



NEWSLETTER
April 10, 2022



Let's Turn Over Our Nation to King Jesus

TODAY, I want to preach the message, *God will fill us up.*

In Tagalog, *Bubusugin ka ni Lord.*

This Talk ends our amazing series, *CITIZEN: How To Build a Nation.* But today isn't just a Talk. Today is intercession. We want to turn over the Philippines to King Jesus.

But before we pray for our country, we need to be clear with what we're praying for. We need to have a clear vision for our country.

To get that vision, ask this question: *What happens to a people when Jesus becomes their King?*

Today, let's surrender our country to King Jesus.

Because we believe He is a generous King.

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez

Bo Sanchez



LETTERS

Challenges, Anyone?

ARE there many, who answered “Yes!” to our question?

Let’s face it: Not a few like burdens. Instead of burdens, we’d rather have life on the beach—especially this Summer season.

Well, like it or not, this issue of *The Feast Family* is about burdens—which, yes, we euphemistically call *challenges*.



Fr. Bob McConaghy, discussing last Sunday’s Gospel about the woman caught committing adultery, posed not just one, but two challenges to us, *page 3*.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, also introduces a challenge from The Feast Talk today about how to really build our nation, *page 1*.



And Bro. Bo, plus Bro. Audee Villaraza, Feast Builder and Preacher, challenge us to be *World Changers*. Easy? *Read on, pages 12-27*.



Challenges? In our *Mercy Ministries* section, Part 2 of our series on the Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation, Sis. Jerinne Mendoza has a lot to talk about her experiences, *page 28*. And Bro. John Iverson Lugay has more to tell in our *Blessings* section, *page 33*.

Okay, we ask again: *Challenges, anyone?* Read on, and you might, at the end of the day, say “Yes!”



All for God’s Glory,

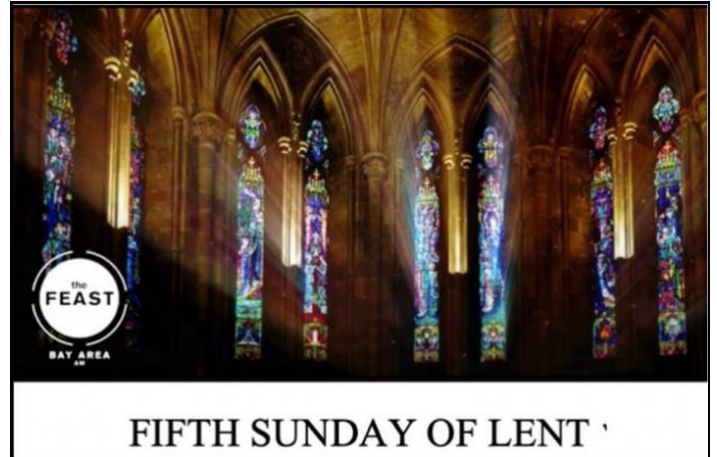
Randy Borrromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!
APRIL 3, 2022

Holy Mass



FR. BOB McCONAGHY on the Gospel of: John 8:1-11
The Woman Caught in Adultery Excerpts...

YOU know some Gospels comfort us and other Gospels challenge us.

Today, we have a Gospel that does both-- and so, I'm going to challenge you in two ways and after that, I'm going to comfort you with Jesus' ways.

Whenever we read this Gospel, our attention is always on the woman who's caught and we give a homily on that and about Jesus' response to her.

But wait a minute here. The people bring to judgment a woman caught in the very act of adultery-- No. 1.

And No. 2, my question is: Where's the guy? They brought the woman to trial but not the man. And you know what the Mosaic Law insists? That with anyone who commits adultery, both the man and the woman have to be brought to trial. So, in this case, why not the man? I think we have to speculate a little bit.

First of all, how did the scribes and the Pharisees know that there was adultery going on? They could've walked past the house and say, "Woah, I wonder if there's adultery going on there." No. But they might have heard a rumor that that was going on and so maybe they went around the back of the house and looked in the windows—because, you know, ancient Rome was the first civilization that actually had windows. So, something tells me that they had to go to the windows and look in. Otherwise, they could not have caught her in the very act of adultery, could they?



Online Pornography Epidemic

My question is: How long did they look before they went in and got her?

They were looking in the windows. We look on the windows of our cellphones, on the windows online -- there we can look.

Today, you know, throughout the world, there is an epidemic of online pornography.

People look in the windows because of their fantasy and when the fantasy dominates, *reality* is missed.

And what is the reality of online pornography?

That what we're looking at is somebody's daughter. What we're looking at is somebody's son, and we don't realize how they got there-- perhaps human trafficking. We don't realize and wonder what is that doing to their family.

We don't realize that so many of these actors and actresses go into a deep depression and commit suicide -- all to give us the opportunity for looking at a fantasy, not the reality. And that's why it's a multi-multi-billion, almost trillion-dollar business throughout the world. It encourages people to get addicted to it-- and at the same time, there are consequences to that.

I tell this to my seminarians when I give them a retreat.

I say, "Fellas, you know what the big danger for you is in watching pornography online? It's going to affect the way that you minister to women. It really will-- because in your five years out there, you're going to have a lot of people that like you and some women who will ask you for counseling. And you have to know that if your mind is wired by fantasy and pornography, that when you sit to counsel them... a woman has a sixth sense. She can tell, by the way you're looking at her, whether it's passion or compassion-- and that could be very dangerous for you in Ministry.

Pornography ruins marriages, it ruins relationships. All for the sake of fantasy, stress relief, any kind of issue you think of, but both among men and women, there's a big problem with this.

Reading I: Isaiah 43: 16-21

Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new!

Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

In the desert, I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers.

Wild beasts honor me, jackals and ostriches, for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise.



How To Handle the Problem

How do we approach it?

First of all, when we abolish pornography-- afterward, after the pleasure is gone-- guilt, feeling low. And there becomes a cycle in which we need to go back to it so we don't feel that way-- and that's what they call the addictive process.

How do you keep from going to Confession every week and confessing that?

Bro. Bo Sanchez will tell you that when he was having difficulty with this, he realized that he was only able to grow through it when he realized that God's love was bigger than his sin-- and that is the truth.

So, if pornography is a difficulty for you -- at least spiritually-- this is how you handle it. Don't have the mindset of saying to Jesus: "I'll wait until somebody drags You to me."

No. Realize that He's always with you. He cannot leave you because God is love and therefore the only thing He does is love you.

Therefore, our temptation is to try to prove to Him that we can overcome this by *promise*. That we can overcome this by *discipline*. That we can overcome this by *counseling*. It is true, we might.

But usually, people have the mindset that God is far, waiting for us to clean up our act.

And therefore, you think: "I'll be discouraged and not go to Communion or to church anymore."

That's what the evil spirit wants-- that you drown in this.

But no. Just like for the woman who was flat on her face, Jesus lifted her to let her know that no matter what, He is with her.

He is with you. So, in the midst of any sort of addiction you might have, the Lord doesn't abandon you.

But He wants you to abandon yourself to Him— to surrender completely to Him your inability to overcome this all by yourself.

You've heard me say this before: Nothing that you have ever done in your life can make God love you more, and nothing that you have ever done in your life can make God love you less. He loves you just as you are, with all of your sins.





Resisting Temptation

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome-- and find yourself locked in this addiction-- and I will give you rest.”

And He will. How practically to approach it? Prayerfully. You live only one day at a time. And, not edit your prayer-- but be honest to God.

Tell Him: “You know how easily I turn on my cellphone and my computer and go to those sites -- and I know the reality. Fr. Bob talked about what’s really going on. Right at the moment, I’m tempted to go there...”

Let me remember, *that* is somebody’s child. The person I’m looking at may have been trafficked or beaten, so I don’t want to participate in that. Give me the grace to think about that which I usually don’t think about when I’m tempted to go there.”

And then on those days when you do really well, you come to the Lord at the end of the day and say, “Wow, a lot of temptation today, but you know what, Lord, I didn’t go there. Rather, I went to a site that focuses on hard truth about pornography, and wow, do I know a lot more, better, now.”



Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126: 1-2, 2-3. 4-5, 6

R. (3) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. Then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

like the torrents in the southern desert.

Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Two Challenges

On those days when, because of human weakness, you don't quite reach the virtue of chastity, you come before the Lord in humility: "Lord, today I messed up. I thought I had this controlled but I messed up. Tomorrow, I promise that with Your help, I'll do better. Oh, God of second chances and new beginnings, I choose to begin again."

You can always begin again—
Challenge No. 1.



Challenge No. 2. What did the scribes and the Pharisees do? Did they become judges and they were about to become executioners?

They condemned the woman. They didn't give her an opportunity to speak nor did they recognize her dignity as a person. And they were ready to stone her.

The danger in this day and age, especially as you're anticipating the election, what is happening in your country has already happened in the United States.

They call it *cancel culture*. They call it *woke-ness*. (Aware of and actively attentive to important facts and issues --especially issues of racial and social justice).

In cancel culture and woke-ness, there's only *one* point of view and if you don't agree with that point of view, people will say, "We will cancel you."

About this kind of condemnation, especially during the election time right now, remember what you learned last week: We are citizens of Heaven and of Earth. And when we make really important decisions, we need to make those decisions from the point of view of God-- and not from the point of view of social media. What we see constantly on social media-- at least I've seen it— is condemnation! By candidates, by name-- not because of what their program is, not because of what they intend to do, that you can criticize. But that the person is condemned.

Our Lord always gives us a chance to reform, to repent, and to renew... So, please, I would ask you: Refrain from making your decision about who should be president, vice president, mayor, or senator, based on what you've seen or heard through false things being said and condemnations being said online. Avoid the condemnation culture.

Now, the Comfort

Finally, after those two challenges I put out there, now the *comfort*.

Everyone abandoned the woman-- after they dropped their rocks. They were about to project their own guilt onto her and feel really good about themselves.

The only One who stayed with her was Jesus. As she's lying on the ground, He didn't lean down and talk to her. What did He do first? He touched her, picked her up. And maybe for the first time, she realized that she was lovable, redeemable-- and she knew that from then on. She wouldn't seek love just in a sexual relationship because

now, she really learned what love really means. The same is true for you and me. You know, Pope Francis, on the Feast on the Annunciation, had a penance service at the Vatican. If you get a chance, go online and read the whole homily that he gave. He pointed out that when the angel of the Lord declared unto Mary and first said, '*Rejoice, oh highly favored person.*'—we usually feel, when we go into Confession, we go in kind of dejected and sad, saying, “Now I have to confess these sins.”

The Pope said *no*. When you go into the confessional, rejoice! Because the One who sent the grace to bring you there is so happy there.

You know, there's a big party in Heaven over one repentant sinner— than over 99 that have no need of repentance. There's no such thing as 99 who don't need repentance. We all need to repent, and when we go to Confession, go to the Lord humble, go into the Confession joyously! Because that's what God wants of you. He called you there-- He wants to wrap you in His mercy. Yes, confess your sins, but realize that He only wants to give you joy for the journey.

To priests who hear confessions, I say to you, do not be harsh, do not be rigid, do not be judgmental. If you are, please don't hear confessions. When you come in there, just like Mary, rejoice. The Lord is with you. You are highly favored for being there. So, be at peace.

I'm going to be hearing confessions at the Grand Easter Feast -- and please, be not afraid. Come to Confession... I'll welcome you and encourage you, and by God's grace, you'll leave with great joy on Easter Day. And that's any time you go to Confession. I can't wait till we get back there. I can't really wait to hear confessions. So, that's the *comforting* part...

God loves you just the way you are-- without condition, without ifs, without buts. Give yourself to Him so that your Easter might truly be joyous.

See you at the Grand Easter Feast. God bless you!



Worship!

EXHORTATIONS

AUDEE VILLARAZA: How many of you are fighting battles right now? Raise your hand... God knows what you're going through... There comes a point where sometimes, we like waking God up to the problems in our life.

Like, "Lord, you gotta wake up to the bill that needs to be paid. Lord, you gotta wake up to the tuition that needs to be settled.

Lord, you gotta wake up for the mouths that I need to feed in my family... to the relationships that we are struggling with, right now."

We like waking God up to our situation. That's what the disciples did. That one night when the storm came and Jesus was asleep on the stern of the boat, and the disciples woke Him up.

And Jesus woke up *calmly* as if to say, "Why are you waking me up?"

There comes a point in your life where you need to stop waking God up to your big problems and instead, waking your problems to your big God. Because if God is for you, what can be against you? If God is fighting for you, what can be against you? He's already victorious. He's already won.

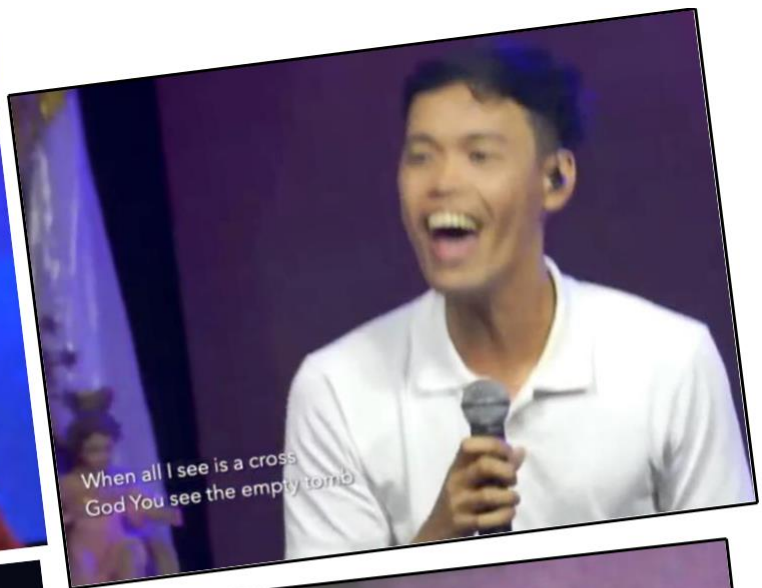
So, I want you to worship right now as if He's already won. God already won in your life, so, believe, you need to lift your hand-- and we're going to sing with confidence, with boldness, knowing that God has already won the victory.

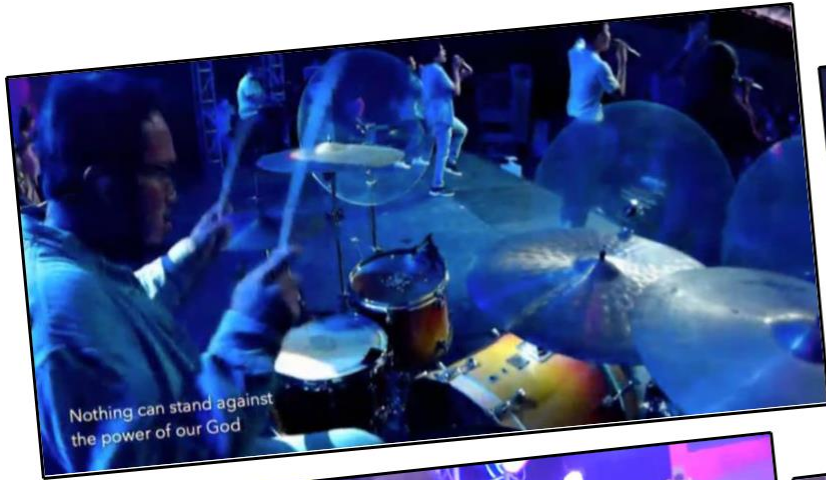


JONIE MANAOAT: Today, we are not just going to sing. Today, we are going to worship our God who is ever loving and faithful. He is with us in our battles and He is working, and fighting for us. Do you believe that? Amen.

So today as we sing the song, let us lift our eyes to Him -- the Source of our help every day!





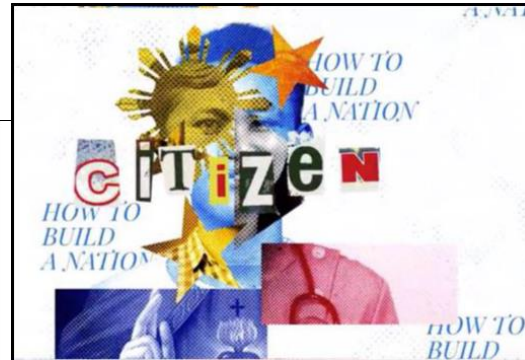




FLASHBACK!

APRIL 3, 2022

Talk



WE'RE going to receive the Word of God. But I want you to do this together as one voice. This is our declaration of abundance that God is going to bless you today and this week.

All right, let's all come into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I want you to stretch those hands out and say this with me:

Today, I receive all of God's love for me.

Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless, overflowing abundance of God's universe.

Today, I open myself to God's blessings, healing, and miracles.

Today, I open myself to God's Word so that I become more like Jesus every day.

Let's give honor and reverence for God's Word, as we all sing:

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.*



*Today, I proclaim that
I am God's beloved.
I am God's servant.
I am God's powerful champion.
And because I am blessed,
I am blessing the world.
In Jesus' Name. Amen.*





WE are on Talk 3 of this beautiful series called *Citizen: How To Build a Nation*. We want to give you a message that will encourage you to think of who to vote for, how you should vote, and what are the ways that God wants us to look at the political issues from the perspective of our faith. And so, our title for our talk today is not so much of a title but it's more of a declaration.

So, I want you to declare this message with me, with one voice, Everybody, say: *We are world changers*.

It's a little strange because none of us ever imagined that history would repeat itself. In the sense that... How many of you had ever seen that we would experience a global Pandemic? Like, we would experience being locked down at home. Did you ever wonder that we would go through that all? These are the things that we only read in the history books, right? Like the bubonic plague, and the Spanish flue, the influenza—but let alone us witnessing people don't go before us.

And we saw that in the last two years. We're still seeing that now—the effects of the Pandemic. None of us imagined that we would experience another war in our lifetime—where two countries would battle it out and innocent people would have to suffer-- children, women... None of us even realized that we would also experience once again history repeating itself with our country being divided again because of politics. None of us imagined any of that.

And somehow you'd ask: "What is the Lord doing in all these? Lord, what is the purpose of all these?"

But you know, here's what I believe: That in the midst of all these—the Pandemic, the war, death, suffering, elections, corruption—I still believe that God is good. I still believe that God is working. I still believe that God is blessing. I still believe that God is healing. I still believe that God is orchestrating blessings in your life.

And you know, when you think about it, I still believe this: That since the beginning, since the Fall of Man, in the book of *Genesis*, God has still been recreating Heaven here on Earth—recreating Eden here on Earth.

That's our message for today.



Our message today is this: *God is calling you back to Eden.*

We're going to study the life of an Old Testament character by the name of Daniel. Daniel's got

friends, and I am sharing with you their names—it took me a long time to memorize them—their names are Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah-- whose Babylonian names were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

We're going to read about them, but right now, I want you to bow, close your eyes, feel the Presence of the Lord in this place. Inhale the love of God.

Jesus, we thank You that You've gathered us again today. There are many things going on in this world that we don't understand—that our mind cannot comprehend—but with our limited understanding, we ask that the Holy Spirit would come alive in all of us. Take this Word to the level of our own understanding, oh God, so that we can understand it and we can apply it in a practical, powerful way, in our life. We don't want to remain where we are right now, but we want to be changed, we want to become better, we want to become more, like You, Jesus. And that's our prayer for today, that as we listen to Your message, may this not only just bless us, but may this move us into action. Thank You, Jesus. We love You. We honor You. And we praise You. And it's in Your Name that we pray. And all of God's people say, Amen.

Imagine that you are 12 years old, all over again. Imagine what you looked like when you were 12 years old—little boy, little girl. And you're playing.

But here's the thing: You are a 12-year-old Jew. You live in Jerusalem. And it's a beautiful place because you live downtown, close to the Temple. So, every Sunday, you go there for a Worship service and you just walk.

And your parents are good. They have a business—a coffee shop, named Starbuck. Just *Starbuck*, because it's just one—no branches. And it's a good life— you're having fun. You live in a two-bedroom bungalow.

Life is good – until one morning, you hear outside your bedroom window the sound of foreign army marching outside. And you look outside the window and you see chaos all over. People are running. People are screaming. People are moaning. And you witness with your very own eyes what war looks like. You know, soldiers are killing the brothers, and fathers, and uncles and there's just death everywhere.

God Is Calling Us Back to Eden

And the inevitable happens.

The soldiers barge into your beautiful home, the home that made you feel protected all your life. And they tie you up and they chain your neck. And now you're bound. Then they lead you outside and you're walking, and you're walking, and it seems you've been walking forever. And then 2,000 miles later, you arrive in a completely different city.

Now, stop pretending-- that's actually a true story. That was called the Babylonian Exile.

It happened when the Babylon City conquered Jerusalem and then took every Jew as a slave—at least the ones they did not kill. It's a true story.

But I want you to know this: That this is not the first time in history that this ever happened. Go all the way back to the book of *Genesis*. Adam and Eve. They were living comfortably in the beautiful garden with everything they needed. But then what happened? They disobeyed God. And so, they were exiled.

Fast forward to Father Abraham. Abraham was living comfortably in his home—in the land of Ur. And then God called him to go to the Promised Land.

And then you've got the Israelites. Remember the Israelites in the movie *The Ten Commandments*? They were enslaved by the Egyptians and then one day there was this man named Moses who rescued them. And then took them on a 40-year journey through the desert—to the Promised Land.

Now, what is my point? My point is that all throughout history, God has been calling people back to Eden—to the Promised Land.

I still didn't believe this today: that *God is calling you all the way back to Eden*. What is Eden, by the way?

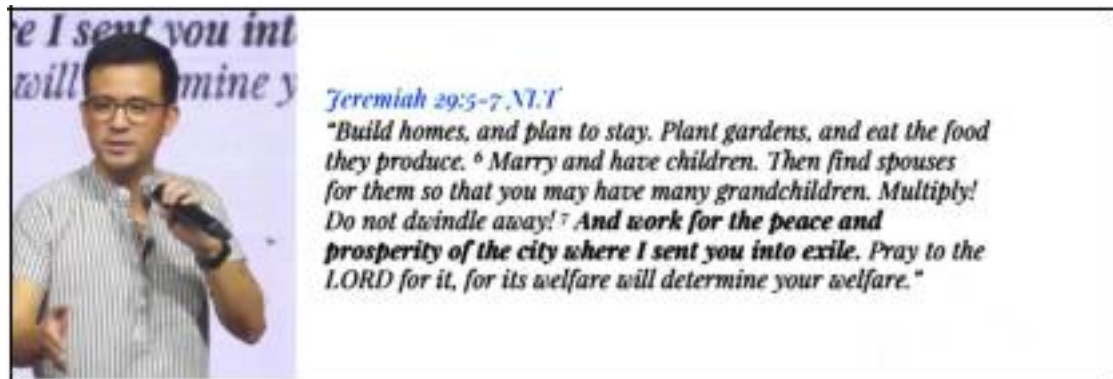
Eden is not a place that you can reach through Waze, you can't find on Google maps. It's not an address that you go to. Because Eden is any place where God is King.

So, is God King over your finances? That's Eden. Is God King over your relationships? That's Eden. Is God king over your life? Then, my friend, That's Eden.

Now I'm saying this because I believe that there are places in this world where God is not always King. Sometimes, money is king. Sometimes, pride is king. Sometimes greed is king. And so, what is God calling us to do?

To make Him the King of our life.





Responses of the Jewish Exiles

The Jewish exiles responded to their captivity in two main ways.

The first response was *rebellion*. They took up arms and fought the Babylonians.

The second response was *compromise*. Some assimilated the Babylonian culture 100%, abandoned Yahweh, and worshipped the Babylonian gods.

But there were some who actually compromised—half-half. In Tagalog, we have a word for that: *balimbing*. You know, they're in here, they're in there, and then, you know, they're half-half.

We have that sometimes in our character—that we rebel against God. And so, some of them, they gave up their Jewishness. They gave up their practices. They stopped believing in God. They started worshipping other gods.

But there was a third group that didn't rebel or compromise. They *served*. Why? They followed God's words through the Prophet Jeremiah. His mind-bending message in Jeremiah 29:5-7.

There were very few who actually obeyed God, who remained faithful. Who were they? They were Daniel and his three friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And we're going to learn from them. You see, these three guys, they were prisoners, remember? They were prisoners of Babylon. And so, they were *servicing*. Their families were killed. They were tortured. Their Temple was ruined. And so, they were serving this evil and corrupt government.

You know, my friends, this is proof that you can be in a season of difficulty or obscurity and still manage to call it the best place ever. You can be in a season of dryness, in a season of drought, and still say, "I'm blessed."

In spite of all problems that you go through, you can be blessed. God says you can prosper—even if you are exiled. And that's what we saw in this Pandemic. Have you witnessed some persons—maybe that's you—who not just survive, but thrive during the Pandemic? That's what God is saying. That there is a way that we can experience growth even in a place of pain, even in a place of suffering.



Daniel 1:6-7, NLT

"Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah.

⁷ The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names: Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego."

The Third Way: In the World But Not of It

This was the Third Way: Jeremiah was telling the Jews to live in this foreign city and work for its prosperity-- but remain faithful to Yahweh.

And Daniel and his friends were part of this Third Way. These guys started as Jewish prisoners in Babylon. But because they had potential, they found themselves serving in the Royal Court of King Nebuchadnezzar.

Remember our last Talk on dual citizenship? Daniel and his friends were dual citizens. They were Babylonian citizens, immersed in Babylonian politics, reporting to King Nebuchadnezzar, yet in their heart, they were citizens of God who followed their real King.

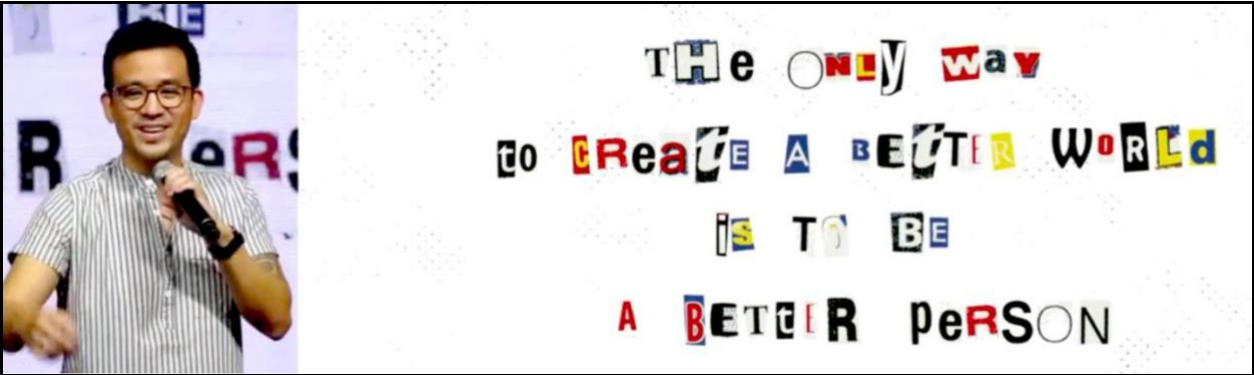
This Third Way was a wild balancing act. They were "in the world but not of it". And do you know what was crazy? *They were serving their enemy.* They worked for a pagan nation that destroyed their city, killed their relatives, and kidnapped them, brought them to a foreign land. Yet here they were, serving this government.

And I wonder, how many of you are in that particular situation right now? You know, you're working for a government agency that's corrupt. Or you're working for a company with corrupt bosses.

You can be in that situation, but maybe you have a question: "Brother Audee, in a pagan environment such as this one, where people worship other gods, like money, and power, and fame, and greed, selfishness... Question: is it possible to remain faithful to God?"

Absolutely. Because if there's anything that we're learning from Daniel and his three friends is that we can be in a hostile environment and still remain faithful to God.

We know that politics can be dirty. But God still calls us to serve there: a few of us, He will call to run for public office; others to serve in government; and for all of us, to discern, vote, and campaign for our candidates.



How Did These Guys Change Their World?

We too are called to be part of the Third Way: To be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

Daniel and his friends were serving this king—King Nebuchadnezzar. And because they were so faithful and they were so efficient, they got promoted to the royal court.

And that’s my declaration to all of you today: that as you work hard in your craft, you will receive a promotion.

But my question is this: How did Daniel and his friends get promoted? How did these guys change the world? I’ll share with you three ways, and how you can use these in your life:



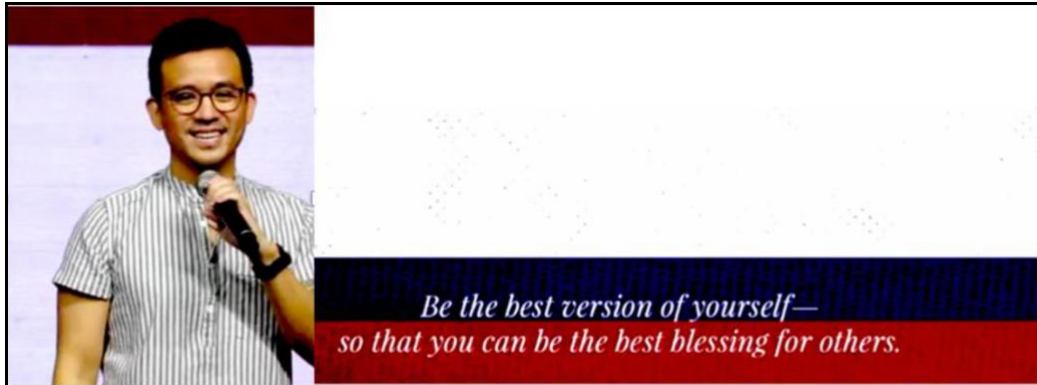
The first way of how they got promoted was No. 1: They were excellent. Let’s read:

Daniel 1:18-20 NLT
“When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. 20 Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.”

Now, here’s my message: If you follow Jesus, here’s my challenge: Don’t just be known by the people around you as the woman who likes to carry her Bible everywhere. “Ah, Jesus follower ‘yan. May Bibliya, e.”

Or don’t just be known by your friends or your family as the guy who likes to wear a crucifix around his neck—so that people will say, “Ah, that’s a Jesus follower.”

Or, you know, the kind of guy who always likes to say, “Praise God. Hallelujah. Thank You, Jesus.”—so that people will know that you’re a God follower.



Here's the Word: Be known that you are a Jesus follower because you are excellent in the work that you do. Be an excellent business owner, an honest, upright employer, be the most hardworking employee-- so that when people see you, they know that you worship the Lord.

The Bible says this: Work as if you're working for God.

Students, be the most diligent student ever-- so that when people see you, they know you don't cheat, you're honest.

And if you're a public servant, be the most selfless, humble public servant that there is -- so that when people see you, they know that there is a God who is good.

Because the truth is, my friends, the only way that you're going to create a better world is to create a better version of yourself. And know this: When you create a better version of yourself, that's the best blessing that you can give to other people.

Here's the second way Daniel and his friends got promoted:



I want you to think about this for a moment. They were in a foreign land and serving this evil government. They were slaves. The Babylonians saw them as slaves, and yet these guys saw themselves as *servants*. They saw an opportunity

to serve. Here's a Word you can take home today, but make no mistake, this is not easy, and I am praying that the Holy Spirit will convict you when you hear these words: Serve your enemy. It's easier said than done. Some people might treat you as their enemy but know this in your heart: that they are not the real enemy.

Your enemy is not the other person who is voting for the other candidate. Your enemy is not the one who is disagreeing with you. But your real enemy is the devil who's trying to divide all of us. It's him who is trying to create discord in our life.



We learn from Jesus. Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him. He knew that Judas would backstab Him that evening. Instead, what did Jesus do? He offered Judas a seat at the table, and then He knelt and washed the feet of Judas.

Jesus served Judas. It's not easy to do that, my dear friends. But Jesus says, what do you gain if you love only those who love you back? What reward is there in that? You're not a pagan. Jesus says pagans can even do that. But there's no reward in loving only those who love you back. Love your enemies.

It's hard to love your enemy. But here's what I believe: That it's only love that can transform people. Love transforms. Have you ever felt love in your life—that is so unconditional that you change... You want to be a better person? That's the kind of relationship you want to have—a relationship that will make you want to be a better person. That you will be encouraged deep within to be a better person. Only the love of God can do that. And I declare that the love of God that transforms you will also be the same love that will transform others.



Love your enemies. Serve your enemies, my dear friends. We're all in this together. We are all Filipinos. And so, sometimes you see people fighting online.

They forget that what's more important:

You cannot change people. And you cannot change people by hating them, by bad-mouthing them.

You can change people. How?

By loving them. By accepting them for who they are.



Here's the third way:



The third way that we can be successful in our spiritual life, so that people can also see us as a God follower, is this: Daniel and his friends were faithful. They were so faithful that one day, their faith was put to the test.

King Nebuchadnezzar put this 90-foot gold statue and then he asked everybody to worship that god. And everybody did—all, except who? Let's read:

Daniel 3: 19-21,24-26,30.NLT

Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual. ²⁰ Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹ So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments.

Daniel 3: 19-21,24-26,30.NLT

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stepped out of the fire. ³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3: 19-21,24-26,30.NLT

²⁴ But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?" "Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied. ²⁵ "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"

Let me just say this: Three persons were put in this furnace.

Following God in Church is easy--when you are surrounded by good persons. It's easy to follow God in Church when you know there are positive persons all around you. Persons who inspire you, who can bless you.

But here's the thing: We all know that following God in a pagan environment is a completely different issue. When you're surrounded with corruption, temptation, and negativity, it feels like you're being thrown into the fire. You feel like you're burning and no matter how much you try to survive and overcome the temptation—sometimes, it's hard to do so.



But here's the Word: Three guys were thrown into the fire and in Verse 25, it says, "Look, Nebuchadnezzar shouted, I see four men—unbound—walking around in the fire unharmed. And the fourth looks like a God."

If there are moments in your life when you feel like it's hard to overcome temptations, I want you to know this truth:

You're not alone in the fire. There's another One in the fire. There's another Person in the fire. And His name is Jesus.

He's the One who will help you overcome that temptation. He's the one who will help you rise to the occasion. He is Jesus.

And so, if you're working right now in a place where there's full of bad energy, I want you to know that Jesus is there with you.

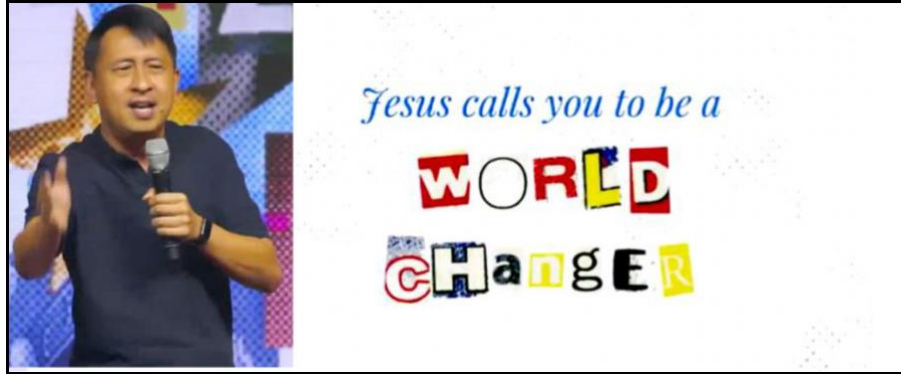
Again, let's ask the question: *Where is Eden?*

Eden is any place where God is King. So, if you are in a bad place right now, you can still make that into an Eden place.

How? Make Jesus King of that place.

Tell somebody beside you: *God calls you back to Eden.*





What Happened After the Exile

I want you to know that the Jews, finally, they were able to go back to Jerusalem. They were. Read the Bible—Ezra and Nehemiah in the old testament. Those two books talk about the Jews going back to Jerusalem. But what a disappointment. When they finally went back to Jerusalem:

No. 1: The Jews were still under foreign power; and

No. 2: The Jews were still corrupt, they were still idolatrous, they were still people who were not following God. What a disappointment. And then they came to this realization: That though they were already in their homeland, they were still not yet *home*. I'm going to say it again:

They were already home, but they were not yet home.

They realized they were spiritual exiles.

That they were still longing for Eden—for that beautiful place where God is King.

*Even if they were back in their homeland,
they were still in spiritual exile;*

*THEY WERE STILL
LONGING FOR A PLACE
WHERE GOD WAS
TRULY KING.*



Then, many years later, there was a Jew—a carpenter's son. And at the shores of Lake Galilee, He announced:

“The Kingdom of God is at hand,
and the Kingdom is here.”

And He starts recruiting people: “You want to join me? Let's build the Kingdom here.

Let's build Eden and put God King here. Join me.”

My dear friends, we're following that Jew. We're following that Jew, and we're saying that we're going to build His Kingdom in this world. And that's why you and I—put your hand over your chest-- and Everybody, say: “I'm following Jesus. He's changing the world. I am *I am* because of Him-- a World Changer.”



*God is not calling you
to go to Heaven
but create Heaven on earth,
especially for the suffering.*

Objections

Now, I know what you're thinking. There's a buzz—a noisy buzz in your brain, objections arising. Three of the most common ones right now—loudly—are saying: “World Changer? *Sobra ka naman*, Bro. Bo. You're too much.”



“I didn't sign up for this. I just want to save my soul. *Kaya ako nag-sisimba*. The reason I am attending Mass. I want to go to Heaven.”

But friends-- this will sound heretical, I am warning you—but I'll say it anyway: Jesus is not calling you to Heaven.

At least not yet. Unless *nagmamadali ka*—you're in a hurry. And if you are in a hurry, we can arrange that. We can make it happen. How? There is a brother I know, a dear friend, who is a Feast Builder.

And one time, he intimated to me, “Bro. Bo, *may problema ako*—I have a problem. *Pag-nag pra-pray over ako sa mga may sakit, namamatay sila*—When I pray over the sick, they die.”

I told him, “You are not part of the Healing Ministry. You are part of the Ushers Ministry—you usher people to Heaven. What a gift!”

So, if you are in a hurry to go to Heaven, just tell me after The Feast. I'll recommend that brother to pray for you.

But friend, I want you to understand this-- I know I'd said this a million times before, and I will not tire of saying it to you because I'm chipping away something that you've been brainwashed with by religious culture—God is not calling you to Heaven. He is calling you to build Heaven on Earth. Especially for those who are suffering right now. Especially for those who are experiencing injustice. Especially for those who are poor.



Injustice. Oppression. Corruption. War—Russia and Ukraine-- *ano ang kinalaman ko diyan?* What do I know about that?"

The problem is so big.

We look at poverty like a 7-headed monster with 800 tentacles - and we say, "We can't do anything."

If that is your objection, the first thing that comes to mind is a very old story that I used to tell people—and it's a favorite old story-- of a man walking on the beach...

2nd OBJECTION
"The Problem Is Too Big."

The night before, there was a huge storm and the waves brought into shore thousands upon thousands and upon thousands of starfishes. And on that morning, they were all dying, drying up under the heat of the sun.

And the man was looking at all those starfishes and then, from afar, was this little boy. And he was doing something.

The man walked nearer, and he saw that the boy was picking up the starfishes and then flinging them back to the sea. And then getting another one and throwing it back to the sea.

And the man finally caught up with the boy, and he said, "*Bata, bata. Sayang ang pagod mo.* Boy, you're wasting your effort. They are too many. It will not make a difference."

The boy paused for a while, and thought, *Tama ba 'yung sinasabi ng mamang ito?* Is the man right?"

Then, he looked at one starfish near his feet. He picked it up, looked at it, and he smiled, and he said, "But it will make a difference—for this one."

And he saved it by throwing it back to the sea.

You want to change the world?

Love one person at a time. One person.

*"IT MAKES
 A BIG DIFFERENCE
 TO THIS ONE..."*



One Person at a Time

Anawim was created 30 years ago. We would not have done that if we said, “*Libu-libo ang mga matatanda sa kalye. Paano ba naman ‘yan.* There are thousands of old persons on the streets. How can we ever do that?”

But no. We wanted to save one old person abandoned on a street. And so, almost 30 years now, we’ve been doing that—70 old persons at a time, because that’s all we can accommodate. But we’re going to do it anyway. Because for the 70 persons that we save and rescue, it matters the world to them. We cannot do everything. But we can do something...

Here, I simply extend a hand for a lola to hold on; a caregiver wheels a lolo to his cottage; Bro. Hermie Morelos, head of our Mercy Ministries, dances with a lola, and they both smile... Lotus flowers on Anawim pond creating ripples...

And Mother Teresa said these words—I love what she said:

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

Mother Teresa





“World Changer? I don’t have what it takes. I’m an ordinary human being.”

And you know what? I will not disagree with you. You are ordinary. I am an ordinary person. But we worship an extraordinary God— who made us in His image and likeness.

And so, my dear friends, as we come into Worship today, I want you to do one thing: Take your ordinary life and bring it before your extraordinary God, and tell Him: “Be King. Make my heart, my life, Eden.”

Because you can never change the world without changing your inner world. And you cannot create Eden around you if you do not have an Eden within you. You make God King over your heart right now. Make God King over your attitudes. Make God King over your thoughts. Make God King over your disposition. Make God King over your motivations. Make God King over your plans. Make God King over every single dimension of your life right now. And then you create there an Eden. And when you do, there will be a ripple effect. And you will begin to love one person at a time.

Father in Heaven, I thank You that today we are in Your Presence. And so, I submit to you my heart. I’m setting up a throne. I’m emptying it from my pride and from my selfishness, and from my fear, and from my worries. They’ve been ruling my life. I’m emptying the throne. And I want You, Jesus, to sit on that throne and start calling the shots. Please be in charge. And I want to follow You...

I love this time. This is my favorite time of The Feast because I call you to renew your decision to follow King Jesus. And if you’re willing to do that, do that now. For some of you, it might be the first time. You’ve never given your life over to this King. So, do it now.

Everybody, say this prayer with me, and mean every word:

Jesus, I repent from all my sins. That means I am turning away, and I am following you. On my own, I cannot do this. But You will strengthen me and empower me. You forgive me of my sins. And You make me a new person. And Jesus, I will follow You forever. And You will be building Your Kingdom in my heart. In Your Name. Amen.



Mercy Ministries

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
his mercies never come to an end; they are
new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, Oh Lord!*
--Lamentations 3:22-23

PAG-ASA NG PAMILYA Part 2

Hope-- Just in Time

YES, that's me posing before a tree—
green, luscious, like *hope*.

Hope saw me through challenges in my young
life. To fend for our family, my father worked as a
jeepney driver and my mother managed
a *sari-sari* store.

At the onslaught of the Coronavirus Disease
(COVID) Pandemic, my father lost his job, and
we struggled to cope with this trial.



By **JERINNE MENDOZA**

Pre-Pandemic, we managed
to get by—even had fun
celebrating special days, like
the birthday of my brother
Jerome—as you can see
in this photo.

Here, I am with my family, *from left*: birthday boy brother Jerome;
mother Josephine; brother King Juan; father Romeo; and brother Jhomar.

Struggles

We struggled to have a comfortable, decent family life. To help my parents, I dreamed to have a business. So, I began to take up Accountancy at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina, a government-funded university at Greenhills Subdivision in Marikina.

The school is far from where we live—at Sitio Kaysakat, in Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City. Travel time from our place would take me one and a half hours. So, I had to live with my cousins in Barangay Mambugan, also in San Jose, Antipolo City—but from there, it would take me only less than an hour to get to school.

Still, I used to wake up early because my class started at 7 o'clock in the morning. I needed to take a tricycle to get to school but there were only a few of them parked in our area. Worse, I had to negotiate traffic jam on the way. That's why there were times that I came to school late, tired, hungry.

In my second semester in college, I felt that my parents were really having difficulty in paying my tuition. So, to be of help, I went into business. I saved my school allowance, bought fish crackers in the market, repacked them one by one, complete with vinegar sauce per pack. Every time I went to school, I brought my products and sold them to my schoolmates. And as you can see in this photo, I have levelled up to more products. This way, I am making money little by little.



Then, Pag-asa!

It happened that my teacher, Mrs. Jeanne Marigondon, knew about Pag-asa ng Pamilya. And one day, she informed me that I'd been included in the roster of future Pag-asa scholars for college. I was so happy! Finally, this is a big blessing not only for me but my entire family as well.

At the outset, I struggled through college. When I was about to enter my second year in college, my school suddenly decided to transfer students not taking up the simpler Accountancy Business Management course to the four-year degree course for Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA), major in Financial Management.

Alas, the tuition fee for the BSBA course was P14,000 per semester, which could not be fully covered by my scholarship—which is P8,000 per semester.

So, I decided to transfer to a public school—at the University of Rizal System, Tanay Campus, which was offering complete tuition for free!



Challenges

I was late for the application but I was still able to take the entrance exam. I was so anxious when I took the exam. There were no other schools open for the exam. If I would not pass the test in this one and only school offering the exam, I would just had to stop studying.

By God's merciful grace, I passed the entrance exam. So, in 2019, I began second year college at the University of Rizal System (URS), Tanay Campus.

Above, my Basic Microeconomics class members during a Battle of the Brain. Today, I am now in fourth year college. It's not easy.

As someone who changed course, I am an irregular student—meaning, I have irregular subject schedules. Not all subjects in my course are available in my fourth- year level or even my class section.

So, I have to take up some subjects in other year levels or sections—like I still have to go back for subjects at the second year level. Also, I have to take up feasibility studies and go through on-the-job-training at the same time. It's difficult, but I persevere and fight.

Throughout the challenges, it's the Pag-asa scholarship that has well raised my hope to finish school. Although I enjoy free tuition at URS, I still have other school expenses. With the Pag-asa grant, I am able to pay for those extra school expenses, dorm rent, books, and fares.

Challenges

Yes, there have been struggles. But Pag-asa means *hope*. So, I focus on being hopeful.

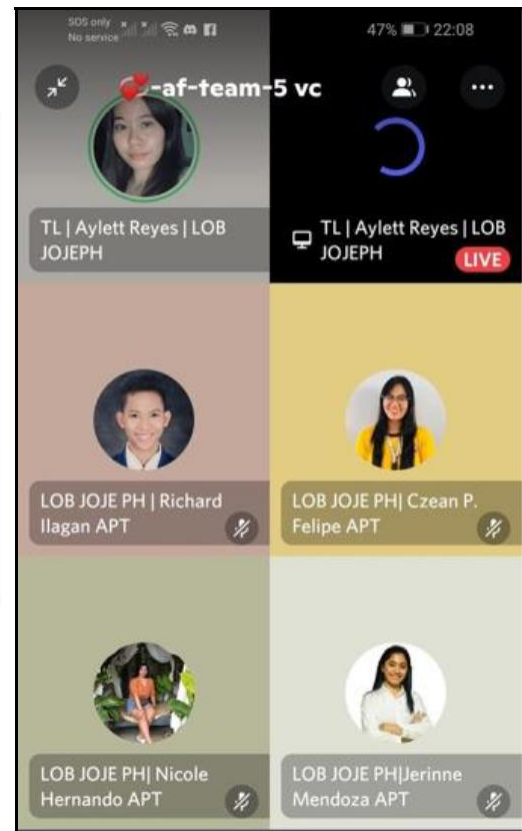
Like, I've realized transferring to another school is actually a blessing for me. In URS, I've become a fairly good student. I made it in the Dean's List at least once. I have already participated in competitions.

Here, I am with URS dance choreography members, *from left:* Joebert Azuelo, Erica Bauí, Michaella Saligao, Beatriz Legson, me, Jv Zonio, Jenesis Ametin, Mark Anthony Rosales.



Above, a Voice Call meeting during my on-the-job training in Anafara Company with my co-interns.

At right, Zoom meeting during final defense in my feasibility study with the panel members and my groupmates.



Life's Ups and Downs

Indeed, life is a cycle of ups and downs.

In August 2021, my grandmother Natividad who had taken care of me since my toddler years, passed away.

I mourned with utter grief because my Lola was one who believed in me.

She wanted to see me a successful person, so she encouraged me to excel in my studies.

So, with her passing, I lost a pillar of strength in my life.

Only my school demands have helped me sort of cope with my loss.

I am so busy, I have just realized now that it's been several months since my Lola's passing. Now, I'm trying my best to fulfill her dreams for me.

Above, right, a fun time hamming it up with my Lola.



Paying It Forward

I know that someday, all my hardships will be compensated--just like how Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation has helped me to build myself and fulfill my needs as a student who dreams to be a business woman who is financially stable.

Here I am in my school in Marikina with group task members, *from left:* Erika Dumandan, me, Mailene Arellano, Jon Perez, Jolo Caedo, and Kristine Lopez.

Someday, I will return all the blessings I am receiving now. I want to also be of help to other students for them to be financially secure in their studies.

Pag-Asa, thank you, forever. You will be a big part of my future success. God bless!





BLESSINGS

From Lack to Love By JOHN IVERSON LUGAY

I AM a Sunday School teacher. I teach children Bible Stories from where they can learn wholesome Christian living.

Perhaps my calling is really teaching because the course I am taking today is a preparation for the Ministry that the Lord has entrusted to me.

Experiences that I have gone through so far— even the trials-- are indeed steps towards my calling.



First, we are a family of modest means. My father Oliver is a fisherman, my mother Editha is a housewife taking care of my two siblings and me.

Early on, I could hear my parents the importance of education, what they hoped the best ever inheritance they could give us kids. In the same breath, I could hear them wondering if they would ever afford to send us to college.

I was then a graduating Grade 12 student dreaming of getting an Education course to teach children knowledge as well as virtues to be successful in life.

Answered Prayer

Second, our financial lack actually led us to experience God's unconditional love and wonderful blessings.

By the grace of the Lord, my mother happened to have a friend who's an employee at the Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation. She's Ma'am Karen Tirados. She told my mother I should try and apply for the scholarship for college. She told me the requirements and I promptly prepared all of them. And I prayed hard that I would qualify.

And, answered prayer: I am one of the Foundation's chosen ones.

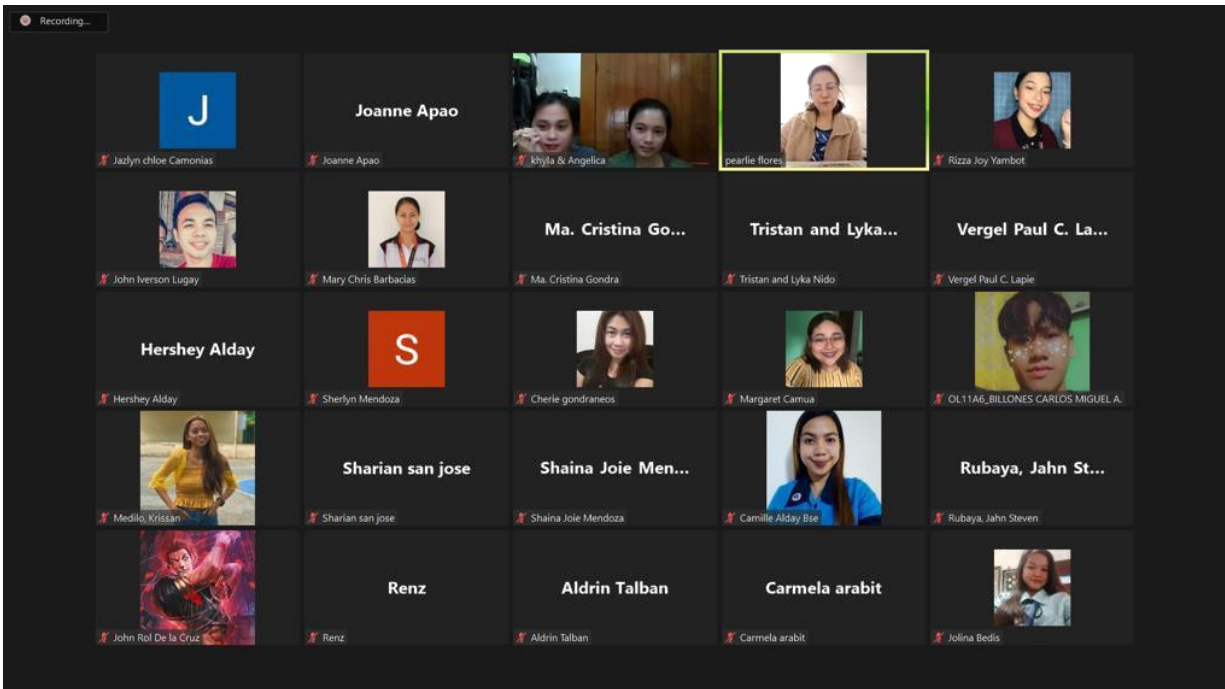
And then, Light and Color

Pag-asa has given my life and that of my family light and color.



Here's a photo I took with my classmates, during a fun group activity assignment, from left: Rommel Ditablan, Joicsha Nicole Villarico, Leanna Mae Anis, Renso Angelo Olimpo, Donna Mae Nofuente, Jean Andrea Lanaca, and Angeline Santos. Below, with my classmates during an online class.





Not only has Pag-asa helped me with my financial needs, it has also helped me with my emotional and spiritual growth.

I learn so much during meetings with the members of the Board of Directors and my co-scholars.

With the Coronavirus Pandemic and the consequent quarantines, we now have limited face-to-face meetings. But I learn more from my Pag-asa community as we continue to meet online (*above*).

It has become a way of life for us to share each other's life stories, inspiring messages such as what's now my favorite guiding verse, Isaiah 41:10:

“I am with you; be not afraid. I am your God, fear not. I will strengthen you and help you, protect you, and save you.”

I have experienced that this promise of the Lord is true. He has encouraged me when I am afraid, He has helped me when I am in danger, yes, always keeping me safe.

Although life is hard, it is not an obstacle for us to achieve our dreams. Always remember that there is a God who is always there and He uses various means for us to overcome the challenges of life.

And the Pag-asa ng Pamilya scholarship for me is clear and present proof He is my faithful provider.

Indeed, God is so good and has no equal. I am deeply grateful



Thank You!

The Feast Family, now organized as the **Feast Mercy Ministries**, is a spin-off ministry of the Light of Jesus Family founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez, earlier named as Kerygma Family, a unique online, non-physical, borderless, international community of friends who support each other's personal growth.

Partner beneficiaries of the Feast Mercy Ministries flourish because of your generous support.

Thank you for being with us. We pray that you find your daily source of inspiration from the resources that we send to you. We pray too that you may consider giving to The Feast Family. No gift is too small.

Thank you very much in advance for your gift. Our prayer is that God will continue to reward you as you give.

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

Thank you for the Love. Your monthly donation helps us continue extending support to our Light of Jesus spin-off organizations, including our partner beneficiaries. Your gift will sustain our operations and, we hope, help us reach out to the persons our Lord has called us to make disciples and give them renewed hope.

Be a Feast Family member. Write or call us. Now.

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmfamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmfamily.com>

Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/ Fax 725-1230

Our Partner Beneficiaries

Email Address: mercyministries@feast.ph Website: www.feastmercyministries.com

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 the women 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.

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**FAMILY
ONLINE
NEWSMAGAZINE**

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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19