PRAYER LIST

- **CHURCH PROPERTY – ₱ 150k advance rent, ₱ 1M funds for bldg. construction, and documents to put paperwork in order**
- **Fund-raising activities (Golf Tournament, Solicitations, Banquet)**
- **Air-conditioning Unit (2.0 hp)**
- **Church Vehicle**
- **Electric Piano**
- **Worship Team & Creative Team**
- **Men's Fellowship & Ladies Group**
- **Youth Ministry**
- **Mission Works (Manaoag, Dinagat, Taytay, Palawan)**
- **Pastors and Churches (LBBC, IBBC, Diadem BBC, BMP)**
- **Gerald Chan (H-Star Ent)**
- **Lulu Teng (Diamond Motors)**

Our Weekly Report

February 12-15, 2012

Sunday Morning

Adults	**30**
Young People	**14**
Children	**11**
Total	**55**
Offerings	**₱ 10,566**

Wednesday Prayer Meeting

Adults	**9**
YP and Children	**8**
Total	**17**

Announcements

- Happy birthday to **Gideon Ballesteros** (Feb. 17), **Randolf Jarlego** (Feb. 23), and **Ralph Flores** (Feb. 26)! God bless you always ☺
- **Golf Tickets** available today! We can sell these to our friends who play golf. Let us support our Golf Tournament on May 4. **Proceeds go to the BCC Learning Center**.
- Let us be in prayer for our **Recognition Day** on **March 31!** All our members are encouraged to invite students and **parents** to attend this special event.
- **Family** Church **Camp** on April 2,3 and 4, at Camp Capinpin is only **6 weeks away**! Registration starts today. Please see our Camp Coordinator Edros Rico to register.

Take Up Your Cross

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. *(Matt. 16:24)*

Your "cross" is God's will for you, regardless of the cost. Taking up your cross is a choice; it is not beyond your control. You may have health problems or a rebellious child or financial pressures, but do not mistake these as your "cross to bear." Neither circumstances you face nor consequences of your own actions are your cross. Your cross will be to voluntarily participate in Christ's sufferings as He carries out His redemptive purposes (Phil. 3:10). Paul said he rejoiced in his sufferings because he knew that by them he was able to participate in the suffering required to bring others into Christian maturity (Col. 1:24). Just as Christ had to suffer in order to bring salvation, there will be hardships you may have to endure in order for God to bring salvation to those around you. Jesus did not talk with His disciples about the cross until they had come to know He was the Christ (Matt. 16:21). You will never be able to endure the suffering of the cross unless you have first been convinced that Jesus is the Christ.

There is no Christianity without a cross. If you are waiting for a relationship with God that never requires suffering or inconvenience, then you cannot use Christ as your model. God's will for you involves a cross. First, take up your cross, then you can follow Him.

-Blackaby Devotionals

The Gospel Light

A Weekly Publication of the Riverbanks Lighthouse Bible Baptist Church

Rev. Gerry D. Ballesteros, Senior Pastor **February 19, 2012**

Vol. II, 2012, No. 3 **For Prayer/Counseling, pls call or text (0918)9350615**

Summary of Last Week's Message

What to Do When You Reach a Dead End

Scripture Reading: Romans 4:17-20,
See also Gen. 21:1-6, 22:1-12 and Gen. 22:12-14

1. **Remember what God can DO.** *(Romans 4:17; Luke 18:27)* **–** There are two things God does that you can't do -- God can give life to the dead and He can create something out of nothing. Positive thinking works fine in situations you have control over. When you face things that are out of your control you need something more than a positive mental attitude. You need faith in God because He can control it when you can't. Most of life is beyond your control. So you need faith far more than you need positive thinking. God specializes in the impossible. It's called a miracle.
2. **Rely on what God has SAID.** *(Romans 4:18, Hebrews 11:17)* - When you are at a dead end you need the Bible. Read it. Study it. Memorize it. Think about it. Write it down on little cards and go over it. When you rely on the Him you realize it's out of your control but it's not out of God's control. As shown in the story of Abraham, a dead end is a test of our faith. He didn't panic because he remembered what God can do and he relied on what God had promised him, and we know that a promise is only as good as the character of the person who makes the promise.
3. **Face the facts with FAITH.** *(Romans 4:19-20, 2 Corinthians 4:18)* - Faith is not denying reality. It's not pretending you don't have a problem. That's not faith, it's denial. Faith is facing the facts without being discouraged by them -- being able to look at the problem and say, "Yes that's a problem in my life but I'm not discouraged by it, because I know God is greater than the problem."
4. **Expect God to DELIVER me.** *(Romans 4:20-21, 2 Corinthians 1:9-10)* - God works in your life according to your expectation. That's called faith. The ultimate form of faith is thanking God in advance for what you're asking for. Waiting until after it happens to thank God is gratitude, but faith is when you thank Him for it in advance. This is DELIVERANCE. The purpose of the dead end is to teach us to trust in God. Why does God let things get so bad they are out of control so you can realize you can't control it? So He can force you to learn to trust in Him instead of trusting on your own ingenuity and cleverness.

Three Kinds of Deliverance

1. **CIRCUMSTANCIAL deliverance** - Sometimes God miraculously alters our circumstances.
2. **PERSONAL deliverance** - God does not change the circumstance; He changes you from the inside. You get a new dream, a new vision, a new attitude, a new perspective.
3. **ULTIMATE deliverance (heaven)** - The ultimate deliverance is in heaven where there will be no pain, no sorrow, no suffering, no heartache. The world hopes for the best but Jesus is your best hope. Salvation means deliverance. Jesus is your Savior, your Deliverer.