

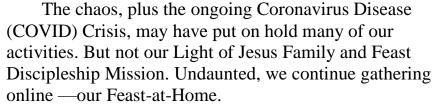


### **MARCH 2022**

## Amid a Dark, Dark World

AS we prepare this March issue of *The Feast International*, fears of another World War loom as Russia and Ukraine are in a bitter battle over territorial rights and countries around the world desperately call for the end of the conflict.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, in his Feast Talk, says we may be in darkness, but the Gospel proclaims: our story is not yet over, *page 14*.



Like Feast Light Brandon, which has an inspiring story how it has well thrived amid the COVID Pandemic, *page 2*.

This March 10, Feast Light Brandon marks its Fourth FoundingAnniversary. So, Feast Light Brandon is our featured Feast in this, our March 2022 issue.

Brandon is in Canada, in the province of Manitoba, where the Assiniboine River runs through. Yes, fishermen live around the river—and so do Jesus' fishers of men. In this issue, be inspired by the story of Bro. Junnel Carreon, Feast Light Brandon Planter, who kindly sent us updates on The Feast in this blessed part of the world. We are impressed and we really appreciate the devotion of Bro. Junnel—truly among Jesus' fishers of men. We are deeply grateful.

We pray other Feasts will send us updates on their activities-as testimony that God is *alive*, He blesses us and our Mission!

All for His Glory, VIC ESPAÑOL Region Head Feast International



# FEAST LIGHT BRANDON YEAR 4 Fishing Up North

FEAST LIGHT BRANDON started as a Feast Video on March 10, 2018. It marked its First Founding Anniversary on March 10, 2019. Thus, we featured Feast Light Brandon in the March 2019 issue of *The Feast International*.

Alaska

Feast Light Brandon marks its Fourth Founding Anniversary on March 10, 2022. So, Feast Light Brandon is our featured Feast in this, our March 2022 issue giving an update on how this Feast has flourished.

First, especially for those who missed our first issue, here's a flashback on the beginnings of Feast Light Brandon.

Brandon is located in the southwestern corner of the province of Manitoba, Canada—yes, almost at the ends of the Earth up North.

Located west of Winnipeg, the provincial capital, Brandon is the second largest city of Manitoba, where the Assiniboine River runs through. Fishermen live around

the river catching its most popular fish species such as catfish, and Walleye.



Filipino migrants also live in the area, not to catch fish, but men—like the fishermen Simon and his brother Andrew to whom Jesus said, "Come, follow Me... and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19).

**CANADA** 

United States of America

BRANDON

MANITOBA

Greenland

Yes, Brandon is up North—so, our Light of Jesus Feast also fulfills the Lord's mandate for us to be His witnesses *to the ends of the earth* (Acts 1:8).

Our Brandon fishers of men, *from left*, Anna and Allan Piedra, and Jenn and Junnel Carreon.

#### **Dream-Come-True**

Before Brandon, Junnel, with Jenn, then still his girlfriend, used to attend Feast Alabang, led by Bro. Arun Gogna. Jenn wrote on her copy of the *Novena to God's Love* her dream to settle in Canada. In 2013, Jenn's dream came true. She went to Canada to work as dietary aid at Fairview Homes, settling in Brandon.

After two years, Jenn came back to the Philippines and she and Junnel got married. In time, Junnel also migrated to Canada as he found a job as production staff at Maple Leaf Foods Inc., a major Canadian consumer packaged meats company.

In Brandon, Jenn met Allan and Anna. Early on, the couple migrated to Canada after working in a multinational company. It happened that when they were still in the Philippines, Allan and Anna attended Feast Angeles where Allan served as head of the Family Ministry with his whole family plus the children leading the Youth and Music Ministry.

Long story short, when they found out that they were all Feasters, the Piedras and Carreons decided to establish Feast Light Brandon, starting with a Feast Video right in the Piedras' home on March 10, 2018.

Says Bro. Junnel, "First, we were just two couples. Then every Saturday, people came...Francis Allan Garcia Piedra we fondly call Kuya Poy, who plays the guitar, Frances Garcia Piedra or Ate Faye, who plays bass guitar, and so we had our instant Worship Team, with Bro. Allan on vocals as worship leader."

## **Dynamic Team**











Today, God has blessed the
Feast Light Brandon with a dynamic
team -- all members passionately
devoted in serving the Lord,
first row, from left: Junnel Carreon,
Feast Light Planter; Jenn Carreon,
secretary; Rocelyn Chu, manager;
Melvin Chu, to serve with Rocelyn
as Awesome Kids head; second row,
from left: Katrina Casulla, Events
head; Esrael Lauren, Discipleship
head; Clarinda Layba, Finance head.

### Year 2020, Year 2021

Since its First Anniversary in 2019, Feast Light Brandon has flourished with major achievements.

In Year 2020, Feast Light Brandon prepared to have a *live* celebration of its 2nd Year Anniversary in March with another Feast, Feast Winnipeg.

But COVID-19 came out, and lockdowns began to be imposed on the very month the celebration was scheduled. So, along with Feast Winnipeg, Feast Light Brandon cancelled the celebration.

In 2021, the COVID Pandemic continued without letup, so, it was impossible to hold a *live* celebration of Feast Light Brandon's 3rd Anniversary.

Undaunted, The Feast went on to celebrate online, through Facebook *live*—inspired by the Bible verse in Luke 1:37: *With God nothing is impossible*.

And that exactly was the theme of the event, with Bro. Pio Espanol, Bro. Monching Bueno, and Bro. Obet Cabrillas as guest preachers.

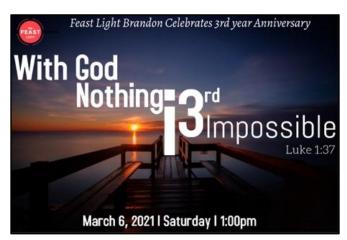
Since then, Feast Light Brandon has continued to hold its events and other activities online via Zoom.

But it wasn't easy.

Says Junnel: "At first, it was really hard for us not seeing each other during our usual Feast Video routine. We missed the *live* gathering, meeting face-to-face, hugging each other, caring group sharing, and the Feast of food—physically and spiritually.

But COVID-19 is real, he adds. So, Feast Light Brandon decided to go online through Zoom meetings.

"We support each other, pray for one another, and share our life experiences," Bro. Junnel continues. "By God's grace, we have been able to cope with challenges, especially the health risks. Some of our members who got infected with COVID, stopped in serving and supporting one another."

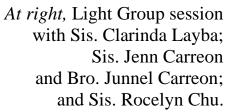






Bro. Junnel firmly says: "The faith and trust continue to grow. We bring food, we talk, and share our feelings, and pray as one family for healing and peace to our world."

Sharing, from left: Sis. Faye Piedra; Bro. Melvin Chu; Sis. Jenn Carreon; Sis. Clarinda Layba; and Bro. Junnel Carreon.







Zooming, from left: Sis Eljean Lopez; Sis. Clarinda Layba; Sis. Katrina Casulla; and Sis Jenn Carreon



Special visit from Edmonton to Brandon



Christmas Party 2021

# **Inspiring Online Events Feast-at-Home** *live!*









Feast
Conference
at the home
of Bro. Junnel
and Sis. Jenn
Carreon

**Feast-at-Home online** 



**Intercessory Ministry** with Feast Winnipeg, Feast Light Neepawa, and Feast Light Brandon

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## **Love Sharing Conference.** Invited guests from other Feasts share how they cope with the COVID Pandemic.











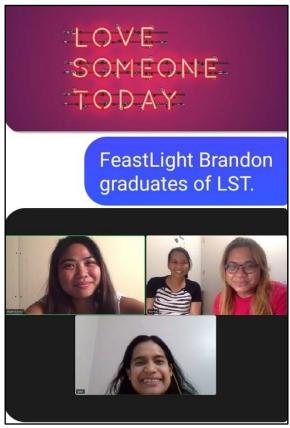


Love Sharing zoom session with Sis. Nefy Gomez

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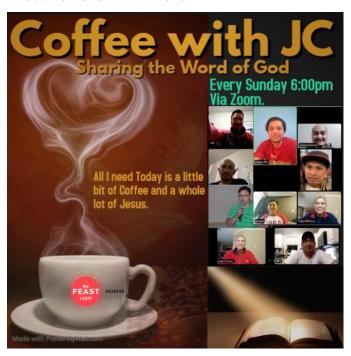
**Love Someone Today**. Discipleship guide to help new disciples start personal relationship with God. Helping participants to make disciples of Jesus by loving one person at a time.







**Coffee with JC.** Hot drink stimulates Bible sharing to know more about Jesus Christ and love Him more.





A few more sips to learn how to be an Awesome Dad.



### Onward to Year 2022

Today with deep faith, Feast Light Brandon faces Year 2022 full of hope, courage, and joy. Here are more exciting programs:

- Celebration of Feast Light Brandon's 4th Year Anniversary on March 10, 2022.
- More Light Group activities aside from the Feast- at-Home to bring joy and hope to everyone.
- Coffee Daddies with JC. Through coffee dates via Zoom, sharing tips with fathers on how to be an awesome dad and ultimately invite them to join Feast Light Brandon.
- Going Parish. Feast Light Brandon is introducing The Feast to its parish church, St. Augustine of Canterbury of Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.

## **Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

<sup>18</sup> While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>[a]</sup> <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

-- Matthew 4:18-20 (ESV)

The Lord Jesus must have also walked by the banks of Assiniboine River to call for fishers of men. And Brandon residents living around the river who answered His call are now the members of Feast Light Brandon. They have become not just followers but as true disciples. What's the difference? A follower listens and learns from the Master. A follower applies what he has learned.

The Lord called Simon, later named Peter, and his brother Andrew and taught them how to fish for men. Fishing for men means making the men disciples of Jesus—to bring others to God.

We pray for strength of mind, heart, and spirit for Feast Light Brandon leaders and members so they may continue this mission which our Light of Jesus Family has embraced as our core mission:

Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19





# Miracle Baby By JUNNEL CARREON

ONE of the most memorable events and considered to be miraculous achievement of Feast Light Brandon: After a five-year wait, blessing of new life—Baby Jaycee for us!

Before Canada, Jenn and I worked in the same company in Laguna. We barely knew each other-- until we were put on the same team. It was 2012 when the relationship started and settled in 2015.

But it was going to be a long-distance relationship. Early on, Jenn applied for work in Canada. After two years of waiting, she received approval of her application—in 2015, the same year we got engaged. So, we decided to move the wedding to the following year. After a year of LDR, we got married on February 23, 2016. And then Jenn flew back to Canada, while I started my own process to get to Canada. It was supposed to be a six-month process but a vague X-ray result extended the process to a year.

Surprisingly, in August 2017, I received a call from Immigration that I had to be in Canada before my medical exam expired. So, by God's grace, I got my visa in September and came to Canada in October 2017.

#### **Tests**

Having a baby was tough for us—we had to see a doctor and go through fertility tests and some other tests. Results showed some complications in Jenn's reproductive system and our doctor advised that we go to a fertility clinic for in vitro fertilization (IVF). We drove three hours to find out that we had only an 11 percent chance to have a baby. With a given high stake of expense and low chance of success, we decided not to go for it-- and just keep on trying and hoping our cells would be united.

On a bright day in 2021 -- March 8, 2021, to be exact-we were going to our family doctor for our annual medical examination when Jenn said, kind of casually,

"I am delayed."

expect the The moment we wake up in the morning, open our eyes and breathe-that means you have re gigantic blessing already. Only God knows when your life will end. Do not ever take for grante the end of the day. So, make a habit to be grateful and see goodness in everyone. We are so blessed in many ways. Yes, Pandemic is there but Our God is always Here. He even surprised us in mysterious ways. He is a God of Surprises! Even though we experience a lot of challenges but He still always finds ways to lighten up our burden. You just need to open your eyes, ears mind and heart to feel Him. He blesses us beyond our expectation so we can be a blessing to others and to the whole world. Don't keep you blessings aside or hide it-instead share it How to receive abundant Blessings? When the time you decided to Give Jenn and I have always dreamed and asked persistently for a baby over since This year we planned to go and visit our families in the Philippines to have some fun and spend quality time with And (it has a great purpose), we served the ministry by giving our time, talent and treasure instead of pleasure. We organized and celebrated the 3rd year anniversary of FeastLight Brandon with the topic "Nothing is Impossible" and on the following week, we participated in the FeastCon International. None of this will happen if we go for our Instead of making a moment with each other to have a baby, we are busy devoting our time by multiplying what we can offer to Jesus in His ministry. And Yes, God never failed us. A great miracle happened that week. We found out that Jenn is prognant the same week we planned to have a sacred quality time. Every month of delay, Jenn always thought and hoped that she was pregnant—but not this tim God is truly a God of Suprises. Despite her age and medical findings, we can say that this is one of the moments of EXPECTING THE UNIXYPICTED! He knows the perfect timing. May you find the Abundant Grace and Blessing Today as what God stored unto you. Brv. Junnel O. Carreon

She was not really excited about it because delayed menstrual periods were usual for Jenn. Besides, she did not feel pregnancy symptoms. Nevertheless, to her routine health exam, our family doctor added a pregnancy test. Jenn almost refused to go through it. But the doctor wanted it done, so, she obeyed. We were told to call about the result after two hours, so we headed home, joking about it all along the way.

Two hours after, Jenn made the phone call. The receptionist at the clinic answered, and the first word she heard was "Congratulations." Then, a few seconds after, the next word was "Wait."

So, with bated breath, wait we did. Did they get the result wrong?

Then, the voice on the line came back, and Jenn told me: "Verified100 percent: I am pregnant!"

### **Visits**



After a long time of Pandemic restrictions, when Quarantine alerts were down enough to safe levels, friends began to come and visit us to meet Baby Jaycee.

At left, first couple to visit: Bro. Melvin and Sis. Rocelyn Chu with Baby Myriam.

Next: Bro. Esrael and Sis. Krystal Lauren, and *at extreme right*, with Bro. BP Eroisa.







Happy family in Brandon, *clockwise*, *from left:* Bro. Junnel, Sis. Jenn, Sis. Sofie, Tita Sonia, and Sis. Clarinda.

Waving balloons with Bro. Melvin and Sis. Rocelyn Chu, themselves blessed with a baby girl.

## God's Way

No, we did not need artificial procedures. It all happened the natural way. Take note:

October 18, I arrived in Canada. March 8, the date we found out Jenn pregnant. November 8, Baby Jaycee was born. And I, at 38, became Dad. WOW!

By the way, Jenn was 41 years old when she gave birth to Jaycee. But if he was born on the expected birth date, it would have been 48 days from Jenn's birthday.

It's natural for our friends to storm heaven for this miracle. Thank you, forever, to the International Worship Centre (IWC), Couples for Christ (CFC), Feast Winnipeg, Feast Light Neepawa and Feast Light Brandon, especially our Feast Light head, Bro. Allan Piedra.

And it's natural for God to answer prayers such as asking for a Miracle Baby.

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The World Is in a Dark Tomb

THERE'S so much darkness around us.

Look what's happening in Europe today.

The bloodiest battles—World War I and II—were fought in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But just when we thought the world already said, "Never again!"-- here is war again, rearing up its ugly head.

And we don't have to look far for darkness.

Look at our country. Why is there still so much corruption? Injustice? Poverty? While thieves in suits steal the money of the people, according to the most recent statistics, 4.2 million Filipinos still go hungry.

Today, we see the world blanketed by the blackest night.

But on this, the first Sunday of March, our Feast Talk, Talk 8 of our series *Fulfilled*, is titled *Resurrected*—yes, focusing on the Gospel about the Resurrection—our Lord Jesus rising from death and coming out of His dark tomb.

In the middle of this darkness, the Gospel proclaims: *our story is not yet over...* 

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sandy

### **Bo Sanchez**

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## **Our Partner Beneficiaries**

Jeremiah 33 Foundation is a shelter for girls particularly victims of sexual abuse



Grace To Be Born is a halfway home for pregnant women in crisis.





He Cares Mission provides shelter for street children.

Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation gives scholarships to poor students.





Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.



The Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center ministers to those who are emotionally and spiritually wounded.

H.A.I.L. MARY is acronym for Healthcare Assistance for Indigents and Lepers of Mary, adopting the Blessed Mother as the patroness of its mission to eradicate leprosy in Abra within 8–10 years.





The Light of Jesus Disaster Recovery Ministry provides evacuation assistance, relief goods, financial aid, and other needs of calamity victims.

The Light of Jesus Prison Ministry brings Jesus to the Correctional Institution for Women to give them hope for a new life of dignity.







Anawim Lay Missions Foundation provides a home for poor elderly who have been abandoned by their family and have nowhere else to go.

## **CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE**

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Go and make disciples of all nations.

— Matthew 28:19