

YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULT'S JOINT FELLOWSHIP

JAHN RACHEL MALONG

Believers' gathering has significance in every individual. This will help us become more loving to God and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. That's why young people and young adults gathered in their first joint fellowship of the year, with the theme "Together We Stand, Divided We Fall." This event occurred last September 25 at URFBC Chapel. Thirty-four members attended the fellowship.

Before we started the program, we had our lunch together. There were enjoyable icebreakers and also a reminder for us as a group. The most awaited part in our program, the message titled "I'm Not a Lone Wolf Christian," was delivered by Ma'am Rona Pamela Escala. God's Word quite helped us realize more about the importance of meeting together. Meeting together will help us have more intimate relationship with our brethren, and more especially with the Almighty God. Avoiding the habit of meeting together might make us weak in our spiritual growth. Every believer needs an

accountability partner, and even a group. Why do we need a church even when we have our family? Those things on earth like family and friendly relationships don't last, but believers' relationship with each other is eternal. It is a kind of relationship that will continue forever. God created us, the church, for a certain purpose—to glorify Him, and to encourage, to strengthen others' faith by together hoping in God's promises, and to help each other battle unbelief. Therefore, we must help each other strengthen our faith and battle unbelief. Encourage others to be zealous in doing the ministry God gave us. Everyone needs encouragement. No believer is a "lone wolf Christian."

With the message we learned we discussed in a forum how we could encourage others stay in the fellowship, and emphasized the reasons why there has to be separate organizations such as the YP and the Single Young Adults. We also talked about clarifications and considerations on when an individual would stay or level up in/to a particular department.

We all hope to further grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus by digging deeper into His Word together.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

URFBC-YP.TUMBLR.COM

urfbc.yp

urfbc yp

Happy Birthday

to the following YP september celebrants!

- 2 Arnelie Saludario**
- Heizel Aldave**
- 3 John Paul Comal**
- 9 Carlo James Lauron**
- 21 Klark Rei Plamiano**
- 29 Ryan Beduya**

Wordart Corner



SEPTEMBER PRAYER HOUR

AALIYAH VERA RAYA

Praying to God is a good way to start your day. It is also a way to talk to Him to give thanks and to worship Him. The URFBC Young People had a chance to pray, Sunday morning, together to God which took place on September 4, 2016 with a theme verse, Jeremiah 33:3.

The program starts with a song and an opening prayer. Then, 3 youths were also given an opportunity to give a testimony on how God worked in their lives. Pastor Chris-

tian Lauron delivered God's message which is entitled, "Jesus is only one call away". The attendees were grouped to pray for each other's prayer requests and the general prayer items of the Young People. Before the program ends, they sang a song, "As the Deer".

The Young People was reminded that you can speak to Jesus easily because He is always there, through the good and bad times, for us.

HISTORY in Me: "HYPERGRACED"

ANGEL ADRIAS

"Hypergraced" is a term used to describe a believer who believes that he is faithful enough to God even if he's consciously doing his wrong deeds, that he is not responsible for his sins anymore because he is already forgiven and he doesn't need to confess them. I was hypergraced; I thought it was enough. I was blind. I was deceived with the lie that being faithful to God only requires doing good and praying memorized prayers repeatedly, that going to church is an obligation on Sundays and after that, I can continue living my sinful life for the rest of the week.

I idolized tangible things that brought me nothing but false belief. But God has indeed His own perfect timing. He didn't let me live my whole life missing out the truths about Him. The exact time and date were unclear, but when I met Jesus—Jesus Christ, the truth, the life and the only path to God—I was mesmerized immensely. Confusion, doubts, and fear came, yet God showed me more reasons to seek Him. At that time, I was slowly drowning into the quicksand. I had problems that I thought were beyond my capability. He reached His hand and caressed me in His arms, and that's the best place I could ever be.

The internet was the first medium where I heard and read God's Word. Prayer became a way to genuinely converse with Him. And the Bible opened my mind and heart, answered my questions and guided me all throughout.

Not long enough, I needed a church. I needed to serve and worship God with other believers. It was at first hard for me because there were people around me who ignored my eagerness to talk about God. Watching, reading, and listening to God's Word online weren't enough anymore. One day I asked my younger brother Renz if he's attending a Christian church, and he immediately invited me to attend a Sunday at URFBC. It was all new to me, but because of the kindness and understanding of the people in church, I felt welcomed and more able to worship and serve Him.

I can now say that I'm saved by God's grace. I'm no more hyper-graced. I'm forgiven because I surrendered to Him. He is now my Lord and Savior. But it's clear to me that this is not the end of problems, adversities and sufferings. It is just the start, but this time, it's my journey with God.

MEN'S FORUM

JULIUS ANDREW MANILA

Fellowship is essential in every Christian's spiritual growth, not just by mere personal Bible reading, devotion and prayer. It is where you can cast your burdens and loads to your fellow believers, exhort and pray together, and be one in worshipping, loving, caring and sharing.

That's why the young men of URFBC YP pursued at least once a month exclusive fellowship for them. Led by the youth president, they had their overnight fellowship last September 11 at Manila's residence where they pondered God's word together as imparted by Ptr. Christian Lauron, and discussed important issues concerning the youth group, especially the young men themselves. They had a forum, which is the chief goal of this fellowship.

The young men's forum is a confidential and exclusive moment where they are able to share their lives to each other including their testimonies, to discuss biblical principles and ideas with regard to different matters they are struggling with, and to answer vague questions and thoughts that bother them most.



BASKETBALL FELLOWSHIP

JOHN XARIS MALONG

It was evening when the young men planned for a basketball fellowship since most of them enjoy play the game. This activity happened on September 4, 2016. God opened that time for them to enjoy their time together and encourage each other by doing one of their own ways of unwinding--basketball. God guide them to play safely and no one got injured. This is one of the ways that grown-up boys can just relax and enjoy playing the friendly game, while also targeting to be physically active as each of us needs body exercise in the midst of our busyness.

Every game is a reminder that God can guide us wherever we are even when we're in the depths of despair just as how He guides and protects us in a simple sports fellowship. Safety will be found only in God. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

HIGH SCHOOL AND THE HIGHER SCHOOL

RONA PAMELA ESCALA

The mission field is not just wide; it's just near us, too. Upon This Rock Christian Academy (URCA) is one—a ministry arm that primarily aims to cater both the academic and spiritual needs of the students. Aside from the once-in-two-months general assembly of all high school students, called "Youth Hour," every level has started its weekly class fellowships since July. Each class has agreed upon their own day and time to meet and, though not compulsory, majority of their class join and participate every week. Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10 are led by Pastor Christian, Ate Patricia, Pastor Ronnie, and Ate Rona, respectively. And we are blessed that few weeks ago, Grade 10 students and URFBC YP Shelley and Jang volunteered to lead the Grade 8 fellowship if Ate Patricia wouldn't be around.

The four class fellowships are all unique—different personalities, different leaders, different concerns, different settings, programs and lessons—yet they all come in one mission: to help each other know and love God more through studying His Word together, and to strengthen the solidarity amongst their classmates while they're

still in URCA. Every week the students are encouraged to share their thanksgiving testimonies for the past week. By doing so, they get to know each other more and they are able to share to others the blessing of experiencing firsthand how great and faithful God is. They also learn God's truths not just with the messages prepared by the leaders, but also through the old and new songs they sing together and the special numbers presented by some of their classmates. And who would want to miss the fun of games!

This is also a time when students are given the opportunity to pray for their classmates, schoolmates and teachers. Before the fellowship starts, all written prayer requests are gathered and then distributed to each present student, and they pray for the concerns all together. And praise God for the Grades 8 and 9 have already started meeting in smaller groups as led by some classmates.

We prayerfully hope that these young hearts would come to understand better who God really is in their lives, that they'd continue to seek more of Him even after they leave the academy.

"How do your class fellowships help you?"

GRADE 7

Celeen Tuazon: "...Natututunan ko yung salita ng Diyos, yung nalalaman ko yung kahalagahan at yung salita Nya at masaya rin yung fellowship kasi my laro..."

Joanna Irinco: "Makakatulong po ito saken na mapalapit kay God at sa kapwa ko mag-aaral... Marami rin kaming matututunan na mga salita ng Diyos. At meron ring mga bagay na nuon hindi namin nagagawa pero ngayon kaya na namin isagawa."

GRADE 8

Jhendrei Flores: "Nakakatulong sakin ang fellowship dahil dito ko lalong nakikilala si God at yung mga wag dapat naming gawin naiiwasan namin."

Jake Baguisa: "Ito'y nakatutulong upang i-remind tayo na dapat tayong mag-act based sa will ni Lord and we have to praise Him as His servants..."

Tobi Bayla: "It can help me in the way that our class bond is getting stronger. Also, my personal relationship with the Lord is getting deeper because I get to know Him."

GRADE 9

Neah Didiquin: "It's a great joy to share with [my classmates about] my precious life in Jesus and the life-changing truths from the Bible. Their testimonies also become my encouragement to continue serving God. Through our first class fellowship many of them accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and are growing closer to Jesus, learning how to live a godly life."

GRADE 10

Elton Martin: "Nalaman ko kung ano yung sagot sa problema ko."

Justine Bernardino: "Break sa lahat ng stress. Lessons na naaalala ko kapag kailangang-kailangan ko."

Martha Mae Guillo: "Sobrang nakakatulong sakin yung fellowship kasi sobrang stressed na sa school at pagod sa bahay pero nagkakaroon ng break to the point na nakakatulong na physically and spiritually."

Denisse Tantiangco "Nakapagpatatag po ito ng samahan ng Micah..."