

GOD'S GMAIL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF URFBC YP



FEARLESS

VBS 2017

• Aaliyah Vera Raya

“The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.”

Psalm 118:6

This is the theme verse of this year's Vacation Bible School. VBS is a yearly ministry where there are different themes, and children from different places learn about God and have fun. It is also an opportunity for the URFBC members, led by Ate Rona Escala and Pastor Christian Lauron, to be used by God this summer to teach more children about God, to help the teachers transport to the sites and to cook snacks for the attendees. This year's theme is "Fearless: Standing Boldly for God" with which students were taught to be fearless followers, fearless defenders, fearless peacemakers, fearless worshippers and fearless witnesses--each reinforced one at a time in five VBS days.

This year's VBS ministries started on the 3rd week of April and ended on the third week of May where five different sites were reached--Alta Tierra, GMA Village, Carmona, Monteverde, and Veraneo with a total of more than 650 enrollees, plus a number of guardians who attended the graduation at the end of each lap.

The teachers were called Shifu (head teacher), Sihing (male assistant teacher) and Sije (female assistant teacher). The children played games with each other, created crafts, learned stories, memorized Bible verses, sang wonderful songs and bought goodies at the last day using their earned Yuan, the incentive given to them when they actively participate. They also got the chance to create new friends and most importantly, to know God deeper. Not only the students were educated, but also the teachers learned the lessons in the stories, how to deal with different children and how to be flexible with their gifts and skills.

The highest daily numbers of students per site were: Alta Tierra – 65 students, GMA Village -168 students, Carmona – 72 students, Monteverde – 135 students and Veraneo – about 40 students.

The VBS staff always had this motto in mind since their seminar: "Every minute someone's in need. Find who that is." Because of everyone's help and God's enablement, the VBS this year became successful. We also praise God for the first-time teachers who committed their time, gift and labor in this ministry. We are also grateful of every participation URFBC members offered--prayers, food preparation, transportation, sponsorship, permission to our YP teachers, and all kinds of support they gave for the Lord's ministry. Everyone's labor is not in vain. Praise God for the wisdom and strength of everyone, and the number of enrollees! To God be the Glory!

There's a great saying that goes, "Doctors treat but Jesus heals." It is good to rely on what the doctors say when it comes to our health, but it is a must that we put our full trust in the Lord's healing power.

Last May 13, 2017, the URFBC in partnership with AXIEA Group of Companies conducted a Medical-Dental Mission at the church area. The volunteers gave away flyers, first thing in the morning. When the people started to come at the URFBC church, some volunteers, dentists, and nurses began serving them. There were about 43 gospel sharers who were tasked to share to every patient about the "Five Colors." Hoping and praying that this activity would give a strong impact to their lives, each sharer made sure that the patient understood about Jesus being their Lord and Savior before he/she received the dental checkup or circumcision free of charge.

The summer heat could never tame everyone's willingness to serve God and His people. The doctors came and the circumcision began. Many young men came and received Jesus the moment before they

underwent this "stage of manhood." Many smiles were also improved because the painful unneeded tooth was finally plucked out. Height, weight, and blood pressure were also determined during the checkups. The patients did not only receive the service but they also brought home some vitamins, medicines, antibiotics and stress balls.

It was almost 10 PM when the circumcision has finally ended. A total of about 195 patients were exposed to the gospel--63 young men were circumcised, 86 received needed dental service, and 46 got their vital signs for free. The hardworking nurses and doctors never took a break on that day just to fully serve the patients. Many volunteers from URFBC & AXIEA tirelessly supported the ministry all day. What an amazing heart of service everyone has! But then, this outreach event wouldn't be possible without the Lord. We all hope and pray that this ministry didn't only improve the people's physical health but also their spiritual well-being. And that they would realize that the true healer for all sickness is only Jesus Christ. All Praises and Glory to God!



• Angel Adrias

Leadership Camp

Emmanuel Umengan

God wants to develop the best in all of us. And one way is equipping ourselves through seminars. The annual youth leadership camp entitled "Radical Leadership" organized by the SIBFK-AAFC was held in SIBFK-AAFC Christian Camp and Farm in Malvar, Batangas. On May 25-26, 2017, the two-day camp was aiming to equip the future youth leaders to lead radically, the same as Jesus demonstrated as He submitted His own life freely to serve others.

URFBC YP, led by Bro. Julius Manila, tapped the ten candidates for this June's election of youth officers as delegates for this camp. God ensured us good weather and safe trip as we arrived early at 8am. The camp started with group assignment and orientation about what radical leadership camp was all about. The youth leaders from different churches were divided into three groups. In our first meeting, we got to know each other by introducing ourselves. Everyone was blessed to share personal experiences about our God-given ability in leadership. It was followed by team building led by Pastor Christian Lauron.

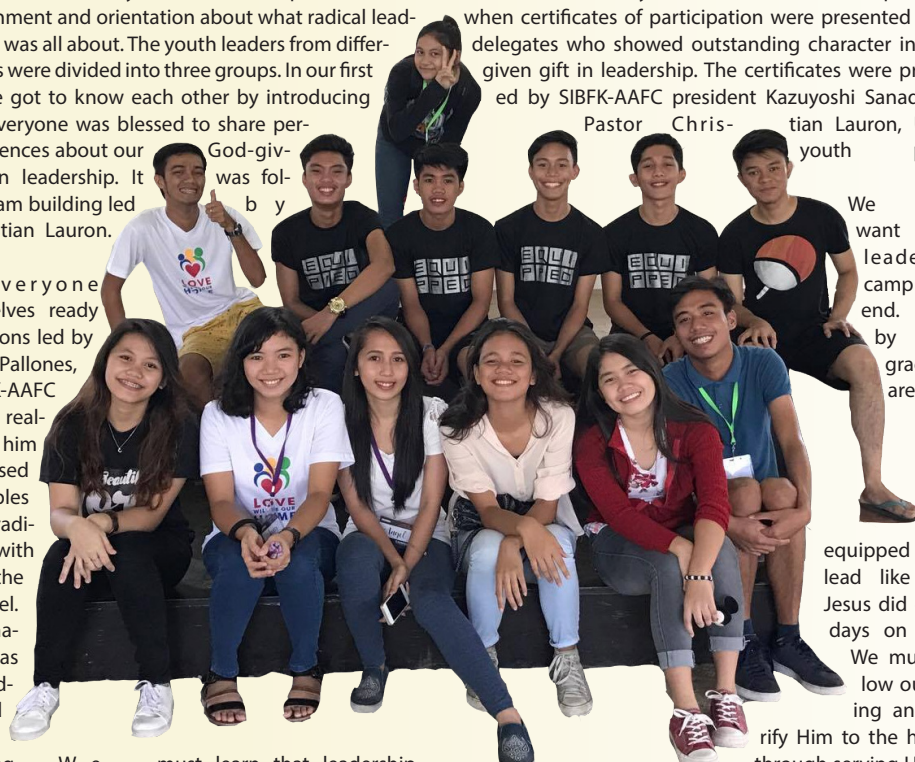
Everyone got themselves ready for the sessions led by Pastor Jiffy Pallones, the SIBFK-AAFC adviser. God really spoke to him as he discussed the principles of being a radical leader with Jesus as the role model. He emphasized that as called leaders, we need to value our calling. We must learn that leadership is not for personal gain but rather, we have to submit and serve God first and His people with the best of our ability. He also addressed that the failure of the followers is the failure of the leader. As a challenge, every after session we were

tasked to list down major problems faced by the young people nowadays and how we would find solutions on given situations. Each group had two representatives to present the given problem and the solution. These were the moments when God's holy presence spoke to our hearts. Everyone is called to lead and everyone has been given a chance by God to submit our lives for service under the will of God. We must be willing to be challenged and be changed, influencing others to change to or go back to that core.

On our last day, we started with devotion followed by fun exercise and team yell. After we ate our delicious breakfast everyone was relieved and felt privileged when certificates of participation were presented to the delegates who showed outstanding character in God's given gift in leadership. The certificates were presented by SIBFK-AAFC president Kazuyoshi Sanada and Pastor Christian Lauron, URFBC youth pastor.

We didn't want the leadership camp to end. Now, by God's grace, we are more

equipped to lead like what Jesus did on His days on earth. We must follow our calling and glorify Him to the highest through serving Him. Be all we can be for the sake of His name. IT IS ONLY BY HIS GRACE THAT WE ARE CALLED. 1 Peter 2:21 : To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH

- 8 - Timothy Ranay
- 11 - Angel Adrias
- 28 - Marjorie Grace Tabay

APRIL

- 14 - John Henry Madenancil
- 20 - Deborah Keren Sariga

MAY

- 2 - Kyla Escala
- 3 - Chelley Manzano
- 3 - Sam Castillo
- 17 - Patricia Umengan
- 30 - Maeca Louise Camus
- 30 - Ria Rica Francisco

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May 15-17, 2017 was a special scheduled camp of URFBC Juniors. After the successful holiday youth camp happened last year-- The Choice--primaries and juniors of ages 6-13 were also given a chance to know and enhance their God-given spiritual gifts. There were 45 campers from different SIBFK churches. URFBC sent 14 young delegates, 6 volunteer counselors, and 2 SIBFK-AAFC officers.

lenged on how to show love and care by showing people the love of God through Jesus Christ, and to pray for those around us . The children were moved by the messages. They have also committed their lives to the Lord by offering their talents to the Lord through different ministries. Everyone had been very productive and is growing spiritually.

Just like the preceding youth camp, aside from different workshops (arts, speech choir and drama), there were also presentations prepared and presented by the young campers. It was such a blessing from God that He uses the life of those children. And it is also God's grace that at their young age, they willingly participated on every task and presentation.

We counselors felt the victory when we saw how God touched the hearts of those kids. The Lord is really faithful! Even at young age, He's been faithfully blessing the children. And as one of the counselors, I was really moved and blessed by the lives of those children, especially the unexpected participation of URFBC's delegates. Seeing them growing in many aspects, it really reminds me of how God worked and continuously works in my life in a quite real but great, caring plan.

Some of them helped in composing the piece for speech choir, some played their different roles in the drama, and some drew masterpieces creatively.

God let us see the importance of a child's life. As what Jesus said in Matthew 19:14: "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Let us not despise and underestimate what children could do, because God also loves them and blesses them in many ways. Even at their young hearts in ministries, they could be more fruitful and faithful steward of God someday.

Everyone participated, performed well and committed their lives to the Lord. It was not just their talents that really blessed us, but as well as the messages that Pastor Chloe Domondon shared to us. The children were so chal-



ICE MINISTRY

On May 1, 2017, a wonderful sight was seen at Carmona court as the members of the church exhibited Romans 12:4-6 and Matthew 28:19. Instead of spending the Labour Day to rest at home, the members of the church cheerfully and willingly volunteered themselves to be used in God's ministry - an ICE ministry in Phase 3 of Brgy. Milagrosa, Carmona, Cavite.

ICE, or "Ice Cream Evangelism," Ministry is just one of many ways to share the gospel of Christ. People were invited to come inside the covered court and lend their ten minutes to listen to the "Five Colors" and, in return, get their free ice cream. The volunteers were assigned to different tasks such as being a: registrar, usher, prayer warrior, scoopers, overseer, photographer, and gospel sharer.

The volunteers worked as one body of Christ that day. It was such a beautiful sight. It also gave each member the real joy that they can only get in serving Jesus. The event started around 9:00 in the morning. By God's grace, people kept on coming to the court. The members did

■ Ria Rica Francisco
their best in doing their given roles. The ushers put all efforts to invite everyone they saw passing by. The gospel sharers hardly took a break in telling people the Good News. The registrars continuously encoded all the data from the information slips to give an immediate result about the whole event. The scoopers used all their strength to give delicious dessert - ice cream. And of course, immediately after a soul has been exposed in God's word, their information slips were given to the prayer warriors, and those souls were prayed for.

The faith goal was to reach 400 people that morning, but God exceeded our expectation. The total number of people who were exposed to the Gospel is 498, in which 445 professed to receive Christ and 376 were interested for a Bible study.

Truly, God is always at work. That day, many lives were changed. Those who received Christ can now experience His wonderful plan. Those who laboured in the ministry experienced the real joy in serving Jesus and grew in their spiritual lives. The church also perceived the great effect of having the body of Christ move as one.

CONGRATULATIONS, Graduates!

ELEMENTARY

- Lianah Arroza
- Klaress Escala
- Sharmaine Jane Tabay
- Samantha Madenancil
- Karylle Ramos
- Jhester Arwen Amboy
- Samuel Ferdinand
- Berces
- Eric Sulit, Jr.
- Peejay Vien Tenorio
- Lander Miles Nallos

COLLEGE

- John Richard Malong (TUP)
- Heizel Aldave (PUP-SP)
Cumlaude
- Arnelie Saludario (PUP-SP)
- Johnver Dicdiquin (EARIST)
- Ptr. Christian Lauron (BBSI)
- Ptr. Klark Plamiano (BBSI)

HIStory in Me: Never Failing

■ Shaine Eve Gumba

I faltered. September 29, 2013, I finally, truly accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. November of that same year, I was baptized. And I. Was. On. Fire. I attended church services every Sunday, I was a choir member, I was a member of the orchestra, I did not fail to give tithes and offerings, I was always on time, I fasted, I prayed day and night, I read the Bible day and night, I was a teacher at VBS and once we get home I would prepare again for the next day, and I had my phone full of Christian music. I enjoyed it all. I even said that before going to law school, I want to enter a bible school even for just a year! I felt real and incomparable joy. I was never tired, not if it is for His ministry. But well, I faltered.

I can't remember when it exactly started, but I remember how. I got busier and busier, not with His ministry, but with my responsibilities as a student. I tried to manage my time so that I could still serve Him the way I did before, for a time I was successful but it did not last long. I faltered.

I stopped attending choir practices and I stopped singing for Him. I stopped attending instrumental practices and I stopped playing for Him. I still attended church services but eventually, that stopped as well. I told you, I faltered.

None of my block-mates are Christian. Not even one. If I was still on fire, I would've seen that as a blessing. That's 30+ souls that I might be able to bring to God! But I saw it as a curse. If only one of them was a Christian, maybe my fire wouldn't totally burn out.

And then after a time, I just saw it as a normal classroom with a bunch of unsaved individuals. I could've asked God to use me to save them, but I faltered.

I pulled away from my co-YP's and even from my own discipleship group. My phone is not filled with Christian music anymore. I prayed and read the Bible still but only when I have the time for it. I started wanting to drink alcohol. And then I started drinking alcohol. During our time in Boracay, my brother, my sister-in-law, and I went to a bar. I could've refused and stayed at our hotel but I came because I wanted to. At a friend's birthday party, my friends drank and so did I. I faltered.

When all of this started, I had been filled with extreme guilt. And then that extreme guilt became nothing. I'd been enjoying. I'd been happy. But something was missing. I could not feel joy, real joy. I know where I could find it; I don't think I ever forgot. But in my mind, I had gone so far and low from where I started that I just felt shameful. I couldn't pray and ask God for His forgiveness and go back to Him because of what I've done. I was so ashamed and afraid. I was ashamed to face my co-YP's. They were progressing, they were preparing for a concert, and I just kept failing again and again. One wrong step after the other, I faltered.

April 21, 2017 I took a deep breath and just sent Ate Rona a message on Facebook Messenger asking if they were going to distribute flyers for the VBS that day. It was a simple question but it took every ounce of strength I had to send it. And then she

replied and said yes. Unfortunately, I did not make it in time and I was not able to join them. But that night, that same night, Ate Jing sent me a message asking if I am available on May 1 for the ICE Ministry; I said yes. Just several minutes after that, Kuya Julius sent me a message asking how I was. If it was just like before, I would've just "seenzoned" him but this was not like before. So I answered and I shared everything to him. All I had to do was send a simple message and say "yes" and for once in a long time, I did not falter.

During that time when I was struggling, I would ask, "Where is God?" I mean, I am His daughter, He should have not let me fall that far. He should have been catching me and helping me back up. Now as I reflect, He was there every day, every hour, every minute, every second. He. Was. There. I was the one not reaching His hands. He was in front of me with His hands outstretched, He provided me with every opportunity to return to Him, but I was a coward, I was too afraid, too ashamed. You see, once we accept Him, we are His sons and daughters and He will always be there for us. Sometimes He's just waiting for us too. Sometimes, He uses these things to teach us a lesson. But remember that He will never leave us. And no matter what you've done, no matter who you are, He is always always ready to forgive you. He will always welcome you back, you need not be afraid that He might turn you away because our God is merciful. Remember 1 John 1:9: **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"**. I faltered and I will probably keep on faltering, but God, He will never falter, **NEVER**.



AXEIA Family Camp

■ Rona Pamela Escala

Last May 20 & 21, a team of twenty-three URFBC volunteers led by Sis. Ethel Corpin, also an AXEIA employee, had the privilege to take part as facilitators in the annual family retreat of AXEIA Group of Companies with this year's theme "Love will be Our Home." The name **AXEIA** takes inspiration from the modern Greek word for "value" (axeia.com.ph) and, indeed, the company aims to give best value not just to its clients, but also to the families of its own employees, thus, organizing such an event at Mt. Makiling Re-Creation Center in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, where they can have time for rest, recreation and restrengthening all together.

One of the highlights of this camp was the hall sessions where three valuable speakers delivered powerful messages centering on the demonstration of "radical love" at home. Sir Peter Tan-Chi, Jr. helped both teens and adults understand the issue of digital addiction, which is rampant in this generation, and shared practical ways on how to deal with it. Pastor Danny Urquico's all-time-amazing conversion testimony shared by her wife brought listeners to tears and magnified the Lord's incredible power and grace over us, impossible sinners. Everyone was reminded of the three essential yet usually neglected statements at home—

thank you, sorry, and I love you. Sir Paul Tan-Chi, the AXEIA President, imparted vital parenting principles and also talked about financial freedom. These God-inspired talks had been relevant to all listeners since they have their own families and could totally relate to the concerns raised.

Children of ages 3-5 and 6-11 were at two separate sessions while their parents were participating at the hall. Kids' facilitators had set four main goals: 1) to share the gospel through "Five Colors" and gospel songs, 2) to teach them the importance of praying for the family reinforced through Bible stories, 3) to encourage them to save money for others through the free coin banks given to them, and 4) to inspire them to discover, develop, and use their God-given gifts by teaching them how to play recorder and do skit and musical presentations, which they actually performed at the last day in front of their families.

Even the volunteers attested that they, too, have gleaned much blessings through this event. May God greatly use AXEIA in carrying out their own tagline—"Building Homes, Building Lives..." centered on Jesus Christ!



Instrument Tutorial for AXEIA kids

■ Jahn Rachel Malong

In the AXEIA Family Camp, the AXEIA kids were to render their special number by playing recorder and ukulele for the event's theme song, "Love will be our Home" by Sandi Patty. Teachers were needed for them to learn how to play those instruments. The volunteers from URFBC young people had a chance for this tutorial ministry. Pastor Christian Lauron, Francis Gabilo, Aaliyah Raya, Noemi Umengan, and Jang Malong had been conducting the instrument tutorial on Thursdays of May 4 to 18, traveling 5:00 in the morning to Ortigas, Quezon. They taught less than fifteen students—one with ukulele and the rest with recorders. It was a great opportunity to be used by

God through this tutorial ministry. The teachers were blessed by the willingness of their students to learn. They have also developed their relationship with their students. Because of their zealotness to work for the Lord, they have received blessings. It is a fact that what you sow is what you reap as it is written in the Bible. Remember that all your works and labor for the Lord will not be in vain. Even how enervating it is sometimes, let it not be a hindrance but your motivation instead to serve the Lord consistently and faithfully. Continue to use all your strength for your service to the Lord. Give of your best to the Master!