

GRACE MINISTERIAL ACADEMY



Training men...

*to preach the Word of God &
pastor the church of Christ*

c/o Cubao Reformed Baptist Church
21 Harvard St. Cubao
1102 Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: 438-4681
e-mail: gma@cubaorbcb.org
Website: www.cubaorbcb.org

First Semester
2013

Progress Report

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Revelation 1:4-5

The Book of Revelation has divided Christians throughout history. For this reason, many choose to avoid a serious study of this book as the better side of prudence. But this approach misses an essential lesson which is perpetually relevant to churches of all eras of history.

Couched in apocalyptic language of visions of angels, beasts, a dragon, ten-headed monsters, and more - John has the message of victory in Christ for the persecuted church. Keyed on the Old Testament background of the visions, the interpretation of the Book is not a hopeless confusion, but a challenging and enlightening adventure. Every faithful church, in any period of history, will have its challenges that correspond to the beasts and dragon of John's churches.

Anticipating the course on Revelation, the Principal used the opening of the book that invokes each Person of God.

This semester opened with this message from John's Revelation: *The Triune God is redemptively active through the Church of the Apostolic Word.*

First Semester 2013

The semester opened on June 11, 2013. Five new students started and persevered through the semester. This new batch represents all ages - youth, senior, and in-between.

Joseph Mangahas enrolled in the course at only 20 years of age. He began to occasionally preach in his church, *God is Faithful Grace Community Church*, when he was only 18. He has committed himself to the ministry of the Word. This led him to the training of GMA so as to know how to "faithfully handle the Word."

At 61, Hernando Bonaobra is not in the typical age to start a school course. He has two degrees, after all, to his credit: in political science from the University of the East; and in theology from Southeast Asia Theological Seminary. But as a pastor-missionary of his church, he felt the need, in his words, "to continue enhance my knowledge... Study has no end, I believe."

Twenty-six men persevered through the semester. The subjects covered included: Dogmatics - The Doctrine of Man and Sin; The Book of Revelation; Evangelism, all taught by the Principal, Noel Espinosa; Brian Ellis returned to semestral teaching of History covering the Reformation period. Recman Denus continued to assist in teaching Biblical Languages, while also managing the oversight of the GMA library. *We thank the Lord for a fruitful semester in 2013.*



Awardees in Dogmatics Class (From L-R):

Joseph Mangahas; Pastor Noel Espinosa; Joel Pascual; Romy Endaya; Ramen Caliwag; Froilan Rivera; Ben Patrick Vispo; Levi Ilhig

The Book of Revelation

The New Testament course on the Book of Revelation proved to be the most challenging interpretative exercise this semester. Known for its divergent schools of interpretation, the course evaluated each alternative.

The key used is that of the Old Testament background of the visions. The perspective covered all the churches in history, from the First Coming of Christ to His Second Coming. The course took the position that: *Redemptive-Historical message of principles apply to the Church of all ages.* The Second Coming of Christ as the consummating event is the most important fulfilment of prophecy. The other prophecies do not refer to singular specific events in history as *the fulfillment*. Events in history are of various realization (becoming real) in the principles portrayed in the visions.

It will not satisfy everyone. But it gives the preacher a satisfactory message for the church of today.

Evening Class

The Friday evening classes tackled the subject of Christian Ethics. The first semester covered the first part which included Ethical Standards and Sexual Ethics. The coming next semester will continue into the second part covering, Medical and Social Ethics.

The classes were well attended representing many churches. At one point, it peaked into more than 80 attending. The Friday class has proved useful for reformation.

Closing Service

Due to exigencies, the semester extended and ended on October 3, 2013. New student, Joseph Mangahas, gave a testimony that acknowledged much profit from his first semester.

Pastor Ismael Montejo Jr. ministered the Word, using the text of Mark 1:1-8. He set the pattern of boldness and faithfulness of John the Baptist as forerunner of Jesus to challenge the men to focus on Jesus in their ministry.

GMA Alumnus Ordained: Gilbert Lugtu (Batch 2012)

On July 28, 2013, Gilbert Lugtu was ordained into the pastorate of his church in Lubao, Pampanga, about 80kms north of Manila. His ordination followed the covenanting of the church as Lubao Reformed Baptist Church.

Initially he served as a pastor of a local church in the locality hoping to bring reformation to that church but the Lord had other plans. Gilbert left that church due to irreconcilable differences. He then began a pioneer work in another village. It began with simply a bible study of a very few people. By the Lord's goodness the work has prospered.

Following the morning service six were baptized in a neighbour's small swimming pool. The church covenanting was then held after lunch which was followed by the election and ordination of Gilbert Lugtu as Pastor of the newly constituted church. There were 13 in all who covenanted and formed the church. On hand to lead the ordination was Pastor Brian Ellis.

Gilbert Lugtu belongs to batch 2012. Starting his studies in 1999, it took him all of thirteen years to finish the course. Gilbert will certainly face many challenges ahead in the ministry. It will call for much patience and perseverance. He has had a part of his training in the many years spent studying in Grace Ministerial Academy.



Gilbert Lugtu (in orange shirt) leads the reading of the covenant of the new church in Lubao, Pampanga

Reformation Conferences: April - September 2013

Baguio City (April 16-17)	Calauag, Quezon (Jun 29)
San Pablo City (April 22)	Novaliches (Aug 17)
Taytay (May 27)	Lipa City (Sep 21)
	Calauag (Sep 28)

Reformation Conferences: Scheduled for October

Reformed and Reforming: Los Baños (Oct 22)
Tarlac City (Oct 26) Baguio City (Oct 29-30)

**Second Semester begins
on November 12, 2013;
Friday Evening Classes
start on November 15, 2013**



The hall was packed even on the stormy day of Sep 21 in the first Reformation Conference in Lipa City

Reformation Conference: Lipa City

As reported to the elders of CRBC by Ptr Willie Obrador of Sta. Cruz Baptist Church and GMA Student

Soli Deo Gloria!

The 1st ever Reformed Conference in Lipa City, Batangas was a successful one. May God bless those who prayed for, and supported, the conference.

We held the 1st Reformed Conference in New Hope Christian Church, Lipa City, last September 21, 2013. Our theme this year was *Sola Gratia* led by our guest speaker Ptr Noel Espinosa. We chose this topic due to the public demand. And also to answer questions and for deeper understanding about the Doctrines of Grace.

We had been praying for this conference since last year. With the help of two pastors in Lipa City who were already attending the Pastors' Conference in Cubao, we came up with a plan. We saw how God worked as we prayed and planned for it. At the same time we encountered situations that seemed to stop it.

The Lord worked well in our meetings, promotions, also in providing free books from Grace Baptist Mission in UK and from CRBC, and by giving us a nice and accessible place for the conference. But just a few days before the

conference, Ptr Noel was rushed into the hospital because of hi-blood pressure; then, a storm was announced to come on the date we set for the conference and there was an announcement of brown out also on that day. But despite the heavy rain and strong wind, we still had 96 registered in attendance.

The lectures and discussions went so well, many were blessed to have such a conference. I talked to one of the reforming pastors who attended. He told me that he was also praying to have that kind of conference, he just didn't know how to start and where to start. He told me that he will join with us as we pray and plan for next year's conference. He said we will promote it more and look for a bigger place to hold the conference. Also, many were glad to receive free books.

We want to thank you for your prayer and support. We are looking forward to your partnership with us again in next year's conference. We are really encouraged to spread the Reformation in our place, to bring back the faithful preaching of the Word of God in the pulpit of the church here in Batangas. Please, join us in prayers.

**Modular Course: Pentateuch
Date: November 19-28, 2013
Tutor: Dr. Ian Densham (UK)**