

## The Lighthouse BULLETIN

A Weekly Publication of the

LIGHTHOUSE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Standing fast, Serving God as free in 2023.

> Galatians 5:1; Romans 6:22

"Standfast...being made free from sin, and become servants to God..."

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## BAPTIST CHURCHES, PASTORS, LEADERS CELEBRATE SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL BAPTIST DAY

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers...do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same..." (Rom 13:1-4).

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake...and for the praise of them that do well...for so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free...as the servants of God" (1 Pet 2:13-16).

"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" (1 John 4:21).

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Gal 6:2).

f there is anytime in the history of Baptists, or any professing Bible believer, it was during the National Baptist Day when Baptists indeed became subject to both the Bible and the law of the State. It was therefore last Thursday, at least in the Philippines, when these writings of the Apostles Paul and Peter came into literal reality; and a time in which "every soul" may indeed show the subjection to authorities that is taught in these verses.

As Baptists observed a law of the State last Thursday, they also observed another law - the law of Christ which says, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34-35).

More than a thousand Baptist pastors, leaders, preachers, workers, and members came to the Metropolitan Bible Baptist Ekklesia last Thursday in observance of the National Baptist Day and in accordance with Republic Act No 11897. Along with them came also some government officials, some extending video greetings in recognition of the contribution of the Baptist churches in nation-building. The two brothers, Pastor and Cong Benny Abante Jr, the NBD Act Principal Author and Pastor Reuben, the NBD Committee Chair, led that nationwide celebration. Praise God!



Pastor Cong Benny Abante Jr, the principal author of the National Baptist Day Act, RA #11897, delivers his message before those present at the MBBE and thousands more online.

First Quarter Focus:

"Standing fast in the faith and being strong.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Cor 16:13).



## LIGHTHOUSE PASTORS SET PLANS FOR 2023

Pastor Reuben led the meeting of various Lighthouse Pastors and set some initial plans for the first quarter of the new year 2023. He gave guidelines on how the new annual theme, "Standing Fast, Serving God as Free in 2023" should be realized in all Lighthouse related churches and ministries. The focus for the first quarter of the year, "Standing Fast in the Faith and Being Strong" should serve as the foundation for this annual theme as all Lighthouse churches and works be one in doing the ministry, Pastor Reuben said.

Among the significant events during this first quarter of the year are:

- the Lighthouse Ministries Workshop (Jan 31- Feb 2);
- the Lighthouse Open Golf Tournament (for the benefit of The Great Lighthouse Foundation Inc.), to be held at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club (Feb 17);
- the CWOP-related activities that include Blood Letting Drive (Feb 25), Blood Extraction (Mar 4) and the CWOP (Mar 11).

Of course, the biggest gathering for this 1st quarter will be the 47th Anniversary and Sacrificial Celebration on Mar 19.





Top left picture, Pastor RA speaks before the IBMA Rally in support of the National Baptist Day, held at the Bren Guiao Convention Center where an estimated 12,000 people filled both the Convention Center and the adjacent Stadium. Top right, Pastor Reuben and Pastor Cong Benny Abante Jr take lead at the NBD Celebration held at the Metropolitan BBE where various Baptist leaders came (lower photo).