

ISSUE NO. 12

3rd ANNUAL EDITION | 2018 | DUBAI, U.A.E.

BURNING BUSH

THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH



14th Anniversary
Sowing
and
Reaping

PSALM 126:5-6

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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

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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. Psalm 126:5-6

Let us refresh all our memories to the time we have surrendered our lives to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Didn't you feel the zeal to serve and get to know Him more? Don't you remember the time when going to church is the highlight of our week, being with fellow believers brings unsurmountable joy and seems a day is too short for fellowship? Those were the days when we do not mind spending time, resources and strength for His glory.

To some of us who have spent years and years in His service we can only shake our heads in regret and admit that we let hardship gets the best of us. We often ask ourselves, why did we allow trivial reasons to defeat our purpose? Where is the joy we once had in the ministry? We come to realize our shortcomings, then we pray for God's forgiveness and turn things around because we know that... **GOD IS WORTH EVERY SACRIFICE, JESUS IS WORTH EVERY TEAR.** I personally believe that as Christians, there will be points in our lives where we find ourselves in our knees, bawling in tears and our lips silenced by the brokenness of our hearts. Indeed, serving God is a day to day battle between self-sacrifice and our self-love. It is only through His mercy and grace that we are able to conquer our own weakness and come to realize who we are under the mighty hands of our Maker. We are but specks of dust if not for His loving kindness and compassion. The same characteristics of our God that drive us to bear fruits may it be through our surrendered hearts for His purging or to seek the lost and share the precious gift of salvation. It is not a waste of time, especially not a waste of our lives to be of service to our Almighty God.

Salute to all the lives that are offered solely for His Glory and carrying the eternal joy in their hearts and spirits. You may be at present or once had sown *in tears but assuredly...shall reap in joy*, for God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister (Hebrews 6:10).

Happy 14th Anniversary Back to the Bible Baptist Church and may the Lord find us always faithful and serving. To God be the Glory!

Sola Gratia,

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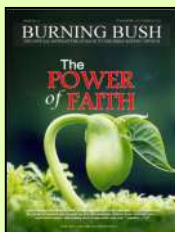
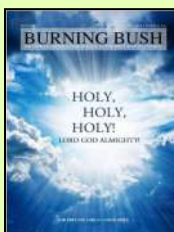
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Brethren in Actions

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 5 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



Dear Brethren,

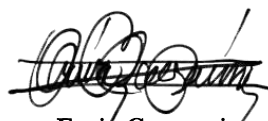
It is my profound joy to welcome you to BBBC's 14th Church Anniversary. People enjoy celebrations like birthdays, wedding anniversaries, child's dedication, etc., but there is no greater joy than celebrating another year of God's goodness and grace to the church.

The Jews around the world for example celebrates the Passover for 7-8 days signifying the great joy of remembering God's mercy by freeing them out of slavery from the hands of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. Similarly, every year our celebration is always dedicated to the Lord, thanking Him for using the BBBC as a channel of His grace to the people He called to be saved, and we praise His name to be chosen as one of His vessels to expand His kingdom to this part of the world! Though we are physically weak like Israel when they left Egypt, God's mighty power cannot be fathomed to fulfill His will, will empower everyone to be successful in winning souls. Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

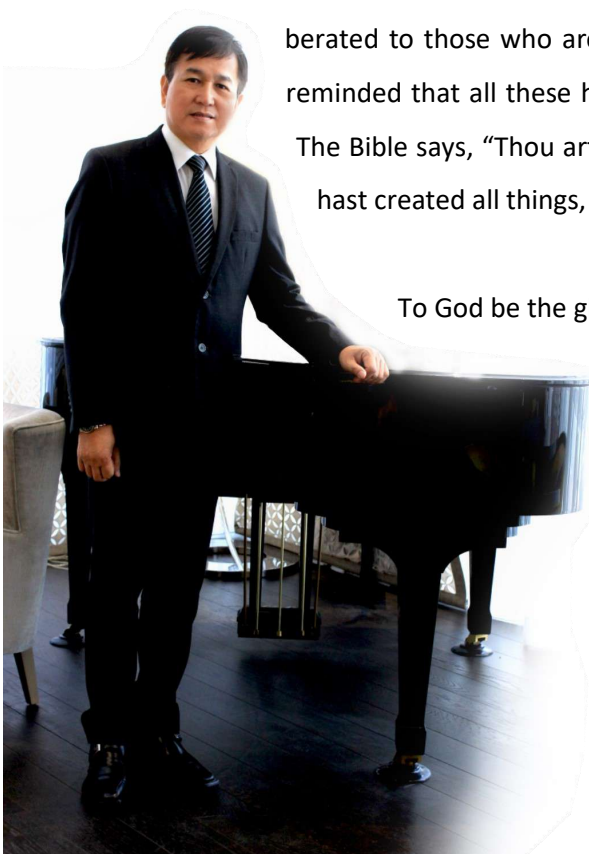
The goal of this year's anniversary is twofold. Firstly, it is our heartfelt desire to bring souls to Him through evangelism. Secondly, to thank Him for His goodness and bountiful blessings to the church.

May all the efforts and sacrifices we all made to make this celebration be pleasing to His sight be reverberated to those who are still longing to experience His true love and presence. Let us be reminded that all these hard works we made for the church, the Name of Jesus be exalted. The Bible says, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

To God be the glory and His Name be praised! **BB**



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WHAT IS MY ROLE?

The Church and Evangelism

After the Lord Jesus sends off the disciples to be a witness to all nations, the church grew rapidly. [Acts 2:41](#) says that on the Day of Pentecost "there were added unto them about three thousand souls." [Acts 2:47](#) says, "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. In [Acts 11:21](#) Luke says that "a great number believed," and [v.24](#) reiterates that "many people were added to the Lord." The church was growing so quickly within weeks; thousands had joined and was saved. Believers were actively evangelizing – the Church was reaching the world!

Sadly, many in our Christian circles today think that evangelism is only for those who are “gifted”, limited only for Pastors, Elders and Bible Teachers. Only few understood that biblically, it is a work of all Believers. The people of God have always been called upon to testify to the Lord’s goodness.

In all we do, bringing the great news of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the lost should be a priority [Luke 9:10](#), [Matthew 28:18-20](#). If you may, please glance at the Mission Statement in front page of our Yellow program – “We believe 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.” Are we living this out?

We pray and work to develop a culture of evangelism. He has all called us to serve. We desire that the mind-set of the church would be described as a culture of evangelism, so that you can taste it in everything we do inside and outside the Church.



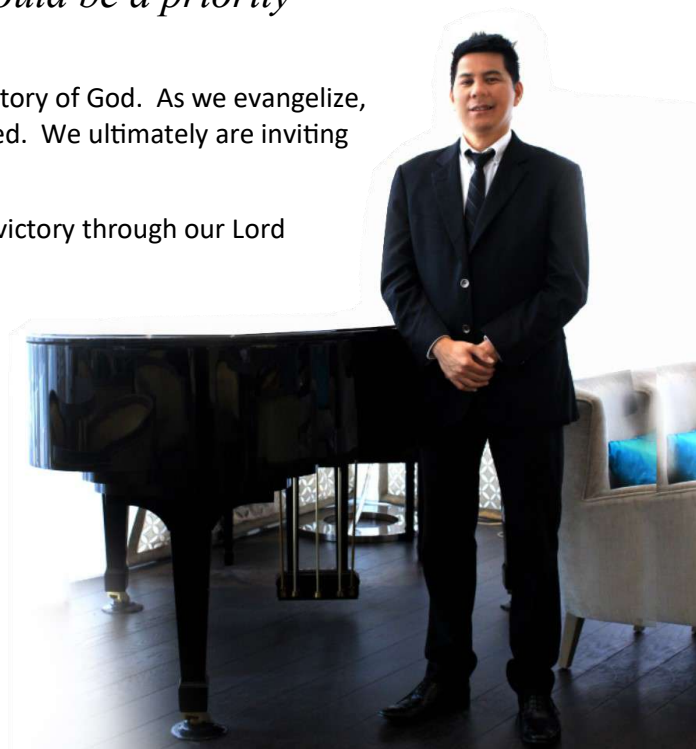
“The people of God have always been called upon to testify to the Lord’s goodness. In all we do, bringing the great news of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the lost should be a priority”

The Word of God is full of statements of the certainty of the victory of God. As we evangelize, together we proclaim love, forgiveness, peace, grace undeserved. We ultimately are inviting people into the triumph of Jesus Christ!

[1 Corinthians 15:57](#), But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Together, let us make Him known! **BB**


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BE DETERMINED

Dr. Warren Wiersbe



Dr. Warren Wiersbe

(1929 - Present)

Warren W. Wiersbe is best known as a Bible teacher, author, and conference speaker. He has ministered in churches and conferences in Canada, Central and South America, Europe, and the United States. He has published more than 150 books and was awarded the Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

He is known as a "pastors' pastor," and his speaking, writing and radio ministries have brought new understanding of the truths of God's Word to people around the world. Wiersbe is perhaps best known for his series of 50 books in the "BE" series: Be Real, Be Rich, Be Obedient, Be Mature, Be Joyful, etc. and other theological works.

ARE WE THE KIND OF LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS GOD WANTS US TO BE? Like Nehemiah, do we have a burden in our hearts for the work God has called us to do? Nehemiah 2:12 "And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: neither was there any beast with me, save the beast that I rode upon". Are we willing to sacrifice to see His will accomplished? Are we patient in gathering facts and in planning our work? Do we enlist the help of others or try to do everything ourselves? Do we motivate people on the basis of the spiritual what God is doing or simply on the basis of the personal? Are they following us or the Lord as He leads us?

As followers, do we listen to what our leaders say as they share their burdens? Do we cling to the past or desire to see God do something new? Are we cooperating in any way with the enemy and thus weakening the work? Have we found the job God wants us to complete?

Anyone can go through life as a destroyer; **God has called His people to be builders.** What an example Nehemiah is to us! Trace his so statements and see how God used him:

So I prayed Nehemiah 2:2 "Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid," So I came to Jerusalem (v. 11); So they strengthened their hands for this good work (v. 18); So built we the wall (4:6); So we labored in the work (v. 21); So the wall was finished (6:15).

Were it not for the determination that came from his faith in a great God, Nehemiah would never have finished the work.

As Dr. V. Raymond Edman used to say, It is always too soon to quit. Paul writes: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58. **BB**

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THE PROMISE OF JESUS

Pastor Erwin Concepcion

If we truly believed in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and surrendered our lives to Him, we are saved indeed, and life's transformation will take place to authenticate our salvation.

Aim: To prove in the Bible that when Jesus Christ saved us, He keeps us saved forever. We cannot lose Christ's salvation.

Introduction: Many religions that teach works for salvation, also teach that we can lose salvation. This follows logically because if we are saved partly or wholly by our works, then we can fail to keep up the good works and hence, lose salvation. The truth is that if we call on Christ to save us, and He saves us, then He keeps us saved forever. The following Scriptures show us this:

1. "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish." **John 10:28**

- The word "**shall**" and the word "**never**" are two mandatory words that denote that whatever was proclaimed must happen.
- This is an unconditional guarantee.
- Eternal life means saved for eternity.

2. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" **Philippians 1:6**

- Christ will perform His work in us to the Second Coming.

3. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the **LORD**... Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the **LORD** upholdeth him with his hand... the **LORD**... forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved forever." **Psalms 37:23-28**

- Three times God tells us that He keeps us saved.

4. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Romans 8:38, 39**

ONCE SAVED,

- For a born again believer to be lost, he must somehow be separated from the love of God, and become an object of God's wrath. Paul says that is impossible.

5. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" **Hebrews 7:25**

- "to the uttermost" means "forever"

6. "...but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." **Hebrews 9:12**

- Redemption means to buy back by paying the price. Since we have an eternal redemption, we are redeemed for all eternity.

7. "...received the promise of eternal inheritance" **Hebrews 9:15**

- Our inheritance is for eternity.
- Our eternal inheritance is promised by God.

8. "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." **1 Corinthians 15:49**

- "Shall" means that is a certainty that we will bear the heavenly image."

9. "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." **1 Peter 1: 4, 5**

TO KEEP US SAVED FOREVER

ALWAYS SAVED?

- God repeatedly tells us that we are secured forever.
- “Fadeth not away” means perpetual.

10. “...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to **keep** that which I have committed unto him against that day.” **2 Timothy 1:12**

- Paul committed the keeping of his soul to Christ. He was sure that Christ would keep him saved to his heavenly kingdom.

11. “And the Lord **shall deliver me** from every evil work, and will **preserve me** unto his heavenly kingdom...” **2 Timothy 4:18**

- The Lord will deliver us and preserve us.

12. “And this is the **promise** that he hath promised us, even eternal life.” **1 John 2:25**

- “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, **promised** before the world began” **Titus 1:2**
- God has promised eternal life to us, and He cannot lie.

13. “That whosoever believeth in him **should not perish**, but have eternal life.”

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him **should not perish**, but have everlasting life.

“He that believeth on the Son **hath everlasting life...**” **John 3:15, 16 & 36**

- Twice God says that we will not perish.
- Three times God says that we have eternal life.

14. Our destiny is to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, not to be lost.

- “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.

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called,... justified... glorified.” **Romans 8:29, 30**

15. We are **indwelt** and **sealed** by the Holy Spirit **unto the day of redemption**.

- “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed unto the day of redemption**.” **Ephesians 4:30**

Conclusion:

Security, not fear, produces godly living. Loss of salvation is never threatened.

Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 6:15 BB

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. ROMANS 12:1-2



Biblical LEADERSHIP

Bro. Regiel Sebastian

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalm 1:1





Spiritual Leader is a blessed man because of his relationship with God as men were ordained to be leaders from the beginning. He is indeed a happy man who has made God his portion. Here then lies God's will for a joyful and peaceful life – a life of integrity. It is this world of wickedness that we are called upon to be in it but not to be of it. John 17:14 says, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Therefore, it is of utmost care of a leader to separate his own self from worldly people who may influence his character and attack his integrity.

So whom should a leader avoid? The verse tells us to avoid the counsel of the ungodly. Ungodly people are those who are without God in their lives. We must not walk according to their counsel of good works without faith in Christ, religion without relationship with Christ and temporal happiness without eternity in mind.

Another character to avoid is the sinner's way as shown by sin's progressive manifestation. We are commanded not to stand by the sinner's way. The sinner has a particular way of transgressing with his own particular sin of lust, drunkenness, dishonesty, covetousness, etc. Ultimately if a leader is not careful, one will not only find himself walking with the ungodly, but standing in the sinner's way and eventually sitting with the scornful. The scornful man has made up his ways, his conscience seared so that there is no more room for faith. Yes, sin is truly downhill, it is progressive. One evil act leads to another. From an act of sin, one may end his life in total apostasy (falling away) from God.

A leader with integrity labors to flee the ways and workers of iniquity because it will be a great influence to others. A leader must pave the way for others to walk in godliness, to stand in the way of righteousness and to sit at Jesus' feet (Proverbs 4:14-15). For me, one of the most important concepts about spiritual leadership is integrity and may I quote that, "Image is what people think we are. Integrity is what we really are". Integrity is moral uprightness and consistency of character that encourages one's trust. The church is supposed to be a light dispelling greater darkness.

Now, immorality has affected the family, which is the core value of the Christian faith. Integrity starts in the home where we live our private lives and live it out in the public but it is losing its witness in a greater scale in the community. We men are leaders of our home. Our home is our first ministry; where there is love, prayer, care, respect. Integrity is vital in leadership because everything starts in the heart. Someone has said,

**"If the heart is right,
the hands will follow."**

" **Proverbs 4:23** exhorts us to **Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.** An evil heart cannot bring forth something good no matter how influential, visionary, industrious, persevering, and disciplined a leader is. God is after our hearts and not in our ways or doings. Since time is the friend of truth, a leader with an unguarded heart will eventually expose its true character. It's like an imitation shoes, sandals, bags that for a time, they are intact but after a while, they fade and easily worn out.

Also, oftentimes the test of integrity in a leader is loneliness. A leader will portray his self with moral uprightness even when no one else is looking because he is fully aware of God's presence.

Leadership is therefore such a high calling that one may think through before being one because they will incur a stricter judgement according to James 3:1. Leaders instruct with their words, actions, and life. God expects much of them because to whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48).

The office of spiritual leadership has a divine purpose of giving glory to God and overseeing men's souls thus, requiring certain qualifications and standards in executing his office. It is therefore essential that he must be blameless at anything that will bring shame to his office. Integrity encompasses the whole aspect of his being including financial accountability, personal responsibility, and the moral purity of his life. A failure to meet such qualifications will not only shame God's name but will render the person unfit for that office. When this happens, it will not only impair himself but the people whom he is leading. It is a high price, indeed.

Christ alone is the source of his motivation to do right and not with any other extrinsic motivations such as position, power and popularity. He gives the enablement to live a life of integrity that causes leaders to say with the apostle Paul,

**"Be ye followers of me,
even as I also am of Christ"**
(1 Corinthians 11:1).

Christ is the supreme model of a leader with integrity who lived out his words and did not compromise the way of the cross. He truly is worthy of our trust. We should make ourselves busy and make God's business our business. Because an idle mind is a devil's playground, meaning when we neglect to pray and have our quiet times or devotions, and not fellowship with our fellow believers, and attend church services or activities; one is more likely to drift away from God and get in trouble.

So as a man of God here are some activities from King's men that help us nurture or care for and encourage one another in our spiritual growth. We fellowship and enjoy each other's company with these activities: Basketball, jogging, eating coupled with devotions before or after every activity.

Through these, we learn from each other as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17). We should never stop learning! We will work until the Lord comes. Feed our souls with spiritual food, armor ourselves and prepare for the battle and be ready and steadfast to defeat the enemy.

In addition, in order to become a leader, you must be a servant first. Servant leadership is best defined by Jesus Himself in Matthew 20: 26-28. Paul reminds us a Christ like character or attitude; we look out for the interest of others. Servant leadership within the church is **"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"** (Ephesians 4:12). This means that with Christ being the head of the church, the entire church body is served in the act of providing leadership. It's not just the church leaders who become aware of their place at the foot of the cross but all those within the body of Christ.





We all mutually submit ourselves to Jesus just as He was in submission to the Father. From a biblical perspective, servant leadership frees the church of the abuse of power and coercion and promotes mutual respect and love for one another. A servant leader seeks to invest himself in the lives of his people so that, as a whole, the church community is challenged to grow to be more like Christ. This is demonstrated in the leader's willingness to give himself to meet the needs, but not necessarily the wants, of his people. Like a good parent, the true servant leader knows the difference between the needs of his spiritual children and their selfish wants and desires. The bottom line to the application of servant leadership is that we don't emulate the examples of the world; our example is Jesus, who came as a servant. Therefore, our mission is to serve one another, to give of ourselves selflessly. Christ came to give His life. We are to give of our lives not only in service to Him but to our fellow man, including those in the church and outside it (Mark 12:31). **BB**

*But it shall not be so among you:
but whosoever will be great among
you, let him be your minister;
And whosoever will be chief among
you, let him be your servant:
Even as the Son of man came not to
be ministered unto, but to minister,
and to give his life a ransom for
many.*

Matthew 20: 26-28





True
WOMANHOOD
— F E L L O W S H I P —
A MINISTRY OF BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

EMBRACING THE CROSS

Sis. May Pedico

*Come, and see the victories of the cross.
Christ's wounds are thy healings, His agonies thy repose,
His conflicts thy conquests, His groans thy songs, His pains thine ease, His shame thy glory,
His death thy life, His sufferings thy salvation. MATTHEW HENRY*

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).

Many can memorize this text in the Holy Scripture. Ponder and place your heart in it, and by then you will realize how deep and powerful it is. Heftier and meaningful than you just read! When you are insincere and unprepared, you might cease to utter it audibly one more time. Convicted, you'll be ashamed.

Apostle Paul boldly said that he was crucified with Christ, therefore, it is not him who lives in his body, rather it is Christ who lives in him. And so with us, too, who committed our lives to Jesus. We, who claimed we surrendered our everything to Him. Yes, it is not us anymore, but Christ. As we live now, boldly declaring that we are believers of Christ, whatever our crosses are in this momentary life, we have to embrace it.

“Embracing the cross means death. You look upon Jesus...forsaking your old life and pursuing to please Jesus...My old self died with him, my old life, my desire, my self-righteous life, my ego, my self-will, all that I value, the religion that I am graced. All that I was before, died with Christ”, Pastor Ian Alix, our speaker for the event stressed out in his preaching.

Embracing the Cross was the great theme on April 20, 2018, a remarkable day of our 9th True Womanhood Fellowship Anniversary Celebration! Cheerfully dressed in shades of red are the women of Back to the Back Baptist Church to celebrate the annual event held in J5 Rimal Hotel at the heart of Deira this year.

Opening prayer led by an elder and hymnal songs played with wonderful musical instruments were the groundwork of the program. Fun games by group or individual were enjoyed by everyone. The Message in a soft tone of voice was captivating and strongly conveyed by our speaker.

The program concluded with the women jotting down their piece of prayer in a small coloured paper and putting them all in four separate crystal prayer jars labelled with worry, fear, happiness, grateful. Who won't burst into tears when you pour out your heart to the Lord in prayer? The room was silenced with reflection and tears of women! Broken-hearted and revived, we went home with renewed spirit and vivid perspective. That is to serve the Lord given favoured opportunity and luxurious time.

We brought home the challenge. Do we happily embrace the cross? Else, are we yet ready to embrace it?

TW ACTIVITIES

Blessed by wisdom and prompted by God the Holy Spirit, since the ministry started, the leadership of the ministry were able to spawn various activities meant for women to mug up the Word of God and relish the fellowship. To name some are Prayer Mosaic and Ice Cream Party, Bridal and Baby Showers, TW Fair, Fun Run, Girl-Gone-Wise small group book study and Friday School.



TW 9th Anniversary

We have just finished the study of women of the Bible ending up with the Proverbs 31 Woman. The leadership believed that it is essential to know the female characters of the bible – their strengths and weaknesses. In knowing their stories, many of them inspired and fashioned us to trace their exemplary deeds while others made us felt sorry and crafted us to avoid in trailing the same mistakes again. Life is too short to learn through such by of our own experience.

As we study their characters, we've learned to love and embrace them. So to speak, we adore the courage of Sarah, Rachel, Miriam, Rahab, Esther and Deborah. It made us admire the devotion of Hannah, Ruth, Dorcas, Lydia, Priscilla, Lois, Eunice, Phoebe, Huldah and the Proverbs 31 Woman. Desiring the wisdom of Jochebed, Jael, Abigail and Zipporah are what many of our heart voices, if not all. We are apologetic for Eve, Rebekah, Delilah, Orpah, the wild woman of Proverbs 7 and Jezebel. These are just few!

More so, we became knowledgeable of the stories of women who met Jesus in the New Testament – hopeless, deprived, lonesome, blemished, or hollow. In a realm of high outlooks, it's natural for ladies to believe that they are worthless. But, there is someone who loves women just as they are, favoured to meet there necessities. Yes, He is no other than Jesus. We

heard the story of Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the Samaritan woman at the well, Peter's mother-in-law, Anna, the woman with issue of blood for 12 years, the widow with the two mites, and the crippled woman. There is an assurance that to all of them, Jesus made impacts in their life and character. As we completed our study in a span of 2 years, harking back is a good thing to do when we encounter similar situations, in different era though. **Thank you, Oh, Lord for carefully penning their accounts in Thy Holy Scripture!** Just as Jesus showered them with His everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3, John 3:16, Romans 5:8), we, too, who have Him in our lives, constantly experience the same even in our lowest and darkest moments.

The True Womanhood Fellowship continues our Friday school right after the Tagalog Worship Service in Samaya Hotel. Women members, regular attendees and visitors of our church are encouraged to be present in our current topic that is, finding intimacy with God through daily devotion. Come, join us and be blessed! **BB**

**“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me,
saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an
everlasting love: therefore with
lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”
Jeremiah 31:3**





SOJOURNING as SINGLES

Sis. Nessica Almadilla

Colossians 1:10 - "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

Indeed, it is a blessing to belong to a Christian group, the kind group that supports each other through God's words and prayers.

BBC's singles ministry is called Christian Sojourners. Its goal includes strengthening our faith by serving God. Every first Friday and third Wednesday of the month, we have our regular fellowship which is usually held in Manama Villa 7 or sometimes we go out in other places to explore and see God's beautiful creation.

One of the missions of Sojourners is to continually offer our services in holding small group Bible studies and fellowships to serve the spiritual needs of the singles and reach out the lost including our families, friends and neighbors.

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

Prayer Watch – Zabeel Park November 10, 2017

In the middle of Zabeel Park, we were sitting, singing melodies and having short devotion led by Bro. Rued Almadilla. The topic of the devotion is in **Luke 7:50, "And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."** We are reminded that no matter how great or small our sins are, if we have faith and willing to do what we can for His service, God will forgive and give us peace." After the devotion, we proceeded to our prayer time. First we prayed by partner and ended the night with a group prayer led by leaders. We had our dinner snack and played "pasahang bola". **I really felt the joy, love and peace in my heart.**



**Abra Fellowship
February 2, 2018**

It was a cold breezy night. We were about 20 members. We took a boat ride from Bur Dubai Abra Station to Deira Old Souk Station. We walked around, did sightseeing and captured the moment taking pictures. After we strolled in the place, we headed toward Twin Towers to eat Shabu-shabu for dinner. It was surely pleasant to fellowship with God’s wonderful people and as well, to see and enjoy the wonderful creation of God.

Colossians 1:16 "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

**CSJ Anniversary – Manama Villa 7
July 6, 2018**

“The Gospel of Peace”

It was my first time to attend the Sojourners Anniversary. We started the program by welcoming visitors, then singing praises unto the Lord. We also had some ice breakers where we got to know more about our fellow Sojourners. We also had special song numbers from our talented members. First to share his testimony was Bro. Arturo Romano. I was able to share my own testimony, too, on how God worked in my life and how He changed me. We listened to the preaching delivered by Pastor Ian Alix, with our theme, “The Gospel of Peace”, reminding us to glorify God by serving Him and by extending our love towards other people by sharing to them the Good News.

Romans 10:15 “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? “As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

We had boodle fight for dinner. A blessed night full of joy! Oh, what a thrill that I feel when I get together with God’s wonderful people! **BB**

“To love God and to love the mission is also to love people.” –Pastor. Ian Alix



We Said,
“I Do,”
The 2nd Time

GAMEO COUPLES MINISTRY
Reaffirmation of Vows

Sis. Arriane Intal





*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother,
and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Genesis 2:24*

When God created Adam to be the husband of Eve, God said it is very good. Here, we learned that the first marriage is ordained by God.

Last December 29, 2017, Barracuda Resort of Um Al Quwain...

The sunset on the shore, the crisp weather...it's a heavenly feeling.

More than 30 beautiful couples from the 40-year married to the youngest couple of 4months marched in the aisle to Reaffirm their Marriage in the Altar. Some of the couples though married for long years, haven't had a Christian wedding. It's a refresh; feels like a first time experience.

The Grooms marched first on the aisle followed by all kids who are also part of the entourage as flower girls and escorts. They showered our aisle with flowers.

And here comes the Bride, I mean the Brides! Beautiful Brides marched on with their best white gown, welcomed by their own wedded husband. Every couple meet up is unique. We all cheer for each other. Orchestrated by the Lord were the melodies played by the Music Ministry to the very detailed entourage of our dear Sis. Jonah dela Peña's Events and Creations Team and the well prepared Coordinator team. Aren't we so blessed to have every need available and savings are big!

We were reminded of the following points by our facilitator, Pastor Erwin Concepcion:
Symbolic,
Reaffirmation than a Renewal,
A covenant than a Certificate, and
A love triangle, the Husband and the Wife and Jesus Christ.

The exchange of Vows becomes so emotional for each couple. Many had teary eyes, some laughed. You can see others how they embrace each other. The tantalizing eyes of each bride, I may say that the grooms are the ones who shed more tears.

Our Pastor Ian Alix's wife who happened to be in the homeland by that time, the celebration for him was a surprised recorded film presented as Sis. Sherylle read her vows to him.

Good picture taking for the sweet remembrance as the sun kissed the shore goodnight.

At the reception, there the ceremony continued as the traditional Toss, the cutting of cake, the good food and laughs as our Emcees of the night, Bro. Rued Almadilla and Sis. Klariss Bergonio aided the couple games.

The event just ended with a blast! Bro. Rued, also one of our deacons, proposed a marriage to her girlfriend Sis. Klariss. We were all equally surprised just as the Bride-to-be. Exhilarating joy for the future couple. Then our Bro. Nelson called everybody to go back to the sand and enjoy the picture taking and the ambience of the shore. A group of girls set up Sis. Gillian who was clueless about what and who awaited her, her future Husband, Bro. Arthur pronounced his love and asked her to marry him. And she said, "Yes!" Isn't love so Amazing? It's contagious. We celebrated the night as Jesus is the reason of this bliss!

Everyone's in tears of Joy. We sang happy songs. What a beautiful day, believing that there is rejoicing in Heaven, too. Each as a couple said goodnight to each other's arm. **BB**



PRESSING
MUSIC
INTO *His*
VINEYARD

Sis. Khaye Fernandez

“Music is good, but Jesus is better;
Music isn’t life, Christ is.”

BOB KAUFLIN

Whether you have musical background or not, whether you are musically inclined or just simply a pursuer of service to God, you are welcome and encouraged to explore the gifts God gave for us to discover. Whatever ministry is ageless. It is never too early nor too late to learn something new and get involved in ministries. As long as you still have the strength, the willingness to learn and to share, the availability, and the commitment, no one will ever be deprived of the opportunity to serve the King of kings.

Music Class

Last May 2018, Bro. Sid Guiang, the church choir conductor, started the music classes. We began with definition of terms then the three aspects of music - melody, rhythm and harmony, and we went on to basic note reading, note duration and chord reading. From the simple notes of do-re-mi or C-D-E, to following different key signatures, everyone who attended the class - young and old - were challenged by a lot of exercises given as seat works and on-the-spot recitations. Present too are attendees who already finished their music classes before but still joined for a refresher course. These classes lasted for nearly two months which are absolutely free.

Instrument Lesson

After completing the music lectures, the class was divided into groups on the basis of instrument that the participants want to be trained with - flute, violin, viola - to name a few. Our time is so limited as the church anniversary practices is fast approaching, hence, we are not able to have other instrument lessons that require a lot of study time. Head of each instrument were assigned to lead the second leg of the workshop.

The struggle is evident - the gasps, creeping bows, twisted fingers - but seen as well is the hardwork, and so is the progress along the way. Needless to say that the difficulty of learning to play an instrument would require an amount of patience and time to practice to be able to master the craft. Throughout the learning process, it is reminded that all of what were acquired here are not intended for self-gain, so it is only but right to offer it back to God for His glory.

BBBC 13th Anniversary Music Dedication

The choir offered five songs - *Share His Love*, *Written in Red*, *Love Medley*, *He's Been Faithful*, and *To God be the Glory*. Months of practices are all worth it to pour our hearts in praising God. As musicians and singers of the Lord, we press the music into His vineyard to offer thanksgiving and to testify what unsurpassed and unfathomable love He has for mankind.

Through the message of the songs, we share His love - that He who created the galaxy, left the splendor of heaven (clothed in flesh, beaten for our healing, experienced and conquered death to give us life) - saying "I love you", written in red on the cross.

If that isn't love, then heaven's a myth. The earth is void. The ocean is dry. There're no stars in the sky. And despite of this great love, there are still days we selfishly spend to reach out for what only please us but still, He's been faithful, and He always will.

We celebrated our 13th Church anniversary on the same day as our beloved head pastor, Pastor Erwin Concepcion's birthday. We gave him a little tribute by some playing and some singing, the song "I See Jesus In You". Truly, Pastor Erwin's life radiates the light of Christ. And that's exactly the life that the world should see in us.

Each day, we witness the world's sadness, sickness, brokenness and darkness. We cannot blame if the world is wasting away and dying, but we will be accountable if we will not fill it up with the light and hope that is in us. The world is undeniably rotting but there is beauty in the One who holds it. There is only One who can satisfy hunger and quench thirst - the Bread of Life and the Living Water; And we should make Him known. Though we know music doesn't bring salvation, we somehow relay God's message to people and affirm Him and His grace through psalms and hymns. **To God be the glory! BB**






Prayer Watch



THE BEAUTY OF GODLY TEACHING

Sis. Corazon Napinas



I have many friends who took up Education degree and all have passions for teaching. According to them, a teacher is a noble profession. When I became Christian, I came to realize that being a teacher is a service to God. And I thank the Lord for blessing me a heart to be part of Lord's Young Flock ministry or LYF.

A child without knowledge of God is like a bird without wings. He cannot fly; it is like having no hope, for he does not know who to trust for help. But teaching him that there is God who truly loves him, and a saving faith in Jesus Christ brings all hopes to him.

On the 19th of January 2018, I attended the LYF seminar entitled 'Teaching with Heart'. During the seminar, the answer to the question, *"why should we teach or why do we need to teach?"* enlightens my mind. **Proverbs 22:6** says: **"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"**. Sister Remedios Concepcion, LYF head teacher highlighted the importance of teaching God's word to children. She emphasized that for you to be used by God through teaching is a big privilege to serve Him. We have learned that in this present time the devil is waging a cultural

and spiritual war to destroy the children through sexual sins, drugs, humanism, violence and crimes, abuse, cults, witchcraft and is becoming more dangerous. We are taught that to defeat the negative impulse of the world, the child should response to the wise counsel and Godly instruction. I also learned that godly parenting is vital as it strengthens faith and so the child will not depart from the faith in Jesus Christ. The child will then become submissive, recognizing Jesus as a sovereign God and the authority over his life. Thus, it yields obedience to God and so a child will know what is right from wrong. The seminar has reminded me that God does not require intelligence, but He wants our precious time, devotion and a willing heart to say yes and to trust Him to do the rest. An encouraging passage in the bible says **'if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him'** James 1: 4.

Sister Jane Mejila demonstrated the different teaching techniques that can aid us in getting the attention and interest of children. She imparted that effort is crucial so she suggested using varieties of teaching methods. Also, she

did highlight the need to make the children feel comfortable so we can later disciple them in their faith. I have learned that visual aids like pictures can be of great advantage. It can also be more interesting to incorporate music where they can sing Godly songs together. Give the children memory verses which they can recite repeatedly but do not force them instead encourage them to participate by inviting them to share what they know so to make them feel that they belong. Lastly, be a self-sacrificing teacher by being patient, loving, and understanding on the challenges you may face from teaching children.

Teaching is a gift and a desire, it says in 1 Corinthians 12:28a, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, **thirdly teachers...**" Jesus Christ is the greatest and perfect example who can teach difficult things in ways that make us easy to understand. And Jesus Christ is speaking and teaching us through those words found in the Holy Bible. **To God be the glory!**

A testimony to tell (LYF Pre-school Friday School)

From Sis .Ella

It was a great privilege to be part of applying what the proverbs says – to train up the children in the way they should go so that when they grow up they will not depart from whatever they have learned. I am so blessed to be paired with my co-teacher Sis. Azon. Though this may be challenging for her for being new in this ministry, still she imparted

her good service with the help of our Great God. Being a Friday school teacher is quite difficult but somehow rewarding. It is not simply excerpting a story and let them hear the contents but for them to truly realize the real message of God's words and His promises through them at their very young age. I feel rewarded whenever these children responded with enthusiasm in every Bible activities. Though these students have different personalities that are sometimes hard to manage but the joy that fills our hearts are immeasurable in value. We had witnessed their growth as some of them volunteered to lead the prayer, others actively recited the memory verses with hand motions, and assisted their classmates during arts time. We really enjoyed those lessons that we shared that will surely be part of our testimonies someday.

In this generation, most of the children were fond of just having their gadgets and room around to break their boredom. Learning-by-playing with the word of God is one of the key to divert their attentions as well as to lead them in the path that they have to reach. Having this ministry is as not just a simple as nursing them but disciplining them to be more like Christ just like what we desire also. This humble ministry of Lord's Young Flock is one of the experiences that we will surely treasure in our life. **BB**



A bed time prayer by Shem and Noie Nena (LYF Pre-school students)

*Lord thank you for this day,
Oh Lord.*

Lord please heal the sick ones Lord.

*Lord guide us as in our sleep Lord, so
We can be safe Lord: Me and My
family.*

*Please listen to our prayer Lord, help
us that We can sleep Lord.*

*Please help us to be comfortable
Lord.*

*Help also others that they can sleep
well Lord.*

*Lord bless us when we wake up in
the morning Lord.*

Please protect us, Oh Lord.

In Jesus name I pray. Amen.





13th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

The **LOVE** *for* JESUS

Sis. Erlani Maningat



It is stated in John 15:13, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends, and Jesus did it for us, He gave His life a ransom for many, so we could live eternally with the Father. He did not ask for anything in return, he never asked for any payment or good deeds.

Out of great love, Jesus has given us His life, what can you do for Jesus to show your love for Him? Are you ready to follow Jesus to show your love for Him? He said in Luke 9:23, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Are you willing to die to follow Jesus? Dying means "giving up ourselves." It's a call to absolute surrender. He said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?" (Luke 9:24-25). Although the call is strong, the reward is incomparable.

To show Jesus our love and follow Him is easily when life runs smoothly; our true commitment to Him is revealed during trials. When you lost your job, when you have conflict with your partner in life, or your business failed or you are in deep pain of losing your loved one, can you still tell God that you love Him? Jesus assured us that trials will come to His followers (John 16:33). Following Jesus demands sacrifice, and Jesus never hid that cost.

How far can we go in showing Jesus that you love Him? Or should I ask, "Do you love really Jesus?"

The View

Afternoon of October 13, 2017, 1:00 PM to be exact, the big hall of Carlton Palace Hotel opened for BBBC members and visitors. BBBC lady members walked with their black long gown and maroon tops while men on suits with maroon tie. Boys and girls followed with same attire as reflection of their parents. Like the previous celebrations, we always give emphasis on reaching out for lost souls. After the registration, all visitors who have not heard the good news yet are being witnessed by the Evangelism team. Men and women gathered for group's prayer asking for God's guidance and wisdom in making the event successful and that He may be glorified. A well-organized program prepared by the program committee, wherein each number or part of the program is performed well: the congregational singing, special numbers, choir performance, testimonies and most of all the preaching of the word delivered by our beloved Pastor Erwin Concepcion.

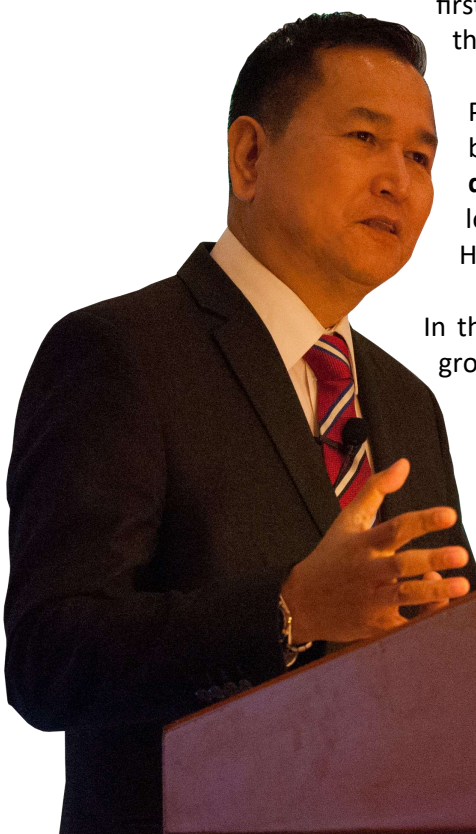
The program started and finished as scheduled. Good number of visitors arrived as well and great numbers have been blessed d that showed during the altar call. When the program is through, sumptuous dinner with wide range of food is served that marks the closing of the event.

The Message

God's message about Love for Jesus is delivered by Pastor Erwin Concepcion, Senior Pastor of Back to the Bible Baptist Church. The message is taken from the book of John 14:15-24 entitled, "Love of God Cross Examined". Pastor Erwin started the message by urging everyone that if we truly love the Lord our God, we should cross examine our hearts and to start with, he provided his first point as "The Challenge to the Believer". Verse 15 starts with the word "Love" as what God states in Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37-40 that we should love God with all our heart, and with all our soul and with all our mind. He mentions that it is everyone's desire to love God and seek for His help and protection. He even states that Jesus has different view of love (to those who love Him), as in 1 John 2:4 saying, **"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him."** Jesus said if we love him we should keep His commandments. He ended the first point by asking the congregation if they have tried examining themselves if they truly love Jesus, if they love God and if they have the Holy Spirit.

Point number two speaks about the identity of the believer. The mark of true believers is those who fear the Lord. **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10)**. Fear means reverence or big respect to God. True believer loves reading the Word of God and knowing God's commandment or words. He loves God's instruction and focus on that instruction and keeps them.

In the last point, the Guarantee of true Believer is expounded. A true Believer will grow in God's Word, as mentioned in the verse "If a man loves me, he will keep my Words". People's lives change because of the Word of God and they will be guided by God through the Holy Spirit. Those whom Jesus knows will enjoy the protection of God's power and blessing.





For Jesus said in **John 10:27-28**, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand”.

We should have that kind of relationship with God. We should surrender our life to Him. We should keep in our hearts the Word that we read every day so we can have the protection of the Lord. In John 14:6 God guaranteed us of our salvation thru His Son Jesus. Pastor Erwin urges us to examine ourselves and not waste the opportunity to have a relationship with the Father. We should not underestimate God; He can do everything, anything.

No matter what problem we are facing today, Jesus is still and will always be waiting for us because He loves us. Just repent of our sins and He will forgive us and will restore His love to us.

Our Heart

As believers, God has given us a new heart, a soft and pure heart to love Him as what **Mark 12:30** said, “**And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.**” First and foremost, the emphasis is given to the “heart”, so in making our heart ready we should know where our passions are set, what motivates us or occupies our time, for where our affections are there our hearts will be.

However, we all must admit that, even if we already have a changed and renewed life, we still have some problems when it comes to matters of heart. God prefers a clean and pure heart always ready to glorify Him so He can freely bless our lives abundantly. For us to maintain the newness of our heart, we must keep our heart turned to God and seek purity, loving Him with our whole heart, for God looks at the heart.

The Challenge

It is so easy to say we love Jesus, but to apply it or proved it is somehow difficult especially when we are on a brink of trials and struggles in life especially when all your plans and everything you have been doing failed. When the person you expected to love you has wronged you and mistreated you, when you feel alone and no one to turn to, will you say, you still love Jesus? Or am I loved by God?

The Bride of Christ will be comprised of those who have given up trying to find help, solace, comfort or satisfaction from anything on this earth. True believers learn to depend wholly on the One they love which is Jesus, to fully satisfy their every hunger and thirst, for Jesus is the bread and the living water. Love the Word to love Jesus. Stay passionately and zealously in love with Jesus — and trust him to manifest himself in his fullness to you. **BB**



HIS MASTERPIECE

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT MINISTRY

Sis. Junila Salundagit

“To be in this ministry, patience is a required characteristic because it is not easy to just arrange flowers. You have many things to consider and it takes time to create a masterpiece” - Sis. Lovell

The term *masterpiece* originally referred to a piece of work produced by an apprentice aspiring to become a master craftsman. Probing deeper to its origin or etymology, the word is a combination of the two words *master* and *piece* which translates to a work by which a craftsman attains the rank of master. Sis. Catherine Concepcion would shy away to the idea of being called a master florist but everyone would agree that she is a faithful servant of the Lord and willing to share her gifts to anyone who has the heart to serve through the flower arranging ministry.

Sis. Catherine started being involved in this ministry when the church had known that she was an Interior Designer and had been given the task to arrange flowers every Friday. On February 23, 2018, a lecture called *Flowers for the Lord* was held at Back to the Bible Baptist Church followed by a workshop on March 1, 2018 led by Sis. Catherine. When asked what prompted her to train others, Sis. Catherine said, “I want to teach them out of my little experience. I want to let them know the joy of serving the Lord in a different kind of work that though it is fun yet your heart knows that what you are doing is solely for Him. Even in doing flowers He gets involved.”

Like any other ministries, challenges are vital parts of everyone’s spiritual growth. Sis. Corazon Napinas, Sis. Haidee Sulitas, Sis. Lovel Catil and Sis. Mabel Soriano would not consider themselves creative and yet all agreed that there are certain characteristics that this ministry calls for its members. You need to be sincere, dedicated, patient, detail oriented, have color coordination skills, and most importantly possess a teachable spirit. Apparently, the most crucial part in arranging flowers is to start. However, a beginner does not need to worry as Sis. Catherine and other brethren are always ready to encourage and support. Here are some of their advices to those who aspire to be part of this ministry:



Sis. Catherine: Drive away the fear of creating your own original designs as it will limit your skill. Express your own ideas through flowers. Forget standards. In an Artist's point of view there is nothing wrong; it is your idea of creation, you are creative. Artists break standards. Express your wildest ideas with sense.

Sis. Lovel: Always make sure to utter a prayer before you start to prepare your heart in serving Him.

Sis. Haidee: If you have a desiring heart with clean motives, God will give you wisdom and patience to finish and have a creative outcome.

Sis. Mabel: Stay humble and be of use even if people cannot see your work for the Lord.

Sis. Corazon: Learn new things/technique and consider this as part of your offering to God.



In Latin, the words *magnum opus* or *masterpiece* means great work. A collector said that a masterpiece is something that stands the test of time and is viewed as a masterpiece from generation to generation. To Sis. Lovel, flower arranging is not just any tasks, she added, "You need to think about the color coordination and even the materials needed. You also need to consider the concept of your arrangement. We also need to be sensitive while arranging flowers. We should consider every flower's life span. As much as possible we need to preserve its beauty and make it last for several days. So we should treat each piece of the flower with grace and care because we want to offer the best to God. And for ourselves, we have to possess a humble heart. Always bear in mind and in heart that we are arranging those flowers for the glory of God and not to boast."

A florist's hands are likened to our own Creator's hands. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10). We are God's masterpiece. We are the product of the will and work of God. Like a florist who never ceases to arrange, cut, nourish his own masterpiece, the Lord will continue His work in us (Philippians 1:6). We are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. **BB**



2017-2018



October 2017
13th Church Anniversary



November 2017
English Worship Service



LYF - Teens Ministry



November 2017
Technical Team Workshop



February 2017
Bible Doctrine Class



OCT—NOV



DEC—JAN



FEB—MAR



November 2017
Abu Dhabi Mission Worship Service



December 2017
Desert Camp Retreat—Al Qudra



Lord's Young Flock Ministry



October 2017
Gameo Ministry Fellowship



December 2017
Gameo's Reaffirmation of Vows in Barracuda Resort Umm Al Quain





Bible Class—Doctrine of the Enemy (Satan)



Discipleship—
Making Jesus Known



April 2018
King's Men and True
Womanhood 9th Anniversary



Bible Study @
Dubai Investment Park
Accommodation



July 2018
Sojourners 13th Anniversary



APR—MAY



JUN—JUL



AUG—SEP



May 2018
Sis. Sherly's Farewell



July 2018
Music Lesson in Manama Villa



Flower Arrangement Training



June 2018
Eid Family Sportfest



Abu Dhabi Mission—Fellowship

The History Behind

BACK TO THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR ERWIN CONCEPCION

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

1998

How It Started

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

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

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

How It Grow

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

2004

How It Became A Church

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

Encountering Struggles

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

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

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

**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.

2007

**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).

2017

**The Church
Today**

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

**The Church
Vision**

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

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

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

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

Revelation 4:11


<https://www.thebbbc.org>

VISIT



INFLUENCING THE GLOBE, ONLINE

Bro. Angelito Malilay

The www.thebbbc.org is live and accessible online, ready to battle in the virtual world, to connect and reach out people all over the world. The website now enters the online world in sharing the good news, proclaiming the truth and also its contents serve as an example for Christians who are living in this modern age of technology. The www.thebbbc.org also becomes an instrument to lead people who are seeking or searching for a local Church in UAE. We are glad to know that some of the attendees of the church are able to find Back to the Bible Baptist Church by searching online and landing in the BBBC website. They are now worshipping our Lord with us. Isn't that amazing? God works everywhere. The BBBC Website is always easily accessible and searchable in google or in any search engines in the internet around the globe.

It is an inspiration for the BBBC Burning Bush Team that the www.thebbbc.org is being used by God to help people find a place to worship Him and to grow as believers. Remotely, the website also allows people from other countries to hear the good news through audio-video sermons and other Christian related articles. Learning the Scripture and knowing the Saviour, Jesus Christ is made possible for them. Truly it is astonishing! God works in different ways to show His mercy and love for His people wherever they are. Indeed, God will be known throughout the world through online technology and it is a battle to use the technology wisely for the Glory of God.

Let's continue to support and share the BBBC Website to our family members, friends, relatives and all the people who are always connected to the internet. Indeed, we can take part in making God known by using every available online technology in social media network like Facebook, Instagram, etc. Through this, the Lord Jesus Christ will be exalted all over the world.

*Philippians 2:10-11 says,
"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father".*

"The Internet, like the steam engine, is a technological breakthrough that changed the world." Peter Singer

But it is written: Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Brothers and sisters, let's give value and importance to the Word of God, having the opportunity in the online world technology. Let's take advantage of it to spread and share the good news, only for God's glory. Let's serve as examples! **Let's carry on influencing the globe, online!** Remember your labor is not in vain in the Lord... 1 Corinthians 15:58. **BB**

First of all, I would like to thank the Lord Jesus Christ for His grace and mercy to us every day. As Christians, we are tasked to serve our King in ministries that will benefit the body of Christ, the Church. It is a privilege and an opportunity for every Christian to humbly serve by sharing the Gospel, and the life changing testimonies of many believers to the lost. Reaching them out in many ways possible, even through the modern technology like the internet which paves way to reach far and wide to the "world outside", what is known as the "Online World". Experts call the virtual world of technology.

The Back to the Bible Baptist Church is aware that we are living in the modern age of Online World. Christians are also using various online social media platforms to communicate with other people. Though it is not a secret that using online technology exposes users to many unknown dangers, but by the mercies of God it is also being use to reach more and more people to hear His Good News. That is why the BBBC Website www.thebbbc.org was launched under the support and effort of the Burning Bush Team.

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



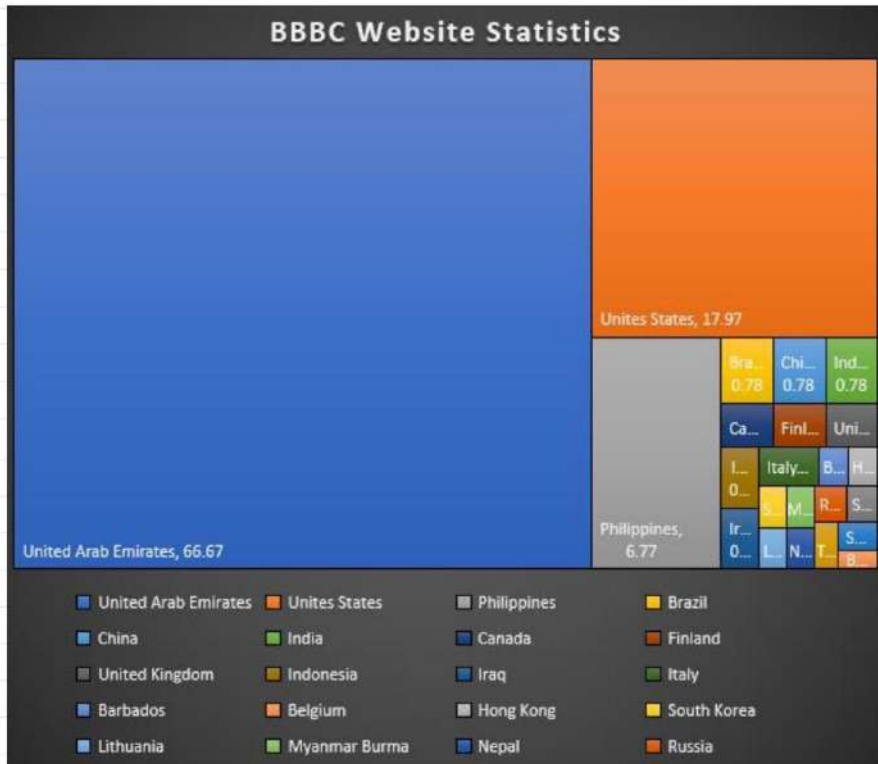
14th Anniversary Sowing and Reaping

PSALM 126:5-6

2018

Country	Users	Sessions	Pages / Session	Avg. Session Duration	% New Sessions
	381 % of Total: 100.00% (381)	608 % of Total: 100.00% (608)	3.48 Avg for View: 3.48 (0.00%)	00:02:41 Avg for View: 00:02:41 (0.00%)	61.35% Avg for View: 61.35% (0.00%)

1. United Arab Emirates
2. United States
3. Philippines
4. Brazil
5. China
6. India
7. Canada
8. Finland
9. United Kingdom
10. Indonesia
11. Iraq
12. Italy
13. Barbados
14. Belgium
15. Hong Kong
16. South Korea
17. Lithuania
18. Myanmar (Burma)
19. Nepal
20. Russia
21. Singapore
22. Trinidad & Tobago
23. South Africa



2018 Geographical updates: the latest statistic of Back to the Bible Baptist Church website keeps increasing. Truly, God continuously works! All Glory to Him!



Health & Wellness

Sis. Cherrie Toquero

A healthy body creates a healthy mind.

I recently spent time updating a list I have of scriptures related to health and wellness. It now includes over sixty six verses and I believe they're just what I need to keep me motivated to stay fit, healthy and disciplined.

3 John 1:2, Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

If you value your relationship with God, it's likely that you are taking good care of your health. To truly understand the importance of establishing health by making a healthy food choices and habits, you need to ask yourself. Why do I need to eat? (Note the use of the word "need" not "want".)

We eat to supply our bodies with nutrients such as carbohydrates, protein, fat, vitamin and minerals. These food supplies the body with fuel for energy, aid in tissue growth & repair, act in various biochemical reactions and much more. If you put the right food, it will run well to your body but will deteriorate overtime if you neglect their basic fueling needs.

Why should I strive for a healthy lifestyle? At some point in your life, you will be faced with realization that health of your body is the determining factor for what kind of lifestyle you can lead. The choices you make each day – from what you eat for breakfast to whether or not to have extra slice of pie or cake, affect how you feel and how you perform, which as you may be able to guess affects everything you do. Exercise and healthy eating improves our health significantly. We can be sure we are doing God's will if we

work out with the right motives. Our primary purpose in life is to glorify God and one reason to do it is when we care for our body and live a healthy lifestyle.

Isaiah 40: 29-31(KJV) He giveth power to the faint & to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint & be weary and in the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

Let's challenge ourselves to come up with some new healthy eating habits everyday and put them to good use, like drinking more water or using mustard on your sandwiches rather than mayonnaise. Instead of focusing to cut out unhealthy foods you eat like processed foods, sweets, soda, candy and junk foods, it is easy and safe to start by adding more healthy foods in your diet such as fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean meats, low fat or skimmed dairy products (butter, milk, cheese), nuts and legumes. This way you will slowly be replacing your bad diet with a healthy diet and will not be left with huge, gaping void where your unhealthy foods once were, and as you start filling up on healthier foods you'll have an easier time letting go of some of your most coveted unhealthy foods.

If you found these basic tips helpful, here's the most important advice: A healthy lifestyle begins with a healthy body. Don't leave your health to chance. Acts 1:8 states that being healthy is being a good witness for other people while Ephesians 2:10 focuses on, we are God's masterpiece. We all know that the more fit and healthy we are the more energy we will have to do God's work. **BB**



KNOWING THE ENEMY

DOCTRINE OF SATAN

Bro. Rued Almadilla

IS SATAN REAL?

IS HE A MYTH, A LEGEND OR JUST A FIGMENT OF OUR IMAGINATION?



Is Satan real? Is he a myth, a legend or just a figment of our imagination? There are various beliefs concerning the existence of this being. Some do not take him seriously. He is even being caricatured as a medieval creature dressed in red, with two horns, pointed tail and a pitchfork. There are those who consider him as a harmless old guy with some obnoxious characteristics. While others conclude that he is just a pretend being who symbolizes evil but does not really exist.

Although many doubt his existence, the Bible is very clear that he is a real living being. The Word of God refers to Satan as the enemy of God and His believers and not merely a figurative image of evil.

In the book of Job, he is referred as a person who speaks and reasons (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7). The temptation in the wilderness is recorded in the New Testament as historical fact, just like any other event in Jesus' life (Matthew 4:1-11). That being said, studying the Bible; particularly the doctrine of Satan would come in handy for the believers. By examining his character and identity, we can come to know how this "wicked one" works so we would not be deceived by his subtle scheme.

Back to Bible Baptist Church – Dubai has taken the opportunity to learn deeper truths as the Doctrine class being led by Pastor Erwin Concepcion started. This study aims to encourage the brethren to learn doctrines that will enable us to be watchful of the enemy's tactics. The lesson includes his origin, personality, names, activities and limitations and how believers can overcome him. The origin of Satan can be found in the book of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 28:1-19) and Isaiah (Isaiah 14:12-15). As related by Ezekiel, he is full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (v.12) and has been in Eden (v.13). He is described as a skilled musician and the anointed cherub (v.13-14).

In Isaiah, he is called Lucifer and his five foolish "I wills" brought him to his fall. He obviously wanted to be God and it was his pride that led to his eternal judgment.

Satan has personality. He possesses intelligence and he uses it for deception and manipulation. His subtleness beguiled Eve to disobey God (2 Corinthians 11:3). He also has memory. He even knows the Holy Scripture very well. For instance, he quoted the Scripture to Jesus to tempt him. The organizational ability of this enemy is really great as well. He has led the first rebellion and even persuaded one-third of heaven's angel to side with him (Revelation 12:4). He will also lead the last rebellion against God (Revelation 20:7-9).

His many names suggest his characteristics. The name Satan means "Adversary" and it was used some fifty-times in the Scripture. The devil, on the other hand, means slanderer. He accuses God to believers and believers to God. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, he is referred as god of this world who blinds the mind of the unbelievers. He is a spiritual being who is the ruler of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). He is also called in other parts of the Word of God as the deceiver (Revelation 20:10), the wicked one (Matthew 13:38), the tempter (1 Thessalonians 3:5) and the Dragon (Revelation 12:7).

Satan is very zealous and his activities include imitating God. He wants to be God that is why he has his own false trinity, false synagogues, doctrines, angels (demons), and miracles. He sows tares among the God's wheat (Matthew 13:24-30). He instigates false doctrine and perverts the Word of God by taking it out of context, misinterpretation and over-stressing or under stressing one side of the doctrine.

Many thought that Satan is in hell right now, sitting on a throne and laughing forcibly while people are being tormented. Although Satan is more powerful than human being but he is actually limited in his power. He is even destined to be punished at the time appointed by God. He is not omnipotent, not omnipresent and not omniscient (1 John 4:4).

We should not underestimate what Satan can do. On the other hand, as we study deeper the Word of God, we understand that we can be victorious over him. Many verses in the scripture explain how we can overcome him (James 4:7, Ephesians 4:27, Ephesians 6:10-17).

As believers, we need to equip ourselves by knowing the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy. Having the understanding how he takes advantage of the feebleness of human will help us to be prepared at all times. **BB**

THE EXQUISITENESS OF WINTER

BBBC OUTDOOR CAMP

Sis. May Pedico



In Middle East countries just like United Arab Emirates, there are only two seasons: summer and winter. Dubai is one of UAE's seven emirates. A hot desert climate will inevitably greet you from morning until night time. Summer in Dubai is scorching, sometimes windy, and more than often humid with an average high of about 41 °C. Its peak days reach 50 °C. Contemplate feasibly how hot it is!

So then, 8 months of summer caused us to look forward for winter by which having 4 months as difference. During winter, various works, hobbies and recreational adventures can be done outdoors, dissimilar to summertime. Family picnics in the park and great outdoor camps on winter are just examples. And so, everyone is waiting for it.

O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker (Psalm 95:6). It was on December 1, 2017, Friday, BBBC worshipped the Lord in the beauty of His holiness. To save time, without further ado we headed to Al Qudra campsite right after the worship service. Geared up with our full dry-winter costumes and readily prepared packed foods. Yes, for several years, we haven't held outdoor camp! I mean, installing tents in a campsite. This made everyone enthusiastic! From Lord's Young Flocks to adult, there are many new campers.

Far-flung spot from the city, made some of us got lost on the way. Even so, it was never a stoppage to enjoy the camp. Not that long while, we reached our destination. Arriving in the campsite at about 3-4PM, with the sun still up brethren enjoyed displaying gestures for unlimited shots next to going down from the vehicles. Beautiful lake with desert trees in a cool winter breeze! What a stunning sight to behold! A cool feeling to be thrilled! **O LORD, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches (Psalm 104:24).**

We walked toward the campsite, roughly of King's Men were busy constructing their tents. Numbers of True Women were engaged in making dinner. Many adults and kids still tried to strikingly pose. They wanted to capture lovely photos in front of the activity logo banner. Others had naps. Views of women conversing over cups of coffee are available, as well. Each was busy in his own way. Very soon, attractive and colourful tents erected in cluster.

When the bright light from the sun turned dark, we gladly had our dinner altogether. It was dim. What brightened us were the burning logs in the midst of the tents and rechargeable lamps and flashlights placed in midst of every groups sitting together. Pastor Erwin gave a short devotion. Pinning one's

ear back to the Word of God wherever and whenever probable, brings delight. **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success (Joshua 1:8).**

The night ended up with inspiring Christian hymns sang by everyone. **Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Ephesians 5:19).** Wide-mouth smiles were visible. Laughters were audible. Both are indications of the jubilant hearts. What a night to remember! **Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! (Psalm 133:1).** The cold and calm night zephyr caressed everyone good-night. Our loving God protected all campers.

The next day, fresh breeze woke us up. God created another beautiful morning. Sweet aroma of food made us hungry. Hot served breakfast filled our stomach and gave us pleasure. Ordinary and simple things experienced with the brethren brought happiness. Love is always in the air and widespread. Poses here and there and chitchats over cups of coffee are everywhere, too. Soon, it's time to bid farewell to each other. Homeward bound. Together, every one helped in dismantling the tents and fixing out things. Another memorable event was added up to each one's memory bank. A story to tell to the next generation!

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul. Psalm 103:1-2, 22

Praise God for His creations!
One of which – the exquisiteness of winter.
Enjoyed by His dear children.
We bring back the glory to our great God,
the Creator! **BB**



ROOF OFF, WALLS DOWN

“...roof off in my relationship toward God ...walls down in my relationships toward others “

As a mother of a grown up, live-out son, I have the luxury of time to reflect frequently on my life. Each time I'm alone, I read books, watch videos, or browse my social media and view other people's posts, pics and whereabouts particularly those that are dear to me. At my age now, I find it enjoyable to observe their lives and sometimes engage with them by starting a conversation or offer an (un)solicited advice or prayer—to women who are below my age. It feels easy to get involved as I often see myself to them during my younger days.

I used to be an active, ambitious young lady. I never paid attention to God or His plan in my life. I go to church and only pray a repetitive prayer. I had no idea that God has a plan of salvation in my life or anyone else's life. The thoughts of death or hell or heaven were “too serious stuff” for a young woman like me, “Well I have a lot of plans and ambitions”. I have big dreams. My name was fairly popular in the campus and consequently graduated with outstanding recognitions. And there I was, very optimistic about my college life, a freshman taking up Accountancy in De La Salle Lipa, I was too active at school, my grades were doing very well and made it to the dean's list.

I trained for Volleyball varsity and competed in inter-school competitions, besides other extracurricular activities. A competitive individual at that, I wanted to prove that I am skillful and can face any challenge a young woman can face. It was one ordinary afternoon; I got off from a jeepney and about to cross the road down to our village when I heard my name. That was my older sister on a vehicle passing by. “Deds, Deds, sama ka sa amin, may Bible Study”. “OK” I said.

When we reached at my sister's house, and entered the room, I noticed “not- so” familiar faces and a pastor was sharing that passage from the Bible about “Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16: 19-31).

I recall, we were about seven to eight people in that room but it seems that Pastor is only talking to me. The gospel message was very clear. I remembered I had accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, May 16, 1992. The message of salvation and redemption gave me peace and unexplainable joy. That assurance that I will inherit eternal life is really something “new” to me. I must admit, I got really interested in the Bible. I started attending church with the faithful invitation of my sister and my niece. I was brought to a small (mission) church where the attendees were typically young and residents of the same village. When I attended the first time, I was treated like a celebrity! (Well, I felt like it). Later I realized, they treat each and every visitor as a very important person. That's a true Christian Welcome!

My life turned upside down from an ambitious, self-righteous, achiever lady; to a childlike, eager student and servant of God. At age 18, being a Christian and a teen-ager, I felt the pressure of having to pursue my dreams the worldly way as opposed to pursuing Christ. I felt a little sensitive to the Holy Spirit.

To be honest, I was thinking about what the Lord would feel. I began to slowly decline participating in worldly activities. I knew then that the Lord was slowly transforming me and I want to be serious with my Christian life. I was eager to know more about the Bible; the more I learn from God's words through the preaching and Bible studies, the more I pursue knowing Him.

I found myself almost daily in the church studying and fellowshiping with the pastor and the workers, one of whom was Bro. Jae Celebrar. He would always encourage me to attend the church assembly because that is the key to growth he said. He would walk with me after the service and talk about the Bible and the church to make me ‘feel at home’. I started to like our conversations because they are totally opposite my orientation. His lifestyle and his manner of talking challenged my upbeat, assertive and active personality. I find him very godly, simple, straight, humble, real gentleman and knowledgeable in the Bible. I think I am attracted to him, thus looked forward that he will walk with me again, well, I call him “kuya” and I'm only 18 ok? I became actively involved in that small church and thought I can offer my talent to be the pianist and skills in doing secretarial work.

Life wasn't easy for us at that time, my mother was supervising a small canteen and income wasn't enough to finance my college education. I had to look for a job. Thankfully, I got accepted as Compensation and Benefits Assistant in the HR Department of a large manufacturing company in Paranaque even at my young age. The company allowed me to work from 6am-2pm so I can make it to my evening classes (this time I already transferred school to Letran Calamba).

God was too gracious to me, so I was able to cope with the physical stress; at the same time, maintain my college grades. During that time, the mission church was having some issues and we were summoned to move to our mother church (located in Binan). Later, our mother church pastor, Pastor Jun Mariano heard about my work in the mission church and offered me the post as Church secretary. I was

surprised. He said that he was praying for me that I will accept his offer. I agreed with no hesitation knowing that my heart longs to serve the ministry full time.

One day, my niece invited me to join a networking company selling food supplements, and one month later, I began to earn. Every month I was able to draw amounts that were unbelievably high and I was overwhelmed. Bro Jae quit his job, we bought a brand-new car and doing church work and networking at the same time. To be honest, I felt a bit of self-righteous because of my achievements; I was able to give huge offerings to church which made me feel entitled at some point. I told our pastor that I will drop my support to the church but will continue with my duties as a church worker. Slowly, busyness ate my time. After several months, I entered different business ventures. I opened up a boutique, a gift shop, a salon, a spa, and stalls in 2 different malls selling Christian books and gift items.

Slowly I started to lose my real focus; I lost a lot of money due to high rents and big overhead expenses. I wasn't managing my funds well, I eventually got broke and ended up with different loans, slowly, and I began to sink. This is not the life that God meant for His children. My sister knew about my situation and invited me to come to Dubai. It took me several months to decide because I didn't want to leave my family as Jed was only 4 years old that time. But I see that this is the only solution that I have on my hand, I had no choice but to leave. In all these times of struggle, Bro Jae was there to comfort me and assured me that we will be able to pass through this storm.

Year 2004 I landed in Dubai, I have to have a target salary in mind in order to pay for my obligations and support my family. First 3 months was a real struggle for me, I experienced home sickness and I cry to Bro. Jae every night over the phone; jobless, homesick and penniless; I have to make ends meet. I looked for part-time jobs. Friends and families helped me find home service clients for manicure-pedicure and doing massage for women so I can buy phone cards to call home. It was really very difficult. Every night I cried, I said, "Lord what did I do with my life? Forgive me for all that I have done and what I had caused my family". In the lowest point of my life, I learned a good counsel from the Bible. I never skipped church; His words were my only comfort. I learned to live humbly, simply and literally start from scratch. I was optimistic I will be able to go through this with God's help. I know God was teaching me a lesson, I have to face the consequences of my wrong decisions. My sister, Ate Elvie brought me to BBBC and I met really good people.

I allowed myself to share my skills and talents in the church and eventually became busy with the ministries. After 2 attempts, I got a challenging role at work and a good paying job. Less than a year later, Bro Jae was able to join me in Dubai. But life was more difficult. He couldn't get a permanent job. For several months we could not send a decent amount to the Philippines. Our expenses grew double because of rent and multiple visa runs. I had to look for better job opportunity I said, but thankfully year 2006 Bro. Jae got the job and we were able to fly

Jed to Dubai to live with us. We lived in a very small partition room in Deira while Jed was doing homeschool. Together Bro. Jae and I helped each other in settling our obligations in the Philippines.

Year 2010 was the first time I am going to see my family again since I left Philippines. I am finally able to see and hug my mom and all my siblings after six long years. I asked forgiveness from pastor and to all those that I've hurt. It was the same year, I was given the opportunity to attend the True Woman Conference in USA and met my online mentor, Nancy Demoss Wolgemuth whom the Lord used to teach me the greatest lessons I could learn in my life as a woman.

We are now on our 14th year in Dubai, Jed is on 12th grade and we will soon be retiring from this land. As long as the Lord uses us to His ministry we will stay wherever he wants us to be. As I look back, I realized how God has been my Guide and my Protector. He is the Living God, He cares for me and His promises are ever true.

This testimony gave me great amount of freedom. I thank the Lord that I belong to His family on earth and in heaven someday. I am a certified child of God. I felt His discipline and His loving embrace and forgiveness. These moments of lows and failures only prove that God can still rescue you if you feel that you are almost at the edge. And when He does, value that and never let it go. Brokenness is a lifestyle that takes me in two directions. It's a lifestyle vertically of living, so to speak, with the **roof off in my relationship toward God** as I walk in the light in transparent honesty and humility before Him. But it's a lifestyle that requires also that I live with the **walls down in my relationships toward others**. Live a life of brokenness because brokenness is not a onetime thing or crisis thing experience. It is continual. It is a lifestyle. **BB**

Faithfully serving under His mercy and grace,

Sis. Deds Celebrar



SURRENDERED *Lives*

Eugenio Sarte Mejila (Bro. Eugene)

We are only four in the family: my father, mother, elder sister and I. My father used to work in Saudi Arabia for 21 years. I was barely a year old when he left us. I grew up with my mother; we used to sell *suman* (glutinous rice cooked in coconut milk, wrapped in banana leaves) and cashew nuts near Antipolo church. In my elementary days I would also sell cigarettes and would do part time parking job every Sunday just to earn money to help my mother since my father often failed to send us money. There were times when I had to go to school without pocket money and would just ask some from my classmates.

I knew God existed but did not have a relationship with Him. I would only pray before sleeping and when I am in need. I also served as an acolyte (assistant to the priest) during mass. I knew Jane when we were in elementary; but she did not know me. We became classmates in high school and met again in College. Many trials came. I joined a fraternity group and got mixed with older people who influenced me about bad stuff.

Mary Jane Soriano Mejila (Sis. Jane)

I came from a religious and well-off family. It is said that my father came from one of the richest families in Antipolo Rizal, but because of gambling, drinking, infidelity, politics we lost everything. We became a broken family and I decided to join a seminary to become a nun. My reason was that life outside was so turbulent.

At that time, Eugene and I were studying while working in different fast food chains. Eugene was juggling multiple jobs. Aside from his work as a Service Crew, he also worked in a candy factory, and a part time job in a funeral home. For four years, this had been our way of getting by until we finished College.



“TRUST IN THE LORD
WITH ALL THINE HEART;
AND LEAN NOT UNTO
THINE OWN UNDER-
STANDING. IN ALL THY
WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE
HIM, AND HE SHALL DI-
RECT THY PATHS. “

~ PROVERBS 3 : 5-6 ~

After I graduated, I immediately applied to go abroad. In Dubai, U.A.E. I told myself that I could do everything. After all, I was able to free myself from the once messy life I had. I thought I was strong enough and can do everything on my own. I did not need anyone. I had so much confidence in myself. Until such time I almost got sexually assaulted for some wrong decisions that I made. I thought I had already released myself from my past troubles, but then realized it was harder when you are alone.

I had another boyfriend here in Dubai. When Eugene found out he felt like losing a loved one. He got sick and his health became critical. I came back to the Philippines to personally tell him that I loved someone else. But he wouldn't give up on me; even when I returned to Dubai our communication continued. Until one day, my feelings for the other guy faded away. I was bawling my eyes out while on duty at work when someone entered our shop. We had conversation and she invited me to her house. I then knew that she is a Christian.

Ninong Joemar and *Ninang* Eng shared to me the Word of God: how much He loves me, and made me realize how filthy the life I lived and there's nothing I can be proud of. I am nothing.

It was at the prayer meeting that I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. From then on, I found myself always talking to God, reading the bible, and started attending church. In a few months Eugene called and told me, "Jane I will marry you." I couldn't believe it at first and *Ninang* Eng advised me to pray for it.

I learned how to pray as I hold on to the verse in Matthew 18:19. I sought the Lord in prayer and decided to return home.

I went home to declare that I found the true love that does not fade; neither leaves me nor forsakes me. He had chosen me! And that is the LORD JESUS CHRIST who died on the cross, was buried and rose from the dead for us and for the forgiveness of our sins.

I started sharing the Gospel to Eugene and to my family. We got married in 2005. We both applied through an agency to go back to Dubai and immediately attended Back to the Bible Baptist Church.

Pastor Erwin shared the Gospel to Eugene and both of us got baptized. We started our new life with Hope in Christ (Romans 15:13).

From then on, we learned that God knows everything; God is present all the time. God is unchanging, God is Holy and righteous, and God is merciful and loving. God blessed us with four children, Luke Genesis, Elias, Moses and our only girl Janel. Though it is a challenge to raise four kids; it is a joy to be blessed by God with a wonderful family.

Eugene and I continue to support different outreach programs in the Philippines. In 2009, we started an outreach program, "Mga bata sa kaingin" in the Philippines where we are able to share the Gospel to the poor children in the Rizal Province area. Also, the Jail outreach program which started in 2016 where we had the blessed opportunity to share the good news to the inmates in local penitentiary.

You might be asking, "How did you and Eugene do it?" To be honest, it is not easy. Through God-given wisdom we are able to manage well our resources that God has entrusted to us, and operate on a budget. But God is faithful helping us to always make both ends meet. By His grace, we remain faithful to give back what truly belongs to Him. We never forget His Word and place our trust completely in Him to meet the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of our family.

There are problems and trials here on earth but if you know who your God is you can wake up each day smiling. We take it in our prayers for the Lord to be the center of our relationship. Jesus should always be the first in our marriage and we desire that our children will love God more than us. Life is really different when you have God. If there is one lesson in life that I can share, it is not to put your trust in yourself alone, as in Proverbs 3:5-6 and Matthew 11:28-29. If you have the chance to know Jesus, immediately surrender your life to Him. And let other people know you have God (Galatians 2:20).

I thank the Lord and the BBBC family. Now many of our family members have committed their lives to Jesus Christ and were baptized. Like us, they have made Jesus Christ their personal Lord and Saviour.

To God be the Glory! **BB**

Standing in awe of GOD

Sis. Catherine Concepcion

“For I am not
ashamed of the
gospel of Christ:
for it is the
power of God
unto salvation to
everyone that
believeth; to the
Jew first, and
also to the
Greek.”

Romans 1: 16

Way back from Philippines, I was already searching for truth. I was attending religious group sacrificially and had to endure heavy rains at times though geared up with protection yet I was enjoying it. This was my excitement every week ends worshipping and hearing the word and fellowshiping.

I started reading the Bible at Catholic Adoration Chapel just behind the Catholic Church building very near to our place. I used to hear mass every Sunday there but later, I had the realization that there are more important teachings in the Bible that I need to learn. The content of the Bible is true and it was speaking straight to my heart. It rebuked me, and taught me lessons. I was always at Adoration Chapel because it has lots of Catholic Bible there. I was searching for God through the Bible. That was my favorite place because it is perfect for prayer and reading the Bible. It is cool and quiet, no images displayed, no furniture except for big floor pillows and it has wall to wall carpet. It is guarded 24 hours. I studied the Bible alone there which prompted me to realize my mistakes and only through the word that I changed even the way I dress in 1Timothy 2:9-10, about modesty in clothing and 1Peter 2:18, about submission to the Master.



I was saved and baptized in Dubai. We were still from the previous church then. We attended Friday worship and Bible studies there for two years until the Lord granted us our own church led by our own Pastor of Back to the Bible Baptist Church Dubai, up to present.

But it was in this church that I clearly understood Salvation through Jesus Christ.

John 14: 6 says,

**“I am the way, the truth and the life,
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”**

It is the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ on the Cross that saved me from my sins. That time I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I was declared righteous and the Holy Spirit indwells in me and He is my witness that I am saved and I am a child of God, bound to heaven.

The Lord God has used me to spread the gospel to some of our relatives in our province by means of my life threatening disease for the reason that I have to stay for further observation. The truth is I was not able to receive treatment for it is God that handles my ailment up to now. Our relatives were baptized by our Pastor in Bacolod City and they are now serving the Lord through other churches in our province since we do not have a church there yet. By the grace of God, He gave me courage to declare the gospel to a Muslim Taxi driver and was able to lead him to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. I happened to declare the gospel to another Muslim Taxi driver who told me he was a fundamentalist Muslim but he said, ' I like people like that". I declared the gospel verbally without the Bible as we were given warnings.

Led by the Holy Spirit, I grow spiritually through Bible studies and attending Doctrine classes which are going on until now.

When I asked the Lord of my own Bible study group, he granted me my request with hearts that fits mine. To God be the Glory! They got saved and they are all diligently serving in the ministry of God continually.

I praise God for until now He is feeding our Bible study group continuously in the knowledge of His word.

I praise the Lord for continuously sustaining and equipping me and for giving me strength to endure to work for His ministries. I bring back honor and glory to our Great God who made all things possible! **BB**

1 T i m o t h y 2 : 9 - 1 0

**In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shame-facedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;
But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.**

HOW GOD *Changed My* LIFE

Bro. Arthur Romano

My Life Before Becoming a Christian:

I grew up in the love and kindness of my parents. My mom is a plain housewife and my father does carpentry work. I was the youngest among my three other siblings.

We used to live in a small house nearby the beach that I frequently visited as a young boy. My mother taught me to be kind to my playmates at all times. These are some of the things I remember during my childhood.

Years passed and we moved to our grandmother's house when I reached my sixth grade. It was during high school when I met new friends and began doing things that I experienced for the first time. At the very young age of twelve, I started drinking alcohol with my friends which I know my parents would have been disappointed if they found out.

I remember my grandmother would ask me to come with her to the church every Sunday as she is a born again Christian in a Pentecostal church.

In my first encounter to their church I saw people singing and dancing, even there were those crying and laughing, I got scared because that was my first time to see something like it.

I continued attending church services and "received" Christ at the age of 14. Back then all I knew was that I'm Christian and nothing else. I was just tagged alongside my grandmother and family. Church didn't have any effect on me at all. The reality of it is I was just a church goer. I received my baptism but didn't know the purpose of it. I have lived my life doing what I believed would make me happy. I was selfish and just wanted to enjoy life as much as I can. Within my heart, I always felt like missing something. I usually would try to search for happiness through hanging out with friends like watching movies all day long and any forms of entertainment to make me happy. I used to hold grudges against people if they treat me wrong. I used

to look for friends that would bring me benefits. I liked the kind of friendship I could get benefit from without giving out my part.

When I Encountered Christ:

Romans 12:1&2 "I beseech you, brethren by the mercies if God, that ye present your body a living sacrifice holy and 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".

Things went on, and it was during a Christian summer camp I attended that I consider a life changing experience. It was when I came to know Christ Jesus and was able to understand that there is only one person that can fill the emptiness in my heart, and that my life would be meaningless without Him. I realized that I am a sinner and needed forgiveness.

After that I committed and became part of music team leading people into praise and worship in a local church in Cavite, Philippines. There I met Gillian who is now my fiancée. I knew her in the church but not that much. We are both funny and always in the mood of laughing every time we see each other. It was then that I developed feelings for her. I began courting her and had asked permission from her parents. She became my girlfriend on November 18, 2013. We went on serving together in our local church, until one day she asked me that she needs to go to Dubai to work. At first, it was hard for me and Gillian being in a long distance relationship but by God's grace we overcame the challenge.

Back in the Philippines, I continued to serve and engrossed myself to various church activities and followed “church practices” that I thought back then were in accordance to what the Bible says. We had youth activities in our local church for mini concerts. I sang with my team, shouting and jumping for every set of songs. I thought it was a great moment of my life because I have been serving God for 10 years, just getting into the flow of what I thought was right. I met and sang together with some well-known artists in our country. I felt amazed because you can see them face to face. But after all my efforts serving God, I felt something is still missing.

Then I began to ask myself because I felt something is missing. That is His Word. Then I prayed to God to teach me to learn more of him by His Word. In **John 1:1** says, “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.”

I began to realize I was just serving more of his kingdom and not the King.

Then problem came along when my father had a mild stroke. That was the time I decided to push my dream of going to Dubai to support my father’s medication. My visa got approved and arrived in Dubai on March of 2016. Few months after, I landed a job and began missing my parents and church activities in the Philippines.

Gillian invited me to attend BBBC. I never knew this was the answer to my prayer. I began attending the church listening to the preaching of Pastor Erwin and Pastor Ian and other leaders. As time went by I began to learn more about the word of God. Growing more in loving His word much deeply, growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

God used Pastor Erwin to disciple me into God’s word, explaining about my salvation and by wisdom given by God, I decided to surrender everything to Him and accepted Him as my Lord and Savior. On 28th of October, 2016, in obedience to His command, I got re-baptized after understanding what it is all about as taught in the Bible, and now continuing serving him with other brethren and my fiancée.

After Knowing Christ:

After receiving Christ into my life, He has changed me drastically and I always remember how God’s love never fails as it says in John 3:16. Because of his love. He has changed me to become more considerate of other people’s needs. What also amazes me after knowing Christ was that I was not only able to truly forgive people who had hurt me emotionally, it also made me understand that if my sins can be forgiven then I could also do the same. I found that the purpose of my life is not just to live for my own, but to live for Christ by serving and pleasing Him. Now I find that helping people and being a blessing to others is what true happiness is all about; I want to use my life as a channel of blessing to other people as well. Of course, knowing Christ doesn’t mean that I’m perfect. To be quite honest there are still many areas in my life that I still need Christ’s help to change me. I always pray for Christ to continue working in me to help me set my priorities straight. I feel that there are times when I let my emotion take control instead of Christ, but thank God He helps me to know the root of the problem so I can continue to depend on Him to teach and to guide me daily. In God I trust everything, and to worship him.

My life verse is **Proverbs 3:5** “**Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding**”.

Thank you for allowing me Burning Bush team to share my Life testimony.

God bless us all. **BB**



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



LYF TEENS Group

Manama Villa 7

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 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.



SATURDAY Group

Burjuman

Matthew 18:20

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



MIRDIFF Group

Maloles' Residence

Isaiah 55:11

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.



VILLA 15 Group

Mejila's Residence

John 15:7

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



MAMZAR Group

Manama Villa 7

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit



AL GHUSAIS Group

Maningat's Residence

Acts 2:46

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,



RIGGA Group

Intal's Residence

2 Timothy 2:15

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



ABU DHABI Group

Joep's Residence

James 5:16

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.





DIP Group

Tolentin's Residence

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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.



MUTEENA Group

Perez's Residence

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.





ABU HAIL Group

Manama Villa 7

Acts 20:20

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,



KARAMA Group

Sulitas' Residence

Proverbs 27:17

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



WHEN THE RABBI SAYS, “COME”



Sis. Bernadette Garcia

From the previous church seminar pertaining to ushering, we watched a short film to have a better understanding about discipleship/usher. The movie clip *“In the Dust of the Rabbi”* shows the manner on how to be a disciple during those days.

The clip started by introducing a place called *Scythopolis*, which was described as an amazing place as it had an arena, theater and other skyscrapers. However, Jesus did not choose his disciples from that place but rather on a simple town of Bethsaida, a fishing village wherein members of the family lived together in simple way of living.

DISCIPLESHIP starts right from their community where they lived with a passion for God. They had a place known as the synagogue wherein people from different community gathered to worship God. They had a Rabbi who taught the Word of God.

To study more about the Word of God, they went schooling and their curriculum was the Torah, the first five books of the Bible. Their level of schooling started from Bet Sefer or elementary schooling as they learn to read and memorize. For those who wanted to continue discipleship, they will go to the next level, which was Bet Midrash or secondary schooling. Moreover, for those few who have the desire to be a disciple of his Rabbi will have to study the Bet Talmud wherein whenever possible, they will live together with their Rabbi. It was in accordance with the Rabbi’s decision if a disciple passed, and can carry on by himself to make his own discipleship.

Now on the days of Jesus, He did not choose his disciples from the rich city, nor gone through the usual way of schooling. Rather He picked those who lived in a simple life and were not able to pursue their studies on discipleship. This implies that Jesus, our God does not look at the outward appearance but He looks into the heart as it was written in *1 Samuel 16:7b*, *“For the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart”*.

His disciples did not approach Him first to be His, but rather He hand-picked and commanded them to follow Him. As what was written in 1 John 4:19, *“We love Him because He first loved us”*.

One of the definitions of discipleship is, a follower of Christ. As we claim to be Christians, one way of putting what we learn in discipleship into practice is to serve Him in the church such as to be Ushers and Usherettes. Wearing great smile and modest apparel, greeting church members and visitors right at the entrance of the worship hall and helping to have an organized flow in the worship service; simple efforts that contribute in spreading the good news of salvation.

There is no small task for those who seek to be a disciple of Christ and even in just making everyone feel welcome in the house of God is an acceptable service to God when you do it with all your heart. When the Rabbi says come and serve Him through ushering or any or any other ministries, obey so (1 Corinthians 15:58).

To God be the Glory. **BB**



SAFE IN THE HANDS OF GOD

Bro. Melvin Caba

*To know the depth of the river, you need to swim in its bottom.
To know the difficulty in the sea while fishing, you need to launch out into the deep and sail in its bed when the frosts of the night, tempest wave rage.
To know the hardness of laboring in the field, you need to gird your loins and be at the field where the scourging heat of the sun mollifies the strength of vigorous man.
To know the depth, difficulty and hardness of the mission, you need to be at the mission field.*

It has been almost two years and a half when the BBBC Abu Dhabi Mission formally started. Joy flows from our hearts realizing how we are being used by God in reaching out the lost souls back to Christ. Everyone is willing to contribute whatever they have: gift, talent, time, resources or simply we may say “their lives”, all for the glory of Him Who called them. Though none of us has a proper training in school of theology, still it did not hinder us to serve the living God, for we are enrolled in the school of Christ and our teacher was the Holy Ghost. Sleepless nights to prepare for the preaching of the word of God for Friday Worship, for the weight of the entrusted obligation to a preacher that the message may be simple to the hearer and bring changes to their lives. Seeing the hand of God bringing new faces that sit in the pews to hear His words makes my soul glad and tremble. Glad, for it is an encouragement to us to bring new souls to hear His word. Tremble, because their salvation depends on how we earnestly preach the Gospel. Yet still, irrespective, salvation is the working of the Holy Spirit, the sovereignty of God.

In the aspect of music, some of us attended the music lesson in BBBC Dubai but a person who truly has the gift in music is yet to come. On some Thursday night practices, we would experience continuous repetition in rehearsing the song to be sung for the Worship Service the next day, especially when the song is not familiar to us. Though we know that we have one audience Who is Jesus, Who sees the heart not the outside appearance, but still we are praying for the grace of God to provide us a person to lead the Music ministry.



It is almost two years and a half of tilling the ground and sowing seed for Jesus in Abu Dhabi. People come and go, some stay for a month, others a year, and still go back to where they were before. Oftentimes, it affects us for they have been dear to us. But praise be to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ that some continues and they are now together with us praising, serving and worshipping our Master.

As a reader, you may feel the hardship, difficulties in spreading the Gospel by reading this article, and you may say, “I must not be in the mission field”. Wait until I share to you how sweet the taste of its fruit. When we declare the Gospel to the lost, sometimes we see tears from their eyes for the word of God pricks their hearts. Some for joy for the first time they hear a word of hope – a place for them in heaven, forgiveness of their sins through the blood of Jesus, mercy and love from the Father who sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross. In this mission, we see the word of God comes to life, His promise to never leave us, His faithfulness, provision and love.

An anonymous man said, “I will go and spread the Gospel of Jesus until I will pass in this life. If my life be spent and bring only one soul, I will not be ashamed for that soul will be the fruit of my labor and safe in the hands of God”. And so be it. A great Amen. **BB**

PABWE Missionaries to Cambodia

apostolcambodia@gmail.com

www.cornerstonechurchcambodia.org

ROGIL AND JANICE APOSTOL

A blessed 14 years of fruitfulness to Back to the Bible Baptist Church family!

Rogil and Janice can always testify that God is faithful. Our hearts' desire to soar for Jesus in knowing Him must always be our priority. In our stay in Cambodia for the past nine years, we saw the goodness of our Lord. BBBC has been a part of our journey here in the mission field since day one. Thank you very much for your continued partnership. Your faithfulness to the Lord overflowed here in Cambodia. What you have sown to the Lord is accounted in your accounts in heaven. Glory to our Lord Jesus Christ who made things possible! We are including some testimonies, stories of God in the lives of the Cambodians.

MEYMEY BAN

(Local Missionary for the students here in Phnom Penh)

BLESSED AND FORGIVEN

My life verse is taken from **John 20:29** – Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

My name is Mey Mey. I am 17 years old, entering second year in the university, taking up International Business Management. I am the youngest in the family. My only brother is now a civil engineering student year four, a full scholar of The Cornerstone Organization.

My mother is an orphan. My grandparents were killed during Polpot time. In that reason she was not able to study even grade 1. After she became a believer of Jesus, she desired to learn how to read and write by herself so she can read the Bible and sing praises to God. It is a miracle! Now, my mother is able to read and write. On the other hand, my father finished grade 12 in his education. A believer also of Jesus Christ. He used to earn a living as a tuk-tuk driver so he can send us to school. But now he is already with the Lord.

My grandmother in my father's side is a widow whose husband was killed during Polpot. My grandmother said she is a former believer of Jesus. But because her husband was killed during Polpot, she stopped believing Jesus and turned back to Buddha until now. But she opens our house for Cornerstone Railroad ministry which I am thankful of.

I am a product of railroad ministry of the church last April 2013. Before that, *I ran away from God* because I felt that something is missing like love in the family, lack of peace and many others. Railroad ministry was used by God so I can go back to Him. Before 2013, I thought I already believed Jesus but I was wrong. *I found out that I only knew Jesus in my mind but not in my heart.* June 2013 – after two months in Cornerstone, I felt loved and taken care of by the people inside the church. Within those two months, I learned about Jesus and saw the testimonies of the people inside the church.

One day, sister Vourchnea asked me to help her teaching the kids in Kampong Chhnang. The truth is I do not read the Bible and I have no idea about Bible stories. But I asked God if He is real He will help me and show me what to do. I taught that day a Bible story that I believed the kids understood. When I got home, I prayed to God that He will forgive my sins especially when I kept on testing God if He is real or not. That night I cried because I know I need Him to forgive my sins and He has the power to save me and use me. That moment in my room I know I fully believed in Jesus. I thank God I have my parents and the church to encourage me and help me to grow in my walk with Jesus. I started to read my Bible. My father always reminds me

to read the Word of God every day. Right now, I believe God is using me in His work. I can see I am a blessing to my classmates like my friend Liza who became a follower of Jesus after connecting her to the church. I can sense that God will use me more in Campus Work. I have decided to be part of Campus Work in front of the church where I am enrolled at.

Before, I used to be bitter to other people but God changed me. I know God loves me so much so I can show love to others. For five years now I learned to worship God and serve Him. My heart is filled with joy of knowing and following Jesus, my Lord. I give glory to Jesus for what He has done in my life. God bless us all!

LIZA KRAUCH

(Local Missionary for the students here in Phnom Penh)

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

My name is Liza. I am 17 years old. I am at first year college taking up architecture at Western University, Phnom Penh.

I was born into a Buddhist family. My father is a production film designer, and my mother is a housewife. I have three more brothers. I am the second child in the family. I can still remember, from seventh to ninth grade, I used to ride on my bicycle going to school. Daily I would travel thirty to forty minutes one way.

When I was in ninth grade, I have a friend named Meymey who wanted me to join her to study mathematics with Lukru Vannak from Monday to Friday. Lukru (teacher) is a believer of Jesus, and he began teaching us the Bible almost every Saturday. One day, he shared the Gospel with us. Then I joined the group for a Christ birth story presentation in December 2013 with my brother and some classmates. During our practices, I often wondered why Jesus was born in a bad place where the animals lived. Jesus should have been born in a good place because He is God, but still He chose to be born there so that people would come to know Him.

My life before I came to know Jesus was filled with anger, envy, jealousy, bitterness, and hatred. I do not want to forgive or share with others. I lived my life so I would be on top and be better than others. But my life began to change when I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior.

God is in the process of changing my heart. I want to thank and praise God for everything He has done for me. God took me out of the darkness and forgave me. I am also praying and believing that one day He will open the hearts of my parents and other brothers to believe in Jesus. I pray that He will do for them as He did for me. Please pray for me and my family.

I am Liza, daughter of God, the Creator of heaven and Earth. To God be the glory! **BB**

CAMBODIA

Mission

IN THE GOSPEL MINISTRY OF
BANGYAI BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Jeph and Sis. Jen Acosta



“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (John 12:32)

Dear Pastor Erwin and BBBC brethren,

New year, new blessings, new challenges have come our way.

One of the biggest highlights for our new year is the baptism of one Thai believer, Ms. Nat. Growing up in Thai land since I was a child, I have witnessed how hard it is for Thais to genuinely come to faith in Christ. But God showed us that it is by his power that he will draw people unto himself.



More than a year ago, Ms. Nat came through the doors of our church, and then on that very day told us that she wanted to believe in Jesus. I was shocked by what she told me because I have not yet shared the gospel to her. I came to learn that she grew up in a Catholic school, thus had the seed of the gospel planted in her heart. So then I encouraged her to learn more about Jesus through our preaching and teaching, then she can decide after that. One year after, she is growing in the Lord and decided to follow him as a true disciple.

We realized that Ms. Nat’s salvation story is God’s way of telling us to trust His sovereign grace to do his work, whether it is planting the seed of the gospel or trusting God to

genuinely draw people unto himself. Salvation is of the Lord, and we all are witnesses of his powerful hand at work.

Praises:

- Growth as a church family – we praise God that the members of our church, both Filipinos and Thais are really responding; involving themselves in the work of the ministry, whether it is through financial support or functioning as a member of the body of Christ.
- English ministries – it is an opportunity to share the gospel to kids and adults alike through this ministry. We had our summer English ministries and we also just opened our 1st term for this year with most members getting involved by helping out with teaching English and Bible in Thai.



Prayers:

- Sustained church growth – please do pray that each of our members will grow spiritually in the Lord, devoted and faithful to God and have joy in serving him.
- New believers – pray with us that God will bless us with new believers this year.
- More Thai workers – pray for more Thai believers whom God will raise to serve him, pray for new students to enroll in our Thai Bible school this June.
- Filipino churches fellowship— due to the influx of Filipinos working here in Thailand, we also saw an increasing number of Filipino believers and churches. We seek to develop a strong inter-church fellowship in strengthening believers and furthering the cause of God’s kingdom.

GREETINGS FROM



**Pastor Nelson and
Sis. Maribeth Guiang**
Palawan, Philippines

I have a small backyard garden at home with a handful of different few vegetables. This small backyard garden does not provide any income for the family for it is only sufficient for our needs. Though it does not provide income for the family because it is small, we are benefiting from it for we can go right there outside the door to pick fresh vegetables and also it saves us time and small amount of money. No matter how small the garden is, I have planted the seeds and cared for them as they grow.

The parable of the sower teaches us that there is a need to sow seeds in order to reap (Matthew 13:3-8; 18-23). At the beginning of the ministry of the Lord, He told His disciples that He will make them fishers of men. The Lord did not command them to wait for the fish to come to them but rather He sent them to "launch out into the deep". After His resurrection, He also commanded them to "go and make disciples" and not to wait for the men to come to them. The same thing that is said in the parable, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow". There is a need to go and not just to wait. Somebody had said, "Every person who has Christ is a missionary and every person who does not have Christ is a mission field". But as we obey to go and share the gospel, don't be discouraged to the result, for not everyone that listened to the gospel has truly responded to the gospel but only the seed that are sown in the good ground. As we spread God's Word, remember 2 Corinthians 9:6, that says...He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

In Galatians 6:7-9, the Apostle Paul was teaching the Galatian believers concerning spiritual aspects of Christian living that when one "sow to his flesh, (he) shall of the flesh reap corruption but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And this person who does now possess everlasting life shall also bear the fruit of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance... (Galatians 5:22).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY and may the Lord bountifully bless you and your ministry!



**Bro. Cyril, Sis. Aze
and Chloe Rodriguez**
United States of America

Dear BBBC Family,

Our warmest greetings as you celebrate 14 years of God's grace and mercy there in BBBC-Dubai. We trust that God, the Creator and Sustainer of life may bless you all continually.

Oh, how we praise and thank the Lord for your unfeigned faith, brotherly love and encouraging testimony. We've only been there for just 3 years but it has been, with all honesty, a pleasure and a privilege to joyfully serve the Lord with you all. Truly, BBBC-Dubai holds a special place in our hearts which we will cherish all the days of our lives.

Again, Happy Anniversary! Be strong in the Lord and keep the faith, until we meet again.



**Dr. Phil and Sis. Mila
Kamibayashiyama**
Quezon City, Philippines

Dear friends at Back to the Bible Baptist Church,

Praise the Lord! Mila and I rejoice with you in God's steadfast love to you all! You have also experienced God's grace and mercy; His peace and joy; power and victory. May each of you take time during your anniversary to thank God for your forgiveness and deliverance from sin.

Keep on being a lighthouse of the light of Christ's glory!

Because of the Cross,

Dr. Phil Kamibayashiyama
Director, Bob Jones Memorial Bible College

ACROSS THE GLOBE

To my Beloved BBBC Family, our leaders, assistant Pastors: Pastor Ian and Pastor Welven, and our Head Pastor, Pastor Erwin Concepcion, my sincerest greetings on our 14th Fruitful Anniversary! To God be the Glory!

I really praise and thank God for being a part of BBBC Family way back April 2008 until October 2010. My warmest regards and heartfelt thanks to our church which I considered my Holy Ground during my short stay with my loved ones in Dubai. *With all my heart I am grateful to our beloved church and all the brethren especially during those times I was away from my home church, Back to the Bible Baptist Church became my second home.*

God truly blessed BBBC for the surrendered life of our Head Pastor, Erwin Concepcion, by impressing to his heart the true meaning of servanthood and because of his desire, determination and dedication in his ministry, God equipped BBBC with leaders and members who are willing to obey and be trained in reaching out and sharing the Good News to the lost. I thank God for the different ministries our church have from the kids, teens, men and women. On my part, though in my senior years, still our church continues to give us special programs/activities thru our True Womanhood Department which attests that age doesn't matter to Christians who go on serving God.

Again, all Glory and Praise to our Almighty God for using our church, BBBC, in so many families and individuals to keep on serving God and obeying the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). Blessed Anniversary to all! 1 Corinthians 15:58

Hello Brethren in Christ!

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to BBBC family for your Church Anniversary!

Doing things for the glory of God is a norm or standard for every child of God. In this time, as we await that blessed hope of our Master's imminent return, we are still being given that time to reach out the lost because our Lord wants every soul to repent and accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior in which it is stated in 2 Peter 3: 9.

I know for a fact that many of you got saved through BBBC, praise be the Lord! May I greet and commend your Shepherd, Pastor Erwin for tirelessly spearheading this endeavor of the church.

To all brethren, who are one way or the other have been used and continually being used in this area, you have your crowns in heaven. Be faithful to the task that our Master has entrusted to all of you and I hope and pray that you will not be weary in serving our Lord!

Again happy anniversary BBBC family and we miss you all! 1 Corinthians 15: 58

Dearest BBBC,

Happy, happy 14th anniversary!

Thank God for your faithfulness and selfless service to God through those years!

We are forever grateful to God for using BBBC nurtured us and been our support, guidance and our second family when we started our young family in Dubai 13 years ago. BBBC has a special place in our hearts wherever we may go. The teachings from the word of God and the Christ-like example of Pastor Erwin and family have been our inspiration in our spiritual walk ever since.

May God continue to bless and use BBBC reach more souls for Christ and touch many lives. Please keep us in your prayers, as well to continue serve God and do His commission in the part of the world where He sent us.

Again, congratulations and to God be the glory for His faithfulness to you all.



Sis. Precila Soriano
Manila, Philippines



**Pastor Rico Ruel, Sis. Tess,
Revealy and Jireh Bernardo**
Cavite, Philippines



**Bro. Erick, Sis. Cheryl
Hannah and Hans Faulan**
Alberta, Canada



Brethren In Actions





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	Sis. Cathy Concepcion 050 452 3550
ABU HAIL, Manama Villa 7	Bro. Jeffrey Cruz 055 646 1765
VILLA 15, Hamriya	Bro. Eugene Mejila 050 247 0098
MUTEENA	Sis. Kring Perez 056 460 5373
RIGGA	Bro. Jeffrey Intal 050 287 6209
KARAMA	Sis. Haidee Sulitas 056 106 0847
AL GHUSAIS	Bro. Nelson Maningat 055 936 6988
MIRDIFF	Bro. Jeffrey Maloles 050 206 9392
SHARJAH	Bro. Paul Nena 056 2856 704
AL RUWAIS, ABU DHABI	Bro. Rodlin Cawaling 050 181 9357
ABU DHABI	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 C

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