

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

MATTHEW
5:14-16 ESV



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| FRONTIER | LESSONS FOR LIVING :: Moments with the Master

By EVELYN REGOSO

Pastor Bill Santos, former speaker of It Is Written Canada, conducted a series titled "LESSONS FOR LIVING" at Mount Zion Church from December 3-6, 2014. This spiritual revival was a follow up to our own evangelistic meetings held on the weekends of October. Topics covered were "Moments with the Master," "A Touching Moment," "A Tearful Moment" and "A Tender Moment." All the nightly meetings were streamed live over the Internet courtesy of Pastor Bill Santos.

Our lives are made of moments. The different "moments" emphasized during the nightly gatherings focused on times when our faith is severely tested and challenged. One of the modern-day examples of faith in action was the story of notable hymn writer, **Horatio Spafford**. He penned the lyrics of the great hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul" after losing all four of his daughters in a shipwreck.

Consider the stories chronicled in Mark 5: 21-43. The story of the diseased woman, plagued with a blood issue for twelve years with nowhere to turn for healing. She purposed in her heart one day while in

the crowd that followed Jesus, and thought, "If only I could touch the hem of His garment." Her deepest desire for healing was granted when Jesus said, "Daughter thy faith hath made thee whole."

Recall Jairus, the Jewish synagogue official whose daughter died. He fully trusted in the healing power of the Master Jesus when he said, "Come, and lay Thy hands on her that she may be healed and live!

Martin Luther said, "Faith believes in the incredible, seizes the invisible, and receives the impossible! Then, it accepts the impossible, does without the indispensable and bears the intolerable." Take a moment now with the Master and consider: HOW IS YOUR FAITH? 



Image courtesy of wallpapermania.ca



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| EDITORIAL |

Small Things and Beginnings

Adapted by BEVERLY CORPUS

The word *Advent* means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire holiday season is celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. This season is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God *in* Christ so all of creation might be reconciled to God. In this double focus on past and future, Advent also brings emphasis to how we are living now: as Christ lives within us and among us: Emmanuel.

Unfortunately, we live in a world in which bigger and better define our expectations for much of life. We have become so enamored by super sizing, super stars, and high definition that we tend to view life through a lens that magnifies what we expect out of the world, with the tendency not to see potential in small things. But as the prophet Zechariah reminds us, we should not "despise the day of small things," (Zech. 4:10) because God does some of his *best* work with small beginnings and impossible situations. God often begins with small things and inadequate people. God could have chosen "bigger" things and "better" people to do His work in the world, but He didn't. Remember how Jesus came the first time? That means He might be able to use me, inadequate, and unwise, and too often lacking in faith! I need to be careful that I do not in my own self-righteousness put limits on what God can do with the smallest of things, the most unlikely of people, in the most hopeless of circumstances. This is part of the wonder found in the Advent Season.



Image courtesy of newformationpress.com

As **Adventists**, we have an exceptionally high responsibility to remember that honouring the first Advent and preparing for the second Advent *really* means living a life in "between the times." With greater purpose, as we transition into a new beginning -- a New Year -- we must *declare boldly* like John the Baptist did, as a "voice in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord." (Mark 1:1-3) Yet even more than that, Advent means *revealing* Jesus and *living* as He did: extending grace and mercy, teaching and empowering, and above all, calling others to believe in God the Saviour by saying, "Come and follow Him." (Mark 1:17)

Bratcher, Dennis (2014), *The Season of Advent: Anticipation and Hope*. Copyright © 2013, Christian Resource Institute/Voice, Institute.

A Message from the Pastor

What a wonderful year 2014 has been! We have been journeying together and experienced God's hand in many things!

First, I would like to praise the Lord for blessing us in His work. I also want to thank you all for supporting our church programs through your prayers, time, and financial generosity. I greatly thank our outgoing church officers who sacrificed their family time to serve the Lord during our Sabbath worship and other church events. Without you and your sacrifices, we would not have experienced growth this past year.

Second, I anticipate our new year together will be filled with God's rich blessings! We have realigned our purpose and come to understand our

F-teams better. Through our discipleship and Spirit of Prophecy classes, the Caregiver program, various church ministries and new initiatives for newcomers to our church, I believe we will have another great, unforgettable experience in leadership together! There will be many opportunities to participate and serve God in the coming year.

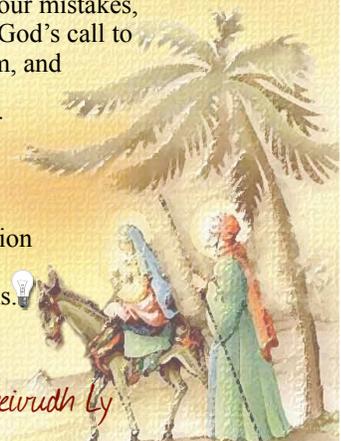
Third, As a result, I would like to encourage you to accept God's call to serve Him. God calls you to live a life far beyond anything you could ever imagine because He put you here on earth for a purpose! I would like to invite you to serve, to go and give your ALL to God's vision for His church.

"God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has

created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do." (Eph. 2:10 GNB).

Let's us be grateful to what God has done this year, learn from our mistakes, respond to God's call to live for Him, and continue to commit our lives and God-given resources to His's vision as the new year unfolds.

Pastor Sereivudh Ly



| SUPPORT GROUP | PropertyMANAGEMENT

Report :: Church Workbee Unites Members

By OLIVE REY

Winter has now come and the cold breeze would be clothing us the whole season, what have we done? Very well, summer and fall has been a productive time for the Mt. Zion church.

Gadugi, Meitheal, Talkoot, Dugnad, Bayanihan, “walang iwanan”, “kapit-bisig tayo” (meaning “we’re all in this together”) or whatever language, the great enthusiasm formed during the work bee in our church had a unifying force, enabling us to make this house of worship presentable again. To God be the glory! Through this physical and tangible collaboration of energy, skills, talents and time, the host of participants from two churches (with Passion Church) were able to accomplish the complex task in caring and maintaining the building we call the house of God. Every move that manifested during the work bee is the embodiment of stewardship in action. Praise the Lord!

A passage in Colossians 3:23-24 is befitting to capture our fellowship and participation in the work bee, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving” [NIV]. It was so amazing that each one has the glow on their face during the work bee. The enthusiasm was contagious. It was evident on every person present. Each one’s contribution was invaluable.

As you conclude reading this article, mark this as God’s invitation and personal commitment schedule for the 2015 work bee. Let’s all enjoy working together in the upkeep and maintenance of our church while we delight on the nutritious food prepared during this annual activity by the hospitality team and very supportive members.💡



- 1) Fixing what needs to be fixed
- 2) Posting floor plans and location maps
- 3) Passion Church joined us in the workbee
- 4) Working on wiring
- 5) The landscaping crew (posing before working!)
- 6) The food team pauses to pose
- 7) Time to gas up!

Images courtesy of Oliver Rey



| FRONTIER | DiscoverBIBLESchool

Report :: Mount Zion Graduates Seven

By LOLITA OABEL

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, Mt. Zion Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church was in for a treat! That afternoon was the culmination of the “Moments with the Master Revival Series” with a special Discover Bible School Graduation and baptism with all the precious moments caught on a live stream.

The program started at 2:30 p.m. with songs of praise from guest singers Isabel Santos and Pam Lister. Pastor Bill Santos, the speaker for the Moments with the Master Revival Series encouraged the graduates and everyone to come to our Master and Lord Jesus like Nicodemus. Jesus, our Master has all the answers to our

questions. He sees and knows the real desires of our hearts – even those things that we are fearful to talk about. Jesus will answer all of them if we would just go to Him and let Him be the Master of our Life.

Due to unavoidable reasons, only seven out of fourteen graduates were present to receive their diploma. Genevive Tulod, one of the graduates testified on how the Kidzone Bible Guides (early teen’s lesson) helped her in her decision to accept Jesus through baptism. Regina Tortosa, another graduate also testified of how the Discover Bible Guides (Adult) drew her closer to her Lord and Saviour during her studies. Frank Maralag, another graduate who was not able to attend said, “I thought I

knew my bible until my encounter with the Discover Bible Guide. He is now currently continuing his studies on “Focus on Prophecy Guides (adult advance course)”. All three encourage anyone who would like to be friends with the Jesus Christ – Master of the Universe - to take the course.💡

To learn more or enroll on any of the free Discover Bible courses offered please go to mtzion.ca and click on “free discover bible lesson” or visit www.discoveronline.org. You can also write to us at: Discover Bible School Correspondence 140 St. Regis Crescent Downsview, ON M3J 1Y3



Image courtesy of imgkid.com

| FAMILY | Youth&YoungADULTMinistry Noteworthy Events



Images courtesy of AP Aguinaldo

So excited to see our Young Adults & Youth ministering in collaboration with Pastor RJ Becbec and Leidamae Solijon at the Windsor Church on November 22, 2014.

The Young Adults have also been meeting up on Sunday evenings for a weekly Bible study in various homes. Looking forward to more church visits and local events in the new year!💡

Chelsey Pangilinan was the recipient of the McDonald's 2014 Scholarship in August 2014. Currently in her first year at University of Waterloo, Chelsey actively served in student leadership at CW Jefferys Collegiate Institute.

Well done, Chelsey! Your church family is praying for your continued health and academic success.💡



Images courtesy of Mario G Pangilinan





DISCOVER BIBLE SCHOOL GRADUATES (L-R) ::

Julio Rey, Julie Solijon, Genevive Tulod, Marie Rebeiro, Asheville Yorac, Michael Rebeiro and Regina Tortosa.

The Discover Bible School (DBS) graduates were privileged to listen to Pastor Bill Santos (2nd row, 2nd from the right) at the culmination of his "Moments with the Master : Lessons for Living" series, during the afternoon service of December 6, 2014.

The graduates were faithfully nurtured in their correspondence lessons facilitated by the DBS team under the leadership of Lolita Oabel (2nd row, 3rd from the left) 



BAPTISM ::

Newly baptized Matthew Dann (center) flanked on the right by Ben Martin, Pastor Sereivudh Ly and to his left, by Debbie Martin and Dione Martin.

Brother Matthew had been attending church faithfully for some time and his baptism on December 6, 2014 was through the influence of the positive witnessing of Dione and her family and spending Bible study with Pastor Ly. Welcome Brother to our church family, we rejoice and celebrate with you in this new found faith and God bless you as we all walk together and serve our Triune God. 

Images courtesy of Ben Regosoa, Sr.

| FAMILY | Youth & Young ADULT Ministry

Youth Present "My Heart Longs for Christmas" : A Musical

By EMICIL DELA CRUZ

Amid the backdrop of bad news, conflict and strife both near and far away, a refreshing and much needed reminder of God's firm control and ultimate plan for the world, took shape on December 20, 2014. In the form of a bright, new musical presented by the Youth Department during the morning worship service, the 35-minute musical refreshed the collective memories of our members with a combination of well-loved traditional sacred carols, as well as brilliant and spiritually inspiring new songs.

The message of this cantata reminded us that while the trimmings of Christmas may be good and attractive, the deepest longing of our hearts is really for Jesus. We often get lost in

decorating, buying gifts, and preparing food that we do not realize our real and deepest need. After the whole family has gathered and prayer has been offered, we must sit back and reflect on the real reason for the season. Nothing expresses this need more than the lyrics of the title song sung by Angelo Salamanca:

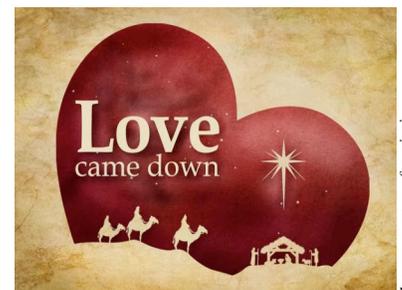
*My heart longs for Christmas
not just for the shining things.*

*But the center of the season,
heaven's infant king*

*For the pretty lights and music don't really
satisfy the aching deep inside.*

*Oh, it's true! My heart longs for Christmas!
'Cause Jesus, my heart longs for You!*

It was not just the congregation that were moved to joy after the cantata performance, but the Youth singers as well! Under the directorship of Dawn Adap, and with the participation of the delightful Children's Choir and the reliable Adult Choir, our church family really gave their best for the Master. The result - a resounding success in honour of our Saviour King! Praise God for the Youth's time and talent being used in praise of His name. 



Images courtesy of gopixpic.com



| FRONTIER | Caregiver DEVELOPMENT Resource PROGRAM

Improved Spending and Status for Canadian Live-in Caregivers

By ANDREW SKYTTE ALIVIO

On November 16, 2014, Immigration Minister Chris Alexander along with Mark Adler and his Staff came to Mount Zion Filipino Seventh-Adventist Church to announced changes to Canada's live-in caregiver program that will improve the lives of foreign caregivers and more quickly facilitate to their permanent residence status and eventually to become a Canadian citizen.



Immigration Minister Chris Alexander announcing the changes to Canada's live-in caregiver program

For decades now, the caregiver immigration program has allowed Canadians to bring in foreign caregivers to care for their relatives. The preservation of this program is important for Canadians in need of child care, elder care and care for family members with disabilities. The most important change made to the caregiver program is the elimination of the requirement that caregivers live at the homes of their employers for two years before being able to apply for permanent residence. Years ago, this requirement was established because it was believed that individuals requiring care needed a live-in caregiver.

Despite the live-in requirement under the old program, caregivers were only contractually obligated to work full-time work hours – about 40 hours a week. Because caregivers were free to leave their employer's residence on weekends and after work hours, requiring them to live with their employers made no sense. By changing the program to allow caregivers to live wherever they choose, caregivers will now have the same freedoms of virtually every other employee in Canada.

Another important change is that caregivers will now have a pathway to permanent residency within six months after they complete their two-year work requirement. Over the last number of years, there has been a significant backlog in these applications and the immigration minister has acknowledged that, in some cases, caregivers had to wait more than eight years before permanent resident applications were approved.

The Holy Scripture is clear in saying: “Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”¹ Peter 5:2-4



NEWS FLASH!!!



Dr. Francisco Gayoba, President of **Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP)**,  formerly known as Philippine Union College, received and announced on December 18, 2014 the approval from The Commission of Higher Education, to open the Doctor of Medicine program in AUP in August of 2015. A blessing after 35 years of waiting!

To God be the glory! 

Shine on, dear AUP!

PASTOR'S APPRECIATION DAY

At the culmination of our evangelistic series held in October 2014, we acknowledged the team of Pastors who gave of themselves to declare the truth of the Lord! Efen Mariano, First Elder, delivered remarks of thanks, while his wife, Gloria, presented tokens of appreciation. 



L-R: Pastor RJ Becbec; Pastor Jess and Mae Anunciacion; Pastor & Mrs. Chris Holland and guest Pastor Vicente Evaldo of It Is Written Canada; Pastor Sereivudh and Vandy Ly; Pastor Ely Magtanong (not pictured)



| NEW & NOTEWORTHY | Welcomes & Milestones



Image courtesy of BJ Frias

pursue medicine and to become a doctor in God's perfect time

Duane Kaye was in her second year obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy. She was active at Iloilo Central Church playing the violin in church concerts and events.

We welcome them to a land of opportunities and to Mount Zion Church --- their second home.

Congratulations to Benjamin Frias and Christine Miranda-Frias on the birth of their son, Luke Benjamin Frias, born at Markham Stouffville Hospital, 7 lbs 1 oz., at 3:23 pm on Sabbath afternoon October 4th, 2014. Congratulations to big sister, Audrey, and proud grandparents, Noel & Betty Frias. May God continue to bless your new family of four!



Image courtesy of Sharon Grace Cruz

L-R: Grazielle, Sharon, Duane Kaye and Jeande Lae.

After waiting six years and four months, Sharon Grace Cruz was finally re-united with her three girls who landed as immigrants in Toronto on November 13, 2014. Previously a caregiver, Sharon mustered all the odds in life, working hard to support her family and her children's education.

Jeande Lae is a graduate of Nursing and Midwifery. Before leaving the Philippines, she was in her third year of college doing a Bachelors degree in Medical Laboratory Science.

Grazielle was in her third year studying for a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Her desire is to



Image courtesy of Ellice Ranin

We warmly congratulate Roland and Elilou Ranin with big siblings, Erin and Nico, on the arrival of baby girl Adrienne Louise Ranin, born on October 29, 2014 2:23 am at Mackenzie Health, Richmond Hill at 7.26 lbs. May the Lord continue to bless your family as you serve Him. Our love and prayers are with your new family of five!



Image courtesy of Roland Ranin

Kudos to Director Roland and Ellilou Ranin and the entire Light Bearers Adventurer Club of Mt. Zion for winning First Place for Best Booth and the Adventurer Club of the Year. We also want to acknowledge the Light Bearers Adventurer Team for their first place achievement in the Adventurer Bible



Experience (ABE) at the Ontario Conference level. The challenge was held at Perth Seventh-day Adventist Church on November 8, 2014.



Image courtesy of Ritchelle Co

Congratulations and best wishes to Brian Co, Ritchelle Casalan-Co and newest big sister RiRi on the safe arrival of Braiden Ryu Co. He was born October 26, 2014 at 7:17pm, weighing in at a healthy 9 lbs. Our prayers are with your new family of four. Blessings!



Image courtesy of Lemuel Salandanan

Yzsabelle Salandanan was presented the Pathfinder Scholarship by Gloria Allan and Pastor Edwin Martin, Director of Adventurers, Pathfinders & Master Guides for the Ontario Conference, on November 29, 2014. Currently, a first year student at Ryerson University, she has served as past Maharlika Club Captain.

For more information on how to apply or donate towards the Pathfinder Scholarship, please visit www.ontariopathfinders.ca

| NEW & NOTEWORTHY | Welcomes & Milestones cont'd...



Image courtesy of Tristan Dominic Radan

Melody Doliente Rabaya and Tristan Dominic Radan were united in marriage during a simple and intimate ceremony with Pastors Jess Anunciacion and Sereivudh Ly at Mount Zion Church on October 25, 2014. At the couple's request, they were also jointly baptized right after their wedding by Pastor Ly. A reception followed at Thai Basil Garden in North York where the couple and the guests celebrated their union to one another and with Christ. 💡



Image courtesy of Marivic Pangilinan

Marivic Pangilinan said "I DO" to Jose Egca, Jr. on December 23, 2014 at 11:00a.m., in San Jose Seventh-day Adventist Church, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. "Two hearts, One Love, One Covenant, Two Lives made One in Christ" is their prayer as they forge their way into married life. Mount Zion church family wishes them God's precious blessings! 💡



Image courtesy of RJ Becbec

Our beloved youth pastor, Rhume Jay (RJ) Becbec will marry his college sweetheart, Zola Fiorella Fronda at Philippine International Church on Sunday, January 4, 2015 at 3:30 in the afternoon. The youth and young adults threw a wedding shower on December 6 for the couple, and although the bride was physically absent, she was able to witness the outpouring of love and support via Skype. Let us continue to pray for this young couples as they dedicate their lives to minister for the Lord! 💡



Image courtesy of Tristan Dominic Radan

Here's to another 25 years of family life bathed by the sustaining grace of the great I AM. Congratulations, Bing and Darlene! 💡



Image courtesy of Zenaida Bisnar Milana

Lily Rose Ransib, wed her heartthrob, Rannel Janeo Esmana, of four years, on Monday, Dec 29, 2014, at LB Tabo Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church, General Santos 9500, Philippines. Mount Zion church family wish and pray that their plans be blessed as they journey on in their family life, hoped to be established here in Canada in the coming months. 💡



Image courtesy of Evelyn Regoso

On November 23, 2014, a blushing and nervous couple of a "very seasoned age" walked down the aisle to the familiar tune, "Walk Hand in Hand With Me," to again announce their faithful vows to each other. The 50th anniversary ceremony was officiated in tandem by Pastors Jesse Anunciacion and Sereivudh Ly.

We celebrate with you, Oseas and Aurora, as you continue to inspire and experience the faithfulness of God's love in the coming years through your marriage! 💡

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