



CABC Connect

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

1st Service:	9:00 am
2nd Service:	11:00 am
Sunday School:	9:00 am 11:00am

WEDNESDAY PRAYER HOURS

Morning Prayer:	9:30 am
Evening Prayer:	7:00 pm

WINTER 2015 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 1

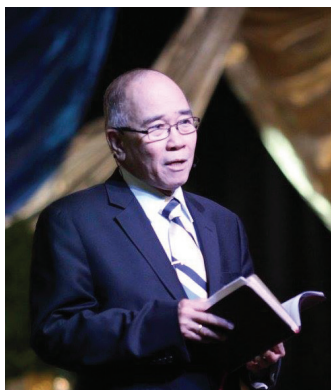
KNOWING CHRIST THROUGH PRAYER

"The soul learns to pray by praying..."

- Arthur Bennett

(Contributed by Adam Dean)





Knowing Christ through Prayer

by Pastor Elbern Latorilla

The apostle Paul had one supreme desire. Writing to the Philippian believers, he declared, “I want to **know** Christ ...”(Philippians 3:10a NIV). Perhaps that might have elicited some “raised eyebrows” from not a few of his readers. Did not the apostle know Jesus? Of course, Paul knew the Lord. On that dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul came face to face with the One he persecuted but Who turned his life right side up to become the greatest Christian and missionary who ever lived. Paul came to know Jesus personally then but he wanted to know Him more - closely, intimately, and deeply. No, the apostle was not going to be content with the superficial knowledge of the One who loved him and gave Himself for him (Galatians 2:20). If the great apostle had that great aspiration, surely we who recognize Jesus as our Savior and Lord can do no less, can we?

However, if we, like Paul, decided to make knowing Christ our desire, how would we go about doing it? For sure there are a number of legitimate ways through which this can be realized. But for the present, I'd like to limit it to one - **knowing Christ through prayer**. Prayer however, is such a broad topic that there is no way we can exhaust its significance at all, whether by speaking or writing about it. How much less can we do so in a short article like this? Despite this limitation, we still have to ask this - how can we know Christ more through prayer?

I will address this question first of all by quoting a few verses from the book of John.

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it” (14:13,14). “...that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you” (15:16c). “...Most

assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full”(16:23,24). The italicized words seem to indicate that for any prayer to be effectual, it has to be done in Jesus’ name. Some think, based on these verses, that by simply adding “in Jesus’ name” at the end of a prayer, then the answer will come for sure. But this is essentially treating the words as an incantation like uttering “hocus pocus” or “abracadabra” and then expecting something to happen or change immediately. Is this what Jesus meant?

These passages are part of the final discourse of Jesus in the upper room before His arrest, trial and subsequent crucifixion. He would soon leave His followers and go back to His Father. His absence though would not mean that they would be “orphaned” and would have to fend for themselves. He told them that they could still enjoy the blessing of the promises of unlimited meaning expressed in these verses if they would “ask in His name”. What does this thought imply? When one uses the name of another, he acts by proxy, on the authority of that someone who is greater than himself. As an example, think of a medieval herald who would come to a town square and read a proclamation “in the name of the king”. This then was not the crier’s edict but the king’s itself. Or consider a policeman who calls out to a fleeing thief, “Stop in the name of the law”. He issues the command on the basis of a higher authority than himself. Both are not just speaking for themselves but in and with the authority of a higher power than they.

But what is a person’s name? It is a word in which that person is represented to us. When a familiar name is mentioned, it brings to mind the whole person - what we know of him, and also the impression he has made on us.

The name "Jesus" is the expression of everything He is, of everything He has done, and of everything He lives to do as our Savior, Mediator, Master and Lord. His name includes His power, majesty, authority and honor. Praying "in Jesus' name" therefore means coming to the Father in the power and authority of His Son, as his representative and substitute. So when we pray in this way, we, in a sense, act in His place. We then will ask what we believe Jesus Himself would ask if He were in our position. Because He is the perfect Man and high Priest of our confession, Jesus can only pray for the right things and to seek the will of God and not His own. To pray "in Jesus' name" then is to pray in accordance to that which will honor and glorify God. I John 5:14 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (emphasis mine). Remember, Jesus came to do the Father's will and so His prayers were always made in accordance to that will. He couldn't do otherwise nor can we.

The question that begs to be answered is, why would Jesus allow us the free use of His name in prayer? It is because He trusts us with His interests and that His honor will be safe in our hands. It is a token of His great confidence on

and His close union with us. Jesus gives His name to us believers when we pray to let us act in His behalf. This has become true because of the personal relationship that we enjoy with Him ever since the day He became our Savior. We are one; we have one life with Him. For this reason we may proceed in His name. Our power in using this Name depends on the measure of our spiritual union with Jesus. To ask in Jesus' name is to ask in full union of interest, life and love with Himself, as one who lives in and for Him.

Do we want to know Christ more through prayer? Then we must learn to pray "in Jesus name". But don't think of this as some kind of a magic formula that guarantees God's granting of everything we pray for. However, when this is understood rightly, we will, I believe, come to know better the Person who bears that Name, His Power to act in our behalf and His Pleasure in us because we belong to Him even as He belongs to us.

Brethren, the name of Jesus is not only, but also, our completely sufficient plea. The power of prayer and its answer depend on the right use of this Name. What a privilege and pleasure it is to know that Name more and more each day through prayer.

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (14:13,14).

"...that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you" (15:16c).

"...Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full"(16:23,24)

The R's of Prayer

by Dennis Guevarra

As I begin this article, I praise and thank the Lord for giving me this chance to share. Only by the works of the Holy Spirit and grace of God was I able, though I am just but a servant and not of great expertise. Knowing Christ is a life-long journey. In my opinion, prayer means our reconciliation, relationship, restoration, and reconnection to Christ as we become deeply rooted in Him.

Prayer is our **RECONCILIATION** to Christ

There is more to knowing Christ that surpasses knowledge and understanding through prayers. It is communicating verbally with God by means of studying and learning His Word, memorizing verses, applying them practically and expressing our thoughts in so many variety of ways. Prayers reconcile us to Christ. All are sinful and immoral. Christ is perfect, not us. But as we humble ourselves and repent in prayer, imitating nothing or no one but Him alone, we are reconciled with Him in spite of trials. Acknowledging its importance and approaching it rightly, identifies our adoration and thankfulness to our Lord.

Prayer is our personal **RELATIONSHIP** to Christ

The personal relationship, that is, how we are in Christ, is the key. Without Him, we are nothing. We sacrifice time and energy when praying, in the name of Jesus who sacrificed himself so that we may be saved from all our sins.

We pray not because of obligation or duty, but rather as inspired by Him. He alone is worthy. When praise and honour are given to Him alone, He is all glorified. We should be less concerned of ourselves but more of Him. Pray and meditate in his Word; take time to balance and persevere by reading the Word not just when problems arise. After all, when we pray, we speak with Jesus, with whom we have a love relationship that is personal, intimate and pure. Being a Christian is always challenging. Let us pray enthusiastically, with boldness, with one full of life. Because we are weak, therefore, we are strong, for our relationship with Christ makes us strong.

Prayer is **RESTORATION** to Christ

We are restored to Christ when praying for strength in times of our utmost weaknesses and challenges. Rest is needed in order to be restored. Inner strength comes also from our heart. Troubles, pain, rejection and suffering in everyone's lives are there only temporarily, but eventually come to pass. Prayer gives comfort to those who suffer pain and loss. Only through our experiences and spiritual adversities can we truly understand how prayer is so powerful

All blessings come from above, and these are not just material things. Experiencing God's comfort in times of prayer is definitely a blessing. It comes in the form of well-being physically, emotionally and spiritually. Joy and gladness are results which last forever.

Prayer **RECONNECTS** and **UNITES** us to Christ

Before we close a prayer, our reconnection and unity with Christ is examined. Furthermore, as we are restored to Christ through prayer, so do our relationships. Our circle of friends blossoms, and then we can truly sing with joy. Our security can rely on one another through prayers and relationships. As we pray with our family and our church continuously, we learn not to dispute nor discourage, but are guided with solutions to help those who are fearful or with problems.

Let us love and disciple our own family, taking good care of ourselves so we can serve and pray even more. Pray to be more pure, sincere and holy even in times of trouble or difficulty. It's not about ourselves, but it's all about Him. Let's learn a quiet, solemn prayer. Dwell not on our skills. Be able to trust. Be thankful and take opportunities as they come, proclaiming the gospel. Let us all be light from darkness. Balance and focus not on other's faults or situations. Let us not give up. (Good news in 2 Corinthians 5, we don't go around preaching about ourselves but about Christ).

Prayer makes us deeply **ROOTED** in Christ

The seeds that we plant reflect who we are, thereby, we should be deeply rooted in Christ so that we may be fruitful. This means growing in the Lord. Our prayers affect the choices and decisions we make in life. By acknowledging our love toward God, we learn to be even more patient when things do not go our way especially in today's busyness. Kindness, hope, and self-control are also considered to be parts of this process.

Our own devotions direct us to Jesus. It requires hard work, perseverance and balance to be effective. Its duration and time do not reflect its content, rather it is the intention that should be noted and reflected upon so that it is seen in our actions and heard from our words. Being manipulative or controlling or attaining things through coercion is not the answer. Freedom in speech is important, yet we ought to take the time to think carefully before speaking up, treating everybody with the balance of respect, honour and dignity. Like in a journey, when we face trials, we pray for guidance

if lost or misdirected.

Let us have the proper sense by clarifying who or what is our inspiration in life. As we keep on serving Him, we support and encourage each other. We keep praying for friends, family, relatives, the world, and the Church, but at the same time, we ought to forgive one another. All our accomplishments, successes, provisions, security, safety, and blessings are from God which are answers to prayers of the righteous. This message of our prayer impacts everything. We need to feed our soul and spirit with the daily Word, not just physical food. We need the Living Water so we may not thirst. Our blessings and answers can come from the prayers and compassion of others. Let us not get side tracked, bored or fall asleep. Let's wake up. Our effectiveness is in our tone, excitement, enthusiasm and energy which reflects who we are and its outcome that God hears and answers. Let us listen well and wait patiently for His answers. Everyone is listening, and watching with opened minds and one spirit. Let us carry each other's burden. God can help us with that. Let us welcome the Holy Spirit to intervene with us.

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. [a] And by him we cry, "Abba, [b] Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:14-17 New International Version (NIV)

24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Romans 8:24-26 New International Version (NIV)

“Be Still and Know that I am God”

by Lydia Arcenas

God speaks to us in various ways. At times in flashy display of sound and color; as in the pounding surf where the Atlantic ocean and the Caribbean waters meet; a burst of spectacular color from blooming orchids, bougainvillea, tropical plants and trees. At other times in quiet whispers, as the sight of a rainbow after a gentle rain shower, reminding us of His promises and care; a surprise visit from a beautiful caterpillar dressed in Bajan design; or the subtle shades of a gorgeous sunset seen through a jet-liner window. Still in other times He reveals Himself with His quiet presence as we silence the noise inside and outside of us.



Consider this thought by Max Lucado:

“The next time a sunrise steals your breath or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, remain that way. Say nothing and listen as heaven whispers: Do you like it? I did it just for you.”

Welcome to...



Haily Gillian V. Garcia
Born: November 21, 2014
Daughter of Jevy & Sheryl Garcia



Matthew Kaleb Borja
Born: February 17, 2015
Son of Michael & Kae Borja

In Memory of...



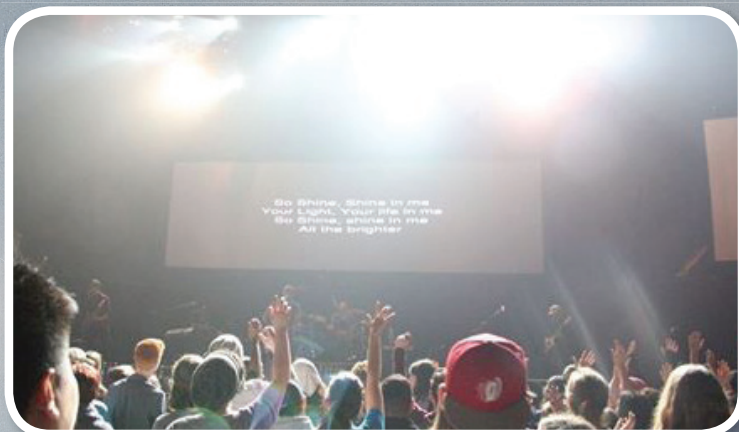
Joe Boyer
February 13, 1950 - January 23, 2015



Grace Allison
December 5, 1937 - March 22, 2015

PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM WORKSHOP **JANUARY 10**

Members of CABC's praise and worship ministry enjoyed a workshop from 10 am to 3 pm at the CABC sanctuary. Pastor Loel once again reminded the group about going back to the basics, and that "God wants a full heart not a hollow heart, in worship". A time of group painting on their idea of what worship is, brought out the other side of their artistic skills. We continue to thank God for the leadership of Bernel & Faye Latorilla and Troy Luyun.



ACQUIRE THE FIRE **FEBRUARY 6-7**

This year's Acquire the Fire Conference was held at the 'Church on the Queensway' here in Toronto. About 1,100 people attended this annual event with 57 youth and 12 leaders from our YPM ministry. This year's theme is called 'Resilient'. Our YP's were surely blessed as they arrived back looking tired but feeling ... resilient.

JANUARY

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP **JANUARY 10**

A well-attended formal launching of the Men's fellowship group filled the all-purpose hall with early risers. See page 11 for details.



FEBRUARY

FAMILY SUNDAY **FEBRUARY 15**

The combined efforts of CABC's couples groups (Homebuilders and More than Love) made Family Sunday services extra special by recognizing several families present. As their whole families joined voices to the song "We will serve the Lord", one could not help but praise God and rejoice seeing families serve the Lord together. Pastor Elbern's message on "Scriptural Guidelines for Building Strong Families" based on Deuteronomy 6:1-9 served as a great challenge to all families. We Thank God for the CABC family.

CPR COURSE **FEBRUARY 14**

An additional 10 participants completed the Level C CPR course which has been once again offered here at CABC under the Christian Education Com. Please see page 8 for more details.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ASST. TEACHERS TRAINING **FEBRUARY 21**

The Sunday School Department held its annual Teachers and Assistant Teachers Training with 31 attendees. Staff from Bible-Centred Ministries International Canada led by Olga Whitehead did a 4 hour training about the "DiscipleLand Curriculum". It was also a great time for the participants to be reminded of the great task, responsibility and accountability they have in their roles as SS teachers/assistants.



BAPTISMAL/ MEMBERSHIP SERVICE **MARCH 29**

CABC welcomed 16 new members by transfer and through baptism that Sunday afternoon. Please see page 10 for details.



MB4KIDS (MARCH BREAK FOR KIDS) CAMP **MARCH 16-20**

CABC hosted for the first time, a whole week's camp for Kids during March break. Please see page 8 for details

MARCH

MISSIONS MONTH **MARCH**

FINANCIAL LITERACY SEMINAR **FEBRUARY 28**

The Finance Committee organized a financial literacy seminar that covered important topics such as filing taxes, saving strategies, and university/college financial opportunities. The seminar was attended by 25 participants who also greatly appreciated the shared knowledge. While the target audience was new immigrants and post-secondary students, these topics can benefit anyone. Pastor Latorilla concluded with the challenge to use what was learned to become better stewards for God.

PRAYER BREAKFAST **MARCH 28**

Hosted by the Young@heart, a prayer breakfast open to everyone was held at the CABC all purpose-hall between 8-10 am that Saturday morning. Please see page 9 for details.

FEBRUARY 14 with HEART 2 HEART

by Chessy Damian

Saturday February 14, what a great way to learn about saving a heart than on Valentine's! The CPR course held in CABC's all-purpose room was conducted by Heart 2 Heart. Ten participants took a Level C CPR course, which includes learning CPR on adults, children and infants, with 1 rescuer and 2 rescuer techniques. They also learned how to use an AED (automated external defibrillator), and covered adult, child and infant choking.



Participants who completed the course:

- 1) Rose Mary A. Vergara
- 2) Carmen Vaughan-Burnett
- 3) Freda Facun
- 4) Margielyn Camaya
- 5) Joy Facun
- 6) Rita D'Agostino
- 7) Tony D'Agostino
- 8) Ingrid Pascual
- 9) Bridgette Sirineo
- 10) Peter Henry

(So be on the lookout and feel safe... seat next to any one of them during a Sunday service /Ed)

MB4Kids (March Break For Kids)

by Rizza D. Facun

March 16-20, 2015 9-4 pm

Theme: Armour of God

A first at CABC and spearheaded by the Christian Education committee, 24 children campers ages 5 to 12 years of age participated in 60 % physical activities (such as indoor/outdoor games and walk to the park) and 40 % lessons based on the camp's memory verse: "Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." Ephesians 6:11

About 12 adult volunteers (some came for a couple days or so) closely supervised and facilitated each day's activity. By midweek, campers enjoyed a movie and popcorn time at the Board room, and for the last day of camp, they enjoyed a Magic show by Dan Ryan.

(Kudos to Rizza Facun and all volunteers for your labor of love /Ed)



Young @ Heart: Prayer Breakfast

by Sheila Herbert



We thank the Lord that we can come and give of our time in prayer in behalf of others. There were 26 brothers and sisters in attendance. We commenced with singing the hymn “Great is thy Faithfulness,” and then Pastor Calura gave the opening prayer and blessing on the breakfast. After our breakfast Brother Willie shared the message based on 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11. He encouraged us to edify and build up one another, not wanting to be number one, but esteeming others higher than ourselves. He brought to us the illustration of building a house, that we must have the blue prints first, and then as we build, every brick must fit in to be joined together. So it is, with the body of Christ.

Thanks to each one who gave their time and effort to prepare the breakfast, and who took care of all the preparations. May God bless each one as they work in His kingdom with joy, building up each other in love and unity and letting the Grace of our Lord abide in and through us.

All Thanks, Praise and Glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

“The effective prayer of a righteous man avails much.” - James 5:16 -

“Through whom (Jesus) we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” - Romans 5:2 -

“By prayer and supplication let your request be known to God.” - Philippians 4:6 -

“Paul appeal to the “Brethren (to) pray for us.” - 2 Thess. 3:1 -

Let Christ be first in our thoughts this morning.

Welcome to the CABC Family!



We rejoice in the Lord with our new members!

Through Baptism:

1. Stanley Alday
2. Althea Bautista
3. Andrea Jean Custodio
4. Luc John Facun
5. Keren Gregas
6. Kezia Gregas
7. Merlina Paguia
8. Jammy Umali
9. Nathan Yanos

Through transfer of membership:

1. Clyde de los Santos
2. Editha Fabros
3. Ferdinand Fabros
4. Jeco Fabros
5. Paul Fabros
6. Ryan Fabros
7. Rosita Pappin

Men's Fellowship Launched



January 10, 2015, it was unusual to see CABC's parking lot full on an early Saturday morning. The formal launching of CABC's Men's fellowship with 43 attendees was the reason behind it.

The 7 to 10 am, on the dot, breakfast time had highlights of spiritual feeding with Pastor Elbern's message and physical fitness by Billy Goco.

Inspired by the verse "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king"

1 Peter 2:17 (KJV), the Men's fellowship was formed for the following purposes:

1. Promote and encourage personal commitment to Jesus Christ, through personal worship, prayer and obedience to His Word through the power of the Holy Spirit;
2. Promote and encourage strong male leadership in the home as ordained by God
3. Promote and encourage spiritual, moral and ethical purity
4. Promote and encourage strong marriages through love, protection and Biblical values.

Vision: To be a group of spiritually mature men that serve together as part of the body of believers while reaching out to men, helping them experience the joys of following God's direction.

We recognize that God has ordained men as the spiritual heads of their households, and we seek to help men understand, prepare for and execute the role.

As men we are accountable not only to God, but to our wives and to each other in our efforts to meet this responsibility. Our goal is to assist men in becoming Godly men, husbands, fathers, sons, employees, leaders, and friends -- Men of integrity.

The fellowship is open to all members and adherents who are men from 36 years old and above, seeking to grow together with brothers in Christ.

If interested, please contact any of the members of the CORE group:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Manuel Almendarez | 8. George Gregas |
| 2. Vic Asetre | 9. Ramny Guatelara |
| 3. Zaldy Ballaret | 10. Vic Hortillosa |
| 4. Bay Caasi | 11. Alex Isip |
| 5. Rhett Calauad | 12. Julian Laude |
| 6. Quirino Calura | 13. Ariel Poquis |
| 7. Temy Diwa | 14. Rey Sian |

Please remember to pray for our 2015 Church Officers and Workers:



Visit our church web site at
www.cabctoronto.org

If you would like to contribute
or be involved in any area(s),
contact any of the CONNECT
staff.

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Zaldy Ballaret
Quirino Calura
Jhun Castro
Willie Damian
Adam Dean
Jeffrey Fegarido
George Gregas
Ramny Guatelara
Dennis Guevarra
Jojo Reyes

TRUSTEES:

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Sheila Herbert
Ana Lissa Labayen
Bong Montemayor
Carmen Vaughan-Burnett
Ulysses Vidal
Dorothy Wilson

Secretary: Faye Latorilla

Treasurer: Susan Nano

Financial Controller: Dennis Borja

Sunday School Superintendent: Neslea Navarro

Our Church Workers:

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Youth Pastor: Alex Lee

Director of Music ministry: Johnny Isip

Administrative Assistant: Salome Ferranco

Maintenance Personnel: Miller Caguiat

Maintenance Assistant: Orpha Palencia

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available. Contact one of the CONNECT
staff to obtain your copy.