



"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps 119:130).

The Lighthouse BULLETIN

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**2015:
The Year of
Fruitbearing**

John 15:16
"...I have chosen you, and ordained you...go and bring forth fruit..."

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LIGHTHOUSE BBC HOLDS FIRSTFRUITS GIVING IN 2 WEEKS

"...I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.....make up beforehand your bounty...that the same might be ready..." (2 Cor 9:2-5).

A Word from the PASTOR



**Count Down to
FIRSTFRUITS 2015**

TWO (2) WEEKS

MAKE PREPARATIONS NOW.

The Apostle Paul, in our text, writes very straight forward to the believers in Corinth in referring to their commitment to give. The New King James Bible renders the latter part of verse 5 of the text as follows, "...prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation."

We can see that the Corinthian church actually started preparing their gift a year before and thus Paul says in 2 Cor 8:11, "...perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have."

May we also have such a performance on September 20, our Firstfruits Sunday.



Sentinel Rey Calingasan, with Linda Torrenueva, give the instructions as they lead an assessment of the "Conversation" of Lighthouse members.

**Third Quarter Focus :
Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work**

"...walk worthy of the Lord...being fruitful in every good work..." (Col 1:10).

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)

TITLE : **FIRSTFRUITS, A THANKSGIVING OFFERING**
Text/x : Deut 26:10-11

INTRODUCTION

Firstfruits as instructed by God to the nation of Israel to give is basically a thanksgiving offering. It is even in our day, a thanksgiving offering of God's people.

A) Firstfruits is a thanksgiving offering made by God's people

Rom 9:23-26, "And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?"

B) Firstfruits is a thanksgiving offering made by God's people collectively (or as a body)

1 Peter 2:5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:9-10, "...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which

had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

Phil 4:18, "...I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God."

C) Firstfruits is a thanksgiving given as a sacrifice

Ps 116:17, "I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord."

Ps 107:22-24, "And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing."

1 Peter 2:5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

D) Firstfruits is thanksgiving offering given in honor to God

Prov 3:9-10, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase."

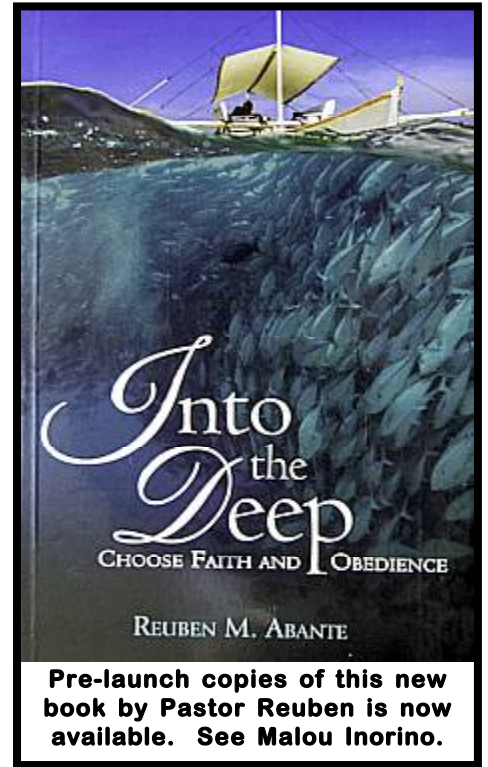
1 Sam 2:30b, "...for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

Mal 1:6, "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour?"

Firstfruits is one specific way by which God wants us to honor Him. And when we do honor Him with such offering, He honors us in return!"

Such principles that underlie firstfruits behove each believer into involvement, not

only because of God's promises of blessings but in answer to the graciousness and mercies of God to us. I would therefore that each member of Lighthouse BBC be able to participate in this blessed and God-honoring sacrifice of thanksgiving. Needless to say, we have much to thank God for, not only as individual believers, but as a church body.



From top picture, Lighthouse BBC members raise their respective "Conversation" assessment forms before answering the questions (lower photos) as the Lighthouse District 2 leads in going through Pastor Reuben's 20-point outline on the Conversation of the Believers.

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)