

I am really blessed to be born in a christian family, a pastor's kid on top of that. At an early age, I was introduced to God, was taught how to pray, memorized bible verses, attended church and Sunday school, sang "Jesus loves me this I know..." a hundred times, taught to be kind and polite to everyone and there's more. Actually, I thought being a pastor's kid would exempt me from a lot of things. That I'll be free from harm, pain, sadness and even sin. I even thought that I was already living a "Christian Life". But that was a complete lie. A lie that Satan made me believe. I realized that I am only privileged, but not exempted. Like you, I am a sinner too. Blind, deaf, and dead.

Back then, I only knew that Jesus loves me since I've sang it again and again but never fully understood it. It was by God's grace that I came to know of His great love. It was of His grace that I realized and understood everything. I am a sinner no matter what kind of family I grew up nor how I was raised. I am really nothing without Christ. I accepted Him as my personal savior when I was 6 years old. I am a new creature gone is the old, all things have become new. But that's not the end of my salvation story, it was only the beginning.

It had been a great struggle for me to turn back from sin. Pride kept me away from other people. Lies kept on piling, anger kept on bottling up and disobedience goes on and on. It kept on up to the point that I felt lost once again. I was so depressed that time. I even questioned God as to why can't I find Him near me, why did he let me fall. I thought He left me. Just then I realized, it is because I never made a move to get closer to Christ. I forgot to read the bible, I forgot to pray. Even in the ministries that I was involved, I have snatched all the glory that belongs to Him. It

was my fault. I let Satan I treated Jesus more of an than my friend, a stranger King. Hurt, broken and again to Him and asked He said. I really thank God record of wrong. His arms wide to receive is always wait-

distract me. That time, acquaintance rather than being my defeated, I bowed for forgiveness just as that His love keeps no are always opened me back. He there,



ing, when- ever we der away again from Him. He promised us that He'll never leave us. Great is his power and love that no one can take us away from Him, not even Satan. I've realized that you'll never fully understand God's greatness, unless you realize how unworthy you are. You'll never experience the abundance He has promised unless you've been emptied. You'll never see His wonders unless you've acknowledged His power.

Lately, I have struggled with over familiarity. I think

it's a common "sickness" every church kid could and would have. There I was going again on my way, thinking that I was doing God's will for me, but no. In my mind I thought that as long as I'll do it this way, it is God's way. For some time, God's grace have been my excuse for disobedience and neglect. Thoughts like "I already know this, I already know that" and "There's nothing new to learn now..." He's unchanging!" have clouded my mind. But thank God, He never let me stay that way. He used my college experiences to show that there's still more of Him that I don't know. Truly, no one will ever be able to grasp His glory. He might be the Unchanging God, but you'll always learn something new about Him. No one can out-love and out-give Him. I am still in awe upon realizing that my creator is a great, big God.

I know He's still working on me. I may still be lacking in so much ways, but I know that by His grace I am perfected. Trials and struggles are still present but I have this assurance that I am being held by God. I may fall sometimes but never will fall out of His hands. Jesus is mine and I'll be forever His. I thank God that throughout my life, He never failed to be God and will never be. What He was capable of doing before, He is still capable of doing it now.

There's so much more that I want to share with you but for the time being I'll leave you with a verse that has been of great help for me in my Christian journey: Hebrews 12:1-3 says "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

THE WALKING DEAD: Who's Missing Christmas?

After doing such works of ministries, the Lord gave the young people and single young adults a special break that celebrates the birth of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. December 22-23, 2016 was the settle day for a joint overnight Christmas fellowship. The YP of URFBC-Alta Tierra and Felzie Nallica of San Pedro Villagers Baptist Church also granted the invite.

The program started with an ice breaker led by the emcees, Ms. Bea Umengan and Bro. Carlo James Lauron. We sang songs together and listened to some special numbers. God used Ate Rona Pamela Escala, a YP adviser, to share us a message on the true meaning of Christmas. Giving presents and putting such Christmas decorations came from early traditions. However, celebrating Christmas reminds us how and when the Lord was delivered to the world into a frail human body through His earthly mother, Mary.

As to the theme of the Christmas fellowship, "The Walking Dead: Who's Missing Christmas?" has been remarkable to us. It indicates there that apart from Jesus Christ, we are all dead that walk around the wicked world. We all actually missed the Christmas, but before us the people from the story of the birth of Christ missed it first. Those people--the inkeeper, King Herod, the chief priests, people of Jerusalem, the Romans, and people of Nazareth--are the examples of dead walkers, which are represented by us people nowadays. We all missed Christmas because of ignorant preoccupation, jealous fear, prideful indifference, religious rituals, idolatry, and over familiarity. We are really reminded by the message of Ate Rona. Indeed, we are one of those "living dead," but by God's grace, the main reason of Christmas itself is to redeem us from being dead.

NOEMI UMENGAN

Personally, the Lord touched my heart and reminded me of His great sacrifice. What a loving, gracious, and faithful Father we have! After the message, the fun went on with the games and presents we prepared for each other. It had been tiring, but all of us enjoyed. At midnight, we were given leisure time. We can watch movie, play table tennis, or just rest! December 23, 2016, the next day of the party, we celebrated God's faithfulness for another year given to Bro. Julius, our dear president.

He has been a significant part of our spiritual journey, hence, we were given a privilege to give inspirational messages to him. He is indeed a child of God! The fellowship went on and we had our breakfast.

Let us all be mindful of God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ--not only at Christmas season. Soli Deo Gloria!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
TO THE FOLLOWING YP DECEMBER CELEBRANTS!

- 11** *KYLE LAUREN RAMOS*
- 16** *JULIUS ANDREW MANILA*
- 28** *REGINE ESCALA*
- 28** *FAITH RACHEL MALONG*

GMAIL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF UPON THIS ROCK FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST CHURCH - YOUNG PEOPLE

THE CHOICE: HOLIDAY CAMP

MARIA FLORIZA MAE "ANGEL" ADRIAS (BEST FEMALE HOLIDAY CAMPER 2016)

Indeed, no storm can tame believers to pursue their journey with God. Even if the Holiday Camp 2016 was moved from Dec. 26-29 to Dec. 27-30 because of the typhoon Nina, everyone remained their trust in the Lord that the activity would pursue. The said camp was entitled "The Choice" with the theme verse 1 Peter 4:10, aiming that today's youth shall discover their gifts and choose Jesus for them to use these in serving Him and others. The 3-day camp was held in SIBFK Farm and Camp in Malvar, Batangas, organized by the SIBFK-AAFC team.

The sun was finally shining when everyone arrived at the venue. The registration was facilitated by Bro. Julius Manila. The fee for the camp was P700.00 each which every attendee had really saved up for. The members of the Herald Chamber Orchestra also raised their fund through playing wondrous Christmas carols in different houses and receiving shared blessings from sponsors. The amount was totally worth it because it includes a camp-kit consisting a drawstring bag, notebook, pen, name tag, and of course the

delicious meals. Afterwards, each camper joined one from featured workshops such as film, drama, band, song-writing, and voice in which they think they can discover or improve their talents. The youth from different churches were divided into 4 groups namely the pink, blue, purple and green team. A great chance to gain new friends while having good teamwork!

Pastor Vincent Castillo was the guest speaker of the camp. God truly spoke through him when he emphasized that the talents and spiritual gifts that each individual has aren't for themselves or anybody else but for God Himself alone. He also made a point that every person (especially the youth) must choose to Discover, Delight, and Develop God's gifts to make Him work through them.

Every day in camp starts with the group devotion

at 5 am, followed by fun exercises and games. After breakfast, the campers get themselves up ready for the workshops, seminars and practices for the entire day. Each group were tasked to prepare a musical play with a poster about the stories from the Bible which was really amazing because it is when the hidden gifts of the campers were discovered, nurtured, and performed for God's glory! There were also original songs written by some campers which was made more impactful by the music video also made by each group. God's presence filled the entire place when many campers surrendered their life to Jesus. It was a moment when everyone felt so blessed by the Holy Spirit. All the laughs, tears, and hardwork paid off when the awards were given to each group and also to individuals who showed outstanding character and talent in this Holiday Camp. These awards were presented by Bro. Kazuyoshi Sanada, SIBFK-AAFC president, and Ptr. Hinahon Pallones, the adviser.

New friends, new memories, new discoveries of how to serve God better... Everyone just didn't want the camp to end. But we all have to go on now that each servant is more equipped; we must soar higher for God's grace and glory!

We all are thankful for the prayers and support. To check out the candid pictures and the awesome songs and videos, visit the SIBFK-AAFC's facebook page at www.facebook.com/sibfkaafc/.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

MARJORIE GRACE TABAY OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS




Christmas caroling became a part of the URFBC Herald Chamber Orchestra's fund raising for the annual Christmas holiday camp. With God's Grace, each of us was blessed with musical instruments and talents to use for His glory alone.

Because God entrusted us His ministries, we are indeed more than privileged to be part of these, and we are giving back all the praises and glory to Him; we believe in the principle, "our best is the least that we can offer to the King of Kings."

Christmas Night Watches started from December 18 until Christmas Eve. The orchestra presented one

Christmas piece that we played during the caroling as replacement for the usual door-to-door caroling for each house of family church members, as what the church had decided to do in order to help us lessen the time to knock on all church members' houses for caroling.

Not only we are so much grateful for this church's generosity financially to help all the young people to join the camp, also in practical needs of camp like the school supplies as souvenirs given by some of church members sincerely. But moreover, we are beyond grateful to your prayers to make the Christmas Holiday Camp and campers achievable. Soli Deo Gloria!

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