

“Be Rich Towards God”

By Pastor Alexander Lee

“15 Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ 18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Luke 12:15-21 (NKJV)

This is a warning for us all. Not to be greedy but to use what God has blessed us with to bless the nations. That word "beware" in the original language can also mean, observe or recognize. Basically, wake up and open your eyes. That phrase, "take heed," in the original language can also mean, avoid or flee. So verse 15 would sound like this, open your spiritual eyes and flee covetousness. Covetousness in this context basically, is the strong desire for material and earthy things and a disregard for God and His Word and His will. It is a strong desire to possess more and more of material things. Being greedy is idolatry because your love is not Christ alone, but is in money and the things of this life. What is your focus on? Do you have an earthly perspective or do you have an eternal perspective? God has blessed us in many ways. We have more than enough. Will we bless the nations through, supporting missionaries, work to the unreached, church planting, helping the poor and showing love to our neighbors? Or will we hoard God’s blessings to ourselves?

In verse 16, the man did nothing wrong in the sense of how he got his riches. He probably worked hard for it. The issue was that he was consumed with his pursuit of riches. He was not pursuing God, but he had his own agenda and hidden motives. In verse 17, you see that instead of being thankful to God, he just pondered on what he should do with his surplus and excess of possessions. His problem was not that he did not have enough, but his problem was that he had too much. So his solution was not, "let’s give to the poor!" but his solution was to make more room to store his crops and goods. In verse 18, you see his selfish indulgence. His heart was not right. He did not have a heart after God’s own heart. He was not biblical but he was worldly. In church, every ministry is supposed to be biblical. There is no such thing as biblical ministries and worldly ministries. Everything is done for His glory, even counting money or even cleaning the toilets. There are only worldly people with worldly thinking. This man in the parable could care less about God’s will.

In verse 19, you see how he was deceived by his pride and ego. Some people are in pursuit

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

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

WEDNESDAY PRAYER HOURS

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

CHURCH EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- April 6:** Discipleship Series "Brief Biography of the Lord Jesus" led by Bro. Mike Borja (approx 60 attendees)
- April 13:** All-Church Prayer Breakfast Led by the Young @ Heart Ministry (see page 5)
- April 19:** Good Friday Service
- April 20-21:** Easter Cantata: The Day He Wore My Crown (see page 4)
- April 21:** Easter Sunday
- Apr 26 - 27:** Annual Planning Retreat (Held at Fair Havens Retreat Centre) (see page 5)
- May 4:** Discipleship Series "Act of the Apostles" led by Bro. Mike Borja (approx. 60 attendees)

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of their social standing, impressing people and trying to earn their salvation by good works. In verse 20, you see that he was about to die. Are you ready to die tonight? Everything will be exposed. All our secret meetings, hidden motives and selfish agendas will be exposed. Are you the “fool” in this parable?

Have you truly repented of your sins and put your trust in Christ or are you “playing” church? Are you the greatest person at church but you are rude to your family and treat your wife like garbage? There will be a day of judgement. Are you ready? In verse 21, are you the one who is laying up treasure for yourself or are you rich toward God?

We are blessed to bless the nations, not build bigger barns. God has blessed us for 35 years but we are blessed to bless others. Not everyone who says “Lord, Lord” will enter into heaven. God is not impressed with your show. If we have not truly repented and put our trust in Christ, the Bible

says we are still under the wrath of God and going to hell. We must repent of our sin and put our trust in Christ that He died on the cross to take the penalty for our sins. He fulfilled the requirements of the law to make a way to the Father. We were separated from God because of our sin and we are reconciled through Christ. True repentance means that we turn away from our sin. Repentance is not just pretending to be good. We cannot earn our salvation by our good deeds but we are saved by grace through faith. My prayer as the youth pastor at CABG for the last 6 years is that God will use our church to bless the nations for His glory in the future generations. God is not looking for worldly leaders with all the gifts and talents but He wants to raise up a generation that fears God and not man.

EXPRESSIONS OF THE HEART

Acrostic Poems

A-mazing Grace, You saved me from sin
B-eautiful creation, I stand in awe
C-ompassionate God, You care for me
D-eliverer of my soul
E-verlasting love, You are always with me.
- *Nes Navarro*

A-ll about You, Lord is good and marvelous
B-ecause of Your True Love, I am saved
C-ome to me and pick me up when I fall
D-welling in your holy place is my earnest desire
E-ven in times of trouble, Your peace follows me
- *Erna Facun*

A-bsolute power over all creation
B-eautiful your countenance
C-ountless and mighty deeds are surely awesome
D-ress in Glory and Majesty are You
E-ternal and everlasting is Your Word
- *Sarah Vega*

A-wwesome are Your designs Lord, You use the weak
to accomplish Your mighty deeds
B-urdens You have lifted Lord so we are not
completely consumed
C-ome fellow saints and worship Him for the gift of
salvation
D-ark times or good makes no difference for You are
with me
E-agles fly high but I fly higher because I'm on Your
back
- *Michael Borja*

A-ll gracious and forgiving
B-estow Your blessings daily
C-are for me and cover me with all His love
D-ied to give me a new and everlasting life
- *Carmen Vaughan-Burnett*

A-lmighty God you love me so much that salvation
was freely given to me
B-ecause you are my Father I can depend on your
protection each day
C-alling on You for help in all things makes me feel
protected all day
D-oin things to please You makes me more
prayerful
E-ternal God I am forever grateful
- *Sheila Herbert*

A-wwesome, abundant in love
B-e thou forever in my heart
C-hrist in me
D-o His ministry for
E-ternities glory
F-ather
G-od in all my times of
H-elp and need.. humbly
I- come, I re-
J-oice in all You have done
- *Rizza Damian*

A Glimpse of My Mom

By Sian Kiara Saria

Have you ever sat and simply observed your mother? I have. When I stare long enough, my eyes begin to glaze whilst my heart begins to ache. And yet I think to myself, "I want to become a mother just like that." Let me share with you a glimpse of that moment in the poem that I had written.

*"What was once a raging fire to me was now a graceful swift of movement.
My mother's fingers are fine needles, strong like hammers;
Her arms are soft for an embrace but firm in grasping obligations;
Her garments woven by diligence and sacrifices,
Her body worn out but driven by the grace of Him who saves.*

*In her eyes, I see a deep pool of love for her Father in Heaven,
Overflowing into a concave of compassion shared;
Her feet quick to serve,
With wisdom cascading out of her mouth,
And her heart guarded.*

*My mother is a chalice, ready to be filled to serve;
To be blessed to bless others;
She wears her beauty in a gentle and quiet spirit,
Her adorning found in her obedience.
What was once mundane to me was now a beautiful gift of grace."*

HIGHLIGHTS

YPM LADIES NIGHT

"Nice spending time with my fellow sisters. We did not escape lol but we lost together."

-Cassie Lopez

"We couldn't "escape" each other in the escape room. Honestly would not have interacted and worked together with the other sisters without this fellowship night taking place."

-Sian Kiara Saria

"Girls night out was a great way of being able to bond with the other girls. Even though we lost, we lost together."

-Joyce Sangalang

"Frustratingly fun fellowship."

-Jada Reyes

"Great way to work with sisters I don't talk to all the time. Good stress reliever; great opportunity to encourage one another."

-Shasha Santos



THE DAY HE WORE MY CROWN

Easter Cantata

By Rod Santos

Music is designed and created by God for His own glory. Music enhances our expression of adoration and praise to God. The reality of God and His creation; of Christ and His death and resurrection; of His promised salvation, are simply too great for mere speaking. They must also be sung.

God has led the Choir into this year's Easter Cantata entitled "The Day He Wore My Crown", a book so powerful that moved our hearts. The lyrics of all the songs are so rich as it took us back on Jesus' journey for our redemption. Despite the many challenges we faced with limited resources; limited talents trying to reach very difficult and high musical notes; limited physical and mental abilities trying so hard to memorize lyrics; the truth about the God we sing songs for remains. We may be limited but our God is not. When He appoints, He certainly empowers and sees us through from the beginning to the end.

The power of God had blessed and used the Easter Cantata to penetrate into the hearts of the people; bringing tears in the eyes of many at Shepherd Village; breaking the barrier of language at The Journey Church; and winning souls for Christ with two presentations here at CABC.

God used 61 Choir members, 17 production staff and 15 kitchen crew to bless others through this ministry. The burning melody in our hearts that has been brought by the gospel we experienced, gives us the joy to continuously serve.

Jesus is our music.



FROM ONE OF THE JOURNEY CHURCH MEMBERS:

We are very thankful for the Easter musical worship you presented in our church on April 14th. We really appreciate the trust and love you have towards us in Jesus. The musical worship was amazing and stunning which brought us all to His glory. We heard lots of good feedback from our congregation and our invited guests. Thank you again for the wonderful ministry you have done in our church.

We wish we could have more opportunities to work with your church again in the future. It's been a great blessing to our church to cooperate with you all. We really appreciate the musical impact you brought to us through the training of our Christmas choir and this Easter service.

*Blessings,
Jason Zhao*



PRAYER BREAKFAST REPORT

The Power of Prayer

By Sheila Herbert

April 13, 2019

We thank all of the brothers and sisters who attended the prayer breakfast. We also thank the men's fellowship group for their members who attended, it was wonderful to see them. And thanks to all the other brothers and sisters who made the effort to be there.

There were 46 in attendance and what a wonderful time it was.

Bro Ariel Poquiz shared the devotion from Philippians 4: 4-7. He was encouraging us to "Keep rejoicing in the Lord at all times." "Show gentleness to all men." "Be thankful to God for everything you have." God is always working all things for our good. He encouraged everyone to rejoice, to pray and to thank God always, even in the midst of the most difficult situations. When we recognized what God has done and is doing in our midst, we will prosper.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness[a] be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

— PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5 —

Sister Lydia Arcenas also reminded us of the importance of prayer. She shared a story about a missionary from Africa, who was home on furlough. The missionary was going to speak at the Wednesday night prayer meeting in his home church, when he was approached by a man who said that he was watching him and they wanted to rob him, but could not as there were 26 men surrounding him. To the missionary's surprise, he told the man that he was alone. When he finished reporting, one of the brothers from the men's group stood up and asked if he could say something. The brother said that at that particular time he felt the urgent burden in his heart to pray for the missionary, so he called the other men of the group to pray - there were 26 men in the group.

This was so encouraging and it gave us the answer to why prayer is so important. It would be great to see more of our brothers and sisters attend the prayer meeting and the prayer breakfast.

Thanks to all the brothers and sisters who helped with the preparation, may God bless you all.

Planning Retreat

By Sheila Herbert

When: April 26 and 27, 2019

Where: Fair Havens, B2215-Ontario 48; Beaverton, ON L0K 1A0

Who: The speaker was Marvin Brubacher. He is an excellent orator. He has challenged us in the way we think and plan.

Why: The purpose is to plan and prepare for the coming 2020 year.

This will help us to evaluate what we have done during the past years; how we can improve or change some of the ways we have been conducting our ministries; and setting goals that we can accomplish. It is also a good way to measure our financial goals. One thing I believe that is lacking in our understanding, is that financial planning does not mean that you have the funds, that is why you have the plan.

We need to realize that this is a plan for funds. It is not actual funds on hand. It would be great if we can understand that the funds are based on what we received weekly. If there is not enough coming in, then there cannot be too much going out. We cannot keep saying we have a budget. These are some of the areas that we need to improve. We need to make things clear and understandable.

FATHER & DAUGHTER/SON SPECIAL DAY

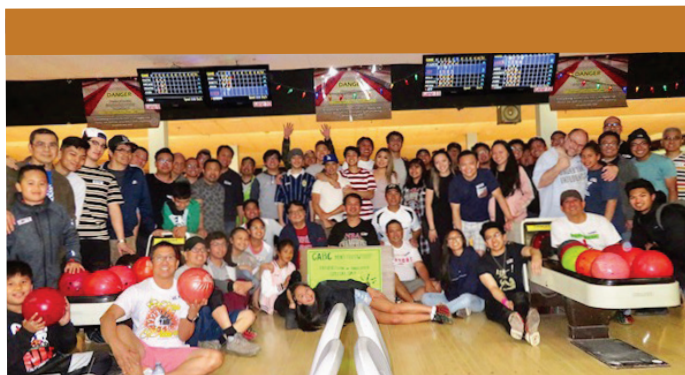
By Ismael Gatuz

The purpose of the Father and Daughter/Son Special Day for Father's Day was to involve our children, and most especially, the young men in the Men's Fellowship ministry. The idea sprang from the previous Men's Fellowship meeting we had in May 2019. We were planning various outdoor activities that we can do together, and from that discussion, bowling was requested. Bowling was both cheap and fun, so this was the activity we all agreed on. Pastor Elbern and Pastor Solo have also suggested that since Father's Day was going to be celebrated in June, it would be a wonderful outing if the fathers included their children in it too. This idea made all the brothers in the meeting delighted and excited to go forward with the plan. Immediately after the meeting, Brother Art Palaspas and I went to Kennedy bowl and booked 16 lanes for the 'Father and Daughter/Son Special Day'. Right after, we started to inform the congregation about this special event through the church bulletins.

The past 3-4 Sundays before the anticipated event, only a few members (fathers, specifically) showed interest. Surprisingly, on the last Sunday before the event, twenty-three fathers and their respective children signed up, to a total of 46 people. By the grace of God, on the very day of the event, which was, June 15, 2019, some members of the church that were not included in the sign-up sheet joined the special day in Kennedy Bowl and registered. A total of almost 90 people participated in the event. The DOTK (Daughters of the King) group, led by Sister Josie and Sister Airene, helped us out through the preparation of the food.

Truly, to God be the glory! God always answers our prayers in His timing. I thank the Lord for all our brothers and sisters who helped in making the 'Father and Daughter/Son Special Day' into a successful event.

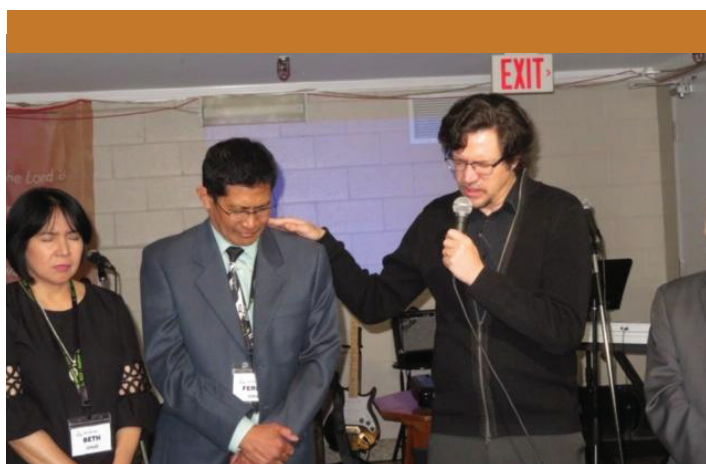
May God bless all of CABC.



WITNESSING FAITHFULNESS

At Greenhills Christian Fellowship

By Pastor Elbern Latorilla



On Sunday, May 5, 2019, my wife and I attended an event that proved to be an encouragement to me personally. Joined by 34 brethren from Christ Almighty Baptist Church, we participated in the launching of GCF-Halton in Oakville, Ontario. That day was also the official installation of Brother Ferdie Umali as pastor of this church replant.

It was a privilege to participate in that simple but meaningful ceremony. My heart was rejoicing as I realize that no other person could have assumed that role better than brother Ferdie himself.

I came to know him and his family when they joined CABC about 12 years ago. They immersed themselves in the ministry and were not merely spectators on the sidelines. They blessed us with their varied gifts even as we reciprocally blessed them with our support and love. In time, I came to realize that one day, with the kind of heart Ferdie possessed and his keen desire to further his studies theologically (which we encouraged him to pursue to a certain extent), it won't be long before God would lead him to a ministry that he himself would lead. That day proved to be the fulfillment of what I envisioned. Because of the Umali family's active involvement in the ministry of CABC, it was but fitting that we were present there for that special moment when he assumed his position as pastor of GCF-Halton.

We will surely miss Pastor Ferdie and Sister Beth at CABC, but the impact that they have made on us will continue to be felt in the days ahead. Congratulations, Pastor Ferdie. May God enable you to fulfill the ministry He has called you to with Character, Competence and Care as Pastor Narry challenged you that day. By the way, that message was for me, too, which I brought home to ponder upon and, God enable me, to follow.

35TH (CORAL) ANNIVERSARY

Our church celebrated its 35th (CORAL) anniversary at JC's Banquet Hall on Sunday, June 9th with Rev. Steven Jones as guest speaker. With the theme "Blessed to Bless the Nations", about 570 members, adherents and guests came together to praise God and celebrate this joyous occasion.

We had a time of worship, lunch fellowship and an afternoon program which consisted of musical numbers, a time to reminisce CABC history (video and trivia), and uplifting testimonies. It also gave us the opportunity to honor our Pastor Elbern Latorilla for his 30 years of faithfully pastoring and ministering CABC; and recognize our members who have stayed from 25 to 35 years with the CABC family.

While all the organizers did their part diligently behind the scenes, special mention goes to Sis Fe Bautista (and her very supportive hubby Norman) for doing most of the leg work.

All glory and praise be to God for his faithfulness through the years!





WE THANK GOD for YOU

PASTOR ELBERN LATORILLA

We randomly asked some of our church family to share a word or phrase to describe our dear Pastor Elbern and came up with an impressive list of adjectives. We are truly blessed and thankful for his 30 years of service (50 yrs in ministry), to the CABC family.

Encouraging and Bold

- Cassie Lopez

Powerful and Cool

- Julius Palalon

Man of God, a total package of God's creation

- Airene Laude

Very Funny

- Katie Calica

Leader and Supporter

- Abraham Almendarez

Patient and Firm

- Ezra Alderete

Good Memory

- Micah Pascual

Amazing, Animated and Prayerful Pastor

- Annaliza Labayen

Amazing and Nice

- Avi Shavaranthan

Always Smiling

- Lean Layacan

Totally committed to God and completely

Knowledgeable in God's Word

- Dorothy Wilson

Good Shepherd

- Susan Manalastas

Encyclopedic Memory

- John Isip

Wise and Humble

- Nicole Baterina

Faithful and Perseverant

- Cedric Reyes

Kind and Funny

- Eva Faith Vidal

Dedicated and Wise

- AJ Poquiz

An Amazing Preacher

- Aya Guatelara

Caring and Knowledgeable

- Lorenz Esguerra

Humble and Devoted

- Michael Borja

Wise and Passionate

- Camille Lachica

Eloquent Preacher and God Fearing

- Ariel Poquiz

Welcoming and Kind Hearted

- Toting Quintero

CHURCH EVENT HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

May 4	VBS Volunteers Training
May 11	Discipleship Series: “Pauline Epistles Part 1 of 4” led by Bro. Mike Borja (approx. 60 attendees)
May 12	Mother’s Day Sunday: Led by the Friends and Family Bible Study group
May 25	CPR Training
May 26	Sunday School General Meeting
June 1	Discipleship Series: “Pauline Epistles Part 2 of 4” led by Bro. Mike Borja (approx. 60 attendees)
June 2	Youth Sunday: Led by Young People’s Ministry
June 9	35th Church Anniversary Celebration: Held at JC’s Banquet Hall (see page 8 for details)
June 15	Annual Spring Cleaning
June 15	Father and Son/Daughter Special Day: See page 6 for details
June 16	Father’s Day Sunday: Led by the Symphony of Love 1 Bible Study group
June 22	Young @ Heart Ministry Joint Fellowship
June 23	Semi-annual Congregational Meeting
June 29	YAM Summer Social Event : Held at Rinx Entertainment Centre
June 30	Salute to Canada Sunday: Led by the Potter’s Clay, the Bereans and the Illocano Bible Study group

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

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