



# CABC Connect

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1st Service:   | 9:00 am            |
| 2nd Service:   | 11:00 am           |
| Sunday School: | 9:00 am<br>11:00am |

## WEDNESDAY PRAYER HOURS

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

WINTER 2013 VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

"Humility is the secret of fellowship,  
and pride the secret of division."

— ROBERT C. CHAPMAN





# Imitating Christ's Humility

by Pastor Elbern Latorilla

John Ruskin, the leading English art critic of the Victorian era, said, "I believe that the first test of a truly great man is his humility. By humility, I don't mean doubt of his powers or hesitation in speaking, but merely an understanding of the relationship of what he can say and what he can do." I wonder if there were a particular person

that Ruskin had in mind when he wrote this. But based on his criterion, I will categorically say that there is no other person who has ever lived in this world up to this very day that fits this description to a T more than our Lord Jesus Christ. His life and ministry reflected this virtue in no uncertain ways. Are we aware that humility is part and parcel of the very character of the Almighty God Himself? The Psalmist says, "The LORD is high above all the nations, His glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high, Who **humbles** (emphasis mine) Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth (113:4-6). When the Son of God became a man, it is not surprising then to realize that humility was the singular motif of His life.

*He reminded them that the greatest is the one who serves.*

In Philippians 2:5-11, Paul reveals how our Lord expressed this virtue. The NIV translates the fifth verse in this way, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ." That attitude, of course, is humility which was reflected in 3 ways according to Paul. First is **selflessness**. Jesus, in His nature, essence and substance, is God (not just looking like God). But He did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped and cling to. As a matter of fact, He gave up the right to the Godhead and made Himself of no reputation and came to earth in the likeness of men. It is difficult to comprehend such condescension for there is nothing in our own lives that can be comparable to this huge leap Jesus made from the highest of heaven to the lowest of

earth. He laid aside, albeit, temporarily the outward manifestations of His divine attributes so that He could taste what it would mean to be a man. In the process, He has learned to sympathize with us because He has gone through all the gamut of human experience. In II Corinthians 8:9, Paul declares that Jesus even left heaven's riches and became poor for our sakes. One time, He said to a would-be follower, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no where to lay His head on" (Matthew 8:20). Can we imagine such deprivation of even the most basic need like that of a pillow to lay His head on? He could have asked for, nay, demanded it, but He didn't. Truly, Jesus Christ epitomized the life devoid of selfishness.

The second reflection of Christ's humility is **servanthood**. Paul says that when Jesus came in the likeness of men, He took the form of a bondservant (v.7). No, He didn't just look like a servant but lived and served as one. What did this entail? To be a servant was to be under orders to a master. Humbly Jesus, the Son, learned obedience by the things which He suffered (Hebrews 5:8). Early on in His life, He could say, "Don't you know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). No wonder He could declare, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34). His obedience to His Father demanded His time, His prayers, His tears, His sufferings and yes, even His death. But being a servant also meant doing things for others. During His years of ministry, He would, from time to time, rebuke the disciples for their penchant in arguing about who was the greatest among them. He reminded them that the greatest is the one who serves. In one practical illustration

*"Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ."*

of true humility, Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples' feet. The principle He laid down was, "... Whosoever desires to be great among you shall be your **servant**. And whoever desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but **to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:43-45). Even while being crucified and in pain, He still thought of others. Just listen to the first 3 cries on the cross and you'll realize that other-centeredness came naturally to Him. This was what being a servant meant to Jesus: obeying orders and serving others.

*"...Learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart..."*

Finally, Paul says that the humility of Jesus was reflected in the supreme **sacrifice** He made on the cross. His death on that cruel tree was no accident. He chose it. The apostle points out, "He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8). There was no other humiliating way for a person to die than to be hanged on a cross. Bereft of any kind of modesty, our Lord suffered that ignominious and ugly death for our sakes. His was not the death of a criminal for He didn't do any wrong or commit any sin. He didn't die as a martyr for a cause. No, He bore the pain, agony and all that the cross entailed for our sins. Read what Peter writes, "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by whose stripes you were healed" (II Peter 2:24).

One of the challenges that Paul presented to the Philippian believers was to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves"(Philippians 2:4). He then set Christ before them as the perfect example to emulate. Our Lord Jesus Himself invited His

followers to "...learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart..."(Matthew 11:29). This invitation is still being extended to all who consider themselves followers of Jesus today. In a world where boys and girls, men and women are urged to look out for their own selves first, the call for humility cuts against the grain. Today, so-called inspirational speakers and feel-good-about-yourself gurus assert that pride should be the paramount attitude one must possess if he would succeed in life. "Humility is for losers," they opine. But can we ever think of Jesus as a loser? No way! Paul adds, "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..."(Philippians 2:9-11).

A proud seminary graduate was invited to preach at a church as a candidate for the vacant position of senior pastor. When his time to preach came, he strode to the pulpit with head held high showing obvious self-confidence. However, in the middle of the sermon, he started to stutter and lose his composure. He finished his message dejected and shame-faced. He went down with his shoulders stooped. One godly deacon commented later, "If only he went up the way he came down, he would have come down the way he went up." Jesus said, "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:11). My friend, the "way up is down". This is Jesus' way—of humility expressed in selflessness, servanthood and sacrifice—and which ultimately led to His exaltation, honor and glory forever. I pray that we will all learn from Jesus.

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 "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...  
 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus  
 Christ is Lord..."

— PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11 —



# Grief and Joy in the Lord

by Michael Borja

I was at work in the hospital on a seemingly normal day when I suddenly got a phone call from my wife. She told me to check my phone because my dad had an urgent text message. As soon as I got on my break, I read my dad's text; my grandmother, who was in the Philippines, passed away. I was in shock and I did not know what to do.

I started weeping. I know my grandmother is saved. She was a Christian before me. We went to the same church. She took care of me—from the moment I was born until the day I left the Philippines for Canada. I loved my grandmother and I will certainly miss her. But the grief from her sudden death overwhelmed me.

I saw her just a month ago when I went to the Philippines for a vacation after my wedding. She was up and about; strong and healthy. I did not know that it was the last time I would see her. This experience has reminded me how short life truly is. Every time someone close to me dies, I am always reminded of Psalm 103:15-16:

*The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field;  
the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.*

Ah, how short life truly is! And how death can come so swiftly at the time you least expect it! I am also driven to praise God despite the pain of losing someone. This grief is for a moment. I am happy for her that she is with the Lord. More importantly, I joyfully wait for the day that I will see God face to face along with my loved ones who have passed before me.

God is good! He alone is worthy of praise. He gives and takes life. He grants peace and withholds harm. What harm He allows for His people has a good and eternal purpose. God's priority is not our comfort. His priority is to build our character and transform us into Christ. He breaks our idols, separates us from this world and offers us forgiveness whenever we fail Him. What more can we ask from this great God. Is not salvation enough?

Thank you Father for the wonderful gift of life! May You teach us Lord to number our days as we serve You with reverence and faith. Amen.



## Milestone

Michael and Katreena Borja  
January 5, 2013

# Easter

by Ayl Abellanos

“For God so loved the world  
that HE gave His only son,  
so that whoever believes in  
Him shall not perish but have  
everlasting life”

— JOHN 3:16 —

Easter to me is a time to spend with family and friends

You hang out with loved ones and just have fun

But Easter is more than that

It's the day Jesus Christ, God's ONLY son died for all our sins.

A sinless man, crucified.

Each and every one of us are undeserving of it, but God just loves us that much.

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## THE *perfect* CHURCH

poem by Mavis Williams

If you should find the perfect church  
Without one fault or smear,  
For goodness sake! Don't join that church;  
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church  
Where all anxieties cease  
Then pass it by, lest joining it  
You'd mar the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church  
Then don't you ever dare,  
To tread upon such holy ground;  
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists  
Made of imperfect men,  
Then let's cease looking for that church  
And love the church we're in.

Of course, it's not a perfect church,  
That's simple to discern  
But you and I and all of us  
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee our post  
In that unfruitful search  
To find at last where problems loom  
God proudly builds His church.

So let's keep working in our church  
Until the resurrection.  
And then we each will join that church  
Without an imperfection.

\*(Some time in January, a poem of the same title was included in our church bulletin. Intending to post that poem in this issue in line with our theme, we came across this one which we would like to share instead. /Ed)



## **YOUTH SNOW CAMP ELEVATION 2013**

### **JANUARY 4-6**

Our Young People attended Youth Unlimited's DOXA Elevation Winter Retreat last January at Ontario Camp of the Deaf in Perry Sound, Ontario. A total of 17 people attended from CABC. Many of the participants were challenged to grow spiritually and made personal decisions for 2013.

## **FAMILY SUNDAY**

### **FEBRUARY 17**

Family Sunday 2013 was spearheaded by the Bible study groups: Branches of the Vine and Saved by Grace. The anthem was also sung by the two groups. This was a service where we, as a congregation, could give thanks to God for our loved ones here on earth - our blood relatives, but more so our relatives through Christ's blood. Anrei Laude, EJ Sinena, and the Pasco family shared their testimonies of what family means to them and how God has been using their families. The teamwork shown in organizing and preparing this special day was evidence of how blessed we are to have a community and family in CABC.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

## **CHURCH SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**

### **JANUARY 20**

## **30-HOUR FASTING**

### **MARCH 15**

The SAY and CNU raised funds for World Vision's 30-hour fasting last March 15th to 16th. About 36 young people pledged to do a food and technology fast for 30 hours to raise money for World Vision's health program for the children and young mothers of Ethiopia. They were able to raise \$932, which is three times more than their initial goal.





## AIKARA PROMOTION

**MARCH 26**

Six of our CABC young Christian Samurais did an encouraging job in promoting AIKARA during one of the Filipino organization's anniversary celebrations held at Edithvale Community Centre, North York. They only had three sessions of 2 hours each to rehearse a series of physical exercises, something difficult to do for the older ones. Amazingly, with their theme (John 15:5), which they also had to memorize and recite in unison before and after their main presentation, their efforts were altogether fruitful. Please pray that through CABC, these young blood will become Christ-empowered disciple makers or fishers of men, who will help bring about the Great Commission into a widespread reality.

## PRAYER RALLY FOR EASTER CANTATA

**MARCH 20**

"Bow the Knee", the title of this year's Easter presentation was a good call for us to bow our knees. A good number of about 70 spent over an hour praising God with songs of worship, listening to three powerful testimonies and praying specifically for every person involved, every guest invited and every part of the three presentation nights. It was a time to recognize that the success of these presentations is all dependent on God's grace and is for His glory alone.

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

**MARCH 23**

A prayer breakfast facilitated by the Young@Heart was well attended that Saturday morning. SEE PAGE 6 FOR DETAILS

## EASTER MUSICALE PRESENTATION

**MARCH 24, 29 & 31**

The Easter musical presented during the evenings of Palm Sunday and Good Friday as well, reminded us all of God's unconditional love. SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS





# Young@Heart: Prayer Breakfast

MARCH 23

by Yvonne Joyette

The Young@Heart hosted its annual prayer breakfast from 7:45 to 10:00 AM at the multi-purpose room of CABC. Shelia Herbert led the hymns that were sung; Willie Damian welcomed our church family, friends and visitors; and Pastor Jim Wright opened in prayer. A very sumptuous breakfast, catered by our own Niknik Labayen with the support of husband, Mike was served. What a great breakfast it was!

Paul B. shared an inspiring message as he presented a video clip on how the "Jesus Film," which was watched by 4,500 people in Africa who never heard about Jesus, changed many hearts and lives in that continent. Jesus was presented as a gentle person, a man with a dove on his shoulder, with kind eyes. It portrayed some of His miracles, His crucifixion and resurrection. It mentioned that 1.2 billion people have never heard about Jesus; therefore, it is imperative that we support our missionaries all over the world, because their mission is to bring people to Christ! Paul declared it was quite touching to see the response in Africa; but the discipleship is poor! Wife Annie is involved in the children's ministries and as they will be traveling to Africa soon, they really need our prayers.

About 20 years ago, Louis Bush invented the 4.4 window, targeting children's ministries. Paul said, we sometimes take children for granted, but the gospel plainly shows their importance as in Psalm 82, Matthew 11:25, 21:16, Luke 10:21, John 6:8 and 9, and Psalm 82.



We were invited to watch a video about Uganda and looked at a map showing targeted areas for missionary work. During the reign of Kony rebels, children were attacked and displaced. Things have changed now, the children have returned to schools in many villages in Kampala. Thanks be to God for answering powerful, ceaseless, fervent prayers.

In Indonesia, children lived in high crime areas, but they began to pray. Eventually, the perpetrators of crime moved out and the children's lives were changed for the better. Even Government officials pledged land to build a safe building for prayer for these children. Prayer is powerful and encourages the presence of the Holy Spirit!

Eventually, we split up in groups and prayed for the protection, health, safety and provisions of our sent missionaries and those we are currently supporting as a church; for members of our congregation who need prayers for healing; and for members who face lifelong challenges.

Church Ministries are vital to the spreading of the "Good News" as commissioned by Jesus Christ. We were reminded to continue praying for: Sunday school, Bible studies, officers, Leaders, teachers and assistants, ushers, audio staff, singers, nursery workers, for their faithfulness as they serve with love and joy.

We also prayed for other churches, all levels of government both Provincial and Federal, our Mayor, Senators, Cabinet, School Board, teachers and the zoning laws.

As we placed emphasis on Missions month, we were also reminded of the up-coming activities and prayed for all our missionary guest speakers.

Our Prayer breakfast was truly a wonderful time of fellowship and good will, in an atmosphere of warmth, brotherly/sisterly love, peace and caring. The prayer rally ended with a closing prayer by Pastor Elbern. We give God thanks for the privilege of loving and serving Him through prayer.





# "Bow the Knee" Easter Musicale

MARCH 24, 29, 31

by Gina Montemayor



"To whom will you bow, my friend?" This was the challenge given by this Easter musicale's main character, Anthony, the centurion played superbly by Louie Pascual, in spite of it being his first acting experience. Likewise, Cedric Reyes (Eli) faced the challenge, overcoming shyness by taking on and delightfully portraying a role that required him to sing and act. The acting prowess of Marc Labayen (Jesus) and Alex Isip (Marcus, the main villain) were once again demonstrated as the viewers shed tears during the agony of Jesus but reacted with anger towards the character of Marcus. Members expressed a welcome surprise to see the likes of Bangie Garcia (Pilate) and Bert Laserna (Caiaphas) and a few more actors they did not realize had hidden talents. The beautifully sang "I'm Forgiven" by Beth Umali, gave more meaning to the song as expressed by a truly forgiven character about to be stoned. The smallest role (a dead child resurrected by Jesus), played by the youngest member (4 years old) Iya Guatelara, brought cheers from the audience as someone even thought she was merely a rag doll!

The great message about God's uncon-

ditional love through this musicale has such an impact that more people were invited than what the sanctuary can accommodate. All three evenings had the place packed despite the attempt to control overflow by assigning color coded tickets. The resource center and the multi-purpose room had to be set up for the good turnover.

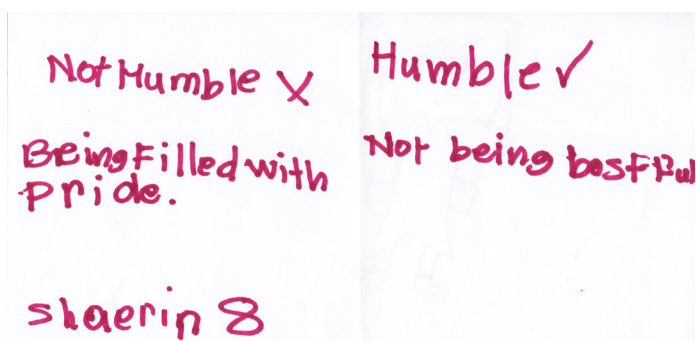
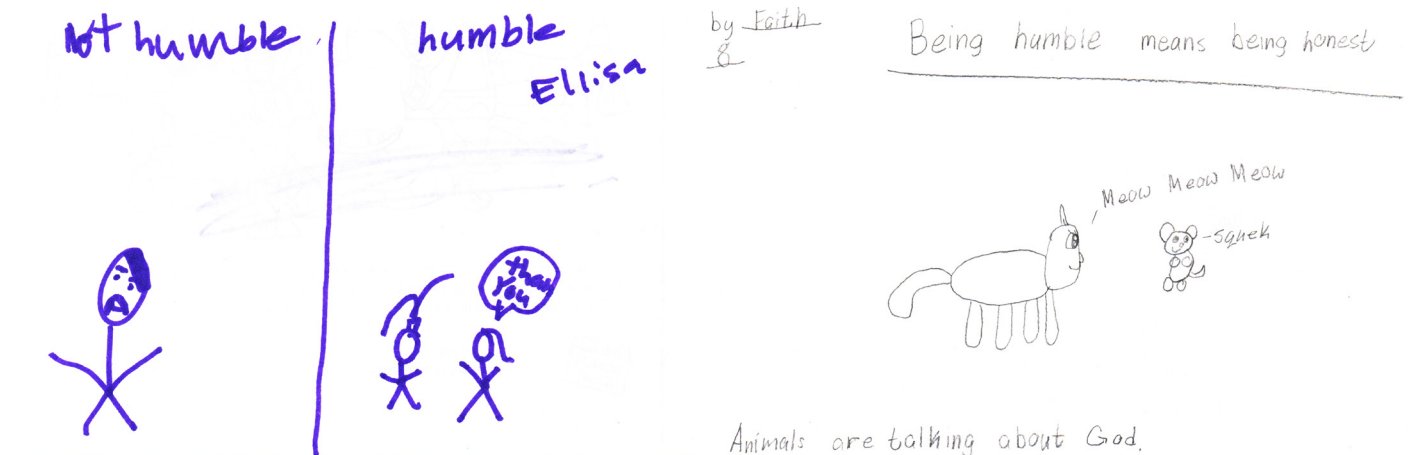
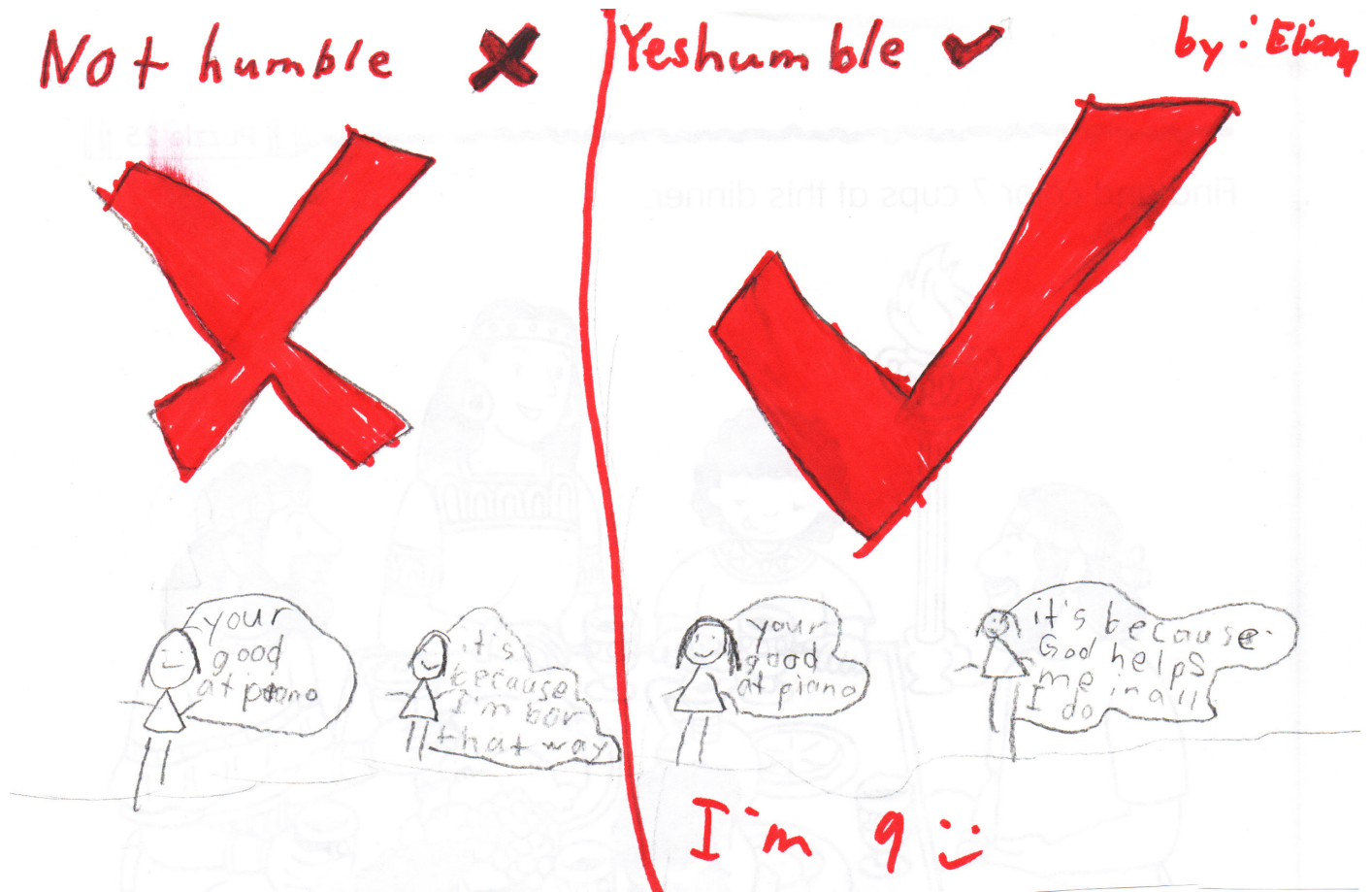
Nevertheless, the powerful musical drama was another evidence of God's faithfulness as every detail slowly unfolded making it seem impossible initially to complete in a short time. It was a challenge to have almost half of the adult choir sing and act simultaneously, and to position each cast alongside, given the small space relative to the large number of participants. But through the God-given talent of Musical Director John Isip, the adult choir was able to learn and memorize the songs, and sing each one with appropriate expression and dynamics. The enhanced stage scenes through visual projection, designed by Neal Salangsang; the sound and lighting effects managed by the teamwork of Arnold Mendoza, Norman Bautista and Raffy Lachica; plus all cast and choir beautifully wrapped

in Hebrew attire (through the dedicated efforts of Nik Labayen) made the presentation even more realistic. Having a backstage manager (Jonas Ferranco) and an efficient backstage crew, made a more steady flow and proper coordination. This same young man alongside other young artists who spent several weekends working on the tomb, other stage props, and costumes, remain to be an inspiration and encouragement as they cheerfully completed their task without any complaints.

In retrospect, the musicale achieved more than we hoped it would. Aside from our main purpose of reaching out and sharing the gospel of Christ through the medium of music and drama, the Lord used it to foster relationships within the church community; strengthen cooperation and support from our leaders; and caused more of us to "bow our knees" more often.

Production Director Susan Manalastas could only express a sigh of relief that it is over but continues to be in awe, as we all are, of how great our God is; the only one to whom we would bow.

# What does being humble mean?







# SYMPHONY OF LOVE 2

## Small Group Feature

The Symphony of Love bible study group under brother Willie Damian's leadership has grown in number through the years. To accommodate more members, a few of them felt the need to move on as an offshoot of the larger group. This would enable ease of hosting and will help them attain one of the goals of small groups: to multiply within, divide in smaller groups and then multiply again. By God's grace, perhaps someday this group will grow in number to a point where the need to branch out will be met again.

SOL 2 started in September 2012 under the guidance of brothers Alex Isip and Temy Diwa. A few have already been added to this group composed of 13 members that meet regularly every Friday at 8 pm at different homes. Bible study facilitators for each study rotate within the group as the Spirit leads.

They are presently studying the book of John and are now on its 6th chapter.

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If interested in joining this group,  
contact Alex Isip (as\_isip@yahoo.com)  
or Rene Diwa (416-438-7905).

Visit our church web site at  
**[www.cabchurch.org](http://www.cabchurch.org)**

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If you would like to contribute  
or be involved in any area(s),  
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MISSIONS IS PEOPLE, NOT PLACES.  
'ENDS OF THE EARTH' NOT AN OPTION?  
**START HERE. START NOW.**

- » Experience fellowship with a missions team
- » Visit a Muslim mosque, Hindu temple, and Buddhist temple
- » Learn the beliefs & practices of major religions
- » Hear the stories of those transformed by Christ
- » Share your faith with hospitable newcomers

**JUNE 30-JULY 7, 2013**

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Please contact bro. Ferdie Umali for details.