and increase in their love for Him.

At the time I thought, "Well, those are nice words and the appropriate thing to say." But I didn't fully understand the sentiment until I had pastored the church myself for one year. When it was time for us to move on ourselves, the church wanted to honor us for our time with them. And yet, I was surprised to discover the

same response coming naturally from my own heart. These were not just words! The greatest honor anyone in the church could pay me was if they chose to go forward in their walk with God and grow in their faithfulness to Him.

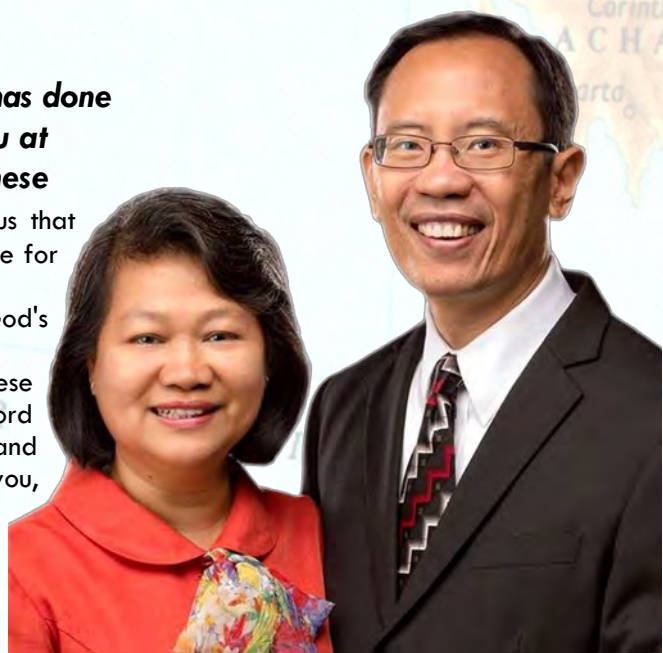
This is the heart of your pastor. At this special time of the church's anniversary and his own birthday, it is good and right that the church honor him. "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine" (1 Timothy 5:17). But the greatest honor any person can give to Pastor Erwin at this time is to honor the Savior that he loves. As each member of the Back to the Bible Baptist Church chooses to walk with our God, it is a powerful testimony to Pastor Erwin's investment in your life, and ultimately a testimony to the name of our gracious God whom you and Pastor Erwin have faithfully served.

May God use this special season to compel us all to walk closer with Him!

**Dr. Joel Arnold**  
Faculty Member  
**Bob Jones Memorial Bible College Philippines**

**We praise the LORD for what He has done for you and in you and through you at Back to the Bible Baptist Church these 13 years!**

Your anniversary reminds us that the LORD is so faithful and kind in His love for us. God's gift of 60 years to Pastor Erwin and God's giving him to you as your pastor is a couple of these visible evidences of Christ's love. Our Lord Jesus has so faithfully protected and preserved you, guided and taught you, forgiven and been patient with you, and saved and sanctified you. May we all consider the depth and breadth and height of Christ's love for us shown at the cross and respond with pure love for Jesus.



**Dr. Phil Kamibayashiyama**  
Director  
**Bob Jones Memorial Bible College**

# GREETINGS FROM ACROSS

## The *Globe*

*“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”. (Matthew 16: 18)*

*“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment”. (Mark 12: 30)*

### **BBBC family happy 13<sup>th</sup> Church anniversary! I do rejoice with you all!**

I for one has seen how God has blessed and been faithful in so many ways to the church and her members (individually, family). More than that I have witnessed how the church as a whole and each one of you has been a beacon of light in this part of the world. I have witnessed how each one from the Pastors down to the youngest member of the church made their part for the Great Commission and the edification of the saints because of your utmost love for Christ.



I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to keep on loving God no matter what. By giving your best on fighting the good fight of faith, and by giving your best in whatever capacity or service you can do in the name of our Lord and Master. (1 Corinthians 15: 58)

Lastly, do remember that whatever has been done for Jesus Christ, reward awaits us. (Hebrews 6:10)  
Again from my family to BBBC family happy 13<sup>th</sup> Church anniversary!

Dear Pastor Erwin, Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Natal Day Pastor!

May God be praised for you have reached this age and it just shows how our Almighty God loves you, have blessed you, and have used you in His own ways.

I thanked God for He has allowed our paths to crossed and have met in U.A.E.

I have witnessed how much you love our Christ by giving all your best for Him through BBBC.

It is my ardent prayer to the Lord that you will have more fruitful years for Him, with your loved ones, and your own family.

Continue on Pastor Erwin and may it be that whenever in His time you will meet our Creator and Master face to face, He will give His commendation, “Well done, good and faithful servant Pastor Erwin!”

From my family, happy birthday Pastor Erwin!

Your Fellow Bondservant of Christ,

**Pastor Rico Ruel L. Bernardo**

Associate Pastor for Missions - Bethel Fundamental Baptist Church Dasmariñas, Cavite  
Church Planter - Indang Cavite





# For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

## REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**FRIDAY**

### WORSHIP SERVICES

**BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH - DUBAI**  
(SAMAYA HOTEL)

**TAGALOG SERVICE** 8:30AM – 10:00AM

**ENGLISH SERVICE** 11:00AM – 1:00PM

**FRIDAY SCHOOL** 10:15AM – 10:45AM

KING'S MEN 10:15AM

TRUE WOMANHOOD 10:15AM

LORD'S YOUNG FLOCK

GRADERS AND PRE-TEENS 10:00AM

PRE-SCHOOLERS 11:40AM

**JUNIOR WORSHIP** 12:00PM

(MANAMA VILLA, ABU HAIL)

**BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH ABU DHABI MIRFA MISSION 12:00PM**

Bro. Rodlin Cawaling 050 1819 357

**BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH ABU DHABI CITY MISSION 8:30PM**

Bro. Jay Jope 050 9417 696

**SUNDAY**

**PRAYER MEETING**  
8:30PM Manama Villa

Sis. Cathy Concepcion 050 4523 550

### WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

**SUNDAY**

AJMAN

Sis. Gemini Peralta 052 9287 661

**MONDAY**

ABU DHABI

Bro. Jay Jope 050 9417 696

MAMZAR

Sis. Cathy Concepcion 050 4523 550

**TUESDAY**

IC-DEIRA

Bro. Angelo Malilay 055 9441 751

SHEIKH ZAYED

Sis. Aileen Hinojales 050 8893 683

AL RIGGA

Bro. Jeffrey Intal 050 2876 209

ABU HAIL

Bro. Jeff Cruz 055 6461 765

KARAMA

Sis. Haidee Sulitas 056 1060 847

SHARJAH

Bro. Paul Nena 056 2856 704

AL NAHDA, SHARJAH

Bro. Jeff Maloles 050 2069 392

MIRFA

Bro. Rodlin Cawaling 050 1819 357

**WEDNESDAY**

SATWA

Sis. Jona Delapena 055 8625 039

SOJOURNERS

(1<sup>st</sup> Friday night and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday night of the Month)

Bro. Rued Almadilla 050 2702086

**THURSDAY**

AL JAFILIYA

Bro. Rye Timbang 055 7425 675

**FRIDAY**

AL WASL

Bro. Wasantha Pathiraja 050 2964 779

**SATURDAY**

DUBAILAND

Bro. Rued Almadilla 050 2702 086

SALAHUDDIN

Bro. Ric Saquing 056 9518 305

**THURSDAY**

CHOIR PRACTICE

Sis. Shirley Guiang 050 3634 894



**B B B C**

**BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

**DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**