

The logo for CABC Connect features a blue stylized crown with a white cross on top. To the right of the crown, the letters "CABC" are written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with a color gradient from orange to yellow. Below "CABC", the word "Connect" is written in a large, bold, black serif font.

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

SPRING 2015 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

**"Every relationship for a Christian is an opportunity
to love another person like God has loved us."**

— JOSHUA HARRIS —





Unequally Yoked

by Pastor Alexander Lee

There is a story about a guy who wanted to learn how to do the splits so he could impress the ladies. He practiced and practiced and was finally able to do so. He bought some new jeans and went to show off his new skill to the cutest girls in town. He found a spot and did the splits and his pants ripped in two from bottom to top. He ended up leaving town and never did the splits ever again. In the same way God tells us not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers because the same will happen. To be yoked with an unbeliever is to be connected with them. When two animals are yoked together they must work together to go in one direction. If one animal wants to go one way and the other animal wants to go another, the yoke will break just like how the guy's pants split because his legs were going in 2 different directions. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 talks about this. It does not mean that we never speak to or have friends that are unbelievers but it means that if they are pulling you away from God because you guys are "yoked" together then it is a problem. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 is not necessarily talking about marriage but it can be applied to it.

Adam Clarke says that some of the Christians in Corinth were having fellowship with unbelievers in a wicked manner. The problem was not so much hanging out with unbelievers but it was the activities that they were doing together that was the problem. In verse 15 it says that Christ has no accord with Belial. Barnes notes say that Belial is referring to Satan. So pretty much, Christ and Satan cannot be united.

Light cannot fellowship with darkness. We see in verse 14 that the phrase "unequally yoked," according to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (Where I am getting all my Hebrew from), can be translated as "I am yoked with one different from myself." The word "yoked" according to Oxford's dictionary is a "wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of 2 animals and attached to the plow of a cart that they are to pull." God is saying that believers and unbelievers have different agendas. The believer wants to please God. The unbeliever has other

motives. When you try to "yoke" these two people together either the believer will eventually bring the unbeliever to Christ or the unbeliever will draw the believer away from Christ. God was telling the Corinthians through Paul, to be very careful not to fall into that trap.

I love going to the Scarborough Bluffs. There is a place there where you can go up unto the cliffs. The only danger is that you need to be careful because the cliff is receding every year. Which means, if you are not careful you can fall off the edge which has happened to people on many occasions. In the same way God is saying to be careful with the unbeliever. Your purpose as a Christian is to bring them to Christ not for them to bring you away from Christ. Do not play a game of how close you can get to the edge without falling over... because one day you may fall.

Christians are God's temple. In verse 16 the word "agreement" in the original language can mean "alliance." An alliance would mean the two parties are on the same side. Jesus and Satan will never have an alliance. There is a story about how in WW1, the German and English soldiers stopped fighting momentarily during Christmas to celebrate together. They crossed over the no man's land and actually exchanged gifts. They were not exactly in alliance with each other but they were not enemies for that short period of time. This may happen to opposing countries in a world war but it will never happen between Jesus and Satan. The Bible says that when you are friends with the world you are enemies with God. We are on the side of Jesus and we are fighting a spiritual war. This does not mean we despise the unbeliever, because we all, at one point, were unbelievers. Not one of us popped out of our mother's womb as a Christian. We are to love the unbeliever, pray for them and lead them to Jesus.

We are to be dedicated to Christ. In verse 17 the word "separate" can mean "to mark off by boundaries from or set apart." I had a friend who always guarded her bag of candy. She would not let me put my hand in the bag to grab one. She set boundaries and said I am not allowed

near her candy. The candy was set apart from me. In the same we must guard our hearts from this world. There are many things we can fall in love with in this world but we must set those boundaries and guard our hearts for Jesus. We cannot let anything in this world take the place of our first love, Jesus Christ. We are to be set apart for the Master's use.

Again this passage is not necessarily talking about believers marrying unbelievers but it can definitely be applied to it. We as Christians, must pray for a godly husband/wife. We do not want to be "yoked" with an unbeliever in marriage. There are a couple of scenarios. The believer can bring the unbeliever to Christ. The unbeliever can bring the believer away from Christ. The yoke can break and the relationship can be over. Why put yourself in a dangerous position like that? Eventually you will be ripped in two if God is pulling you one way and the

unbeliever is pulling you the other way. You will end up like the guy's pants, ripped from top to bottom. I encourage the Christian that is single who is reading this, to pray that God will give you a godly husband/wife in His timing. Also, that you will pray that God will make you a godly husband/wife for your special someone.

If you are reading this and you have not accepted Jesus Christ, I encourage you to accept him into your heart. The gospel is that God loves you so much that he sent his son Jesus to die for you and if you place your faith in him, you will have everlasting life. If this expresses the desire of your heart, please pray with me, "Dear Jesus, come into my heart. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I accept you as my Lord and Savior." Find a church to go to and grow. Read the Bible and ask God to speak to you. If you have any more questions, please let me know.

MILESTONES



LINDEN & JAZMYN LASERNA

April 10, 2015

ALEX & JESSICA LEE

April 18, 2015



Biblical Gleanings from a Father's Eyes

by Michael Borja

I officially became a father on the 17th of February. I remember that day vividly. My wife, Kae, worked hard all night trying to push our little six-pound munchkin out. After a long and weary battle, at approximately two in the morning, we heard the first cry of our firstborn, Matthew Kaeleb. What a joy it is to witness him take his first breath of air as he timidly opened his eyes to a bright new world ahead of him. I held him in my arms in awe of God, our divine Father, who miraculously saved his life and my wife's.

Below are the Biblical lessons Kae and I have learned about our Heavenly Father as we cared for our son.

NUMBER 1.

Challenges are God's way of instilling endurance, character and hope. Kaeleb dislikes tummy time. He flails his legs around and cries the moment you put him on his abdomen. But we know we must commit to it because it is important for his muscular development. One time, while he was crying, I said "Son, I know it hurts. I know it is uncomfortable but hang in there. Daddy and mommy loves you but this must take place so that you will grow properly". At that moment, tears streamed down my face as I know those were the same comforting words that God whispers in our ears during moments of trials or sorrow.

ROMANS 5:3-4

"But we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

NUMBER 2.

Praying is not just about getting an answer from God. It is also about dwelling in His presence and communing with Him. Kaeleb has a particular cry and when he cries that way, I know what he wants: he wants daddy or mommy to talk to him. Sometimes I am busy with school work so I put him in his reclining chair while I do some work. He continues to cry out as if saying "Daddy! Talk to me! I am right here. I don't just want to see you. I want to talk to you." Then, I remembered, this is how I used to pray! I did not just pray because I wanted answers. I prayed because I simply wanted to sit down and talk to God. Oh, how I have forgotten those precious days were I merely sat and listened to God boast about His Son Jesus! I wept again for I remembered how distant I have been from God and how I have taken Him for granted despite all the love and mercy He has shown my family. Father forgive me!

PSALMS 84:10

"For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."

NUMBER 3.

God deeply loves His people. He will never leave you nor forsake you. When Kaeleb was only a few weeks old, he got an infection that required hospital admission. He could not drink; he was breathing funny; his electrolytes were off; and he could not stay awake. On the night of his admission, I held him on my arms weeping because I felt that I let him and my wife down. I sobbed and said to the Lord, "Lord, I love my son. I cannot part from him." Then God answered and said "So do I my son. I will never leave you nor forsake you." I responded with more tears – but they were tears of joy knowing the depth of God's love for His people. If I, a sinner, can love my son to such degree, how much more our heavenly Father, who is perfect?

HEBREWS 13:5

God says "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

These gleanings are but some of the many things I have learned about God by being a father. I pray my son will one day know the Lord and serve Him with all his heart.

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SMALL GROUP MINISTRY FEATURE

**'CAREERS GROUP'
LAUNCHED**

June 27, 2015, a new ministry group which aims to cater to ages 22 to 35, met for an initial get-together at the church multi-purpose hall. Facilitated by core members : Bernel and Faye Latorilla , Ingrid Pascual and Joy Mendio, and called "Careers group" for now, it aims to get our young adults to be part of a small group to study God's word and grow in the faith together. They will initially meet once a month during the summer then eventually twice a month thereafter. More details to be announced. Contact person will be any of the core members.



EASTER PRESENTATION**APRIL 4-5**

It was the Young people's choir this time who practiced, acted and blended their voices in the remake of "The Borrowed tomb" Easter presentation, as the Adult choir once did in 2005. The teamwork of the Production directors Bernel and Faye Latorilla, Choir director John Isip and Acting director Jeremy Bautista made the presentation ran smoothly that one may think the preparation was stress-free. But of course, this was only made possible by God's grace.

**ANNUAL CHURCH PLANNING****MAY 8-9**

There were 53 attendees who took a day off to join the overnight leaders planning retreat at the Muskoka Bible Center. The group was honored to have Pastor Bob Morris (with his wife Carol) facilitate the group activities/workshops, who in turn did not fail to mention a great observation: the fact that there are 53 who came and committed their time and energy to spend 2 days on planning and setting goals, is a strength in itself of CABC. May God be glorified with the plans for 2016.

**URBAN STREET MISSION****MAY 24**

Thirty two of our young people responded to the call to share God's love through Urban Street Missions (USM) last Sunday in downtown Toronto. Aside from giving out bags containing gospel tracks, food and hygiene items, they were also able to encounter and pray for 26 homeless people.

APRIL

MAY

SEMINAR: ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION **APRIL 26**

The sanctuary had about 60 attendees that afternoon as Mike Glugosh shared his testimony on his victory over depression through Cognitive Behavior therapy. Attendees were informed and made aware about what truly underlies anxiety and depression, which regrettably have been mislabelled and misunderstood by many. Worth mentioning is Mike's emphasis on the power of prayer especially during episodes of depression and/or anxiety.

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION STUDIES **APRIL 19, MAY 24-31**

A good number of attendees spent 3 Sunday afternoons at the church sanctuary to learn more about the faith, its demands and implications. Everyone who attended realized one fact in their Christian life: there is always room to grow in the faith.

MOTHER'S DAY **MAY 10**

The Men's Fellowship Group facilitated both services to honor CABC's mothers. Aside from their all-male-voice choir, the worship services included poems, a special song and simple tokens to give tribute to all mothers. Pastor Elbern's message focused on 21st century motherhood based on Genesis 21:14-21 making every mother aware of the blessing of being under God's loving care.

ANNUAL SPRING CLEANING **MAY 30**

Small groups were assigned to specific areas of the church building and surroundings that day to bring about a clean and attractive place of worship. It was a great opportunity to have fun while working together in teams.

YOUTH SUNDAY JUNE 7

The YPM (Young People's Ministry) led both services that Sunday. Based on the smiling faces of the very young ushers, the upbeat anthem sang with gusto and the inspiring message by Pastor Lee, CABC's future definitely looks bright. May God keep increasing these gifted potential leaders.

FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY JUNE 21

CABC paid tribute to the fathers during both services as the Sunday Friends Bible study group ministered through the anthem, special number and organizing all other details. A video by Mia Reyes wonderfully featured a good number of our fathers. We thank God especially for the message shared by Paul Sadler encouraging fathers to be more like a God-motivated 'Disciple dad' and not a duty-driven 'Samurai dad'.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY AND PICNIC JUNE 13

CABC is 31! A church wide picnic at the Thompson Park was held to celebrate 31 years of God's faithfulness in blessing CABC. About 200 members and adherents enjoyed the "pot blessing" of overflowing food. Almost everyone joined the games specifically the tug-of-war which was indeed a good way to shed off the extra calorie

SALUTE TO CANADA SUNDAY JUNE 28

"Wear something red to reflect our country's color" was the announcement a week before and what was expected as an annual celebration of Canada day at CABC. The Young people's bible study groups took charge of both services as all were reminded to be grateful for being in a beautiful and blessed place like Canada.

JUNE

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 7**YOUNG AT HEART JOINT FELLOWSHIP JUNE 6**

See page 9 for details.

**31st ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY JUNE 14**

Three groups: the Young@heart, the Bereans and the Ilocano bible study groups joined forces in taking charge of both services. Dr. T.V. Thomas ministered through his message of 'Modeling Christ and His Ministry' based on Matthew 4:12-25

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CAR WASH AND BBQ JUNE 27

The Men's Fellowship with the Young people's Ministry in cooperation with the Community Relations committee offered free car wash, hotdogs and coffee/juice to our neighbors as a simple gesture of thanking them while reaching out to them for God's glory.



Reflecting on My Relationship with Jesus

by L.A. Lambino

Christ paid the price. → SALVATION
SANCTIFICATION

"I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices
in my God. For he has clothed me in the
garments of salvation and arrayed me in a
robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom
adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride
adorns herself with her jewels." ISAIAH 62:10

the cross → not just not ugly but He makes
us beautiful
nor spiritually neutral
stunningly attractive

God made him who
had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the
righteousness of God. " 1 CORINTHIANS 5:21

a proposal
HOLY SPIRIT → sanctification
"waiting with anticipation for
the Marriage of the Lamb."

THE SECOND
COMING
the marriage
of the Lamb

NEW HEAVENS
NEW EARTH
live with Him
together for
eternity

"Then I heard what sounded like a great
multitude, like the roar of rushing waters
and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:
"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come
and his bride has made herself ready.
Fine linen, bright and clean was given
her to wear." REVELATION 19:6-8
→ righteous acts of God's people

03.22.2015 Sunday



A TESTIMONY of GOD's FAITHFULNESS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing this while waiting for my nuclear bone scan after the radio-pharmaceutical was injected into my vein. I really don't know how to respond to all your emails, messages, texts, and calls. I just can't find the words to express how grateful and how blessed I am and my family, for brethren like you who always have been praying for us, even checking on my condition, visiting, sending me cards, giving me inspiring books and CDs, and again messaging/texting me. Despite our long absence from our BS group, your presence has always been felt. I don't recall a moment that I was left alone in this cancer journey and this is what is inspiring me now to share my testimony. Before I go on, allow me to take a minimum of 15 minutes of your time.

When I was diagnosed with the most feared disease on April 9th, I was in total disbelief. I thought I had an assurance that God would not allow other more serious diseases, as I already have multiple digestive issues. Most of all, I have a child with special needs who requires long-term (or even life-time) care. To me, these are valid shields from God against serious diseases. When the doctor told me, "I'm sorry, but you have cancer..." without looking at me straight in the eye nor really feeling sorry, time just stood still. At that moment of devastation, everything just shut down. While the doctor was still discussing the result, nothing seemed to register. The only thing that I can recall was that I needed to undergo an urgent surgery, as the cancer is invasive. As we drove home, I was trying hard to pretend that everything's going to be okay. I didn't even talk too much about it and just assured Rodel that cancer is now a common disease. In the privacy of my own thoughts, I began asking God a common question that people ask in bad times: "Why me?" He has given me a son with special needs and now He seems to be taking me away from him? Yes, my relationship with Him has been cold, but I am not that bad. "Why now?" Can He just postpone this 10 or 15 years from now?

A week Before I was diagnosed, I received a very good news from CPA Ontario that I don't have to go through the intensive, stressful 2-year program of the CA designation with 6 modules wherein you can't proceed to the next without passing the current, plus the grand national exam. I just need to register and study hard for the last 2 modules, take the exam and when successful, I can now add the title 'CPA, CA' to my name. This is not just a title or designation. It's a job security. With the cancer, how could this still be possible? As I was presenting these "unfair treatment" (that I thought) to God, I was also realizing that for every bad thing there was a good thing; it even outnumbered the bad ones. Nico was diagnosed with autism, but God brought us here in Canada to sustain his needs. I was diagnosed with multiple digestive diseases, but I've been monitored by various specialist for free (something an ordinary employee can't afford back home). I may not have a designation but I'm working the top company in property management. Now, I have cancer but I was referred to Princess Margaret - the best hospital in terms of cancer treatment... and I have brethren like you keeping me company. As I've gone through the earlier part of my journey, my cries and prayers were real and I started experiencing God's peace.

God is allowing this so I may grow in character, in Christ-likeness; to restore that relationship with Him to a personal level that I once had. He could just take my life right away, perhaps through a car accident or heart attack; but He did not allow these as He wants to win me back. During the good times, He was not in the list of my priorities; but in bad times, even an Atheist call out to Him. As John Piper has said: "In the testing ground of evils, faith becomes deep and real, and your love becomes purposeful and wise. What God permits, He permits it for a reason. If God foresees molecular developments becoming cancer, He can stop it or not. If He does not, He has a purpose." So, who am I now to question God? As these things were coming to my senses, I realized I asked God the wrong questions. I should have asked Him, "Why not me?" Though I can no longer change the fact that cancer is part of me, no matter what stage, no matter if the treatment extends my life to 5, 10, or 15 years or not, I still have a choice. I can focus on this cancer, or focus on God's purpose in my life and I choose to focus on His purpose. "Cancer does not win if you die. It wins if you fail to cherish Christ". One day my heart will stop beating... that is the end of my body-but not the end of me.

In His Grip,

Jerica Pasco

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Relationship, anyone?

by Joshua Gatuz

In case you didn't know, I'm 17. I'm in the twelfth grade. I'm considered a young man, but at the same time I'm at the stage where a young man is crossing over into the stage of manhood. I still have a lot of lessons to learn and a lot of trials to go through. I write this with the knowledge, wisdom, and experiences I have gained over the course of my young life. I write this with the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ and with the intent of using what I love to do to express the thoughts of my mind and the passions of my heart. I write this with the hope that those who read this will be encouraged and inspired to truly live for God and to pursue Him. I write this with the hope that young men - including myself - and young women in our church will put down the trash this world is offering and grab hold of the treasures God is begging for us to take. Mind you, I don't talk like this in person but my vocabulary is best in writing and I express myself best through writing. Writing is where it's at for me, people! Again, I'm no scholar, I'm just a 17 year old kid. But I write what I write.

A popular topic among young people are relationships. Romantic relationships. Alright, I know what you're thinking. Is Joshua really about to give me relationship advice right now? This guy? Not exactly! I'm just going to tell you what I believe and what my take on this is, and if you disagree, so be it. Anyways, relationships. It seems that teenagers, apart from school, spend every waking moment trying to start a relationship or pursue the relationships they're already in. I also understand that relationships can become pretty consuming to talk about and/or even think about. Being in romantic relationships is glorified in our modern day culture. You can take a quick look left and right at Scarborough Town Centre and see evidence of romantic relationships everywhere. In my experience, from what I've gone through and witnessed so far, it's easy to start a relationship. Very easy. All you have to do is pick out someone who looks good and if you can make them laugh

a couple times, you're there. We young people don't even think about aspects like commitment, faith, and sacrifice when we get into these relationships. We go where ever it feels right. We may think we're in love, but in reality we're only infatuated. Teenagers, man.

I've come to a conclusion in my 17 years of life. I'm not going to start a relationship unless I'm looking to marry that girl in the future. I don't have a job (I had a summer job), I just got my G1 license, and most importantly I'm not spiritually mature enough to begin a relationship. I have a lot of growing up to do! During our first 30 Hour Famine I remember there was a group of us talking about relationships and one of the Ate's said something like: "find your worth in God before (lest) you find your worth in a relationship." I believe that we should seek God first before we ever try to get into a relationship. We should center our lives on Christ and not put a girl/guy on the throne of our lives. I find that a lot of the time we begin to seek out the company and love of people when we're not even right with God. I believe that if we pursue God and love Him "with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27 NIV) all blessings will follow. This includes a Christ-centred relationship. Obviously not everyone is called to marriage but that's another topic in itself and I'd rather not discuss it!

Before I start anything I want to be able to say that my relationship with Christ is the most important thing in my life. I'll admit that it is a great desire of mine to get married one day. I'll leave it to God to put the right girl in my life. In the meantime, I won't awaken anything that's not ready to be awoken. I'll let God teach me and grow me as a believer. I'll let God slowly shape me into the man he wants me to become. God has such great things in store for all his children. He doesn't want us to settle for less. I won't...and I hope you won't either.

YOUNG@HEART JOINT FELLOWSHIP

By Sheila Herbert



On June 6, 2015, The Young @ Heart had a joint fellowship hosted at the Commonwealth Avenue Baptist Church. There were five churches in attendance together with our church. Thus with 56 brothers and sisters, what a blessed time of fellowship we had! The churches participated with singing, readings, and testimonies.

Brother Paul Bertrand was our speaker and brought us the word based on our theme "Knowing Christ and making Him known." He also spoke of the work in Ghana. It was interesting when he spoke of the people that influence him most; his mother was the one who had a great impact in his life.

We all enjoyed a very hot nutritious lunch that was prepared by Sis Nik Labayen and of course of our Young @ Heart sisters did their part with the other preparations and decorations.

A reminder that if you are 60 years or older you are welcome to join us every second (2nd) Sunday of the month when we meet for fellowship, Bible study and of course a light lunch, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Our thanks to everyone and may God continue to bless our ministry.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Post Graduate

Alexander Lee - MDiv. in Pastoral Ministry
Ferdie Umali - MDiv. Global Missions and Intercultural Studies

University/College

Katherine Alconcel - RPN
Aaren Dawn Chu - BS Pre-medicine/Pre-dentistry (cum laude)
Eugene Diwa - Diploma in Culinary Arts
Charlotte Eunice Facun - Bachelor of Design
Mellanie Panganiban - Bachelor of Nursing
Celina Silangil - Honours Bachelor of Science
Joseph Ferdinand Umali - Honours Bachelor of Science in Biological Science

High School

Michael John Alconcel
Jared Ballaret
Earl John Fergarido
Joshua Gatuz
Calvin Regio
Abraham Almendarez
Tera Lee Castro
Joshua Ferranco
Psalm Malimban
Saira Sian

Middle School

Ayl Abellanos
Joshua Canizo
Victoria Isabelle Gosek
Lean Layacan
Aaron Montemayor
Abigail Wu
Nathan Yanos

Elementary School

Abishakan Shivananthan

Kindergarten School

Adriel Brayden Camaya
Yzza Facun
Joshua Domingo
Hannah Gyneth Garcia
Lisle Aveline Ison
Elisha Pascua
Alex Sian
Arri Laycan

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*“Therefore, as you received Christ
Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted
and built up in him and established
in the faith, just as you were taught,
abounding in thanksgiving.”*

— COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 —

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