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BURNING BUSH

THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH



Bountiful GRACE

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men”

Titus 2:11

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B B B C

BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

“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

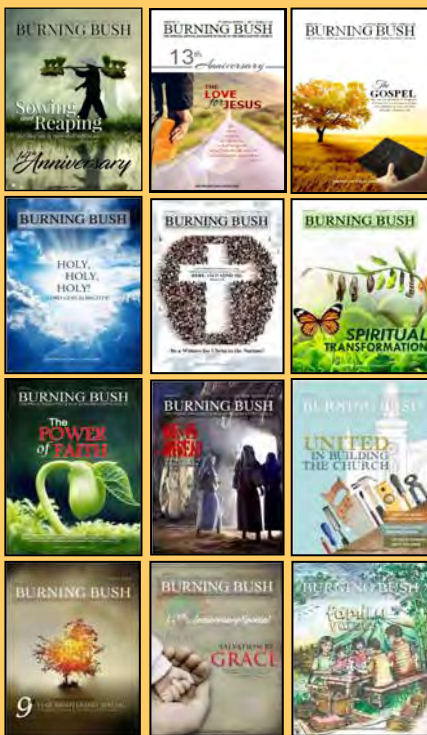


Burning Bush as the Official Annual Magazine of Back to the Bible Baptist Church has primarily this mission we called 3Es explicitly to Encourage, Equip and Edify the readers; thus, boiling down to point out God's magnificence.

We laud God that in 6 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)

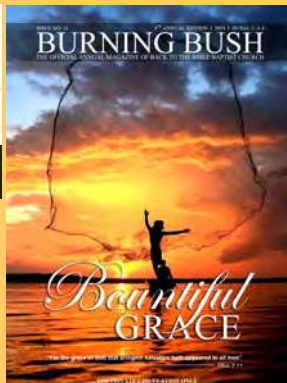
The Burning Bush Team



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

There's a single word that encompasses all the riches we find in Christ: Grace. What a magnificent word it is! It is used more than 150 times in the New Testament to speak of divine favor bestowed on undeserving people. It is the means by which we receive every physical and spiritual benefit. – John MacArthur

15 years of God's magnanimous grace to our beloved Back to the Bible Baptist Church!

God alone is able to make all grace abound towards us that we have been sufficient in all things and thrive in every good work. He has enriched us in everything to all bountifulness that brings us on our knees with praises and thanksgiving to His Name. All glory to our mighty God whose power and love increase our faith and fruits (2 Corinthians 9:8-11).

This 13th issue and 4th annual edition of the Burning Bush Magazine focuses on the testament of God's bountiful grace. Life testimonies are written by our brethren to declare the power of God to change lives and to bring about a seemingly hopeless situation into a miracle on pages 38 and 40. Featured articles on the ministries of the Back to the Bible Baptist Church also grace the pages of our magazine on how the Lord continually bless us with strength and wisdom to serve Him. We are grateful for the unwavering support of our beloved church members to our brethren in Cambodia which demonstrates the love and fellowship we have for one another. This loving provision allows our brethren to reach more souls and to pave the way for the flourishing work of God.

Praise the Lord for the Bible Study Groups that continue to grow in numbers in this country. They are living testaments of God's sustaining grace for His children and the fulfillment of His love to everyone that offers their lives for His glory. This fellowship and support for the edification of the brethren in return ignite our own faith.

A happy anniversary to our beloved Church. May the Lord Jesus Christ be always reflected in our lives and bring hope to the world.

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YOUR BURNING BUSH TEAM

Welcome Back to the Bible Baptist Church –Dubai 15th Anniversary!

Dear brethren and friends,

We are once again blessed by the Lord with His goodness and bountiful graces to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Back to the Bible Baptist Church–Dubai, and we are grateful to welcome you to join with us in praising His Holy Name in this celebration!

We choose “Bountiful Grace” as this Year’s Theme to remind us that our very existence in this sinful world is only by His grace. You see, we are not only struggling to be right with God in our daily living being sinners, we also live in this world under curse (Genesis 3). We are living today in a materialistic and morally corrupt world, where everything is gauged and evaluated in a principle of “what you have” or “what you can offer” in order to be accepted by society. This is the opposite of what the Lord Jesus did when He came down to this world by His grace to offer His sacrifice on the cross for our sins unconditionally (Romans 5:8) so that those who believe in Him shall be accepted in His throne of grace and avoid God’s condemnation.

Recollecting back the ups and downs of the ministry here in the Gulf, we see God’s hand in allowing us to continue serving Him here in this country: providing our needs in reaching out the lost, educating believers and training would-be leaders for His service.

Today, we take the opportunity to thank Him for sustaining our needs and counting us worthy of entrusting us this great work in bringing people back to Him for His glory and praise.

May we all serve Jesus for the greater glory of His Name!



Pastor Erwin Concepcion
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IS THERE SUCH THING AS TRUE CONTENTMENT?

Many would agree that we all hope for good things in this world. Who wouldn't, right?

We all desire for true peace, love, safety, and lasting prosperity. With this thought in mind, unbelievers will definitely arrive at a dead-end, that all these things are unattainable, particularly for those who are inclined with Atheistic or Evolutionary belief systems.

The Evolutionary worldview teaches us that our origins are merely accidental, just random events that happened by chance; nothing special with our existence. Science tagged us as "higher level" of animal species. Life then becomes a battle for existence and everybody wants to get what they want in this one shot of life. This is a tragic thought!

Those who close their eyes to the One true God remain blind to His divine plans and purposes, and look at life as meaningless and temporal. Apostle James is spot on when he said: *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away (James 4:14).*

Until we accept in our hearts that God is sovereign, orchestrating everything for His glory and *...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28), we can't help but be discontented.*

People who tend to incline that it is in their own power to order their lives, are frustrated in repeatedly discovering that human beings can't control everything in this world. Everything is already under control by Someone far greater than you.



Pastor Ian Alix
Associate Pastor
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The apostle Paul learned the secret of contentment through understanding and embracing God's providence. *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need" (Philippians 4:11-12).*

At this point, Paul was locked at prison in Rome, when he spoke about learning to be contented. He is actually encouraging believers that regardless of any difficult circumstances, God will always be at work. He's willing to wait on the Lord's perfect timing, having great confidence in God's sovereign providence. We can observe that he didn't resort to panic; he was certain that in due time God would eventually turn his trials into blessings.

We can have that same certainty today. Paul saw God's fingerprints everywhere and was unmoved by the challenges of life. In fact, his imprisonment came out to be for *the furtherance of the gospel (Philippians 1:12). Suffering is an opportunity for profound fellowship with Christ (Philippians 3:10). Even death represented the greatest personal gain, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better (Philippians 1:23).*

In Paul's viewpoint, there is nothing in this world that hold any real value compared to the *...excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord (Philippians 3:8).* And for that reason, he was able to live through the sunshine and storms of life with unshakable contentment, by the grace of God. **BB**

Meet Our 15th Church Anniversary Speaker

DR. FERDINAND MARASIGAN

Soli Deo Gloria! For the Glory of Yahweh (God) alone should be our main goal in accomplishing anything in the Service of Yeshua (Jesus)! Let us all be reminded that we cannot do anything apart from Him!

Congratulations to BBBC - Dubai on your 15th Anniversary! My prayer for you is that you will continue to be faithful in serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords in winning precious souls, making disciples, being obedient always to the teaching of His Word and the Man of Yahweh (God), Pastor Erwin Concepcion that He gave you all as your spiritual guide, counselor and leader!

We hope and pray that thru your partnership with the Piedmont College of Theology Asia Pacific - Research and Graduate School System / PCTAP- RGS System whose Mission and Vision are the following, that we can accomplish greater things for the Glory of Yahweh (God) alone!

Piedmont College of Theology Asia Pacific is the Education Ministry - Outreach of Missionaries Dr. Ferdinand O. Marasigan and Dr. Rosalinda G. Marasigan affiliated with the PCT - USA in China Grove, North Carolina. It is the purpose of this organization to provide a quality Christian Education to those who are seeking to further the Majesty and Glory of Yahweh (God). The PCTAP - RGS System seeks to provide continual Education programs / Open Colleges thru Modular Curriculums - On / Off Campuses, Online - Interactive Degree to Students, Church and School Leaders, Administrators and Ministers who are unable to attend full time classes. This can be achieved through our unique quality System of Education provided all over the Asia Pacific. We have purposely abbreviated our Requirements for Graduate and Post - Graduate Degrees in an effect to hold the tuition and fees to a minimum and allow the busy, working Ministers / Students to have ample time to complete his / her desired Field of Study / Programs in Theology, Religious Education, Leadership, and Church/School Management. You will find that the position of this Institution is to help every Student/ Minister reach their greatest potential in serving and honoring the Sovereign Yahweh (God) in His Kingdom!



Rev. Ferdinand O. Marasigan

completed and earned the following:

- Master of Arts in Theology, Th.M. 2008 PCT - NC, USA
- Diploma in Leadership & Management, 1994 Haggai Institute, Maui - Hawaii,
- USA Doctorate Degrees:
- Doctorate of Divinity, D.D.
- Honoris Causa Faith Bible Theological Seminary, Florida USA 1994

Earned the following:

- Doctorate of Theology, Th.D. PCT - NC, USA 2010
- Doctorate of Philosophy, Ph.D.'s In Leadership @ Grace Bible College, 2010 NC - USA
- In Christian Education, D.C.E. @ PCT - NC, USA 2014
- In Humanities, D.Hum. @ Gospel Evangelistic School of Ministry, 2014, NC - USA
- In Religion @ Carolina Christian University, NC - USA 2014
- In Public Administrations @ PCT - NC, USA 2017

DISCIPLESHIP: THE Servant AND THE Master

Bro. Renier Dan Obnial

King's Men Ministry consists of simple, ordinary yet faithful men with servant hearts. These men are meant to become leaders - servants who protect the church and their own family and strive to achieve Christ-likeness. As King's Men, we nurture ourselves by seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and reading the Holy Scripture for us to be equipped in daily spiritual battle.





Discipleship. *Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend (Proverbs 27: 17).* Aside from our Lord Jesus Christ Who is our Perfect Example, there are a lot of men in the bible who disciple an individual to be their successors. They continue the work that our Master has started. Just like Paul to Timothy. This practice has been passing from generation to generation and also, even in our church today.

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

Fellowship is the best way to bond with your brothers in Christ. We are enjoying each other's company so we help each other grow in Christ. KM has also some unforgettable gatherings such as **Halaan Fellowship** which took place last 21st of September, 2018. We went to Umm Al Quwain to get some halaan otherwise known as nylon shell. When we arrived at the place, we immediately set up the camp site and started the fellowship through prayer and offer our day to the Lord led by Pastor Ian Alix. Afterwards, we enjoyed the fellowship while having dinner. Pastor Erwin Concepcion then discussed leadership and discipleship as the topic of our devotion. Around 10 PM when few of us immediately went for a swim to get sea shells for breakfast. We were so overwhelmed that we cooked our halaan without washing it properly. We came to realize the next day that the dish was "crunchy" due to the sand left on the shell. Everyone was laughing about it. For me this fellowship is one of the best as everyone went home with a heart filled with joy.

Unity is essential to us as the body of Christ. Being united is Christ's command to us Christians. As Apostle Paul spoke to the Corinthian Church, *"Now I beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord in Jesus Christ the Same thing, that there be no divisions among you, that be ye perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same Judgement: (1 Corinthians 1: 10).* In the Bible there are a lot of great examples of unity that will inspire us Christians today. Like, Noah and his family when they build the ark, Joshua and the Israelites when they conquer the promised land, and Nehemiah and the Israelites when they rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Adding up Jesus' disciples when they bravely proclaim the Gospel and the early Christians when they sell their properties to help those in need in the book of Acts. These events in the Bible clearly show how unity strengthens everyone to accomplish God-given tasks.

Unity is also evident in the KM ministry not only to the leaders but also to the members who are behind the scene such as the hakot, technical, and kitchen Teams and also brethren in other ministries. Everyone has his own expertise and gifts which can be used to serve and glorify the King of kings.

Indeed, we are servants to our Master and as servants, working on the ministry that God has entrusted to us is our delight. **BB**



THE DESIRE OF OUR HEARTS

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

Sis. Corazon Napinas



Our heart's desire for the glory of the Lord can be determined by means of our service to Him. Our faith in Christ is the foundation of our Christian service. A faith that is established in love and a future hope which is in Christ Jesus. In Him all things consist and for His own pleasure they are and were created.

Evangelism is an essential part of our service to God. Spreading the gospel by personal witness and sharing our faith that they may experience and receive the bountiful grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. A commandment given by the Lord in Matthew 28:19-20, that tells us, to teach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded to us and a promise to be with us until the end of the world. The Lord Jesus Christ has given us the power to proclaim the Word of God that We may be able to stand by our faith in Him.

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? stated in Romans 10:14. This is the very reason why we need to share the gospel to unbelievers, that they may hear and believe in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, confess their sins and accept Him as personal Lord and Savior and thus, obtain the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, August 11, 2019, the True Womanhood Fellowship, women's ministry of Back to the Bible Baptist Church held an evangelism activity. The idea of this is for us to experience unity in proclaiming the word of God to our friends, relatives and even to strangers as impressed by the Holy Spirit to us. We experienced excitement and love to share His Word, as we felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit to share with compassion. Having the same love, being of one accord in proclaiming the gospel by the guidance of God the Holy Spirit keeping in mind that what Romans 8:29 says, "*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*"

Blessed be the Name of our Father in Heaven whom from the beginning has a plan for us sinners. He Who sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to save us from condemnation. Whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Praise be to God for His bountiful grace to us! To God be the glory! **BB**





NURTURING GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

When it's not just a spark but a blaze!

Since its inception many years back, the Back to the Bible Baptist Church Singles Ministry, also known as CSJ or Christian Sojourners has been a witness and an example to new believers of Christ. It helps in equipping the singles of our church and helping them nourish their spiritual lives including other aspects through our regular fellowships. As part of the current officers, I can say that



organizing events and activities for CSJ requires a lot of sacrifices, but we know that someday when God's glory will be revealed to us, it will all be worth it.

This 2019, I am one of the eyewitnesses of the poured-out grace to this ministry as we conducted new sets of activities every first Friday, and Bible study topics every third Wednesday of the month in accordance with proposed themes that benefited not only the singles but every brethren who supported us. We are blessed with wisdom from above as we incorporate the vision and goals in the following events:

We started the year with a general assembly on the 4th of January with our topic, *Cleansing the Defile (from the devotional book, Good News for Bad People)* led by Sis. Rene Rose Sergio at Hamriya Ladies Park and concluded it during our regular Bible study on the 16th of January at Al Ghurair Center Food Court.

Rekindling the fire of our christian service was the next goal of our fellowship. Held in the freezing cold night at Mamzar Beach shore last February 1 as Bro. Jeffrey Paul Cruz exhorted us through the book of *Romans 12: 1-2. As Christian youths, we are to present ourselves holy before God; know His statutes, continue in sound doctrine, and to be used in God's kingdom while we are still young and able.*

On the 20th of February, we gathered in an open park nearby Deira City Center and discussed the cure for a stubborn heart. We were reminded by the life of King David when he wrote *Psalms 51. The devotion was led by Bro Noel Gura, formerly one of the CSJ leaders.*



We were grateful to have Sis. Sheila Manuel-Gura who shared about the basics of baking last March 1 at Manama villa 7. Everyone was invited not only to learn this skill, but to see and taste the baked cupcakes and cookies.

Another fellowship was held at Pizza Pizza Restaurant last 20th of March. Bro. Jeffrey Intal, simply shared to keep our focus as we draw near to God and trust Him in the topic '*Intimacy with God, together with his wife, Sis. Arriane Intal testifying their life's greatest test and taught us how to be intimate with God through prayers and supplications.*

We held the very first event of offering various talents for the Lord's glory last April 7 in Manama Villa 7 dubbed as CSJ Got Talent. This is to encourage our brethren in discovering their God-given talents to be used for the ministry. Most of the singles participated by giving their very best to the Master through singing, playing instruments, spoken poetry, and painting.

We were once again fed by God's Word in our Bible Study about "Prayer and Supplication" through Bro. Angel Malilay last April 24, where the highlight was King Solomon's prayer, recognizing the nature of God as a keeper of His promises, having an oath, and bestowing His blessings.

In preparation for our upcoming CSJ 15th Anniversary, we had a fund-raising event last 3rd of May inside Manama Villa where we rendered some in-house salon services, sold pre-loved items and finger snacks, and christian film showing. Praise God our financial need was met through the support of our brethren!

May 22nd when we had our fellowship held in Golden Bell office where Pastor Erwin Concepcion reminded us concerning our spiritual growth and to seize the time by aspiring to become teachers to the next generation of young christian believers.



We had another Skill-to-Share event last June 7 as Sis. Arriane Intal showed us how to properly stack veggies, meat, and dressing it inside a jar to create a healthy and complete meal. She even shared us Juicing 101 and its benefits, while other nutrition facts were provided by Sis. Cherri Tuquero for additional knowledge. This is also another way of taking good care of our body which is the temple of God.

Our maturity as Christians can also be validated by our speech. This little member should be tamed according to the book of James. Bro. Von Macaya, our current CSJ Vice President elaborated such in our devotion at the Airport Terminal 1, Food court last 19th of June. Further, he discussed to us how we can control our tongue by not participating in gossip rather, use it gracefully in all manners of conversation.

Finally, our 15th Anniversary has come. It was held on the 5th of July at J5 Hotel in Port Saeed, Deira. We are so grateful through the help of our Most Gracious God who graced us with pastors, servant leaders, co-CSJs, non-CSJ, and visitors. Truly it was a blessed day as we enjoyed fellowshiping, hearing the heart-felt testimonies, specials numbers, most especially God's Message delivered by Bro. Jeffrey Paul Cruz. Our theme was Striving Together for the Faith of the Gospel. Everyone experienced being filled both spiritually and physically. Indeed, our God is on our side as we strive for His glory!

The first half of the year has been quite busy for our CSJ ministry, yet we can say God is surely pleased as we unite with the purpose of using our gifts in response to His call, be used by God in a humble way and influence others by introducing Jesus to them.

Praise and Honor be unto our Most Gracious and Loving Father! God bless you, Burning Bush Team! **BB**



What is GRACE?

Pastor Erwin Concepcion

GRACE is favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves. Grace is one of the key attributes of God. The Lord God is “merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth” (Exodus 34:6 / KJV). Therefore, grace is almost always associated with mercy, love, compassion, and patience as the source of help and with deliverance from distress.

In the Old Testament, the supreme example of grace was the redemption of the Hebrew people from Egypt and their establishment in the Promised Land. This did not happen because of any merit on Israel’s part, but in spite of their unrighteousness (Deuteronomy 9:5-6). Although the grace of God is always free and undeserved, it must not be taken for granted. Grace is only enjoyed with the Covenant – the gift is given by God, and the gift is received by man through repentance and faith (Amos 5:15). Grace is to be humbly sought through the prayer of faith (Malachi 1:9).

The grace of God was supremely revealed and given in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not only the beneficiary of God’s grace (Luke 2:40), but He was also its very embodiment (John 1:14), bringing it to mankind for salvation (Titus 2:11). By His death and resurrection, Jesus restored the broken relationship

between God and His people, both Jew and Gentile. The only way of salvation for any person is “through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 15:11 / KJV).

The grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ is applied to human beings for their salvation by the Holy Spirit, who is called “the Spirit of grace” (Hebrew 10:29). The Spirit is the One who binds Christ to His people so that they receive forgiveness, adoption to sonship, and newness of life, as well as their spiritual gift of grace (Ephesians 4:7).

The theme of grace is especially prominent in the letter of the apostle Paul. He sets grace radically over against the law and the works of the law (Romans 3:24, 28). Paul makes it abundantly clear that salvation is not something that can be earned or merited; it can be received only as a gift of grace (Romans 4:4). Grace, however, must be accompanied by faith; a person must trust in the mercy and favor of God, even while it is undeserved (Romans 4:16).

The Law of Moses revealed the righteous will of God in the midst of pagan darkness; it was God’s gracious gift to Israel (Deuteronomy 4:8). But His will was made complete when Jesus brought the gospel of grace into the world (John 1:17). **BB**

GRACE IN MARRIAGE



Sis. Rochelle Maloles

*For the grace of God that bringeth
salvation hath appeared to all men.*

Titus 2:11

HOLY
BIBLE

Grace cannot be defined in a single line of thought. This word is profound and to a great depth that Paul could not think of Christian truth and conduct and he cannot think Christian salvation apart from God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). God's grace first saves and then trains His people for godliness and good deeds (Titus 2:11-12).

Marriage is God's showcase of covenant-keeping grace. Since Christ's new covenant with this church is created and sustained by blood-bought grace; therefore human marriages are meant to showcase that new covenant grace, and the way they showcase it is by resting in the experience of God's grace and bending it out from a vertical experience with God into a horizontal experience with their spouse. In marriage you live hour by hour in glad dependence on God's forgiveness, justification, and promised future grace; and you bend it out toward your spouse hour by hour as an extension of God's forgiveness, justification, and promised help. (Pastor John Piper, Desiring God)

We are in marriage and we are in a life union with our imperfect partners. Each with personal issues brought about by each family upbringing and differing spiritual beliefs; likewise, opposite views on finances, careers, child discipline and many others.

How do we settle these differences and live a married life that glorifies God and set good examples to our children? The answer is by grace; hour by hour as our Lord Jesus showcases His grace, so then we bend it towards our spouses. By His grace day by day; even though our wives or husbands do not deserved to be forgiven, loved or cared for. Grace believes the best about your spouse. It fights through the messiness of a particular moment or behavior and remembers that your spouse is a son or daughter of the Most High King.

GAMEO is a ministry of the Back to the Bible Baptist Church which believes in the significance of grace in marriage. The mission statement is "To keep them bonded together in love with the Lord". The servant leaders are the Maningat Couple - Bro. Nelson & Sis. Erlani Maningat. This ministry is conducting marriage counseling, seminars, and fellowships among members and visitors in keeping up with this goal and all for the glory of the Almighty. The couple's talents in singing are also shared with the congregation every 3rd week of the month during the Tagalog Worship Service.



GAMEO is a support group for the various ministries of the church whenever service for the Lord is needed. In February 2020, with the blessing of the Lord, the ministry is planning a grand retreat to be remembered in our lifetime for all the BBBC couples with their children; a special bonding which will make them fall in love all over again with their spouses and more deeply with the Lord Jesus. **BB**

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9



MUSIC FOR THE REDEEMED

Sis. Shiela Ann Gura

We are living in a world where music is inevitable. It's on our televisions, cars, streets, restaurants, mobile phones and so on. It is everywhere and everyone enjoys it. Music is connected to any other aspect of life. Music is God's marvelous gift and a piece of His creation. Psalms 24:1 says, *"The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."* It is a common grace given to us all. As theologians define it, "common grace", it is universally the goodness of God to all humanity. It can quiet our vexed soul, settle our restless heart and help us to express our sentiments when we can't articulate words. Music is a solace.



For the Redeemed, music is more than our solace. It is a spiritual blessing. Our Salvation has given us a new song, the Bible says in Psalms 98:1, *“O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory”* and in Psalms 149:1, *the psalmist writes, “Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.” We sing a new song because we are new creatures. Our music has become a song of praise, joy, and gratitude to the Lord for the gift of salvation, the pardon of sin and the promise of everlasting life.*

The music of the Redeemed is different. It doesn't ride with the culture and the music of this world. It is a means to express worship. As Christ's Redeemed, it elevates and lifts us when words aren't enough. It is our way of expressing our love and gratitude to God for our salvation.

Glory and praise be unto the Lord for providing his children a rewarding labor and countless blessings at Back to the Bible Baptist Church. We thank Him for that blessed show of praise by the BBBC choir and instrumentalists. The 14th Anniversary presentation does not occur easily and effortlessly. An essential amount of things must be considered; the timetable of practices, the timetable of every choir member and instrumentalist, the preparation and course of action of music pieces, the attire and even the capacity of every member. It really requires a great deal of prayer; faith and effort to make it pleasing to the eyes of God.

The choir renders five songs: 1. God Is Not Willing; 2. Can't It Be; 3. On A Hill Far Away; 4. His Robes for Mine; and 5. So High the Price. All these songs pertain to all of us - that we need a Savior. Despite the fact that we are sinners, Jesus Christ died for us. He gave us eternal life and His righteousness for us so that God the Father will see us righteous and someday we will be there with Him in heaven.

BBBC Music Ministry is one of the ministries in the church that encourages the members to use and offer up their voices to the Lord.

Even if one does not have a great voice and can't read musical notes but if the heart is willing, and want to serve God through singing, then one is welcome to join. If you are this one, do not hesitate! After all, we will all be singing praises to God when we all get to heaven, won't we? **BB**



LORD'S YOUNG FLOCK MINISTRY

THROUGH

THE YEARS

Sis. Romilen Española



It's been 15 years! Yes, the children's ministry of BBBC was the first ministry formed when the church started. Just like a typical Baptist church, kids usually have a separate class/ lesson during Worship Service. There were only three (3)

kids that time but this number has never been a reason for teachers not to teach the kids about the Word of God. Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, *"Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me:*

for of such is the kingdom of heaven." It's made so evident throughout the whole Bible that children are important to Jesus which means they should be important to us, too.



As the years go by, the children in the ministry increased in number. Then it was named 'Lord's Young Flock' or known as 'LYF'. Eventually, classes were divided between Preschool and Graders. After several years, the Pre-teens group was formed. Various activities were created not just as tools for the growth of the children but also an opportunity to enhance the skills of the teachers as well as to strengthen the good relationship between parents, kids and ministry staff.

At present, there are around 40 active kids from Preschool to Teens, not to mention the toddlers whose growth is hasty. Number of LYF attendees happens to change almost every year. And as the Lord added children in the ministry, the same through He provided faithful and dedicated staff including the passionate teachers who were big help to the ministry.

To highlight last year's activity, LYF had their Prayer Watch last 16th of November, 2018 held in Manama Villa 7. Prayer Watch is scheduled quarterly and its objective is basically to instill to the kids the importance of prayer, allowing them to be independent and at the same time to promote unity within the group. December of the same year was when Teacher Ella Maralit joined the ministry as head teacher for graders then the LYF Teacher's Recognition follows on the 28th of December, 2018 when all volunteered teachers were recognized - the time, effort, and knowledge they imparted in teaching the children both in Friday School and Bible Studies.

Starting January this Year 2019, Graders Friday school class was transferred to Manama, having the same timings as preschool class. The ministry also came up with the idea that Teens will be teaching the graders and preschool class every 5th Friday of the month which started last March 2019. This is considered as part of their training that as they grow physically and spiritually, they have the opportunity to impart what they have learned to the younger generation. Last August 17, 2019, 'LYF Incredible Talent' was held in Manama Villa 7 which was attended by LYF kids together with their parents. There were 10 families that showcased their God-given talent and it was no doubt a remarkable event.



As part of LYF activity, Junior Worship Service is scheduled every 3rd Friday of the month which is happening for 5 years now. Young male teens are leading the worship service to mold them to be leaders someday. There is also Teen Bible Study that takes place in Manama every other Saturday that focuses on Bible lessons that guide them in their crucial stage of life.

Currently, the ministry is having nine (9) staff: Bro. Paul Nena (Overseer), Sis. Remedios Concepcion (Staff Leader), Sis. Romilen Españañar (Administrator), Sis. Sarah Nena (Music Department), Sis. Klariss Bergonio (Head Teacher - Teens), Bro. Paolo Avila, Sis. Chariza Avila and Sis. Marinella Maralit (Head Teachers - Graders) and Sis. Mary Jane Mejila (Head Teacher - Preschool). *Children are an heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127:3) and we are to love and nurture them in the same way our Lord Jesus values them. Proverbs 22:66 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." BB*



BBBC Lord's Young Flock | August 17, 2019 | Manama Villa, Dubai, UAE

GRASPING SOUND DOCTRINE



Bro. Noel Gura

Two different individuals standing on the rooftop of a 100-floor skyscraper. One believes he could fly in the sky and defy the laws of gravity, the other one does not. Few moments later one was found dead, crushed at the base of the building.

Everyone can believe in something. The code of beliefs we abide in somehow determines our fate and our actions. The way we interact with people and react to certain situations are influenced by the set of values and principles we were taught with, or acquired through our life's experiences, and the outcome of our action tells us what kind of doctrine we possess.

A murderer does not believe in the sanctity of life. Same goes to a thief that does not believe in the existence of a righteous Judge who will give verdict to every man according to his deeds. What we believe matters a lot because it drives our actions and reveal our true nature. *Matthew 7:17-18 says, "Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree brings forth good fruit."*

That is why a sound Biblical Doctrine plays a significant role in a believer's life. It reveals to him the real meaning of life; shows him who he is in the sight of God; and gives him a strong foundation of truths that enables him to stand firm in his faith. The Apostle Paul exhorts Titus of the same pertaining to the role of a bishop in which *Titus 1:9 says, "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."* Without it he will be like a castle in a beach made up of sand, washed away by the sea.



I was among the privileged attendees who completed the doctrine of the Bible and the Church conducted by Pastor Erwin Concepcion. It took us three months to finish the studies that were culminated by written exams. We learned about the Church's nature, purpose, symbols, organization, government, discipline, warfare, history of how it began, and her ultimate destiny as the bride of the Lamb in heaven. We were given materials which contain different views to certain topics from various theologians. We also learned how the Bible came into existence, how it was preserved, its symbols, different versions, and proof that it really is the Word of God. The 44-pages booklet of the Doctrine of the Bible and 71-pages Doctrine of the church that were provided for us were jam-packed with information that is worthy to be treasured and could be used for future references.

There were times that after some tiring days of work I had to rush on my way to catch up with the lecture. Also, to commit quality time for such studies was not easy, especially in a country where most of us are working. Not everyone is given the opportunity to study Bible doctrines and not all people have an appetite to do so. But the whole experience was worth it as things like these are considered "affection on things above" that a true believer cannot neglect.

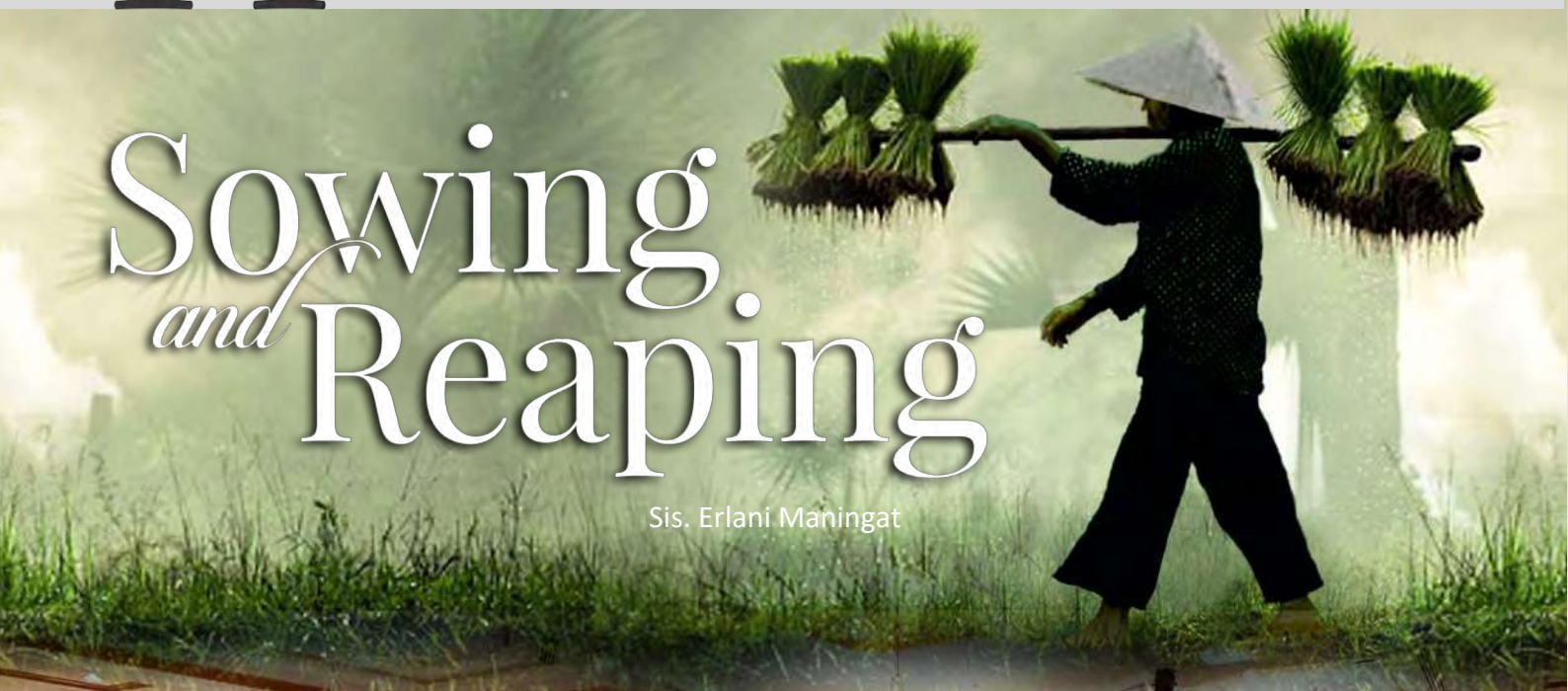
God wants us to know His will for us through our study of His Word. After all, learning Biblical doctrines is all about knowing God; and by His grace, He provides us with these essential tools to lead us into a deeper knowledge and love only for His glory and honor. **BB**



14TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

Sowing *and* Reaping

Sis. Erlani Maningat



As the Psalmist says in Psalm 126:5-6, “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” We as God’s people are not promised a good life but that God will always be with us and will never forsake us. Sowing in farmer’s point of view is not an easy task, it takes hard work and dedication to grow plants that will be harvested in due time, and when the time has come, with all the labor invested, farmer shall reap in joy, for God has provided bountiful harvest, blessed harvest. The same is promised when it comes to Christian’s spiritual life. A believer should always be ready to endure any pain, surpass all trials and be worthy to be called the child of God. The kind of heart that BBBC family has is that though **we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).** We are able to endure because we have the love of God in our hearts. God’s grace and love is sufficient for us.

The View

Afternoon of October 12, 2018, at exactly 1 PM, the big hall of Carlton Palace Hotel was opened for BBBC members and visitors. Excitement is in the air, waiting for what God has instore for every attendee.

The program goes on as scheduled, with the theme “**Sowing and Reaping**” taken from Psalm 126:5-6. The event ends with provision of delightful dinner and birthday celebration of our dear Pastor Erwin Concepcion.

The Message

God’s message is delivered by our beloved Pastor Erwin Concepcion, taken from Luke 15:11-24 giving emphasis on doing the will of God and not our own will entitled, “It’s Timeto Com Home”. This is the parable of the Lost Son.

First point discussed about “The biggest mistake of his (son) life (v. 11-13)” that children should follow the instructions of the parents in order to have a righteous



life. Next point is “A terrible time comes to his life (v. 14-16)”, wherein he experienced a great famine and became in need. He experienced hunger and feeding the swine; no money, his friends left him, and he was forced to work. He accepted the job to have food. He worked in a big farm just to have food, even if it’s a big disgrace for himself. God emphasized the life of those who reject and disobey Him. **Whosoever commit sin is a servant of sin (James 8:34);** people who rejected God and continues to live a sinful life, is waiting for the wrath of God - since God hates sin. Followed by point number 3 wherein “He realized his mistake and repented of his sins (v. 17-19). Total repentance is throwing away everything, repenting from all our sins and obey God. Pastor Erwin Concepcion explained this further through verses, Psalm 32:5, Psalm 51:2-5, and 1 John 1:9. On his final point, he discussed about the coming back of the son and his father welcomed him back (v.20-24). Just like our Heavenly Father, it doesn’t matter what we have been through, what we have done and who we are in the past as long as we receive Jesus Christ in our hearts and repent of our sins. Heaven will rejoice and God will be willing to accept us as His children.

Our Heart

Like a farmer who is so happy and excited to reap his bountiful harvest, our hearts feel the same way not only during church anniversaries but everyday of our lives. We are eager to share God’s work of salvation not only for those people we know but for strangers whom we meet. It takes love, courage and prayer to reach out to someone and tell how much God loves us humans. Indeed, God does not want us to perish but have eternal life with Him in due time. It takes great love to sow in someone’s heart the living Word of God. It is every Christian’s mission at any kind of weather in life: be it stormy, thundery, windy, turbulent, fiery or placid. To have a kind of heart that has great love for God even if you are amidst most unpleasant issues in life, you will be able to proclaim the goodness, love and great mercy of God. By then, everyone will know that we have a great God. He laid down his life to save us from the fires of hell. This great gift of salvation we accepted made us more than willing to share with others. We want others to experience the unconditional and selfless love that God has given to us - the peace not as the world gives but Peace from God, of God, and with God.

The Challenge

As God mentioned in **Matthew 9:37-38**, *“Then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest is truly plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”*

Same scenario applies to reaching the lost. We as Christ followers have to sow imperishable seeds whether in pain, tears or joy.

Not only in reaching the lost, but also in our daily lives, we sow and offer many prayers of thanksgiving but most of all in our afflictions, struggles and trials, we sow in tears. There is a conquering power in the heart’s tears in prayer, and many of us have conquered and received the sheaves of blessings. Some of us sow in sadness through our daily sufferings. Some of us get used to afflictions and pains. Blessed is the life of a believer who continues to serve God while in sorrow, continues to tell others about the goodness of God while in sickness, still able to express God’s love even in times of affliction, and still able to reach God’s hand and trust God when all failed and lose hope. All of these we can endure for we know that heavenly blessings awaits us. **Lamentations 3:22-23** says: *“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”* You may face fresh troubles each day, but God has fresh mercies for you each day to face them. Commit yourself to the Lord and continue to do good. **Hebrews 12:2** tells us, *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Jesus knows the struggles we face in this life. He shed tears of his own during his life on earth. Jesus went to the cross suffering and he returned from the dead - a glorious day of resurrection. Soon, he will carry great numbers of believers with him.

We are parts of his glorious harvest. Times of trouble and sorrow will not last. God will turn our sorrow to joy and our tears to laughter. Weeping may endure for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. Take comfort. The harvest awaits. As God’s workers we shall reap in due time. The harvest will be plenty. This is God’s promise to us. His grace always abound. **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 and 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.

How It Grow

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.

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-ist 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.

The Rainbow

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!

After the Flood

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.

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.

2008

The Blessings Come Along

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!

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).

2018

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



BECAUSE OF GOD'S AMAZING GRACE 2018 - 2019



BBBC DOCTRINE CLASS
BAPTIST DISTINCTIVES

Christian Studies



Holiday Fellowship
Hamriya Park



Worship Service
LYF Special Number



October 2018
Water
Baptism



OCTOBER
TO
NOVEMBER



DECEMBER
TO
JANUARY



FEBRUARY
TO
MARCH



Technical Workshop
King's Men Ministry



May 2019
Flower
Arrangement



Prayer Meeting



Year End Fellowship



October 2018
14th Church Anniversary



December 2018
Teachers Appreciation
Lord's Young Flock Ministry



March 2019
TW Anniversary



Music Ministry Seminar



June 2019 Family Day



July 2019 LYF Worship Service



July 2019 Sojourners 14th Anniversary



April 2019 CSJ Got Talent



May 2019 Mother's Day Celebration



Sept. 2019 Gameo Seminar

APRIL TO MAY



JUNE TO JULY



AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER



April 2019 BBBC Abu Dhabi Misson Anniversary



July 2019 Father's Day Celebration



LYF Teens Fellowship



June 2019 CSJ Skill to Share



Christian Studies



Worship Service

May 2019 KM Fellowship



Prayer Meeting





BBBC

SPORT FELLOWSHIP 2019

Bro. Dysfred Orbiso

If I remember correctly, I had my very first BBBC Family Day back in 2017. It was an indoor Sports fellowship held at the Applied Technology High School Dubai with my family, church members, and some visitors. I can still recall the loud cheers, and the feeling of excitement as we participated among other groups during the sports games. It was a beautiful day of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ; to spend time with friends and family, and learn more about God. But fellowships like these are not only for the purpose of entertainment and recreation, we also make use of this opportunity to invite visitors and teach them about the Word of God.

Of course what is a Family Day without games and physical activities? Everyone managed to join and participate in the various challenges led by the game

masters. All in all it was a fun-filled event where everybody got to enjoy the occasion. Most importantly, we felt the presence of God being there as we glorified and learned more about Him.

Our most recent Family Day was held last 5th of June, 2019. Like the previous sports fellowships we had, it was a whole lot of fun, as well; even the food were abundant.

I don't really know why, but there's that feeling that even though there's nothing special or grand in this activity, yet you can feel there's contentment and unity around. It's that feeling of inner joy that no worldly activity can offer; something that only God can provide through fellowship with our fellow believers.

The Bible says in *Hebrews chapter 13, verse 16,*

*“But to do good and to communicate forget not:
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”*

It emphasizes the importance of having fellowship with one another; not only to enjoy the event but to learn more about God as well, which pleases him.

The true purpose of these fellowships is not only to meet and spend time with each other, but also to strengthen our relationship with one another. Perhaps in our next sports events we can invite and encourage our friends, loved ones, even our workmates so they can learn more about our Lord and Saviour as well. Through this, our faith in God is strengthened, and our wisdom increases as we grow together in our Christian faith.

To God be the glory! **BB**





The TRANSFORMING Power of GOD

Sis. Junila Salundagit

Butterfly is one of the most fascinating insects. However, before its ultimate form it was once a caterpillar. Did you know that a caterpillar sheds its skin four or more times while they are growing? Molting is a beautiful and necessary stage for all caterpillars. It resembles the course that every believer goes through. Akin to this insect, once we emerged and been born again, our primary goal is to feed in order for us to grow. We let the Word of God sustains us and soon enough we need to shed our old self; the person we once were, before we were crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6). It takes a while for some and longer for others. God has given us the ability to follow righteousness and to continue growing in Him. In every shedding of our old person we experience God's bountiful grace and patience.

Life cycle is an amazing testimony of God's power. All creation points us to our mighty Creator that no one has an excuse not to praise His Name! (Romans 1:20) The evidence of nature alone is enough to lead us to an understanding of the personal and righteous nature of God. He alone has the power to convert our minds and free us from the bondage of sin. With a newly baptized believer who decided to obey God's calling and become a member of a church, the amazing transforming power of God is expected in his life. He needs only to surrender to the authority of the Holy Spirit to guide him to the path of holiness. A follower of Christ will change and mature with the guidance of God's Word and support of the church.

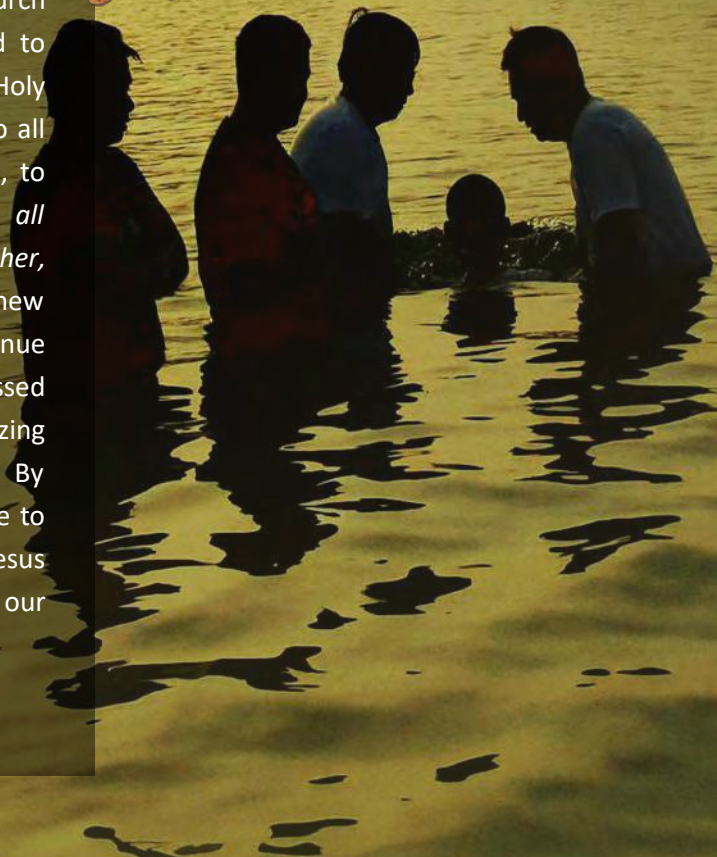
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

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 28:19-20



This year has been fruitful for our church - Back to the Bible Baptist Church. Evangelism has always been our primary focus and ministry. The church believes that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word of truths of the Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. It is our holy calling, as all believers, to proclaim the Gospel to the lost, to *“teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”* (Matthew 28: 16). It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bless us with more souls to reach and the blessed opportunity to share the Gospel. What an amazing and wonderful God we have who seek the lost. By His grace through faith, all are given the chance to repent and be saved in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. All the praises belong to the name of our Mighty King whose love endures forever! **BB**



GRACIOUSLY SAVED

Sis. Eva Davidas



Allow me to share my life's testimony how God changed my life from being unworthy into a loving, and God fearing person. I also want to testify that God exists, and that He continues to forgive those who turn to Him in repentance.

My name is Eva Davidas, 48 years old from Capiz, Philippines. I've been working in Dubai for almost 21 years now. I am the youngest among my two other siblings, and we are a product of a broken family.

Before leaving the Philippines to work abroad, I was a simple wife to my husband, and a mother to my children. Just like anyone who decided to seek for a greener pasture, my desire was to have a comfortable and happy life. Unfortunately that dream did not happen. My experience of being away from my family made me feel broken, and unhappy; and just like what happened to my parents, my marriage also ended up in separation.

My Life before I knew Christ

Before, my personality was very different. I was a loner, proud, stubborn, and warfreak. I was always angry whenever I do not have money. I always panic when there's a family problem. I wanted a luxurious life; always enjoyed going to parties and coming home very late and drunk.

For 18 years, I was sunken deep in filth of sin. I don't have any other outlet before but disco and billiard halls. I love to go wherever I can find drinking sessions.

When the week starts, I was already busy looking around for sponsors from my circle of friends so I could go to the disco. Thursday night was always my big night. There were days I could not even remember how I managed to get home after getting drunk. Even though I had a good job and receiving good pay, I was always short of money, and was full of struggles. Whenever I was pressed with problems because of my situation, I would always feel hopeless as a person.

I was also into extra-marital relationship, and every time I fought with my partner and got broken hearted, only then that I remembered God. This was the cycle of my life before I came to know Jesus.

One day, my roommate advised me to try going to church and get closer with God. At first I ignored her ideas. But somehow, I thought I'll try it and started going to church without fail every Sunday. But then it just made me feel like a hypocrite going to church by Sunday, and on Thursdays, enjoying worldly life at the discos. During those times I could not understand so many things about God, and I had more questions in my mind rather than answers about Him.

I felt an emptiness inside of me, and my heart being squeezed for something I don't understand. I started attending several worship services in



many different churches. I wanted to discover what it is. I was looking for the right answer.

My life in Jesus Christ

One day, I was invited to the Bible Study by my “kumare” and I was introduced to Pastor Erwin Concepcion. During the study of the Word of God, the Word pierced my heart and hit hard my feelings. Then I realized that this is what I was looking for; I needed God in my life. I also got to know that I was so far from the presence of the Lord, and had committed so many terrible things that is filthy in His sight. I found out that I was in rebellion to God!

That time, I think it was in June 26, 2016, when I didn't even think twice. I repented of my sins, accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, and surrendered my life to Him. That time, I decided to turn away from my dirty and sinful life.

Now, I'm different from the old Eva Davidas. Now a born again person you can find in Bible Studies and church services. A woman of dignity and has a transformed life in Jesus Christ. I have learned to love Jesus and His word.

As a new person in Christ, I understand that I am still facing challenges in my walk with Christ. But by the help of the Holy Spirit, I am able to depart from my vices and declare that it is the best thing that ever happened to my life because I found Jesus!

If before, you can find me every Thursday in Disco houses, today you can find me in Prayer Meetings. If before, you can always find liquor in my hands, today you will find me holding the Bible.

God changed my life, my thinking, my ways, and my outlook in life. I found peace in my mind and heart.

Even sometimes financially hard-up, I don't worry because I know I have a God who knows my needs. He is my Comforter, my Protector, and my Provider. I remember His Word in *Matthew 6:33*. *The Bible says,*

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

According to God's Word, there is no accident in life, everything was planned by Him. In *Romans 8:28* the Bible says, *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

I am so grateful that God rescued me from going to hell. God has a purpose in each of our lives. He wanted me to know Him. He forgave my sins. He can forgive

yours also no matter how bad a person you might think you are, just like me. As He graciously saved me from my sin, He can also do it to you.

Today, I am sharing the Lord Jesus to my dear children even though we are far away from each

other. I want them to experience His peace, goodness and mercy. I want them to love Jesus, too as I do now. Most importantly, I want to see all of them in heaven one day.

Thank you for reading my life's testimony; may the love of God through Jesus Christ be with you all. **BB**

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20



AMAZING GRACE

Sis. Arriane Intal

Amazing Grace!

How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

Once lost, but now am found.

Year 2006 at a tender age, Jeffrey and I have a chance to go to Dubai. It is here where we meet the Lord, personally. We got baptized and became members of the church and handled ministries. We got good jobs and got married after 2 years. We had our 1st baby after 2 years. The Lord answered our prayer for giving us a very adorable baby girl and we named her AJ. Life has been so wonderful and almost near perfect in our eyes. After a year, I got pregnant again but in its 4 and a half months, the fetus died inside my womb for 2 weeks. The doctors need to abort the dead baby inside of me as it could lead to poison me. The Lord answered our prayers after a week and I go for operation. But just after 6 months I got pregnant again, and it's a baby boy - exactly what we were hoping to have. Before he was born, I opted to name him Jireh that means God our Provider. All are normal and complete, everything was going well until we've noticed that he is not comfortable being fed, and throws up too often, 12 hours, 24 hours. This baby did not pass the meconium (first poo). The doctors wondered, so they sent him for x-ray and ultrasound. Results showed that there were some obstructions in his intestine and thus, he can't bear taking milk and was not able to pass stool.

His paediatrician concluded that this baby needed immediate surgery. It crushed our hearts. The doctor could have been mistaken. Till they told us to shift the baby immediately to other hospitals that have intensive care units and a paediatric surgeon to handle him. We called all the hospitals - government and private to accommodate my son, but all units were occupied. Only one hospital had that single unit that's available, but they require a down payment before they could admit my son. Such money did not meet our savings, but the Lord provided and we were able to gather the money. God also sent his people to guide us and be with us in those times. Jireh was admitted. We met his surgeon and they told us to ready ourselves with the procedure. I actually don't know how to react.

The next day, we went back to the hospital in Al Ghusais. We prayed for wisdom to his surgeon, and with God's protection, the surgeon opt not to hurry the surgery. We just decided to get him a health insurance for future use, noting that any inborn cases are excluded in the policies. Days had been so hard for us, and it's only by God's grace and strength that I and my husband were able to stand.

Till the 6th day, Jireh still was not able to pass stool. The surgeon finally concluded that he's having a Hirsch sprung disease and that requires surgery to be corrected. A case of 1 out of 7000 babies, and with all the babies in the world, why my son? Also the operation was too costly for us to pay. Not to mention, the thought of if our week-old baby could bear the surgery. It was terrible for us parents to see our 7-day old child having to go through all horrible experiences. Jireh was already vomiting green which is not a good sign and had his non-stop cry. There's an urgent call for surgery that day, and we applied for insurance. We prayed so hard and we lifted everything - as in all to God. Indeed, what seems impossible to man is possible with God, the insurance covered his case.

God's timing is always perfect, always. The surgery took 4 hours for him to have the first stage of the procedure, so Jireh came out of the recovery room with a colostomy and finally was able to take milk in the bottle. The surgeon told us to bring him home and bring him back after 3 months for the second surgery to complete the colostomy. God is so good! Till the second surgery was scheduled after two weeks, we chased the insurance and with God's sovereignty, it was amazingly approved again. We were all stunned, amazed by God's ways.

The foretold 4 hours surgery extended to 11 hours operation. The operation was successful; his colostomy corrected. His surgeon advised that we could bring him home after a week, till the drain tube in his surgery site stops and dries. 5th day arrived, there were still greens leaking in his drain tube. Surgeon said that this case was rare! His abdomen needed to be opened again for another operation. I feel like I was cheated. "What is going on? Lord, I was faithful to You!" I cried so much.

Delay always has a reason. Delay is not a denial. It was hard for us to get space in government hospitals but with our baby's surgeon's help we were able to get a slot. His 3rd surgery was final. Scheduled the next day, he was carried by medical assistants. Until the hospital's system broke down and his paper was not able to release. Then the NICU slot in Sharjah was occupied with an emergency. We lost the slot which was hard to obtain, yet God comforted me that there will be a reason for all of these happenings. The Sharjah surgeon advised to give him milk. I couldn't believe it as he was having leak. I was just so happy to hear that Jireh could be able to get milk through his thirsty mouth.

The next day he still needed to be transferred to Sharjah hospital. Surgeons advised that if there still leak the next day, he will be operated, however, if there's no more leak the next day, he wouldn't need surgery, but that's only by miracle. We knelt and prayed, I asked the Lord to ready my heart but I was not prepared for what the Lord hath arranged for us the next day.

The next morning I received a call from NICU nurse that my son needed to be transferred to the ward. The nurse said, "Your baby doesn't need surgery! There is only one boy in the ICU. Dr. Khalid is here and he told me to release your baby. He doesn't need surgery. Please bring clothes for him to be transferred."

God's way are really unfathomable! Jeff and I went to a quiet place where we kneel to pray and ask forgiveness to Him for limiting His power! We hugged and rejoiced for His goodness to us. From the time of admission, it was all in God's hand. God loves Jireh and I was resolved that whatever would be the result, He will use our circumstances to serve His purpose alone.

He sends someone to show us another miracle. In his 9th month, June 2014, we scheduled him for another operation. He was born tongue-tied, too. It was a quick operation of 20 minutes, and he was back to himself immediately. However as days goes by, he started to get weak. He was given some liquids and was sent back home. Yet his bones can be seen and he had a distended tummy already. So we send him for gastroenteritis examination in the hospital for opinion. With God's leading, Jireh was concluded having an infection called Enterocolitis. Jireh was assisted, cured with some procedures and got healed.

As Jireh's dextrose was already detached, we opted to get up and get some sun whilst waiting for our time to be discharged. Walking at the hospital's corridor we happened to cross into a company of ladies. As soon as we passed them, a lady called us back and handed us some sweets. A few steps back, one of the ladies whispered and said "there's cash inside" and they left. I cheerfully opened the pouch and to my surprise the cash inside is the same amount of our hospital bill. Wow! Praise God! Thank you Lord! I personally experienced again and again through Jireh's life the PROVIDENCE OF GOD. JESUS never fails! God is alive! He knows our situation and He will never leave us. He keeps His Word. He acts at the right time. He is in control. Amazing GOD! Phillipians 4:19 says, "**But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**"

Month of November, Jireh was tolerating only Elemental milk, Neocate, and it was so expensive. I went to the hospital to buy for his milk, they seldom stock this kind of milk. While waiting for the lift someone is calling my attention. She called me and asked if I bought the milk for my child, and I answered, "Yes for my son!" She told me to wait and when she came back, she said that she can't purchase this kind of milk as it requires a prescription. But she came back again, pulled my hand and crumpled a sum of money in it. I was so shocked! Who will give such an amount of money to a stranger? Then she hurried, and all I can say is thank you. I stayed on my place for a minute. The Lord is just so sweet in sustaining us. Thanking God for this provision. So I went back to our car waiting in front of the hospital. I asked my husband if he noticed a lady, he said nothing comes out yet. I said look at this, she gave all this money in my hand, I counted it first was 5x of 100s then, 500...500... more and more 500s followed. God showed us that His grace is sufficient indeed. We were so amazed!!!

Jireh who is born with Hirschsprung disease and had 2 major operations. We are always admitted in the hospital but being discharged without specific diagnosis. He failed to thrive. Year 2016, he also had multiple antibiotic case of Hypo Albumenia (Protein-loss Enteropathy) his whole body was swelling, he's losing protein and was not clinically stable and that weakens his body so bad. His MRI shows that his colon was in bad condition - not healthy, found stenosis and thickening in its wall.

All things work together for our good. August 2016, Jireh was in his worst condition, his body is no longer absorbing fluids and admitted for immediate laparotomy surgery. The surgeons decided for him to be sent home with ileostomy. We carefully watched his progress and from time to time we need to change the pouch of his stoma. When his supplies run out and we have no choice but to purchase it and it's very expensive.

One day I went to the hospital to personally ask if they can provide some. When I reached the hospital, the nurses could not even recognize us, but remember the name of Jireh. She told us to wait, lo and behold, she is pushing a trolley full of medical supplies for Jireh; good enough to sustain his whole ordeal. We were astonished! When you think God has forgotten your needs, put your trust in the Lord, do your best, then leave the rest to Him.

Jireh's Ileostomy was surgically closed year in 2017. And he was never sick just like before; no medications, no maintenance, and no other complications. Trusting the Lord to deliver us in this ordeal, protect His testimony and glorify His Name. We are struggling with our finances to cover our hospital bills.

Jireh is in pain and hardship but I choose to believe that he is loved and called for a purpose by his Creator. In God's own time, he will be healed fully. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, praying without ceasing that the Lord will heal him completely.

Jehovah Jireh! God is our Great Provider! Month of July, 2019, it was 7 o'clock in the morning, I received a call and I knew it was from the Government Hospital. I'm scared. I don't have enough to pay for it. Nevertheless, I answered the phone. The lady on the other line asked me to get our blank cheque deposit. I wonder why they told me to get the cheque. The reason - because someone already paid our dues in full. Without us lifting a finger, our Lord Jesus answered our prayers.

This testimony is not only mine, not only my family but also our whole church's testimony. The Testimony of the Lord is sure. John 1:16, and of his fullness have all we received, grace for grace. Miracles we're all able to witness first hand.

And as I write this testimony, indeed, His grace abounds. He is ever gracious, generous, and His providence is limitless. We're happy to share that our family is expecting a new baby. Marvellous, infinite is the grace of our loving Lord. Matchless grace, freely bestowed to all who believe! May the Lord find us faithful till He comes! **BB**



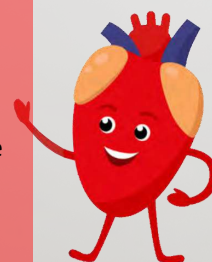
You and Your HORMONES

Sis. Cherrie Tuquero

For most of us, week days begin at work. We keep a job to pay our bills, provide our food on our table and have a better shelter. We also have stream of errands which never seems to have enough hours in a day to tick off every last task. For the weekend, many are looking for a space to relax, recharge and regroup, unless observed it as day of worship or the Lord's Day. It seems that due to busy schedules, we sometimes put our health off balance. This year's health topic is about understanding hormone imbalance, how it changes our body, behavior and mood. I challenge everyone to know the relevance of Scripture and our Lord's concern and power when it comes to understanding the real-life problems that we all struggle with. The Bible says in **2 Peter 1:2-3**, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and Godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."

When we think of hormones, we remember the body's chemical messenger. Some important hormones found in the body are:

- 1.) Cortisol - produced by the adrenal gland. At stressful times, the body secretes cortisol to cope up with the situation.
- 2.) Adrenalin - known as emergency hormone, initiates the quick reaction which makes the individual to think and respond quickly to stress.
- 3.) Insulin - a hormone released by organ pancreas. It allows the body to use glucose or sugar from carbohydrates in the food for energy, keep blood sugar level from getting too high.
- 4.) Estrogen - a female sex hormone
- 5.) Progesterone is produced in the ovaries, helps body to prepare for conception, pregnancy and regulates the monthly cycle.
- 6.) Testosterone - is a male sex hormone. It helps in building body muscles, development of male reproductive tissues; testes and prostate.
- 7.) Serotonin - a mood-boosting effect hormone. Low level of serotonin causes depression, migraine, weight gain, insomnia, craving of carbohydrate, etc. Excess level of serotonin in the body causes agitation, stage of confusion, sedation etc.
- 8.) Growth hormone - also known as somatotropin hormone. It stimulates growth, cell reproduction cell regeneration and in boosting metabolism.
- 9.) Thyroid hormone - (TSH, T3, T4), produced in endocrine glands, regulates weight, determines energy levels, temperature, skin, hair, etc.
- 10.) Prolactin - is released by the pituitary gland after a child birth for lactation, which enables women to breastfeed.



When you have a hormone imbalance, you have too much or too little of a certain hormone or glands that aren't working properly. Few symptoms like bloating, fatigue, irritability, hair loss, palpitations, mood swings, problems with blood sugar, trouble concentrating, infertility and menopause. Other factors that contribute are age, unnatural lifestyle filled with stress, processed foods, chemical exposure and long-sedentary hours (sitting or lying down except when sleeping).

Without proper treatment, you could be at risk of several serious medical conditions, including: diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, neuropathy, obesity, sleep apnea, kidney damage, depression and anxiety, endometrial cancer, osteoporosis, or bone loss, loss of muscle mass, breast cancer, infertility, urinary incontinence, sexual dysfunction and goiter.

In 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 says, "For this things I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

I believe that the key in taming our hormones lies in the ability to walk in the discipline of placing our faith and trust in the truth of God's Word. We don't always blame every bad mood, harsh words, disappointments of not losing weight and overreaction on being hormonal. We have a huge influence in restoring hormone by learning and understanding how to deal with those feelings and serious body changes appropriately. We are equipped with God's truth as mentioned in Philippians 4:13 that we can do all things through him who strengthens us.

Here are the list of some nutritious foods and few practical tips that might help balance your hormone:

1.) Cruciferous vegetables help maintain estrogen balance. It includes cauliflower, bok choy, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, turnips and kale. Be aware that for apple with iodine deficiency like goiter eat them in moderation as they contain goitrogens but for people with normal thyroid function, it is an advantage.

2.) Pomegranate has potential to prevent types of breast cancers that respond to estrogen.

3.) A 3.5 ounce serving twice per week of fatty fish high in omega 3 such as salmon, mackerel, herring, lake trout, sardines, or albacore tuna can not only keep your heart healthy, it can help those at risk for cardiovascular disease. This can also lead to improved mood and cognition. The fat in fish promote direct cell-to-cell communication, which leads to overall improved hormonal communication.

4.) Green-leafy vegetables like collard greens, spinach, kale, beet greens, dandelion greens, and swiss chard are also a good source of iron and magnesium (a true testosterone booster). Prevent inflammation and lower level of stress. Improved cortisol levels and estrogen balance.

5.) Nuts like almonds have effects in endocrine system that lowers cholesterol and insulin and maintain blood sugar levels. Walnuts protect heart and help to have healthy brain cells.

6.) Soy is known to affect estrogen levels, but eating the bean can have some positive benefits, especially during menopause and diminish symptoms such as hot flashes.

7.) Turmeric, known to treat inflammation, is made of curcumin to have many healing properties. 2009 study even found that turmeric has the ability to ease pain in

those with arthritis just as much as ibuprofen could. It can help minimize menstrual pain, such as period cramps.

8.) Quinoa, a complex carbohydrate can help keep your blood sugar levels steady. It has 8 grams of protein and 5 grams of fiber per cup. Quinoa also doesn't contain gluten, which is a perfect snack for people with celiac's disease.

9.) Avocado is loaded with beta-sitosterol, which affects blood cholesterol levels and help balance the stress hormone cortisol. A great addition to your meal or go to brunch treat. Help manage stress hormones, and even impact the hormones that control your menstrual cycle. Sterols present in avocados also have an effect on estrogen and progesterone, the two hormones responsible for regulating ovulation.

10.) Flaxseed is a significant source of phytoestrogens, and it specifically contains a type of phytoestrogen called lignans (both have an estrogenic and antiestrogenic effect, they have protective benefits against certain types of cancer. A great source of omega 3 fatty acid, fiber, and antioxidants. Try eating it in your oatmeal, or even throw it in your smooth.

11.) Get enough sleep. Getting a full, undisturbed, night's rest may help the body regulate hormone levels.

12.) Avoid too much light at night. Exposure to blue light, such as from cell phones or computer screens, can disrupt the sleep cycle. The body responds to this light as if it were daylight and adjusts hormones in response.

13.) Manage stress. A simple act of listening to christian music or reading books or Bible reduces stress and helps you to uplift your spirit.

14.) Regular exercise may prevent overeating, reduces the risk of insulin resistance, metabolic syndrome, and type 2 diabetes.

15.) Avoid sugar such as table sugar, high-fructose corn syrup, and honey caused similar responses.

Discover God's riches into our lives through the grace he has freely given us. **Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 says,**

"I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God." **BB**



CAUSING GRACE TO ABOUND

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Romans 6:1-2

Since Romans 6:1 is a major transition point in Paul's exposition of the gospel, let us summarize the five chapters before it. God, the covenant Lord of Israel, set apart the Apostle to preach the gospel of God (1:1–15). This gospel says that those who are justified by faith will live forever (vv. 16–17). Justification—being declared righteous in our Creator's sight—is the greatest need of Jew and Gentile alike, because all people (except Jesus) fail to honor and thank God (Rom. 1:18–3:20). Having rejected the Lord, we can do nothing to save ourselves. God cannot violate His justice to save us, so our sin must be punished and His wrath propitiated (turned away). Our Lord offered Jesus as this propitiation, and we benefit from His work and are found righteous, or justified, before God only by trusting in Christ. Justification means the non-imputation of sin to our accounts (3:21–4:25), but it also means the imputation of Christ's righteousness—His perfect obedience to God—to our records. He is the last Adam, who succeeded where the first Adam—whose sin plunged us into a state of guilt and misery—failed. We are reckoned as having kept God's covenant with Adam by the imputation of Christ's righteousness, not by our own keeping of the law, which was given not as the means of solving the problem of sin but to increase sin and drive us into the Savior's arms. Having been justified, we have peace with God and access to His grace forever (chap. 5).

The law increased sin, and where sin abounded, divine grace—being more powerful than sin—abounded all the more (vv. 20–21). This raises a key question: if grace abounds where sin abounds, should we sin freely in order to see grace poured out even more? (6:1). Paul's reply is far less condemnatory than it was in

Romans 3:8 to a similar question. There, Paul dealt with those who objected to his gospel, while Romans 6:1–2 addresses people who follow the Apostle's train of thought but need some clarification. However, his answer is still emphatic: "By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" (v. 2).

With this statement and rhetorical question, Paul begins to focus on the transformation that follows justification, namely, sanctification. Upon conversion, we gain not only a new legal standing of righteousness but also a new heart inclined, generally speaking, to holiness (Ezekiel 11:19–20). Sanctification is the process by which we grow in holy obedience, and it occupies Paul's attention for the next several chapters of Romans.

Coram Deo

We rest for our final salvation in the work of Christ alone, but that does not mean there is no change in our own experience of sin and holiness. John Calvin comments, "the faithful are never reconciled to God without the gift of regeneration; nay, we are for this end justified—that we may afterwards serve God in holiness of life." Everyone who is justified is also being sanctified, and if you are justified, you will have a desire for holiness, though you will not be perfect before you die.

Source: <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotion>



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

*But he answered and said,
It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4*



BIBLE STUDY LEADERS



AL GHUSAIS GROUP

Maningat's Residence

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, **Acts 2:46**



MIRDIFF GROUP

Maloles' Residence

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. **Isaiah 55:11**



LYF TEENS GROUP

Manama Villa 7



And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**



MAMZAR GROUP

Manama Villa 7

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. **2 Timothy 2:2**



VILLA 15 GROUP

Mejila's Residence



If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:7



SATURDAY GROUP

Burjuman

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. **Matthew 18:20**



ABU DHABI GROUP

Joep's Residence

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:16



KARAMA GROUP

Sulitas' Residence

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:17



RIGGA GROUP

Intal's Residence

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15





DIP GROUP

Tolentin's Residence

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

MUTEENA GROUP

Perez's Residence

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do. **1 Thessalonians 5:11**



ABU HAIL GROUP

Manama Villa 7

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,
Acts 20:20





REACHING OUT THE GLOBE

Bro. Angelito Malilay

Dear Brethren,

Awonderful day by the Grace of God for He is Truly amazing in so many ways. God works in every aspect of our spiritual and personal lives.

As we know the technology is now part of our daily living, and we are now attached to it (e.g., using mobile devices, the computer in your office, WiFi/Data in your home and other public places). It is everywhere that we connect to the cyberspace. We can't control it, but God is bigger than cyberspace and He is more powerful than we can imagine. Indeed, cyberspace is created with a purpose, and we can use it as an instrument for God's Glory! That's one of the responsibilities of every believer - to use every available resources like the cyberspace to proclaim the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ around the world and declare the Gospel of Salvation to many.

The Back to the Bible Baptist Church (BBBC) media team is given a responsibility by the Grace of God to fulfill this duty; that is, to use cyberspace through our website: www.thebbbc.org to reach people anywhere in the world. The website is a great source where people can be encouraged to read and hear the Word of God. Hence, we are able to impart inspiration, motivation, hope and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are continually improving the content of the website and

that includes Daily Devotions and the BBBC Burning Bush magazine which is now downloadable. The upcoming project will be the one year Devotional Booklet that will be downloadable for FREE! Not only that, we are working as well to publish our website to become part of an official app from the Apple Store (iOS) and Play Store (Android) to your mobiles that can be used offline. But of course, we need your prayers to thrive for the furtherance of the kingdom of God everywhere, and to spread His goodness and His Gospel through cyberspace!

Remember: Technology (Cyberspace) will not last but the Word of God will endure until the end! Let's use it for God's Glory!

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away, But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:24-25

We are glad for the opportunity given by God that we are able to serve and share these experiences to you!

Isn't it amazing? It's growing in numbers and to our Almighty God, we give the glory! **BB**



<https://www.thebbbc.org>

VISIT



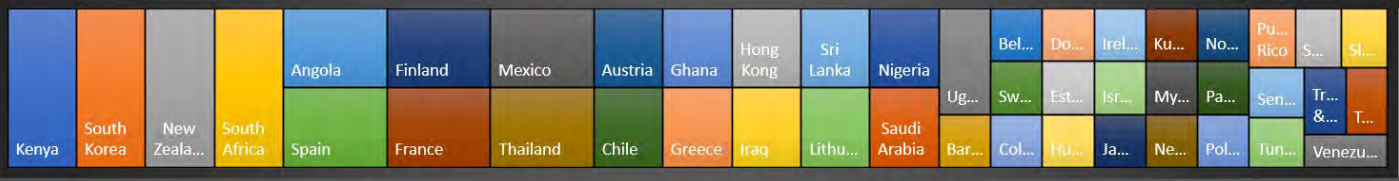
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- MUSIC
- BIBLE STUDY
- MISSION
- GAMEO
- KINGSMEN
- TRUE WOMANHOOD
- SOJOURNERS
- LORD'S YOUNG FLOCK



WORSHIP SERVICES TIMINGS
DUBAI—FRIDAY

Website Statistical Geography Update

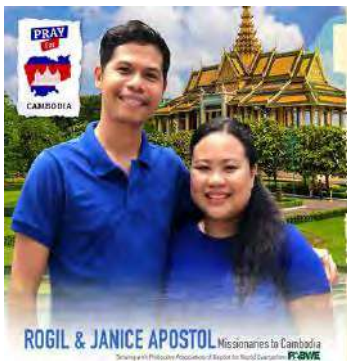


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| United States | United Kingdom | France | Uganda | Netherlands |
| Brazil | Nepal | Mexico | Barbados | Norway |
| Philippines | Singapore | Thailand | Belgium | Pakistan |
| Italy | Turkey | Austria | Switzerland | Poland |
| India | Algeria | Chile | Colombia | Puerto Rico |
| Japan | Indonesia | Ghana | Dominican Republic | Sweden |
| China | Kenya | Greece | Estonia | Slovenia |
| Portuga | South Korea | Hong Kong | Hungary | Senegal |
| Canada | New Zealand | Iraq | Ireland | Tunisia |
| not set | South Africa | Sri Lanka | Israel | Trinidad & Tobago |
| Australia | Angola | Lithuania | Jamaica | Taiwan |
| Malaysia | Spain | Nigeria | Kuwait | Venezuela |



Apostol Ministry Update

Serving with Philippine Association of Baptist for World Evangelism (PABWE)



Dear beloved BBBC brethren, prayer partners and supporters,

We give God all the glory, praises and honor for who He is and what He has done for the first and second quarter of this Year 2019. We praise God for His promise that He who calls us is faithful and He will also do it. First Quarter was one of the busiest seasons of the year. It is a time for evaluation, planning, execution and most of all seeking the Lord of what He want us to do this year by God's grace and for His glory.

We praise God for giving us a time to rest also. Despite of the challenges God made us strong and more dependent on Him. It's a leveling up of our commitment to Him and to His work that He entrusted to us by His grace. We covet your constant prayers to us and for the work of God in Cambodia. We appreciate every prayer, support and love that you have shown to us since day one when God has called us to serve Him in Cambodia.

We would like to greet you a BLESSED ANNIVERSARY BBBC FAMILY. God is faithful so we can be faithful.

By God's grace and for His greater glory,
Pastor Rogil and Janice

PHNOM PENH – is the capital city of Cambodia. We praise the Lord for His favor and opportunities to teach and minister to different ages from different walks of life.

We have many various ministries in the city. We praise God for raising Cambodian young leaders who serve along with us in discipling and ministering to their own people. We focus on discipleship and it is a great privilege to invest our lives to them for God's glory.

Please pray for their spiritual growth as we continue to disciple them, that they will love the Lord more and love others by sharing and helping them know Jesus through their lives. Please pray also for our needs for our Dormitory Ministry. We are raising \$500 monthly for rentals, utilities and other needs of our 9 scholars.

KAMPONG CHHNANG - We praise God for answering our prayers that God will send His workers to our outreach ministry in Kampong Chhnang. Our hearts are rejoicing and even more expectant of what the Lord will accomplish more this year for His glory. We praise God for our new co-workers, Pastor Glenn Sebios and his wife Pia in reaching people in the countryside for God's kingdom.



Please pray for God's protection, provision and wisdom. Please pray for the growth of the believers and more Cambodian parents will come to know Jesus as well.

DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS. We praise God for the wonderful opportunity to bring seven Cambodians to Thailand for a week Missions exposure and leadership training. It was one of a kind experience for all of us. We are so thankful to God for using people to help us make this endeavor possible for His kingdom.



Please pray for these future church leaders of this country that they will love the Lord more and be godly examples to the present and future generations.



“ONLY ONE LIFE T’WILL SOON BE PAST. ONLY WHAT ‘S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.” - C.T. STUDD

BBBC Abu Dhabi City Mission

An Outreach Ministry of Back to the Bible Baptist Church - Dubai

By God's Bountiful Grace

Bro. Jay Jope



The BBBC Abu Dhabi City Mission exalts the Lord for His goodness and faithfulness throughout the year. By His sustaining grace, 3rd anniversary was celebrated last 29th of March, 2019 with joy and thanksgiving, giving honor and praise to Him for all that He is doing through His faithful servants. We are so blessed and grateful for the continued support from BBBC Dubai who were part of the celebration to glorify God.

God gave us an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel in Abu Dhabi that converted the lives of the people who accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. People come and go in the ministry. Some of them did not come back for reasons. I honor and praise the Lord that some stayed, continue in His Word, and in praising and glorifying Him.

In spite of imperfection, God's sufficient grace is always abounding to do the work for the ministry as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:15). Without Christ, indeed, we can do nothing.

BBBC Abu Dhabi Mission continuously asks God for the furtherance of His work and that He will supply the needs of the ministries. Specifically, we are praying that God will send men in music ministry who are able to lead and play the piano; a preacher in pulpit ministry; a car to fetch and drop the brethren in their accommodations and His divine protection of the worship place. God bless the Mission for His glory!

Corporately lifting up to God our prayers - requests and supplications with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6); praying for one another in regular Prayer Meeting every Sunday at 2030 - 2200hr.

Prayer is a way of communication with God.



Mission Various Ministries



Worship Service every Friday at 0830 - 1030hr

The congregation join together to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth (John 4:25); to keep the sabbath day holy (Exodus 20:8, 11).



After worship, we have brunch, fellowship and Bible study.



Fellowship with the brethren in unity and love. Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend (Proverbs 27:17).

Enjoying God's creation by fishing in Yas, Al Reem, Al Hudayriat and Lulu islands in Abu Dhabi.

Also, we have our Bowling and Billiard Fellowship.



Studying and learning God's Word in regular Bible Study every 2030 - 2200hr to know more about God and deepen our relationship with Him.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

If you have loved ones, family, relatives and friends who want to attend the BBBC Abu Dhabi City Mission's various ministries, please contact Bro. Jay at 050-941-7696 / Bro. Melvin at 050-163-7277 / Bro. Rey at 055-537-2621.



BBBC

BRETHREN
in
ACTIONS



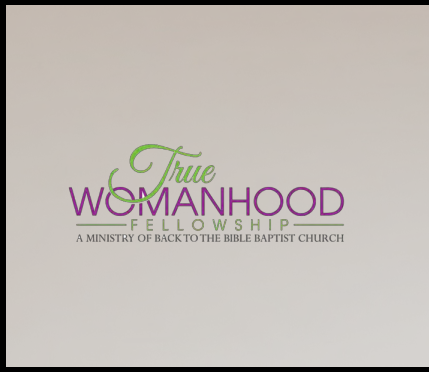
HAKOT MINISTRY





THE
BURNING BUSH
TEAM



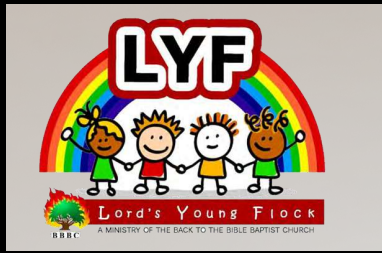


Child Dedication

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:
and the fruit of the womb is his reward.
Psalm 127:3







FLOWER ARRANGEMENT MINISTRY



MUSIC MINISTRY



YOUR LABOUR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58b

REGULAR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY

**BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH - DUBAI
WORSHIP SERVICES - SAMAYA HOTEL, DEIRA**
TAGALOG SERVICE 8:00AM – 10:00AM
ENGLISH SERVICE 11:00AM – 1:00PM

FRIDAY SCHOOL

KING'S MEN 10:15AM
TRUE WOMANHOOD 10:15AM
LORD'S YOUNG FLOCK GRADERS AND PRE-TEENS 10:15AM
LORD'S YOUNG FLOCK PRE-SCHOOLERS 11:45AM

JUNIOR WORSHIP - MANAMA VILLA 7, ABU HAIL

Every 3rd Friday of the Month 11:30AM – 1:00PM
Bro. Paul Nena 050 573 7034

BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH - ABU DHABI CITY MISSION

WORSHIP SERVICE 8:00AM – 10:00AM
Bro. Jay Jope 050 941 7696

AL RUWAIS, ABU DHABI WORSHIP SERVICE

Bro. Rodlin Cawaling 050 181 9357

SUNDAY

PRAYER MEETING - MANAMA VILLA 7 8:30PM
Sis. Cathy Concepcion 050 452 3550

THURSDAY

CHOIR PRACTICE - MANAMA VILLA 7 8:30PM
Bro. Sid Guiang 050 363 4894

TUESDAY

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

MAMZAR, Manama Villa 7
ABU HAIL, Manama Villa 7
VILLA 15, Hamriya
MUTEENA
RIGGA
KARAMA
AL GHUSAIS
MIRDIFF
SHARJAH
DIP
AL RUWAIS, ABU DHABI
ABU DHABI

Sis. Cathy Concepcion 050 452 3550
Bro. Jeffrey Cruz 055 646 1765
Bro. Eugene Mejila 050 247 0098
Sis. Kring Perez 056 460 5373
Bro. Jeffrey Intal 050 287 6209
Sis. Haidee Sulitas 056 106 0847
Bro. Nelson Maningat 055 936 6988
Bro. Jeffrey Maloles 050 206 9392
Bro. Paul Nena 056 2856 704
Bro. Rued Almadilla 050 270 2086
Bro. Rodlin Cawaling 050 181 9357
Bro. Jay Jope 050 941 7696

WEDNESDAY

SOJOURNERS SINGLES MINISTRY Bro. Rued Almadilla 050 270 2086

THURSDAY

JUMEIRAH Bro. Rey Timbang 055 742 5675

FRIDAY

AL WASL, Sri Lankan Group Bro. Wasantha Pathiraja 050 296 4779

SATURDAY

DUBAI INVESTMENT PARK Bro. Rued Almadilla 050 270 2086
BURJUMAN Bro. Jae Celebrar 056 538 7410
LYF TEENS MINISTRY Sis. Eng Concepcion 050 658 7950



B B B C

**BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**