



CABC Connect

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

1st Service:	9:00 am
2nd Service:	11:00 am
3rd Service:	5:00pm
Sunday School:	9:00 am 11:00am

WEDNESDAY PRAYER HOURS

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

SPRING 2017 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful"

— JOHN 15:1-2 —





Making every effort to grow fruit.

by Pastor Alexander Lee

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.”

— 2 PETER 1:5-9 —

We need to be productive for God in every season --in the bad times and good times. Not productive as the world sees it, but productive in the sense that you are bearing good fruit for the Lord. Understanding that it is only God that can cause growth and by our own effort, we cannot accomplish anything.

In the letter of 2 Peter, Peter had to address certain issues that were arising within the early church. Commentators say that false teachers started to infiltrate the church and were leading people astray. They were teaching that sin is ok and that there were no consequences in disobeying God. Peter had to address this and reminded the hearers of this letter to make every effort to grow in holiness and Christ-like character.

He reminded them that they needed to make every effort to be productive for God. Not on their own strength, but through God's divine power as the verses before today's passage reminds them. This was important because the false teachers were dragging some people down into living like the world again and that is why Peter said to make every effort to grow in the other direction, in the

characteristics of Christ that were mentioned in today's passage. To make every effort means that they are to give total concentration, dedication and commitment to their God and to their growth in holiness. This means actively pursuing the characteristics of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and relying upon His strength.

Peter reminded the believers that growth is a continual thing and for the believer it should never come to an end. There is no stand still. You either move forward or fall back as one commentator states. If the believer does not continue to grow they can become ineffective and unfruitful for God as verse 8 states. We must continue to bear much fruit in every good work, as in, we should continue to bear fruit throughout our lives.

Peter calls on the believers to open their eyes and wake up. In verse 9 Peter says, the ones who does not do these things are nearsighted and blind. One commentator says that these people are blind because they have closed their eyes. They have willfully decided to ignore the truth and ignore God. They are blind in that sense.

This is not about trying harder but this is about relying on the grace of God and the Holy Spirit. Not about trying harder but about seeking with all of your heart. Loving God with all of your heart, soul and mind. To put in every effort means you make your relationship with God a priority in your life -- the first priority. It seems like everyone these days has relationship goals or other types of goals but do we have any faith goals? Do we have any spiritual growth goals? It is time for us to wake up from our slumber and put all our effort into the things that matter in our lives, our faith and relationship with Christ. Let us make every effort to add to our faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

Stepping out of your comfort zone.

by Shasha Santos

This year has been quite eventful for me, I've reached several milestones in my life with God's guidance and help.

I'm able to speak for all of the graduates of 2017 when I thank God for His provision, strength and protection this school year. God has slowly helped me come out of my comfort zone as I use my talents to glorify Him.

One special moment that I will never forget was on June 4, 2017, Youth Sunday. For offertory, a couple young people suggested to sing a song I wrote. Initially, I didn't want anyone to hear it... then I remembered what Jesus had to say in the gospel of Matthew:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

— MATTHEW 15:14-16 —

I will conclude with the bridge of my song, which will always be my prayer:

"Take this heart of mine, turn it into gold! Take this pride of mine, refine my soul!"

All the glory goes to God!



MICHAEL HEUSER (WWW.UNSPLASH.COM)

Unarmed: A Startling Look into a Weaponless Warrior.

by Ezra Alderete

A grim and sinister feeling breezes through the silent house as I opened the door to the room farthest along the hall. It was a dim and quiet room, so dark in fact that only the break of the light from the door faintly illuminates the interior chamber. I entered the room with worry as the area itself feels dreary and empty. There is a pale stench in the air. Glancing through the sides I noticed a small scratched up desk, a faint broken pink chair, a flowered garbed dresser with doors hanging to its side, and a florid ornate bed cracked on its frame, all pushed heavily into the walls. With every step I took, I felt a heavy weight upon my shoulder, as if a massive boulder was placed on my back. I heard a tiny shuffle around the corner of the room. As I crept closer, I caught a sound of a slight moan. Afterwards I heard a weak cry, and it grew louder as I inched closer. As I closed in to touch, I was taken aback by a chuckle. The creature turned around and towered above me with a noise that shuddered my very core as I fell into the ground. It looked at me with eyes that pierced through the deepest part of my soul and with a low ghastly voice it muttered with a grin, "What are you gonna do about it, boy?" I mustered all the strength I had to stand, yet all I could do was bring myself to my knees. I tried to fight but words eluded my lips and fear blocked my heart. It was the Enemy, the stalker, the ravenous beast. It extended its hand for my throat. I realized then and there, as I looked up with nothing more left in me, that I was unarmed.

Often when we look at ourselves in this world, we have come to view our lives here as merely a waiting stage or a blissful lounge. We are relaxed, complacent and, for a lack of a good word, lazy. We aim for nothing more than to just cruise into this life and jump further into eternity. We are caught in a trap and have fallen into this rut of a mindset. This is the new age of the world – an age brimming with easiness, instantaneousness, and distractions. A time when accessibility of any information, and I do mean any information, are retrieved by the literal palm of our hand. Every thought, data, and outlook of any ideology captured within seconds. This has made the bare-minimum level of understanding a trend and norm to the general populace, and have even captivated "Christians" everywhere. Shallow is the standard. Superficiality is acceptable. Why not? Answers seem to be only a click away. When sadness hits us, we simply browse for images to cheer us up. When we are confused, we search for ways to straighten us out, even to an extent of proving a point in the very arguments we stand on. The very principles we lean on are all based upon nothing more than a simple web search from tiny

screens. Technology has blinded us; it has become a façade of knowing, a false mask of understanding. Is this our view of being founded on a rock?

Our lives are subtly distraught into what our insight of being rooted down in His Word really means, the importance of which is reflected when we look at our daily lives as a battle. Ephesians 6:12 states, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (ESV). This is a battle that is waged upon us day in and day out. This is a battle that is not influenced by a strong physique. It does not match its warriors based on how much equipment you carry or how robust you show yourself. It is a Spiritual battle and thus fought through the Spiritual realms and with Spiritual weaponry.

This is who we are as warriors. We embark on a battle with the arrogance and the bravado of proud combatants but with nothing to show for except a shallow understanding of the fight we are about to undertake. We may argue that we do have a deeper understanding of the fight and we do have a stronger grasp of what is needed. Then why do we refuse to prepare? If we know the enemy and we know he is there, then why do we forget to fight? Is it complacency? Or dare I say laziness? Is it because our mindset is that we have won the war, and thus not feel the need to fight the battles? "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:3-5(NIV). This battle is not a one-time affair but a daily struggle – a struggle that we lose under that mentality. Until the day when our Lord comes again, the fight is not over. The last thing we need to do is put our guard down. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (ESV). We have become an easy prey, seemingly unaware that we are being stalked and marked by a hunter with a malicious intent. We opt to believe in ourselves as battle-ready fighters, and yet when the enemy attacks we are found wanting.

What does one call a man that charges into battle knowing full well that he has a sword but does not carry it?

As the battle is not waged with flesh, so to is the equipment that is used. The Spiritual fight we wage on requires a Spiritual weapon. The Armour of God is

described in Ephesians 6:14-17, but for now let us look closer into the weapon of choice (verse 17), the Sword. As much as the entirety of the Armour of God is important in this Spiritual war, the beauty of a Sword when wielded in the right manner, can act as both an offense and a defense. Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow and discerning the thoughts and intention of the heart." (ESV).

It is too powerful of a weapon in our arsenal not to carry. Its necessity is undeniable. The Sword of the Spirit. The Word of God. I believe the best instance of when it has shown its true power is through the example of our Lord Himself, Jesus Christ. In Matthew 4:1-11, before He started His ministry, He escaped into the wilderness to fast and pray for 40 days and 40 nights. During that time, He was tempted by the enemy, the devil. As the enemy threw temptation after temptation towards Jesus, He countered each one with the Word. He quoted scripture after scripture with every passage deeply ingrained in truth causing the devil to flee and leave Him. He did not have with Him a book, a scroll nor any devices to pull the Word out. He had it word for word, truth for truth entrenched in His heart.

A sheathed sword girded and buckled to the side of a warrior ready to be brought out in any sign of danger.

As convenient as it is to carry a written Bible or a digital one in your mobile device, there is no handier place we can store the Word than in our hearts. We need to truly understand the Word and have it rooted deep within our hearts. It may not be as simple as memorizing it or just knowing it. It must be plunged into our heart and soul. Before doing so however, the heart must be prepared, James 1:21 states, "Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." (ESV). This is the key to its Spiritual readiness – a clear understanding of the Word, deeply engrained in our hearts and consequently an outpour through our lives. A weapon as strong and essential as this cannot be just left in a shelf or be placed on a mantle. It cannot be simply pushed aside or forgotten. It must be ready, sheathed to your side and on guard for any battle ahead.

A sword does not need to come from a fine metal or beautifully ornate with gems and pearls, it just needs to be sharp. The strength of the Sword is not measured solely by the skill of the one who wields it, but also by its capacity to cut. The sharpness of the Sword is the basis and purpose of the blade. Soldiers must have full faith in their weapons, a trust that is built by the full knowledge that it can not only protect its wielder but also penetrate and cut as intended. This comes, however, with total commitment, practice

and discipline. A swordsmith constantly sharpens and maintains its steel, continuously puts care into the weapon with love and devotion. What we know and perceive of our Heavenly Father and Christ our Lord is deeply connected into our faith in His Word, the Sword. The connection with Christ is the fundamental root of our growth in Him and the way to sharpen our weapon. As in John 15:1-17, Christ asks for us to abide in Him and His Word, because to abide in Him is to grow in the Spirit. This is the sharpening of one's blade. As we grow in Him, we rely more in Him and in turn we become sustained, defended and used for His ultimate purpose. "But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one." 2 Thessalonians 3:3(NIV). This truth is what we ought to stand by on, the hope we hold on to. "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31(NIV). He is the God of promise, from the day of the Flood (Genesis 9:14), to Abraham (Genesis 17:1-2) and David (2 Samuel 7:12), to the promise of a Saviour (Isaiah 7:14), until the present time (John 14:16,26). He has continuously kept His promises. For this is what He says to us, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6(NIV). He is the God Creator of the heavens and the earth (Isaiah 45:18), our Everlasting God (Genesis 21:33), the Just (Psalm 98:9) and Merciful One (Jeremiah 3:12), the One Who was, is and Who is to come (Revelation 1:8), the Alpha and the Omega (Revelation 22:13), The Shepherd (Psalm 23:1) and the Defender (Psalm 7:10), the Rock (Psalm 27:1) and our Refuge (Psalm 46:1), the Great I am (Exodus 3:14). That same God who loves us (John 3:16), and gave His Only Son to save us (Romans 5:8). That same God who controls everything (Romans 8:28). So, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7(NIV). These truths and many more are found in His Word, and must constantly remain in our hearts.

As it seems there is an endless wave of battles before us. The victory is of the Lord, and when He comes back, we will share it with Him and our Father. Until then He has sent us His Spirit to guide, teach and aid us in this life and our battles. Let us prepare for the fight. Sharpen those blades. Let us arm ourselves!

"Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

— PSALM 119:11(KJV) —



ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING **JUNE 3**

Members and adherents who are part of 17 ministries and small groups came together to clean, declutter, and organize our church building. The productive day started with a short devotional and ended with fellowship over lunch.

JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE **JUNE 11**

See feature on page 6.



JUNE

ALL-CHURCH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC **JUNE 10**

See feature on page 6.



SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING **JUNE 25**

The first of our semi-annual congregational meetings took place after the second service.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY SUMMER CAMP AUGUST 4 - 7

Our young people had an enjoyable and memorable weekend at Upper Canada Camp in Palgrave, Ontario. This year's speaker was Pastor Sam K and there were also five workshop leaders - Pastor Alex Lee, Wally Damian, Lendl Salangsang, and Ezra Alderete. The camp committee led by Ace Abellanosa, hosted about 103 attendees for this year's camp.

**BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY JULY 9**

Our church honoured this school year's graduates from Kindergarten, Elementary, High School, College & University. See page 10 for the list of this year's graduates.

JULY

AUGUST

**CANADA SUNDAY
JULY 2**

The Young Men's Bible Study Group led all three services in celebration of Canada's 150th birthday celebration.

SUMMER DAY CAMP JULY 17 - JULY 21

About 100 children ages 4 to 12 years old attended this year's week long day camp entitled, "Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose". This year's team was led by AJ Poquiz and assisted by Melanie Bautista and Camille Lachica.

33 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

All-Church Anniversary Picnic

Saturday, June 10th

CABC began its 33rd anniversary celebrations with a church-wide picnic at Thomson Park. Several groups were assigned to make this affair a memorable one. Members, adherents, and their guests arrived with their favourite dishes to share with everyone for lunch. After a short devotional, everybody began to fellowship through games, dancing, sports, and meaningful conversations.



Joint Worship Service

Sunday, June 11th

To top off the weekend celebrations, all three services were combined into one worship service at Agincourt Collegiate Institute. It was truly a memorable day for everyone who attended as there was no power at the venue due to a power outage in the surrounding community. The situation, however, did not deter the congregation from pouring their hearts out in worship led by the worship team, choirs, and soloists. Despite the lack of lighting and air-conditioning, members and adherents still had a blessed time celebrating what God has done and listening to God's word preached by Pastor Elbern. It was a great reminder for everyone that nothing should keep us from giving God what He is due no matter the situation.



A MEMOIR OF A SISTER.

by Joy Calura

Wednesday, June 7th.

Today is the first day I woke up without my sister. I went to her room, greeted with such brightness flooding it with sunlight already strong, though still early. I uttered “Wow ading (little sister), good for you, you don’t even need the sun now for brightness. You are now with The Light Himself and you will never see darkness ever again.”

Then I remembered it is our maternal grandmother and my friend’s husband’s birthdays who are also now with the LORD, and I wondered if birthdays are celebrated in heaven. I saw her notebook on her nightstand and I read it as I cried. If I can judge [the situation] by the overwhelming love and support we had and continue to receive, the family and friends that keep on dropping by and the endless phone calls and messages through social media, the tributes that keep pouring in, I can say without a shadow of a doubt -- GOD indeed made her life count!!!

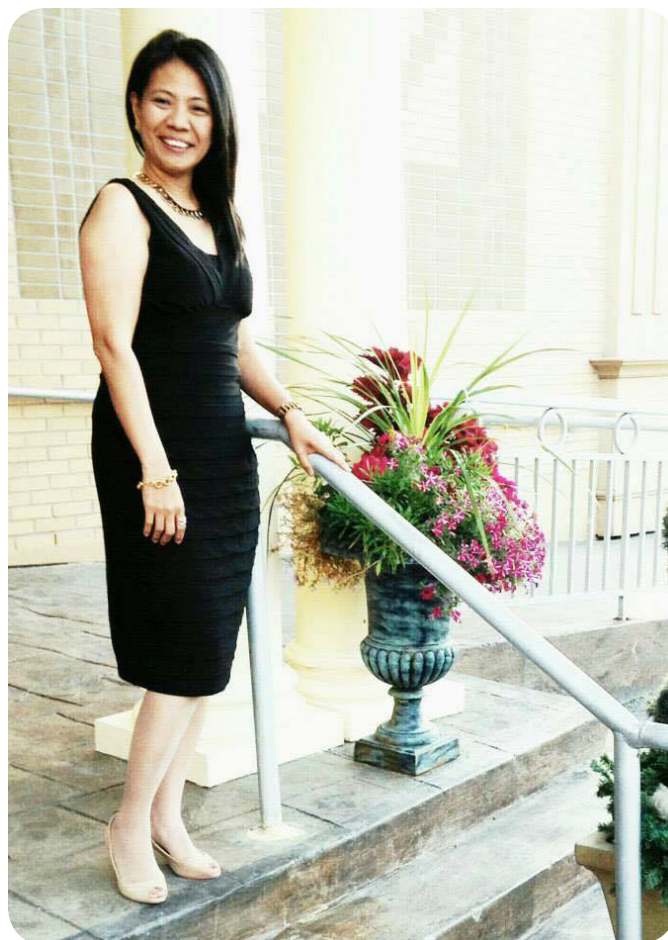
It is no wonder why she is well loved. She is a very giving person, always putting someone else’s welfare before her own and always with a smile, even in her last hours. She let God live, love and work through her. Her faith in GOD being in absolute control, the certainty that HE loves her, her trust in GOD’s wisdom, and her being in HIS hands, sustained her. Her faith never wavered but remained steadfast. We never heard her complain, never saw her without “that” smile; almost all the comments we’re getting are about her smile. She even smiled at the paramedics while gasping for air!

Friends who came and called hoping to inspire her during her battle leave inspired by her faith instead. She loved life and lived it to the fullest. She lived the life she was given with such abandon. Her lips were always filled with gratitude and praise to her Maker and now she is in HIS presence, more alive than ever.

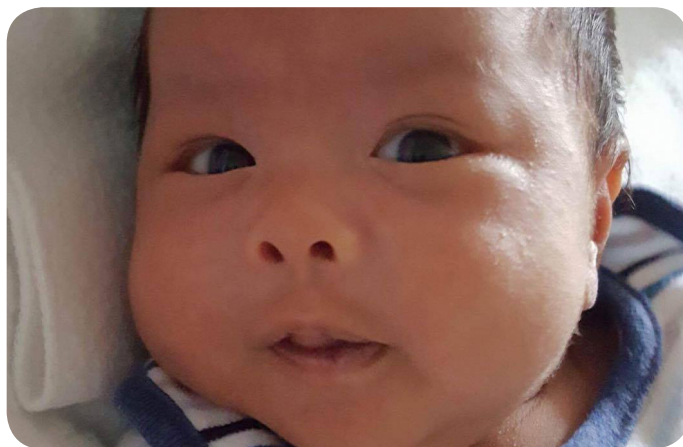
What a life well-lived!

I miss her already. It hurts so bad but to wish her back would be selfish. All I can do now is to wait for my turn to be called home and what a reunion that would be!

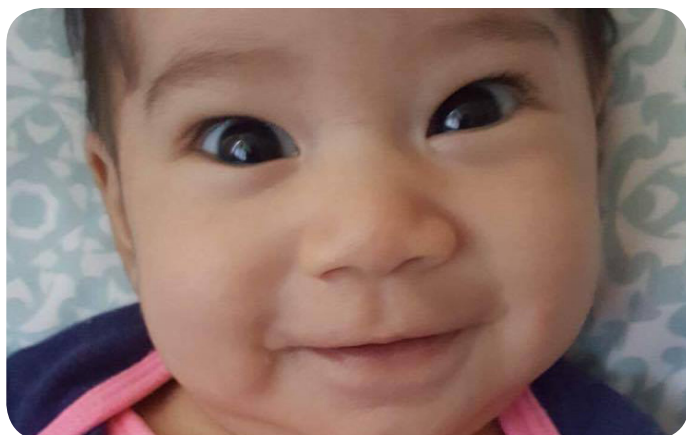
So long, ading. I love you.



BIRTHS, WEDDINGS & MILETONE BIRTHDAYS!



Eliam Asher Alderete Pel
Born on April 26, 2017
Parents: Jeram & Sherwin Pel



Kaitlin Haley Bagano Alcausin
Born on Friday, May 5, 2017
Parents: Hannah & Michael Alcausin



Mark & Jireh Ares
Married on Saturday, January 14, 2017



Jeremy & L.A. Bautista
Married on Sunday, April 30, 2017



70th Birthday Celebration
Pastor Elbern Latorilla
Sunday, May 21, 2017
(actual birthday on May 22nd)

In response to Romans 6:6,

“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”

Maritza Salangsang’s Sunday school class used the example of metamorphosis to explain the change that happens in a new believer’s heart. Metamorphosis, similar to the process that a caterpillar goes through to become a butterfly, can be described as a change in the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means. The following are some responses of her class to this lesson.

BECAUSE I AM IN CHRIST...

“I am a new creation and can be a light at school, at home, and everywhere else I go. I am different because I am in Christ and that is a good thing.”

ELIANA MAE FEGARIDO

“I am no longer a slave to sin. I am sure that I am going to heaven. I am born again. I have a new life with Him. I am able to say that I am a Christian because I am a child of [God].”

SHAERIN CASTRO

“I will be saved and [because of that change, I am able to do things like] help my family with chores. I will not be touched by Satan and his schemes. [Because I am in Christ], I may be able to have a relationship with God.”

AYA GUATELARA

“I use the gospel to [teach] non-Christians about Jesus and who he really is. I can be a messenger of Christ and [by His Spirit], my words can be used to speak about Him.”

RUTH AIRA SOLIVEN

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR 2017 GRADUATES!

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY

Abellanos, Ace
(Bachelor of Commerce, Marketing with Honours)

Borja, Martin
(Registered Practical Nursing)

Cabaluna, Earl
(Bachelor of Arts, History with Honours)

Delos Reyes, Nathaniel
(Bachelor of Graphic Communications Management)

Gatuz, Jorel
(Bachelor of Environmental Studies)

Laude, Anrei
(Graphic Design with Honours)

Quiambao, Joby
(Bachelor of Science, Food and Nutrition with Honours)

Ybiernas, Rafael
(Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering)

HIGHSCHOOL

Abellanos, Aim
Alday, Stanley
Bartolome, Bradley
Castro, Tristan Dean
Facun, Czarina
Gregas, Keren
Gregas, Kezia
Montemayor, Jed Joshua
Poquiz, Arsielle Joy
Santos, Therisha
Sia, Michael

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Camaya, Julius Michael
Capinpin, Adrienne Jermaine
(Honours)
Delos Reyes, Kisha
(Valedictorian)
Lopez, Cassie
Sarker, Ruthlin
Sharvanatnhan, Abishakan
Villamor, Cris Richard

GRADE 6

Guatelara, Zuriel Tyler

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
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