

The 3-day, 25th Youth Camp with the theme “Sin no more and Live victoriously as we conquer the world” was as inspiring and as challenging as it can be and we thank the Lord for His abiding presence and for pouring out His blessings all throughout the activity. As the camp unfolded, it was impressed upon the young people that this world may change and indeed there is nothing permanent in this world, but the love of God and His promises will last forever. The challenge and admonition is that, amidst the pandemic, we must have a deeper relationship with the Lord to overcome the world and thus receive His promises.

The key verse states that “He that overcometh shall inherit things; and I will be his God and He shall be my son”, Revelation 21:7. Clearly, it is a great reminder that as we sail in this world we should live victoriously to inherit the things prepared by our God for us, His children.

The 25th Youth Camp was directed by Bro. Marvin S. Baldonado of Raniag Congregation. The camp has for its goal, “to challenge the youth to live free from sin, to keep his light shining, to stand firm, to walk with God, to conquer the world without fear and to live triumphantly to receive eternal life”. The camp commenced on October 30, 2021, with an opening program held virtually, where Rev. Joseph Emmanuel C. Ruiz, AFC Philippines District Superintendent emphasized the beauty and necessity of living freely from sin. He expounded the promises of God to be received by those who live victoriously until the end and “Dwell in His Holy Perfection”.

The first bible study titled; “Trust Walk” was delivered by Rev. Richard A. Cruz wherein he discussed the 4 elements of Trust; (1) Communication – God Speaks to us through His words and the Holy Spirit, (2) Consistency – Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever, Hebrews 13:8, (3) Competence - the state of being competent, (4) Compassion – His compassions fail not, Jeremiah 3:22 . He also encouraged everyone to be steadfast, to keep the faith, to trust the Lord and walk with Him.





In the afternoon, the second bible study was about “Amazing Race”, with Hebrews 13:1 as the key verse. Bro. Jomar Aban’s discussion centered on the word “ENDURE”, which emphasizes the steps to win the race, (E) - eyes looking unto Jesus, Hebrews 12:2, (N) - no turning back, Galatians 5:7-9, (D) - Don’t carry any baggage, Hebrew 13:1, (U) - usher the weary but be not

weary, 1 Corinthians 9:27, (R) - run hard! Fight hard! Finish hard! (E) - Ending is Rewarding. He concluded that we should run our Christian race with patience.

During the Evangelistic Service, we heard inspiring testimonies from several young people. They shared how God graciously guided them in their daily Christian walk. There may be challenges along the way, but these young people glorified God for not leaving nor forsaking them. One sister in Christ from Ambatali Church testified of God’s providence and divine healing. She is thankful to God for giving her the strength to overcome the trials that come along. She testified that if we seek God first, though how great a task may seem it would be accomplished with His guidance. One young lady from Ilocos Sur testified how the Lord spoke to her through a Bible study. She felt conviction and accepted Jesus Christ as her personal savior. There she experienced overflowing love and peace she never experienced before. Another sister in Christ attested how God comforted her for the death of her father-in-law and her husband’s quarantine situation. Despite the trials, they have proven that the Lord is indeed faithful, He provided their needs in those trying times and God brought back joy in her heart.

After the special song, “The Heart of Worship”, Rev. Jamindre Torres shared Rev. 21:7, the very theme of the youth camp which is, “Sin No More and Live Victoriously as we Conquer the World”. Bro. Jed emphasized the importance of being victorious. He stated that sin is the deadliest disease that we must overcome if must see the Lord. To drive his point, Bro. Jed then used the story in John 8:1-11, where a woman caught in adultery was taken before Jesus. The law explicitly states that anyone taken in adultery must die by stoning. The response of Jesus to those who demand that punishment be meted out to the woman was recorded in verses 10-11: (10) “When Jesus had lifted himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? (11) She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more”. Here the Lord is letting us know that He will faithfully forgive those who sinned if the sinner would have a genuine repentant heart. Bro. Jed, elaborated further that the Lord did not stop with “Go!”, but He emphasized the commandment that is applicable until now and that is to “sin no more”. For, if we keep on sinning, we repeatedly crucify Him making Him weep repetitively. Jesus has given His life for you and for me to give us hope to eternal life. He wants us to be holy. He wants us to forsake sin and walk according to His statutes. God hates sin. God doesn’t want us to suffer in hell. He wants us to follow Him and obey Him cheerfully and wholeheartedly. If we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and have forsaken sin, we will have an assurance. We are assured of a great tomorrow with the Lord in heaven. It is a promise of the Lord to those who have lived victoriously. God is delighted if we live above sin and if we live according to His will. If we are saved, sanctified, and baptized by the Holy Spirit, we must have the desire to proclaim the Gospel of

Jesus Christ. If we have a heart ready to be used by the Lord, He will bless us and give us the desires of our heart all for His glory. In closing, Bro. Jed urged all young people to accept Jesus and sin no more and to be ready to be used by God.

The 2nd day of the camp was a regular Sunday Service. It started with the daily Devotional Daybreak followed by the Sunday School for Kids where Sis. Nancy, Noemi and Joyce Fernando presented a beautiful topic, “A Perfect Place”. Indeed, God’s creation is perfect.

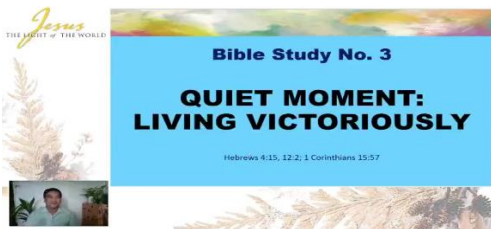


Right after was the Sunday School for adult class where Sis. Rose Ann Grospe discussed the topic, “Prophecies against ungodly people” with scripture text found in Isaiah 28:1-35:10. During the devotional service, Bro. Robert Loyce Ruiz read the scriptures found in Luke 19:56-62. Sis. Elaida Fiegalan and Sis. Ily Fiegalan rendered a song titled, “What I know” written by Michael Farren and Aaron Rice. Rev. Fernan Fiegalan, then presented his sermon by sharing the agricultural aspect of preparing the land for planting and harvesting crops. He used for his text, Luke 9:62 which says “And Jesus said unto him, No man having put his hand to the plow, and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God”. He stressed that here, Jesus illustrates discipleship as a farmer that plows his field, which necessitates determination and commitment to finish the job. This text also vividly illustrates our response to the call of God. Bro. Fernan advised everyone that as much as possible we answer God’s call right away. That we see the urgency of God’s call. If the Lord impressed something in our hearts, may we respond promptly. Following the Lord has a cost. While answering God’s call and serving Him may entail suffering and that our expectations may not be met, even then we must be relentless in serving the Lord. He pointed out that God is calling us in various ways and for many reasons. God calls everyone. We must not let comforts, convenience or our choices distract us from our devotion to Jesus. It could be the Lord wants to use us to bless others. He implored everyone to consider these two things, what is our greatest dream and what is our greatest fear? Do we really have control over these? We have to decide to accept the Lord’s invitation. God help us not to procrastinate. And that we stay committed to the Lord. We are in an emergency situation, so to speak, many need to know the Lord as their personal Lord and Saviour. The sermon ends in challenging everyone to follow God and use their talents for God’s glory. Bro. Fernan encouraged everyone to respond and be proactive and say “Yes, Lord!”.

In the afternoon the Evangelistic Service, was facilitated by Bro. Jomar Aban and Bro. Roger Amansec led the opening prayer. The young people in Simimbaan church offered a special song titled, “How Great our God”. Interspersed with songs and special numbers, we heard a number of testimonies of God’s goodness and loving kindness and how He answered prayers and miraculously intervened in the lives of His people. Our brethren shared how God loved, healed, cared for them, and provided their needs. Sis. Marilyn Glindro shared how God carried her through the trials in her life. Sis. Lady Suzzete Verueco of Simimbaan church testified on how God comforted and gave her strength to conquer her weaknesses. After another song titled, “He touched me!”, and really God moves and touches every heart that seeks Him, Rev. Rizaldy Caliboso then gave a challenging message on “Living Faithfully Forward”. In part, Bro. Zaldy said that there

should be unity among the brethren and he stressed the importance of persevering in the work of the Lord. Using the industry of ants for an illustration, He vividly painted in his message the need for everyone to perform, persevere, and actively participate in the Lord's work. He said that everyone surely has a role to fill for each one of us is given at least one talent that we can use for the glory of the Lord and that we must accept responsibility. In closing, he posted the question, "Are we faithfully living before the Lord?"

One highlight of the camp was the much awaited Night of Music titled, "The Journey", incorporating the story of the footprints in the sand. Many youths virtually sung together through the leadership of Bro. Robert Loyce Ruiz. The purpose of the activity is to help the youths to have an encounter with God and to reflect on the journey we have with God. Once again, we were reminded that apart from God and without God in our lives we are nothing. In whatever circumstance in our lives with its highs and lows, peaks, and valleys nothing and no one is to be worship but only our Living Hope, Living God, Our Great Redeemer, Our Salvation, for God is our everything. Many viewers actively testified in the chat box which truly inspired and encouraged others. This proves that God is alive and He moves mightily in the lives of His people. As we sing praises unto Him, we felt His Divine presence like a light gentle wind passing through our hearts and deepens our faith. During the closing song, God through His Holy Spirit prompted everyone to pray and once again the Lord poured out His blessings.



During the third day, the third bible study was delivered by Rev. Christopher Mendoza. The title of the study was "Quiet Moment: Living Victoriously". In his discussion, he emphasized that our desire should be to Live a Victorious Christian life. He also defined the meaning of "quiet moment" and he admonished the youth to have a

quiet moment with God, to spend time alone with God. He concluded by saying that "We can win our battles if we are in God! "

In the afternoon was the Bible Quiz participated in by non-workers from each branch church. At least, thirteen churches were represented and Sis. Dharlene Jazzle Damogo and Sis. Kate Ashley Nucasa of Baguio Church won the first place. Bro. Jay Francis Ancheta and Sis. Lhyra Mae Laminero from San Luis church came in second, and Bagong Sikat church represented by Sis. Jhoeliza Gabawan and Joanna Gabawan landed third place.





During the closing program, Rev. Guadalupe Miranda provided a beautiful summary of the bible studies by connecting the essence of all the topics discussed. She encouraged everyone to trust in the Lord always in our Walk and she emphasizes that our Living God is our captain that will lead our way. She also highlighted that in our Race in the world, though it may not seem amazing to others but what is truly amazing is that we have an Amazing God, a big God who is far greater than our challenges and problems. And she pointed out that in our spiritual race God is there, as He has always been. He gives us conviction to pursue the journey, perseverance to keep going, determination to finish the walk we started. We have to keep on moving on, no turning back even when we are struggling because God will carry us through in our journey. In closing, she admonished everyone not to compromise our faith but rather keep the spiritual gifts given to us by our God and focus on our heavenly goals. Let NO ONE take away our confidence in God, that we Let Him reign supreme in our hearts. SIN NO MORE!

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