



CABC Connect

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES**

1st Service:	9:00 am
2nd Service:	11:00 am
Children's Church:	11:15 am
Evening Fellowship:	5:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY
PRAYER HOURS**

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

SUMMER 2012 VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

God said to Gideon, "You have too large an army with you. I can't turn Midian over to them like this—they'll take all the credit, saying, 'I did it all myself,' and forget about me."

— JUDGES 7:2





Persistence - a Godly Virtue

By Pastor Elbern Latorilla

In his book, *Come Before Winter and Share My Hope*, radio preacher and writer, Charles R. Swindoll, says that persistence pays. He writes that it is a costly investment, but the dividends are so much greater than the original outlay that the investor almost forgets the price he initially paid.

I guess it is easier to give up than to pursue a course of action to its end especially when hurdles and barriers galore are to be overcome. One may be tempted to say to himself, "What's the use?" and then throw in the towel. Or well-meaning friends may advise, "Why sweat it out? It won't do you any good anyway." But the one who pushes on, determined to finish what he has begun, will surely reap the benefit of reaching the goal.

Consider the example of Annaliese Carr. About a month ago, this 14-year-old girl did something that perhaps even a sturdy man would hesitate to do. She swam 52.5 kilometers across Lake Ontario from the mouth of the Niagara River to the breakwater at Marilyn Bell Park in Toronto. Her purpose?

"But see what happens when we persist and persevere."

To raise money for Camp Trillium, a Childhood Cancer Support Centre where she earlier wanted to volunteer her services but was turned down because of her age. She then decided to do the unthinkable or perhaps the undoable. But her gutsiness, perseverance and persistence enabled her to swim for 27 hours fighting high tides, cold currents and leg cramps. She didn't quit. In the process she gained a name for herself as the youngest person to ever swim across Lake Ontario. Even more significantly, because of her feat, people were challenged to pledge the amount of \$90,000 towards the Camp. You know what? God honors persistence! Why? Because He Himself models and practices it. Think of His love for the chosen people, the Jews. It persists

to this very day despite their disobedience and rebellion through the years. Or consider His patient persistence in reaching out to the lost, "... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9b).

In his 182-line poem, *The Hound of Heaven*, the English poet, Francis Thompson compares God to a hound that unhurriedly yet unwearingly and persistently follows after a hare until it catches up with it. The poet says that God, by divine grace, never ceases to run after a fleeing sinner until he feels the pressure of that unending pursuit and makes him turn to the Lord alone and no one else. And how about His persistence with us believers? You and I can recall times in the past when God could have simply taken us out of the way and bundled us off to heaven because of our foolhardiness and selfish ways. But why didn't He? The answer is because He who "began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). God will finish what He started! He will persist. He won't quit. Our God knows no unfinished task. The Bible encourages Christians to develop **persistence**. Although the word itself is not found in the English translations of the Bible, its meaning and significance are definitely expressed and exemplified. Paul commands, "...be **steadfast**, immovable..." (I Corinthians 15:58). Further, he encourages the Ephesian believers to be "praying always with... **perseverance**..." (6:18). The apostle Peter writes, "...giving all diligence, add to your faith... **perseverance**..." (II Peter 1:5, 6). It is clear that God calls for steadfastness, perseverance, yes... persistence.

God will finish what He started! He will persist. He won't quit. Our God knows no unfinished task.

Oh, it is so easy to simply call it quits when the going gets tough and rough. But see what happens when we persist and persevere. Consider the example of the three friends of Daniel. When they were confronted by the king of Babylon of their non-compliance to the edict that demanded worship of the idol he had made, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego stood their ground. They bravely told Nebuchadnezzar that even if they would be thrown into the fiery furnace, they would never compromise their faith in God who alone deserved to be worshipped. How steadfast they were! So was Daniel. When he learned of the decree that no one should pray to anyone but to the king, he went home and, with his windows opened, prayed as he had always done. He could have simply acquiesced with the law for just 30 days and be spared from the lions' den. But he didn't. He persevered and God honored his testimony. Or how about Job? Satan was so jealous of this godly man that he challenged the LORD to take away the hedge that He had placed around Job and predicted that Job would curse Him to His face. There is no other man in the Bible who underwent the kind of trial that Job did and yet he proved to Satan (and to us today) that such trial could not shake him up and cause him to give up his trust in God. As James says, "As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's and have seen what the Lord finally brought about" (5:11).

Let me give another Biblical example. Remember Gideon and his famous 300 men? God raised them up to fight a much larger Midianite army that had harassed Israel for 7 years. However, the weapons they were to fight with were unconventional, unusual and even useless in any battle. But they were to confront the 135,000 strong Midianite armed forces with trumpets, jars and lit torches plus their voices that would shout, "The sword of

the LORD and of Gideon" (Judges 7:18b). Was this not laughable or plain idiotic? Not to God for it was His idea. One or two of the 300 may have thought, "I don't want to die fighting with these. I quit." Yet no one went on AWOL that night and each one stood his ground as God discomfited and defeated the Midianites for them. Judges 7:21 (NIV) reads, "While each man **held his position** (*emphasis mine*) around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled." Because Gideon's men were fearless, disciplined and steadfast, God enabled them to gain a victory no one perhaps thought was possible.

I believe that a good number of our brethren at Commonwealth Avenue Baptist Church have, to a certain extent, learned what it means to persist or persevere, too. Just think of what happened after that unexpected flooding of our basement on July 15. It resulted in such a messy situation that we thought all our summer activities would be put in jeopardy. A few even suggested that we cancel the VBS in particular considering that it was only a week away from the flooding incident. They argued that the space that was needed to run the event was not enough. But praise God, many more held their position and insisted that we should push through. And God honored the stance we made as a church. Because we persisted, we were able minister to over 113 children, lead some of them to come to the knowledge of Jesus as their Savior, utilize the gifts and talents of around 48 volunteers and, throughout the week, enjoy fantastic weather that God wonderfully provided.

Indeed persistence pays and how!

As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's and have seen what the Lord finally brought about.

— HEBREW 6:10 —

Gideon's Call

By Michael Borja

A few days before the start of the 2012 Vacation Bible School, a harsh rain came and flooded the basement of CABC. I remember being in CABC right at that moment. We had a deacon's meeting in the board room on the third floor. After the meeting, I went down to check the basement. I helplessly watched as water seeped into the floor. It was surprising because the water came from underneath the tiles. The others who were there watched in horror as the water level quickly rose to a foot high.

I went home with a cheerless heart. I am not angry towards God; neither do I question His will. Who am I to talk back to God? (Romans 9:19-21). I know He is sovereign and He needs not explain Himself to anyone. Whatever we have is borrowed from Him. He can give freely and recall such things whenever He wants (Job 1:21). But I feel sad because CABC is the Lord's temple. What shall our neighbours think? Shall they mock Christianity and heap abuse on God? Shall they say "Where is your God now?" as in the old times when Israel was trampled by their enemies? (Joel 2:17)

A particular passage that came to mind was Judges 7 when Gideon was leading the army of Israel against the Midianites. Before the battle began, the LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.' (Judges 7:2). I call this the call of Gideon. Unlike the call of David where David was tasked by the Lord to gather men to fight against the Philistines, Gideon's call was to reduce his army so that God alone would be the means for victory.

How is this related to the flood in CABC and if I may add - the painful experiences that we go through? Ah, the answer lies with Judges 7:2. The army is too big for the victory to be ascribed on God alone! Indeed, we have way too many resources for victory to be ascribed on God! It is easy to say "we depend on You Lord" when our buckets are full. But it is during starvation when we truly learn to cry "Abba Father!"

We have many resources in CABC that I am very thankful for. We have a decent-sized building for worship and ministry; we have skilled and well-educated teachers; and we have very good props. My previous church in the Philippines had none of these things. But all these earthly things can make us feel secure and comfortable. We do not seek God as He ought to be sought because we have what we need. More importantly, the glory is not fully His even though we say it in our prayers, because we know that we had the resources to thrive. But when He has cut off the means in which we are to accomplish our goal, then we can ascribe every victory to the Lord alone with authenticity.

The Lord answered my previous questions with thunder. As I asked before - What shall our neighbours think? Shall they mock Christianity and heap abuse on my God? Shall they say "Where is your God now?" as in the old times when Israel was conquered by several nations?

No, our neighbours will know the Lord and fear Him more. Because of the flood and destruction, we have lost our means to conduct our Vacation Bible School (VBS). But in our decision to continue with the VBS and trust the Lord despite the lack of space and time to re-organize, our neighbours bore witness to the Lord's work. Every child and parent who came to CABC for the VBS saw the destruction of our basement. However, they also saw that the VBS was still successful despite the challenges. Indeed they saw the Lord and His great work. Whether with blind eyes or enlightened hearts, I do not know. But I do know that the Lord has always been at work - drawing all communities, tribes and nations towards Him. In due time, our community in Scarborough will piece these things together and confess Jesus as Lord. They will know the Lord and we will see the fulfillment of His promise in Malachi 1:11—"My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the LORD Almighty.

Hug Alert!

By Gina Montemayor

It was merely the third day of VBS (Vacation Bible School).

Unlike my younger years as a volunteer when I was able to keep up with all the high strung children, I was already beginning to feel my energy being drained.

I sat quietly in one of the church pews absorbed in my own deep thoughts. The kids around continued to babble non-stop, some giggling, some singing, some looking for their 'tribe' leader, while waiting for everyone else to assemble before wrapping up for the day. I just allowed my thoughts to drown in all the noise as I continued to make a mental inventory of the many other things still unaccomplished: *2 more days, certificates to do... closing ceremony programme... then there are household chores... what should I cook tonight... I have to buy milk... oh I forgot to call... ahh, I just feel so tired...*

THEN to my surprise this 5 year old, bright eyed child (I often refer to as "my sunshine boy") appeared from nowhere, stood right in front of me with his arms spread wide open. Before I knew it, he hugged me so tightly and so lovingly that I was immediately brought back to the present.

Hugging him back, I thanked him and asked with a surprise "how did you know I needed that so badly?" With both his little index fingers pointing from his eyes to mine, he quipped with a smile "I sensed it in your eyes".

I thanked him again and let him know that his gesture was very thoughtful and that it definitely energized me. He simply nodded with a satisfied smile as he knew that his hug achieved its purpose.

As I mused through that whole scenario, I cannot help but thank God for that little boy. I am amazed that at a very tender age, he has the heart that is able to be sensitive enough to those around



him... to be spontaneous... to do a random act of kindness.

If only every person would be just as perceptive... just as caring... 'Oh what a wonderful world this would be'...

Then again I am reminded of Psalm 55:22 "Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken."

God knew my disturbed thoughts that very instant and through the loving expression of a little boy, I felt He sent me an angel to assure me my anxieties were all unnecessary.

It was a sweet reminder of God's love... an inspiration to be likewise... to be aware of those around me and see them through child-like eyes.

Thank you Lord for the lesson learned from that tender moment.

Thank you Jaeden for your hug at a perfect moment.



PERSPECTIVES GRADUATION JULY 8

After 15 grueling weeks of study, CABC's hosting this year's Perspectives course was not in vain as 22 members were among the 33 who graduated (the rest from other churches). Graduation afternoon was inspired by testimonies from several graduates. The challenge to pursue and apply all that has been learned was encouraged by guest speaker Harold M. who shared the inexplicable joy that comes with reaching the unreached for God's glory.

CAR WASH TURNED CHURCH WASH JULY 15

The young people initially planned to use the afternoon for community outreach through a car wash activity. However, the Lord had other plans as the heavy downpour of rain flooded the church basement. Appropriately geared to wash cars, the YP's enthusiastically ended up cleaning the church basement. God provides indeed!



JOINT CHOIR FELLOWSHIP JULY 15

for April, May and June birthday celebrants

JULY

SALUTE TO CANADA SUNDAY JULY 1

The annual celebration was done coming to church wearing red or a touch of it. Two bible study groups (Branches of the Vine and Family & Friends) facilitated both services. Pastor Elbern reminded us to be thankful for the blessings we are enjoying in this great country, as he challenged us to be responsible citizens by praying for our leaders.

VBS VOLUNTEERS TRAINING AND WORKSHOP JULY 14

This year's Vacation Bible School Leadership training held at CABC had about 30 attendees. Workshops were done (including a fire drill) to help the volunteers get ready for their respective responsibilities. Devotions led by our deacons Juancho Chu and Michael Borja helped to prepare everybody spiritually for the task that they have committed to do.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK JULY 23-29

This year's curriculum was based on the story of Daniel while in exile in Babylon.

SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
AUGUST 18

A good number of about 100 church members and adherents with some guests enjoyed the annual picnic at the Thompson Park. There were active games for the young while the adults enjoyed the word guessing game. As expected, food was abundant as everyone brought a dish to share. It was indeed a time of *koinonia* (Christian fellowship).

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION **SEPTEMBER 9**

SS superintendent Lyncie Antonio mobilized the Sunday school children, as they facilitated both services inspiring the congregation with special music and memory verses. Guest speaker Pastor Peter Wong’s message focused on ‘Biblical Parenthood; emphasizing that the basic thing a parent can do is to model Christ—ALWAYS!



JOINT CHOIR FELLOWSHIP
SEPTEMBER 16

for July, August and September birthday celebrants

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

YOUNG@HEART SUMMER OUTING **AUGUST 11**

SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS



MARRIAGE ONENESS COURSE
SEPTEMBER 23

Twelve couples presently participating in the Marriage Oneness course, meets in the multi-purpose room each week on Sunday afternoons from 5:00-7:00 pm.

This is an eight week, DVD driven, course that includes a 45-minute teaching time, a discussion time, and weekly “oneness work” to apply the topics each week in one’s marriage.

The course equips couples for a life long pursuit of the biblical goal of oneness in marriage, defining “oneness” in a practical way. It provides valuable and practical insights on seven key topics in marriage: Communication, Conflict Resolution, Money, Spiritual Beliefs, Sexual Intimacy, Roles and Responsibilities, and Family and Friends.

VBS 2012- Babylon- Daniel's Courage in Captivity



In spite of unexpected limited space due to the damage resulting from the basement flooding, our annual Vacation Bible School carried on and was attended by 113 students, ages 3-11 assisted by about 48 volunteers.



DAY 1

Bible Point: When things change, God is with you.
Key Verse: "For God has said" I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." (Hebrews 13:5)

DAY 2

Bible Point: When you need help, God is with you.
Key Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble." (Psalm 46:1)



DAY 3

Bible Point: When you are afraid, God is with you.
Key Verse: "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God." (Isaiah 41:10)

DAY 4

Bible Point: When you're lonely, God is with you.
Key Verse: "I am with you always, even to the end of age." (Matthew 28:20)



DAY 5

Bible Point: When you're thankful, God is with you.
Key Verse: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His faithful love endures forever." (1 Chronicles 16:34)

MORE PHOTOS POSTED ON OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

Young@Heart Outing

By Sheila Herbert



It was an August rainy morning yet there were 52 persons gathered to attend the Young @ Heart outing for the day. Before leaving, Pastor Latorilla committed our time and day to the Lord, and he prayed that the Lord hold back the rain and give us a good day of fun and fellowship. His prayer was answered. The rain held up and it was sunny and warm all day.

We arrived in Colborne early even though we left a little late. We were able to attend the 'Sales in the park'; some shopped, some were just mulling around and others sat and talked--- what a pleasant time it was.

Lunch was scheduled for 11:30 A.M. at the restaurant reserved just for us. The lunch was great, and it is always good when brethren can dwell together in unity.

After lunch we boarded the bus for the theatre in Port Hope to see the musical "Oliver". The performance

was good, but the music was excellent.

It was a diverse group of persons together; we had the Young@Heart seniors, and those that are not yet seniors, and then there were the children. It was surely a balanced group. There were members from our congregation, and other members and families from other churches that joined us for the day. It was good coming together enjoying the trip.

Let us not forget about our driver who was friendly and very pleasant. We thanked God for him, and we thanked him for the extras that he did for us without any complaints.

So what can we say? We praise God for that bright sunny day, for bright sunny hearts, the joy and the sharing together. And so we give the praise and thanks to God for answered prayers, love and fellowship.



Missionary Feedback

Several CABC members followed the Lord's call to serve on short-term mission trips last summer. Here's sharing some feedback from a few:

BRAZIL

This past summer I went on a short term mission trip to Brazil and I can say that it was truly a blessed experience. I saw God work in ways that I could never imagine. I was able to go into the *favelas* (slums) to evangelize and just share God's love. I witnessed a miracle healing and most importantly I saw dead hearts accept Christ and come alive. I had the time of my life, and I pray for a chance to someday do it again. To God be the Glory.

Kathy A.

SERPENT RIVER RESERVE

I really, really miss the kids. They open up to you easily and they say and do the sweetest things. I did have challenges in disciplining them (apparently, I'm too nice). But other than that, I was so blessed to see how much they loved being with us. God willing, I hope to show them more of Christ's love next year.

Jenny U.

The Serpent River community is truly a home to me. Every time I come back from the reserve in the summer, I could literally feel and notice a big change in my life, in ways which strengthen my relationship with God. His unconditional and forgiving love is a growing outstanding visibility in this culture. I know God has great plans for these amazing people and I'm just overwhelmed and honored to be a part of His work. I truly thank you SO much for your prayers and support. I'm missing the kids like crazy! If it is God's will, I pray to be with them again next summer but for more than three weeks this time :)

Joby Q.

My trip to Serpent River this year was, to put it simply, a lot better and more enjoyable than when I went two years ago. The trip was truly led by God as He put together an amazing dedicated team of people ranging from high school students all the way up to someone's grandparent and everyone in between. We built an amazing relationship with not only the teenagers and children there, but the parents as well who live on the reserve. Personally, I feel that the two weeks we spent there wasn't long enough and if it's in God's will for me to go back, I would do so in a heartbeat.

Jorel G.

A Golden Performance

THE CHRISTIAN STORY OF GABBY DOUGLAS

By Alex Camaya

Every four years we witness a sporting spectacle in which the world's best athletes from countries all around the globe come in to compete for glory and recognition, and to be raised up in the echelon of greatness in an event called "The Olympic games."

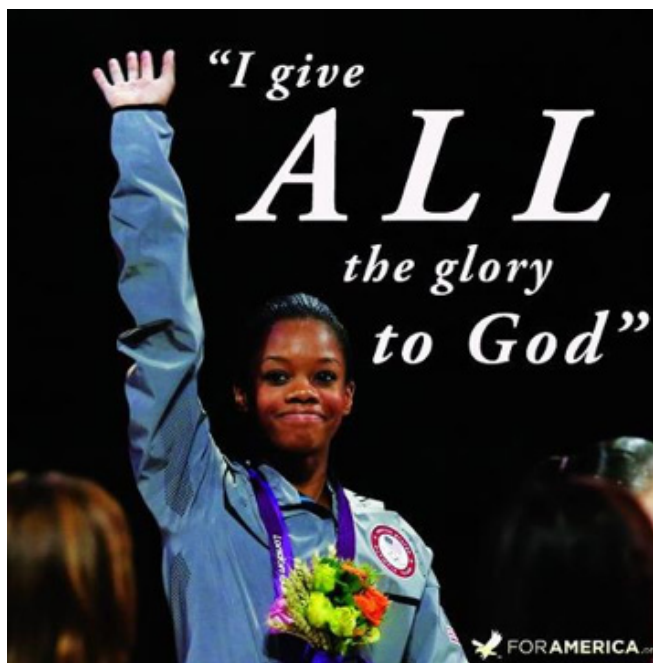
Held this year in London, the 2012 Olympic Games once again delighted us with intense competitions, great camaraderie, sportsmanship and respect for team mates and opponents alike; as well as the ever present heart warming stories of athletes who dedicated their lives showing us the gift they all have in every discipline and sport they partake. Once again just like the Olympics of the past, this year brought us new inspirations from people who didn't raise themselves when they won but raised the Lord's name instead. Let us all meet 2012 London Olympic Games 2x Gold medalist gymnast, Gabby Douglas.

Gabrielle Christina Victoria "Gabby" Douglas was born December 31, 1995. She is an American artistic gymnast. As a member of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics team at the 2012 Summer Olympics, she won gold medals in both the individual and team all-around competitions. Douglas is the first woman of color and the first African-American gymnast in Olympic history to become the individual all-around champion, and the first American gymnast to win gold in both the individual all-around and team competitions at the same Olympics. Gabby started training in gymnastics at age six and at the age of eight she competed and won in gymnastic events held in Virginia.

*"Let all that I am praise the LORD;
may I never forget the good things He
does for me."*

Not everything started easy for young Gabby. She openly spoke about being a victim of racist bullying at the Excalibur Gymnastics, the place where Gabby trained on her craft. Being called by some of the girls as their "slave," Gabby almost quit the sport due to those incidents but found strength in her growing spiritual faith as well as the support from her devout Christian family. Gabby persevered and worked hard and those paid off when she was selected to be part of the women's gymnastics team that participated in the 2012 Olympics meet.

On the individual all-around event Gabby competed with a very tough group. She wasn't even favored to be medaled on the event, as the Russians and Chinese athletes dominated the event in recent years. Prior to the event, Gabby tweeted to her fans a verse from Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever



you go." That gave her the boost she needed as Gabby edged out her competitors and won the first ever Gold for an African-American in a Gymnastics event. After the emotional win, Gabby had only praises for the Lord. "It is everything I thought it would be; being the Olympic champion is definitely an amazing feeling, and I give all the glory to God. It's kind of a win-win situation. The glory goes up to Him and the blessings fall down on me", Douglas testified in an interview. She continued to inspire her young fans on social media as well, when she kept on giving praises to the Lord for the blessing of another gold medal for team competition. She tweeted: "Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things He does for me."

At the tender age of 16, Gabby's rise to prominence has been challenged by the things most of us deal with in life as well. But a strong faith in the Lord, supportive and loving friends and family, combined with her humbleness, truly showed us that success is not only measured in medals and accolades. It is in the essence that for all the trouble we face, we will never be alone. As long as Gabby continues on her path as the true model of the youth and likewise the old, her brimming future will shine brighter. The Lord always guides those who seek Him and those in need for light on their path in life; it be in stardom, or the true journey and battle of day to day living.

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Milestone

Philip Joshua and Phadra Manalastas
July 7, 2012



Visit our church web site at
www.cabchurch.org

If you would like to contribute
or be involved in any area(s),
contact Gina Montemayor at
connect@cabchurch.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Gina P. Montemayor

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
Michael Borja

LITERARY EDITOR:
Nes Navarro

REPORTER:
Aeda San Diego

YOUTH REPORTERS:
LA Lambino
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SPORTS FEATURE WRITER:
Alex Camaya

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS/
PHOTOGRAPHERS:
Mia Reyes
Linden Laserna

WEBSITE LIAISONS:
Jeremy Bautista
Marigold Bollozos

REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS:
Pastor Elbern Latorilla
Pastor Jim Wright

CONTRIBUTORS (THIS ISSUE):
Michael Borja, Sheila Herbert,
Kathy A., Jenny U., Joby Q., Jorel G.

PRINT VOLUNTEERS:
Grace Isip, Susan Manalastas

ADVISOR:
Willie Damian

COVER PHOTO:
Perseverance by Loving Earth
(<http://flic.kr/p/54mYM9>)



CABC's Future Leaders



Jamie Malachi Bryson Facun
Son of Bryan and Marge Facun
Born: April 26, 2012



Valerie Renee-Rose Damian
Daughter of Wally and Grace Damian
Born: April 4, 2012

ARE YOU AWARE THAT ...

The INTROIT sang by the choir at the start of the service, is a CALL to WORSHIP in song and that the PRELUDE played by the pianist, is the beginning of the worship service already ?

Let us then come before our Lord with an attitude of worship from the very start. May we remind each one to please refrain from conversation during the Prelude and remain silent before the Lord in worship.

a friendly reminder from the Worship Committee