



NEWSLETTER
May 8, 2022

Surrender Your Loved Ones to His Love



AS a father of two boys, I focus half of my daily prayer time on interceding for those two gentlemen.

I prayed even before they were born.

Every single day. For decades!

Now that my two sons are already 22 and 17, I still pray for them.

But even if the words are the same, the way I pray has changed.

Because one day, I heard God speak to my heart.

He said, *“Son, you’re praying out of fear. Learn to pray out of trust.*

Because I love them more than you do.”

When I heard those words, I felt the weight of my worries just fall to the floor.

That’s what we’re going to explore today through the book of *Jonah*.

Have a heart-enriching Feast today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



LETTERS

Have Mercy on Us...



DID you ever make a really big mistake in your life?

Fr. Bob McConaghy asked his audience at The Feast, our faith gathering last Sunday, May 1, 2022.

Fr. Bob said he did. Just like the apostle Peter committed big booboos, *page 3*.

In their talk at The Feast also last Sunday, our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, and Feast Builder and Preacher Bro.



Audee Villaraza, focused on another guy who also made a big mistake:

Jonah, the Prophet, *pages 13-32*.

Peter, Jonah, and yes,

Fr. Bob, were forgiven. And their experiences manifest the kind of God we worship: a Merciful God.

And Mercy is a family affair for Bro. Samuel Uy, president of our Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation, *page 33*.

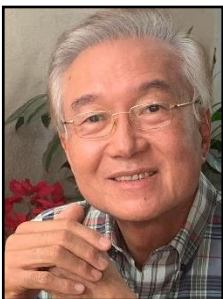
Yes, this issue of *The Feast Family* is all about God's mercy—*The Depths of God's Mercy*— actually our new Feast talk series this May.

So, what's your answer to Fr. Bob's question? Yes? No?

Read on and know the truth!

All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FAMILY *FLASHBACK!* MAY 1, 2022

Holy Mass

FR. BOB McCONAGHY

on the Gospel of John 21:1-19



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Excerpts...

Did you ever make a really big mistake in your life? I mean, so big that you look back on it now and you say, “How could I have done that?”

Did you ever make two, really big mistakes in your life? And what makes it worse if somebody else knows about it? And they remind you of it when you make another mistake?

If you'd made big mistakes in your life, you're in good company. You have a patron saint: Peter, the mistake maker. He was a man who made six mistakes in one day. If you make six mistakes in one one day, and you work for someone, chances are you'll be fired.

Six Mistakes of Peter

Think about Peter for a second. Six!

First of all, he promised Jesus: “I’ll die for you.”

Number two: “You’re never going to wash my feet!”

Number three:

Cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.

And Jesus said, “Put away the sword.”

So, those are three mistakes, right there.

And of course, the other three were behind a charcoal fire—just like the one that we heard about today.

Jesus was at the court of Caiaphas and He was going to be taken to Herod. They brought Jesus out the door and He saw Peter behind the flame.

And Peter said three times, “I don’t know Him.”

Remember when Jesus said, “Who do you say that I am?”

And Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

Now, in fear, he says, “I don’t know the man.”

And so, we find Peter then on the shore after having swam a hundred yards, and we remember that Peter felt terrible guilt.

When Jesus looked at Peter, He didn’t say a word to him when he was at the charcoal fire. He just looked at him...

The Gospel tells us that Peter was bitter with pure failure. He had gone to the depths of failure.

And so, therefore, when he was on the beach, there’s another charcoal fire and Jesus was behind it. Peter saw that and it reminded him of that Holy Thursday night, but he didn’t say anything. He felt guilty for sure.



Gospel, John 21:1-19

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.

It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together.

³ “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.”

So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.¹ ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus Reinstates Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?”

He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”



Does Not Mention the Past

Finally, for the first time in three appearances, Jesus talks to Peter. He hadn't talked to him before. Oh yes, they were all incredulous, sheer joy in the Upper Room— but He didn't talk to Peter.

So now, Jesus says to Peter, "Simon, son of John..."

Notice, He doesn't call him *Peter* here.

He calls him *Simon*. And three times He says, "Do you love me? Do you love me? Do you love me?"

Each time, Peter, knowing that he loves Him, is not sure that Jesus loves him.

And so, he says, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you."

Jesus could've said, "Too bad, give me the keys. I'm going to give them to John because John was at the Cross— he'll be a better leader."

But did you notice here that Jesus did not refer to Peter's past at all? He referred only to his future.

He didn't say to Simon, "Peter, I told you so. I know you'd do this."

He could've said that. But He remembered the first time that Peter said, "Depart from me Lord for I am a sinful man."

This was at the very beginning, when He first met Peter (when Peter and his co-fishermen had been fishing all night and didn't catch any fish).

So, on this night, they didn't catch any either and Peter must have wanted to say to Jesus, "Depart from me, I'm a sinful man."

But what do we hear at the end of the Gospel? "Follow me."

The same thing Jesus said at the beginning, and it came around full circle: that's the kind of God we have. The kind of God who, when we look at our past, simply wants us to learn from it and chooses the most unlikely.

First Reading: Acts 5: 27-32, 40b-41

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them,

28 Saying: Commanding we commanded you, that you should not teach in this name; and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and you have a mind to bring the blood of this man upon us.

29 But Peter and the apostles answering, said: We ought to obey God, rather than men.





A True Story

I'm going to share with you a true story that I shared at the Mall of Asia Arena last Good Friday.

There were two boys— 15 years old— and they didn't have much money. They had part-time jobs so, they had a little bit of money. But they wanted to go to the beach on this July 4th weekend where they could meet a lot of girls and have fun — but the bus fare to the beach was too expensive.

They needed more money if they were going to have fun. One of the boys worked part-time cleaning up at a clothing store.

The boss told him every night that he worked there, "You take responsibility for locking the door."

So, the boy said to his friend, "Hey, I get to lock the door at night. I know where they keep at least \$300 dollars— in this case. And I can find it, take it, and then I'll go out and I'll break the lock on the door— so it would look like somebody broke in. It will take only couple of minutes and we'll have money for the bus and for more."

The other boy said, "Sounds like a good idea! I'm in and on it with you."

So, on that Thursday night, July the 2nd, they made their way to the clothing store about 11 o'clock at night and the boy made his way in and very quickly came out with a big wad of money.

"Look at this!"

And they counted it out. It was \$340 dollars.

"We're going to have a blast!"

So, they went home. Now, the other boy went to sleep, but he was very excited, couldn't wait to leave on the bus the next day.

Then, he heard the front doorbell of his house ringing and he went into complete fear. His father answered the door, yelled up to him, "Come down here!"

When the boy got to the front door, there were two policemen and the one had a flashlight unto the other boy's face and said, "Do you know him?"

"Yes I do."

"Were you with him tonight?"

"Yes, I was."

"Hold out your hands!"

And both boys were led away in handcuffs to the police station.



A Better Confessor

Luckily, the owners of the store decided not to prosecute. But the incident was in the paper. Their names weren't mentioned because they were under 18— but everybody in the neighborhood *knew*.

All of a sudden, the boy lost his friends, lost his girlfriend who had to break up with him because he was a thief— and nobody trusted him.

That boy, you might wonder who it is...
It's me!

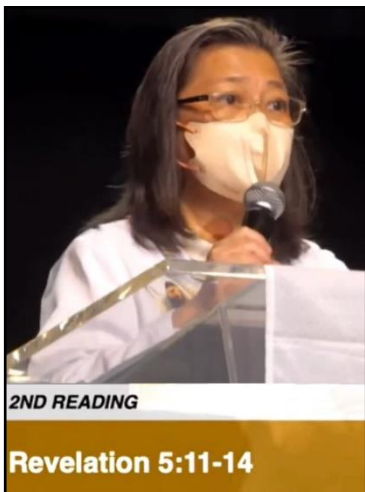
Hide your purse. I know what it's like to be in handcuffs, you know.

There's something I learned from that experience: that the past that I remember vividly, as I was telling you, I visualized it and remembered it.

But you know what? I don't feel guilty at all, and the reason that I don't feel guilty at all — and so I can tell you that story— is this: I know I'd been forgiven, and I'd forgiven myself.

The Lord only wants us to learn from the past and what did I learn from what I went through is something very simple: how to be a better confessor.

Nobody can come to me and tell me a sin worse than that and yet I tell it to you because well, all of us are kind of like the moon. We all have our dark side that we don't want to show anybody. And sometimes, the mistakes that we make that lead to that dark side —that we can't tell anybody about— bring us to the point where we don't think very holy. We don't think we're very good because of our past mistakes.



Reading 2, Revelation 5:11-14

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels... They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

12 In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"



Jesus Will Never Reject You

The Lord wants us to know: That He knows you're afraid of rejection. I might be speaking to only five people here at the moment, or online...

This is only about you.

Peter feels this deep sense of self-hatred, as Jesus says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all you mind, with all your strength."

Takes a lot of energy, but you can't do that unless you love yourself. Maybe if the Lord says to you, "Love me,"

You might say, "I don't even love myself. I hate myself. How can I love you?"

That's what Peter probably felt and Jesus looked into his eyes and at that moment, Peter knew he would never be rejected by God. Oh, but those who persecute—yes. But he would never be rejected by Jesus.

"Feed my lambs, feed my sheep..."

So, sometimes, that dark side we hide, it's kind of like Charles Finn (an American poet most notable for writing *Please Hear What I'm Not Saying* in September 1966).

In Finn's beautiful essay, he says, "Don't be fooled by me. Don't be fooled by the mask I wear—for I wear a mask. I wear a thousand masks. Masks that I'm afraid to take off, but none of them are me. Pretending is an art that is a second nature to me but don't be fooled, for God's sake. Don't be fooled. Oh, all might seem sunny and ruffled that I have confidence and that you see this and you think I'm fine, but I'm not."

If that's you, if you feel self-hatred because of big mistakes you'd made in the past week or the past years—know that no one who comes to Jesus He will ever reject.

Be Not Afraid

If Jesus can call a guy that made six mistakes in one day to be the one who is the foundation of the Church that lasts until now... And if He can call a thief like me —and somehow through providential mystery I become a priest— He can call you.

That story I told you happened about 60 years ago this year. So, you do the math, and you'll know how old I am in June. That was 60 years ago but it's vivid in my memory and I only shared it two times. Never in America— only here, because I know you're not going to reject me. I can have fun with it, but I know that you'll still take my hand and put it to your forehead.

But here's the point: During Confession, the Sacrament, I promise you, the priests here, I will be compassionate and you can finally just let it go. And then you'll remember it— you'll remember the past but your meditation will be: "What can I learn from that—because Jesus will never say, "I told you so."

So, if you feel, as a result of what I'm sharing here, that you'd love to do that (go to Confession), know that Jesus made the first move in your heart to respond. I'm just the instrument. His grace is operating in you, saying He loves you very much.

And after you went to confession, you'll be able to say to Him, "I love you."

So, be not afraid.

How can you be not afraid of a God who would cook breakfast?

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 30: 2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

11 The Lord hath heard, and hath had mercy on me: the Lord became my helper.

12 Thou hast turned for me my mourning into joy: thou hast cut my sackcloth, and hast compassed me with gladness:

R. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.



Worship!

EXHORTATION

VANYA CASTOR: A couple of weeks ago, we were able to celebrate Easter.

We were able to celebrate the great burning love of God for every single one of us, for every person in this room. And today, in Worship, we get to have that opportunity to be reminded again of that Love.

And I want to share with you what Paul said in Romans 8: *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor demons, nor present, nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

He is worthy. He is worthy of our song. He is worthy of our praise. He is worthy of our applause. He is worthy. So, let’s just continue to come in His presence today...

...Even if you don’t feel worthy of our Worship right now. Even if you don’t see Him working in your life— He is worthy. Our God is worthy. That is the truth we stand on as we live every day. So, let’s sing to our God who is worthy of everything that we’ve got right now. No holding back!





Talk

AUDEE VILLARAZA: Welcome to The Feast ,Everybody! Today we are starting a brand new Feast talk series titled *Depths of Mercy*.

Today, we're going on a five-week journey and study the life of this Old Testament character Jonah, who ran away from God's calling.

Talk 1, titled *The Prophet Who Won't Preach*, will blow you away.

I wonder if there are prophets right now who feel like, "I'm not equipped to serve God. I'm not equipped to go on a mission."

That's what we're going to talk about today. And so, if you're ready, let's join our hearts right now as we signify the great symbol of love.



In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Spirit. Everybody, stretch your arms 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 Word so I become more like Jesus every day.

Today, I proclaim that I'm God's beloved, I'm God's servant,

I'm God's powerful champion

And because I'm blessed, I'm blessing the world.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



The Book of *Jonah*

BO SANCHEZ: Welcome to our brand new series, *Depths of Mercy*. We're going to unpack the book of *Jonah*.

We have two lofty goals today.

The first one is to be able to read the book of *Jonah*.

And the second: in learning to read the book of *Jonah* you will learn to read the Bible—the way Jesus read His Bible.

Now, I want you to know that it's very difficult to do that. I've been reading the Bible ever since I was 12 years old. And it changed my life. But you know, over the past 40 plus years now, of the things I've learned, foremost is: How can I read the Bible the way Jesus read the Bible?

And we're going to learn that through *Jonah*.

Jonah is one of the most sophisticated, complex, intricately crafted writings in the entire Scripture—jam-packed in a typical one and a half pages. That's how short the Book is. Typically, in your Bible, it occupies about one page and a half and it was written by a brilliant Jewish writer 2,400 years ago.

Now, let's admit this: If, the moment you hear *Jonah*, the first thing that comes to mind is *whale*. Even if *whale* is not in the Bible. *Whale* was a mistake made 400 years ago by the translator of the King James version—putting the word *whale* in the Gospel where *Jonah* was mentioned. But no.

My dear friends, let's admit it: the way many people look at it, the Book of *Jonah* is a children's story. It's a tale with a nice ending.

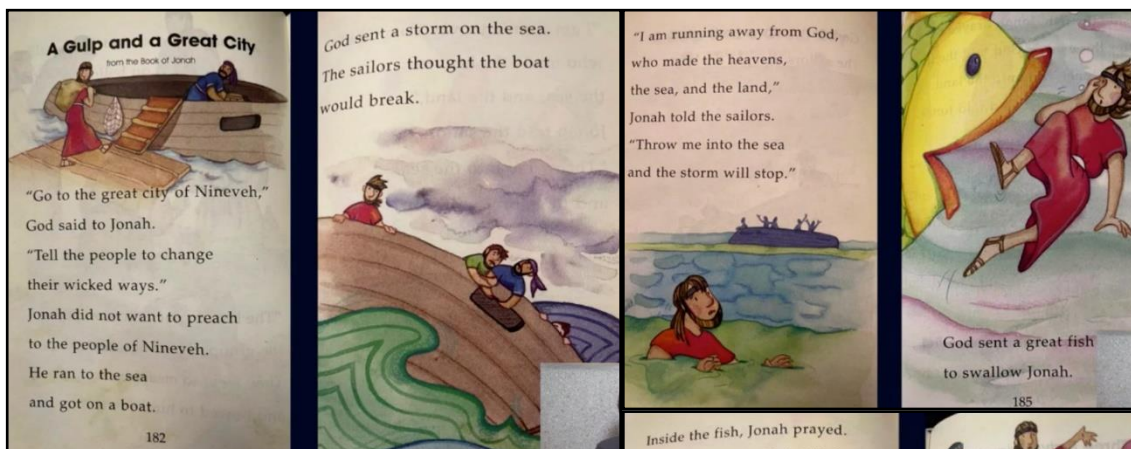
But this is not only a problem for *Jonah*. It's a problem for the entire Bible. Many people still look at this Book as a collection of bedtime stories with *good moral* lessons. I know that's redundant. But that's how we say it, right? The *moral* of the story is to be a good boy, be a good girl. That is what the Book is all about.

But what we are going to learn is: No. The Book is so much deeper, so much more beautiful. And so, here's my prayer for today, and for the entire five weeks that we're going to cover and unpack *Jonah*: that you will fall in love with Scripture all over again. And I pray that your heart will be open. Let's pray for that. Can you put your hand over your chest. I'm going to hold the Bible right here, put it on my chest and let's say this prayer together:

*Jesus, in the next five weeks, help me to fall in love with the Word.
Help me to learn how to read this Book, the way You read it. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Jonah, A Children's Story

I'm going to read to you now—I have here three children's Bibles and they've got great illustrations and I'm going to use this one: *The Young Reader's Bible* — 70 easy-to-read stories. I read these stories to my kids as bedtime stories. I'm going to read to you now the story of Jonah according to a children's story Bible.



A Gulp and a Great City

“Go to the great city of Nineveh,” God said to Jonah. “Tell the people to change their wicked ways.”

Jonah did not want to preach to the people of Nineveh. He ran to the sea and got on a boat. God sent a storm on the sea. The sailors thought the boat would break.

“I am running away from God, who made the heavens and the sea, and the land,” Jonah told the sailors. “Throw me into the sea and the storm will stop.”

God sent a great fish to swallow Jonah.

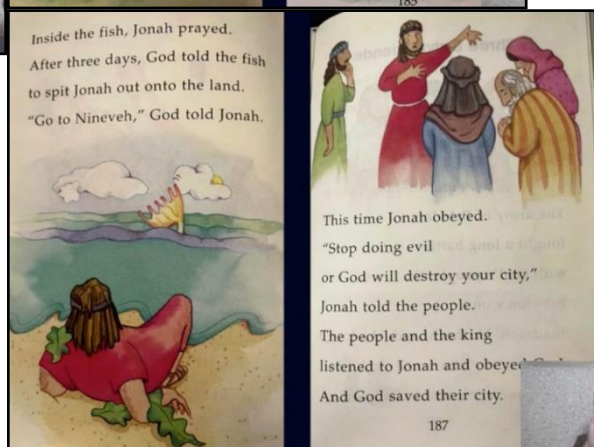
Inside the fish, Jonah prayed. After three days, God told the fish to spit Jonah out onto the land.

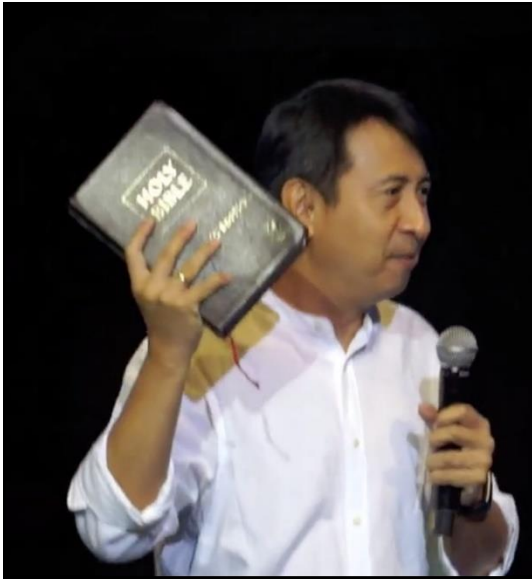
“Go into Nineveh,” God told Jonah.

This time, Jonah obeyed.

“Stop doing evil or God will destroy your city,” Jonah told the people.

The people and the king listened to Jonah and obeyed God. And God saved their city.





The End. Nice story, right? Happy ending. And they lived happily ever after.

The Problem with *Jonah*

There's only one problem with this story. If you read the book of *Jonah*, you'll see it actually misses out— skips— Chapter 4. The whole Chapter is gone. Not found here.

And then I looked at the other Bibles, and it's not there, either.

I'll tell you why: A children's story, by nature, will edit out the weird parts of the Bible.

I've got news for you: 75 percent of this Book are weird parts. And so, when you put this into children's stories, you don't get the complexity. You don't get the nuances. You don't get the core message. A lot of people think that the

book of *Jonah* is simply a story of a reluctant prophet who does not want to obey God, runs away, God chases after him, and he finally obeys God. The End. No, it's not that simple.

So, you ask: "Bro. Bo, what's the core message of the book of *Jonah*? You'll find out. We've got five weeks to unpack it.

You know, may I say this? I'm not bashing children's Bibles. I use them. When my children were still kids, I would read to them stories from a children's Bible. But you see, children's Bibles, and the stories therein, serve a purpose. And the purpose is what? To be able — well, it's there: children's Bible. It's a Bible for *children*.

I've got news for you: This is an *adult* book. And you've got to approach it as such. So, here's the thing: The problem is that even when people start reading the actual Bible, they still have a perception that this is still something with moral lessons, you know: "I just have to look at it, it's a simple children's book."

No, it's not. It has a lot of weird parts and you need to go through them —and when you're able to read the Bible the way Jesus read His Bible —Boom!

You're going to realize, "Oh, my gosh, it's really the Word of God."

So, are these children's Bibles wrong? No.

Here's what's wrong: People don't graduate from the caricatured understanding of the Bible.

And so, I want you to poke someone really hard on the arm and say to that person just one word: *Graduate*.

A Little Fight

So, let me tell you a story:

Last week, my wife Marowe and I had a little fight.

We rarely fight. Rarely. Over the past 24 years of our marriage. But last week, we did. And let me give you a little background.

Wednesday, she had an overnight thing in Tagaytay with the core leaders of our Catholic Filipino Academy. You know, she has a presence there and she supports it. And so, she went there with a group of wonderful, wonderful women friends.

Usually, I wake up at about 5:30 a.m. But the day she was not home, I woke up at 4:30 a.m. I tried to go back to sleep, could not, and during that entire time, tossing and turning in bed, I would reach out to that spot, her space on our bed, and she was not there. Instead of feeling her, I felt the emptiness. And so, the bed was empty, and I realized my heart was empty. I missed my wife.

You see, she is my anchor. She is the person that calms me. She is the person that gives me my stability. And so, I posted about it. I said, “I miss my wife.”

That day, in the evening, she arrived. The next morning, I woke up at about 5:30.

Now, every 5:30, I wake up to bike. Every day— just bike. My exercise. I bike to a coffee shop, I read, spend some time with the Lord. After an hour, I bike back home.

That day, when I woke up at 5:30, my wife was hugging me in bed, And she said, “Huwag ka nang mag-bike. Dito ka na long. Don’t go biking. Just stay here.”

She missed me also.

And I said in my mind, “Okay, I’ll just stay for 10 minutes— and after that I’ll stand up. But after 10 minutes, when I was about to stand up, she said, “Dito ka na lang. Huwag ka nang mag-bike.”

And then my logical brain started, and I said, “You know, this is the only day I can bike this week. I won’t be able to bike tomorrow because I have a talk early in the morning. And then the next day, I have a seminar also early in the morning. And then after that, we have The Feast. I’ll miss three days of not biking.”

And that’s when she released me, turned to the other side, and kept quiet.



Three Secrets to a Wonderful Marriage

I want you to know that when such little fight happens... I'm 24 years a married man. I mean, hello, I know the language, right? I know what that meant. So, I stayed put. I would not dare leave the bed.

After a few minutes, she asked me, "O, bakit nandyan ka pa?"

Husbands, who are younger than me, please listen to an expert.

I started saying, "I'm sorry..."

After about 20 minutes of the cold shoulder, and all of that, she finally forgave me.

I want you to know there are three reasons my marriage is wonderful:

First, if she wants to fight me, I allow her to fight me. But I do not fight her. That's been my rule for the past 24 years.

So, I let her fight me. That's fine. Because I'm the guy, I'm the leader. That's what the leader does. He sacrifices.

Second, I know how to say "Sorry." I've perfected the way of saying "Sorry."

You don't say, "Sorry, kasi naman ikaw, e."

You know, you don't do that. Neither do you say, "Kasi ganoon, kasi ganito." Walang kasi— no excuse.

When I say "Sorry," I say "I'm sorry." Period. I've invented 36,000 ways of saying "Sorry" — in the right way: "I'm sorry I made a mistake." "I'm sorry, I was insensitive." "I'm sorry... Just, you know..."



Perspectives

There's a third secret to my wonderful marriage— and this is the reason I bring up the story of Jonah.

The reason my wife and I have an amazing relationship, amazing marriage, every time we have an encounter like that, every time we have a conflict, I always set aside my perspective— and try to take on her perspective.

Put it this way: It was so easy... You know, she turned her back and faced the other way, you know it was so easy to say, “Sobra ka naman— you're too much — I am going biking. Don't you care for my health? Hello?”

It would have been so easy to present my perspective and say, “Babalik naman ako, ha. Hindi naman ako magbi-bike hanggang Baguio— I'll be back. I am not biking up to Baguio. Before you know it, I'll be here. Anyway, you are just sleeping.”

I could have insisted on my perspective. But then what? I realized, wait a minute— I set aside my pre-judgment, my biases, my emphasis, my priorities.

What is her perspective? She misses me. She was out overnight. She misses me. And I can't blame her. I am irresistible. :)

That's what you need to do with this Book. Set aside and leave at the door your preconceptions, your biases — everything you thought about this Book.

You know, just say, “I am going to be humble in front of the Word and I'm going to let the sacred text speak to me as is. I'm going to get the perspective of the writer of the Book of *Jonah*. Who is this guy? Why is he so brilliant? Get his perspective. Get his background. And what is God's perspective — for your life. You're going to have an amazing five weeks.



We always give honor where honor is due. Everybody sing with me:
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



Key Message

I'll read to you pieces of Scripture, but I just want to pray with you. Bow, feel the Presence and immense Love of God, flowing here, flowing where you are.

Jesus, we thank you for this moment, that you are here, and that you are speaking. We need your Word. More than anything else in this world, we need that Word. Because Your Word is what will change us, that will touch us, and move us into action.. So, speak. Because Your child is listening. Thank You, Jesus. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Holy Spirit, use our time right now. Speak to us.

Here's the message that we want to give to you today:

God is more loving than you think He is.

GOD IS MORE LOVING THAN YOU THINK HE IS.



Jonah The Prophet

One thing you got to know about Jonah is that he is a prophet.

You know, when you hear the word *prophet*, what's the first thing that comes to mind: they know how to predict the future, right? But prophets don't necessarily know how to predict the future.

You know what prophets are? You know, like Ezequiel, Jeremiah, Hosea— they didn't necessarily predict the future. Like Isaiah— he's talking about the future coming of this Messiah.

But you know what they were doing? They were preparing and helping people understand current situation based from the perspective of God. And so, when God asked Jonah, the son of Amittai, to get up and go to the city of Nineveh, He wanted Jonah to preach what was happening during that time— in the perspective of God.

Let's read Verse 1:



JONAH 1:1-2 NLT "The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ² "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are."

How does Jonah respond?

Actually, Jonah doesn't even respond. That's the worst part.

He's like that your friend of yours who likes to seen-zone your messages.

Do you have people like that in your life? Don't you just hate it whenever you send a message and then they read it, and then they don't reply? You know, what I don't like is that there are people that we message, and then they read it, and then it takes them hours to reply, and then sometimes, it even takes them days, and sometimes, it even takes a week. And by the time that they reply, it's only one letter: *K*.

If somebody messages you like that, this is your script: You tell them, "Brother— or Sister—this is not Wheel of Fortune. You do not need money to buy a vowel to put it there. Just put *O-K*. Okay?"

What Jonah Does

So, Jonah did not respond to God— just like that friend who seen-zones us. Instead, what does Jonah do? He speaks with his feet. He walks in the opposite direction. Let's read:





Jonah Goes in the Opposite Direction

Let me show you a very graphic illustration of what Jonah did— so you can see the gravity of his action. Look at the map (*below*).

This is a map of where Jonah lived. It was a place called Gath-hepher.

And if you can see that, as the Bible says, instead of going up to Nineveh, he went in the opposite direction— down in the city of Joppa.



And you know, I can certainly imagine the symbolism of this.

Sometimes, in life, the reason you and I struggle is instead of going up, we go down. Instead of lifting yourself up, you bring yourself down.

Sometimes, yes, I understand that there are people who will bring you down to your dysfunction, but you know what happens? You know what you need to do? You need to lift up to your positive disposition. Don't let people drag you down into their dysfunction.



Nineveh Is the Israelites' Mortal Enemy

Yes, instead of going up, Jonah went down.

Let's look at this other map.

If you can see here, Jonah lives in a place called Gath-hepher. And Nineveh, which is just right there — up — is only 550 miles away from Gath-hepher.

On the other hand, Tarshish, where he would run to, is 2,500 miles away.

So, imagine: If Jonah lived, for instance, in Makati, and God told him to go to Bulacan— you know what Jonah did? He bought a ticket to Jolo. That's how crazy it was. He wanted to go away.

Not only did Jonah go in the opposite direction... You know what he did? He went to the farthest destination possible. He wanted to run away from God.

Why is that? I think for us to be able to understand why Jonah did what he did, we need to first determine what is Nineveh in the first place.

Quick history lesson:

Nineveh happened to be the biggest city during that time. It was the capital of Assyria. And Assyria was the *baddest* superpower during Ancient Israel. The Assyrians were really cruel. Whenever they would invade a city, you know what they would do? They would skin their enemies alive. They would impale each body. You know what impale means? You barbecue the body. You insert a stick up the body, and then they would hang the decapitated, decaying body on the wall. Why? So that they could discourage other invaders from attacking them, from fighting against them.



Why Does Jonah Run Away?

And so, no wonder... I mean, imagine God saying, "I want you to go to your worst and cruelest, and baddest enemy. And then I want you to convince them to repent."

So, you're like, "Ah, Lord? Is there another job opening somewhere?"

I mean, that's the worst job offer ever. So, no wonder Jonah ran away.

But *why* did Jonah really run away? Was it because he felt that it was inconvenient?

You know, he's like, "I'm comfortable here already, Lord. Just send me to a place that I know already."

Sometimes, I feel like that's how we are when it comes to the Lord:

"Lord, send me on a mission. I'm ready. I'm hungry to serve. I'm ready to go out. Send me out Lord. But if it's okay, Lord, could it be just like, 10 minutes from my home? So that every time I need to take a shower, the bathroom is just nearby. And if it is possible, Lord, can it be that I don't talk to a lot of people? Because I don't like a lot of people. You know, I like people who are in my home."

Sometimes, we're like that.

A calling is neither convenient, nor comfortable. So, if you want to live in a life of calling, you got to step out.

But is that the reason Jonah ran away— because it was inconvenient? Not really. Could it be possible that Jonah ran away because he was afraid? I mean, we've heard a lot of sermons about Jonah. And usually, whenever they talk about Jonah: "Ah, Jonah ran away because he was afraid."

But you're going to find out when we go fast forward into this— that it wasn't actually fear that made Jonah running away. And let me just say this, before I read that verse to you, that sometimes, the reason people run away is not that they are scared.

There are many reasons people run away. But let me just preach the truth to you: That when you run away from God's calling in your life, when you get into a race between you and God, guess what? Who gets tired first? Not God. *You* get tired. God will continue to chase after you. Even if you run away from the Lord— because He is God— not just of second chances, but a God of many chances.

That's what He did for Jonah.



A Second Chance for Jonah

In the next few weeks, here's what we're going to do: We're going to find out the story: that Jonah runs away, and then he boards a boat, heads to Tarshish, because he wants to run away from the Lord. And then when he gets into the boat, for some reason, they encounter a storm. And so, when the people who are in that same boat with him find out that it is because of Jonah who is running away from God's calling— you know what they do? They throw him overboard — with Jonah's permission, by the way.

And then we're going to find out in the story how Jonah is swallowed by this giant fish— most probably the Leviathan whale that we read in the book of *Genesis*? And then we'll find out that God gives Jonah a second chance to go back to Nineveh. And Jonah obeys.

Because we have a God of many chances. And I'm believing that. Then, we find out that Jonah preaches this five-word sermon— I don't even know how he does that— and to everybody's surprise, everybody listens to Jonah — the king, the servants, the people, the animals, including the cows. You're going to find that out in the next few weeks.

But right now, let me read to you what happens next.

This is going all the way to Verse 10:



JONAH 3:10 NLT

When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

JONAH 4:1-2 NLT

This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. ² So he complained to the Lord about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish!"

JONAH 4:1-2 NLT

I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.

JONAH 4:3-4 NLT

³ Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." ⁴ The Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?"

What Is Jonah Doing Here?

Jonah is actually quoting a very famous passage from the book of *Exodus*. Let me read it to you:



EXODUS 34:6-7 NLT

"Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness. ⁷ I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin.

But I do not excuse the guilty. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children and grandchildren; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations."

So now, we're getting a full view of why Jonah runs away. It isn't because he is afraid. It is because he is angry. Why is Jonah angry?

I want you to imagine this: Let's say that you are a Jew, and you're living in Germany. And then all of a sudden the Nazis start to collect you and your relatives one by one, and they bring you all to a concentration camp. And they torture you. You say goodbye to your parents, to your spouse, to your children—and then you never see them again.

Imagine that you are one of the survivors of the Holocaust. A year later after that whole incident of torture and suffering that you witnessed—everyone in your nation was obliterated—all of a sudden, you are now at peace.

And then God says to you, "I want you to go back to Germany and I want you to tell the Nazis to repent."

Question...

Would you do it?

Honestly, remember these are the people who obliterated your family. The reason you are now alone in life. You know, the first reaction I would give, I mean, just to be honest with you:

“Of course not!”

I would be angry. I would be devastated. I mean, why in the world am I going to forgive these people?



Yes, we're called to forgive people but the very first reaction, I'm telling you, that might be my first reaction— that I might not say “Yes” to that— and God bless you, if you say “Yes” to that.

But human emotions would get the best of us. You know, that's how I was thinking about this. Imagine Jonah: his whole race, his whole nation had been obliterated by the Assyrians and then God says to him, “I want you now to preach to them to repent.”

Aren't we like Jonah sometimes? I mean, let's be honest right now. When you've got an enemy, somebody who hurt you, somebody who hurt your family. Somebody who might have molested you when you were young. Somebody who might have stolen something from you— your hard-earned money. Somebody who might have maltreated you, and abused you verbally, physically.

The last thing we would want is for God to forgive them. Am I correct? So, when God asks us, “Talk to them, bring them to My church,” we're like, “No, Lord. They don't deserve Your mercy. What they deserve is Your fury.”

This is real talk right now. And I'm just being honest with you the reason Jonah felt like that: he was upset— because he knew the moment the Assyrians and the Ninevites repented, he knew that God is merciful and that God would be quick to forgive them. And so, he didn't want that. The last thing he wanted was for God to forgive them.

This is the message of the story of Jonah: the message that there is a God who is merciful. That we've got a God who doesn't just give us a second chance— but many chances. We worship a God who will lavish you with His mercy. And so that's the invitation for us today, my friends. We are invited to experience this lavish indescribable, incredible mercy of God.

How Jesus Read *Jonah*

This is the story of Jonah— a man who was not a coward but a man who was angry.

And I wonder how many of you are experiencing the same thing right now — that you're angry over some things that have happened in your life. And you're angry because of someone who said they would love you. But they didn't. Somebody who said they would respect you, but did not. I wonder if you can resonate and relate with Jonah right now.

God calls you to receive His mercy— and then dispense mercy to others.

Jonah is an Old Testament character. But it's not the last time that we hear about Jonah. Because there's a time in the New Testament when we hear about Jonah —in the book of Matthew.

Matthew tells us the story when Jesus is telling the Pharisees when they asked for a proof or a miracle, or a sign that He is the Messiah. You know what Jesus says?

Jesus says:



MATTHEW 12:39-40 NLT

"Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.

MATTHEW 12:39-40 NLT

⁴⁰ For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.

MATTHEW 12:41 NLT

⁴¹ "The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah.

MATTHEW 12:41 NLT

Now someone greater than Jonah is here— but you refuse to repent."

What Is Jesus Trying To Say Here?

Jesus is saying He's the anti-Jonah.

Think about it: Jonah disobeyed God—ran away from God. But Jesus, He obeyed the Lord—completely and absolutely.

Jonah was swallowed up by a big fish. And he was there in the belly of the fish for three days.

Just like Jonah, Jesus was also swallowed up—into the belly of the earth. And He stayed there for three days. But He did not stay buried.

He rose from the grave after three days—to save you and me.

When Jesus came, He wasn't like Jonah who was selfish. You know, Jonah wanted to run away from the Lord because he wanted God to forgive only the people whom he loved—the people he felt deserved the mercy of God.

But when Jesus came, He made an announcement: "My grace is not reserved for the few. But it's available, especially to those who need it the most—people who have been broken by this world, people who have been maltreated by this world. They are who deserve My mercy."

So, the question that remains right now for you to ask yourself: Are you Jonah—or are you Jesus?

Are you just like Jonah? You've got your enemies. You've got the people that you don't like. You don't want God to forgive them. You don't pray for them. Because you want them to suffer just like you suffered.

Or are you like Jesus who would say, "*Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.*"



Election Season: Win or Lose

I want you to know this truth, my friend. And I need to preach this loud and clear to you because in a few days you are going to elect an official.

This has been the ugliest election season. Don't you agree? We haven't had an election season this ugly. I mean, people fighting with one another, people disconnecting from families, people cancelling each other. This is the ugliest season that we've ever had.

But I need to tell you this now: That once this election is done, whether your candidates win or lose, whoever gets seated on that place, I want you to know this— I do hope you take home this message: That mercy needs *to begin*. Because mercy is not just about forgiving people. Mercy is also about not quitting on people.

Mercy is also about praying for people. Mercy is also about being with people you don't like. That's the message of the book of *Jonah*. That we would come as God's people to look at others that we don't like very much and say,

“God, I may not like them right now, but I'm praying for them. I'm praying that You convict them, Lord. I'm praying that they would realize the truth of the matter. And I pray that they receive Your mercy as well because I know that You love them.”

This is Jonah, my dear friends. Jonah who ran away— but we all know now we don't have to be like Jonah. We need to be like Jesus who says, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And though sometimes they exactly know what they do, Father, forgive them.”

Let's be like Jesus who would give that mercy because hey, guess what: you and I are also sinners. Sometimes, we condemn other people, not knowing that we got our sins as well. So, let's be the first today to receive the mercy of Jesus, to receive the palpable mercy of God. And as God fills us up with His mercy, let's be the representation of mercy, the messenger of mercy out there because God knows people need it. People desperately need it.



Receive His Mercy

The election is just one day.
But the relationship— *that* goes on a lifetime. Let's stop cancelling people. Let's stop quitting on people. Let's stop hurting people because at the end of the day, we're all the same. We're all in the same boat— just like Jonah.

And so, may I invite you to just simply open your arms— if you need the love of God right now. Don't be shy, don't be embarrassed. Everybody here needs the grace of God.

Father, we stand before Your Presence right now— desperate, longing, and seeking Your mercy.

We are all sinners and we're broken. We're all incomplete. We have fallen short of your grace and right now, Lord, we just receive this. Thank You for Your forgiveness. Thank You for forgiving us when we know not what we do —but also when we do know what we do.. We come to Your throne right now, Jesus, with confidence, knowing that You will not turn us away.

Receive the love of God right now, my friends.
Receive His mercy
and receive His forgiveness.
And then worship Him. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





Mercy Ministries

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

–Philippians 4:19

PAG-ASA NG PAMILYA Part 6

God Has Heard

PAG-ASA NG PAMILYA Scholarship Foundation is clear and present manifestation of God's Love for our youth. It is an answer to prayers of parents for help in providing education for their children.

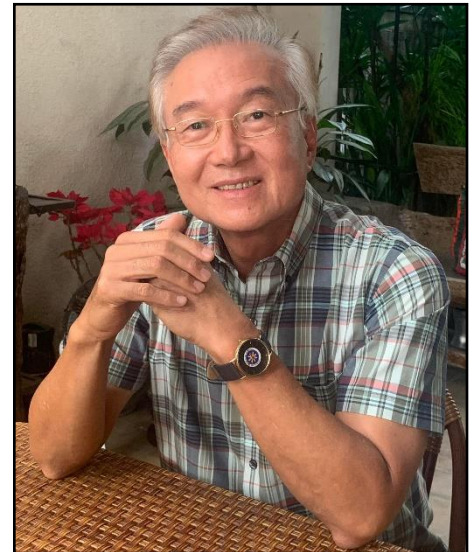
Yes, *God has heard* the parents' prayers, sending the right man to be the president of Pag-asa, named *Samuel*.

The name *Samuel* is from the Old Testament of the Bible, and derives from a Hebrew phrase meaning yes, *God has heard*.

Meet Samuel Uy, president of Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation.

The Lord has well prepared Bro. Sammy for this Ministry.

He's been blessed with academic background in administration, as he earned a degree as Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the Philippine School of Business Administration and a Master's degree in Guidance Counselling from La Salle University. Plus an award as Outstanding Alumnus in the field of Agriculture.





Family Affair

Bro. Sammy has put to good use his education as he is now president of Ford Tractor Phils. Inc. and S&M Property Investments Inc.

Ford Tractor is actually a family affair.

Above, middle photo, from left: Bro. Sammy; son Mark, vice president for External Affairs; mom Marina, treasurer; and Michael, vice president for internal affairs. The only girl in the family, Michelle, is in Creatives, based in Winnipeg Canada.

Bro. Sammy's Mercy Ministry is also a family commitment. Devoted Catholics, Bro. Sammy and Sis. Marin started with serving married couples.

For 17 years, Bro. Sammy and Sis. Marin were active members of the Marriage Encounter (ME) which holds seminars focusing on proven tools designed to strengthen relationship of married couples. They also gave talks for parents of elementary students in some schools.

After serving as ME couple, they served in their parish church particularly implementing a Marriage Preparation program for engaged couples.

Eventually, a priest friend asked Bro. Sammy to serve as Parish Pastoral Council president and he served in that capacity for eight years.

Serving the youth also started as a family affair. Bro. Sammy's family has its own foundation—the Gregorio P. Uy Lee Peng (GPULP) Scholarship Foundation, where he and his brother Johnny take charge.

“We organized the Foundation as a remembrance of our parents,” he adds.



Here, Bro. Sammy with brother Johnny Uy, GERALDA HOGGANG, guidance counsellor, and GPULP scholars. Below, giving red envelopes as reward to scholars for perfect attendance.



The Foundation now supports 50 college scholars, and it is planning to add another 50 this August, to make 100 the number of the GPULP scholars.

Bro. Sammy also served as executive vice president of the Chinese Filipino Business Club, and assigned to head its Education Committee taking care of 100 college students.

The two scholarship programs thus well prepared Bro. Sammy for his Mercy Ministry for our youth.

Finding the Light

A favorite Bible verse of Bro. Sammy is Psalm 27:1: *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

And true enough, the Lord has *heard* Bro. Sammy uttering this truth, thus providing him *light*—literally, through the Light of Jesus Family (LOJ).

From friends in the Marriage Encounter couples community, Bro. Sammy heard about Bro. Bo Sanchez (*right*) leading the LOJ prayer meeting at the Camp Aguinaldo in Cubao, Quezon City.

Encouraged to attend a session, Bro. Sammy brought Sis. Marin and three children to the prayer meeting.

“Just a few times, to listen to Bro. Bo’s valuable talks on relevant topics,” he says.

Yes, he did not only *hear*, he *listened*. So, the *few* times have turned into *countless* times with LOJ—and more.



The Light of Jesus led Bro. Sammy and Sis. Marin to the Kerygma Conference, our inspirational learning event, and its inspiring servants— *from left*: Vita Monforte, Becky Sanchez, Sammy and Marin, Pearlie Flores, Rowena Cequeña, Dang and Gil Ramos.



The Feast

By God’s amazing grace, the LOJ prayer meeting at Camp Aguinaldo eventually expanded to The Feast. And Bro. Sammy and Sis. Marin now attend The Feast TV 13 every Sunday at 8 a.m.

Aside from The Feast, Bro. Sammy continues his growth in faith through his regular meeting with Caring Group ni Berting (*above*), his Laugh Group (*left*), listening to Bro. Bo’s *Full Tank* podcast and inputs from other Feast Builders.

At The Feast, Bro. Sammy has well learned God’s Words and their practical applications in daily Christian Living.

His favorite is Romans 8:28: *“And we know that all things works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

And indeed, everything has worked for good for Bro. Sammy, giving him more blessings to serve the Lord.



The Mercy Ministry

The Light of Jesus then led to our Mercy Ministry.

“I eventually came to know about Bro. Bo’s Mercy Ministry — all about the various ministries,” Bro. Sammy relates.

For a year, he served at the Grace To Be Born, our Ministry for pregnant women in crisis, counselling the beneficiaries monthly.



He also helps with the H.A.I.L. MARY, acronym for Healthcare Assistance for Indigents and Lepers of Mary, through Dra. Ella Ortega, by supplying the beneficiaries with Generic medicines.

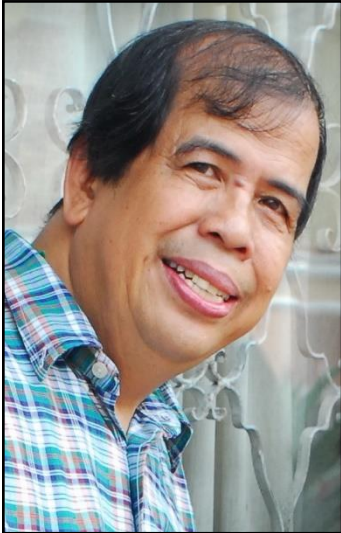
So, he and Sis. Marin then came to meet Bro. Hermie Morelos, chairman of our LOJ Mercy Ministries.

At right, the couple with Bro. Hermie, Bro. Randy Borromeo, Pag-asa director, and Sis. Ruby Albino, head, Marketing and Fund Raising, all serving with Shepherd’s Voice Radio and Television (SVRTV) Foundation.



Pag-asa Journey

And so, it was just a few more steps for Bro. Sammy to be acquainted with Bro. Rey Ortega (*left*), brainchild of our Mercy Ministries.



He recalls, “One time, Bro. Rey even invited Marin and me to talk about our experience as college scholars in one of the Pag-asa anniversary events.

And since then, I have had a positive impression of this Scholarship Foundation.”

Bro. Sammy joined LOJ in 2011 and in the same year, Bro. Rey invited him to serve in the Mercy Ministry.

Then, mid 2021, Bro. Hermie asked Bro. Sammy if he would like to be president of the Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation.

“I was so excited and gladly accepted the offer,” he gushes. “Why, I love to be part of the journey of the poor but deserving students.”

It was perfect timing— indeed, God’s Divine Plan— for Bro. Sammy to lead Pag-asa.

In the next couple of years after his appointment as Pag-asa president, the government enacted a law— Republic act 10533— enhancing the curriculum through the for Kindergarten-Grade 12 (K-12) program. The Department of Education started Grade 11 in the school year 2016-2017, and Grade 12 in the school year 2017-2018.

K-12 is a good program, but parents couldn’t help crying out over the additional expenses for more years of schooling for their children.

And God *heard* their woes— through the listening ears of Bro. Sammy.

“I heard many parents saying that their students may have to stop schooling,” Bro. Sammy laments.

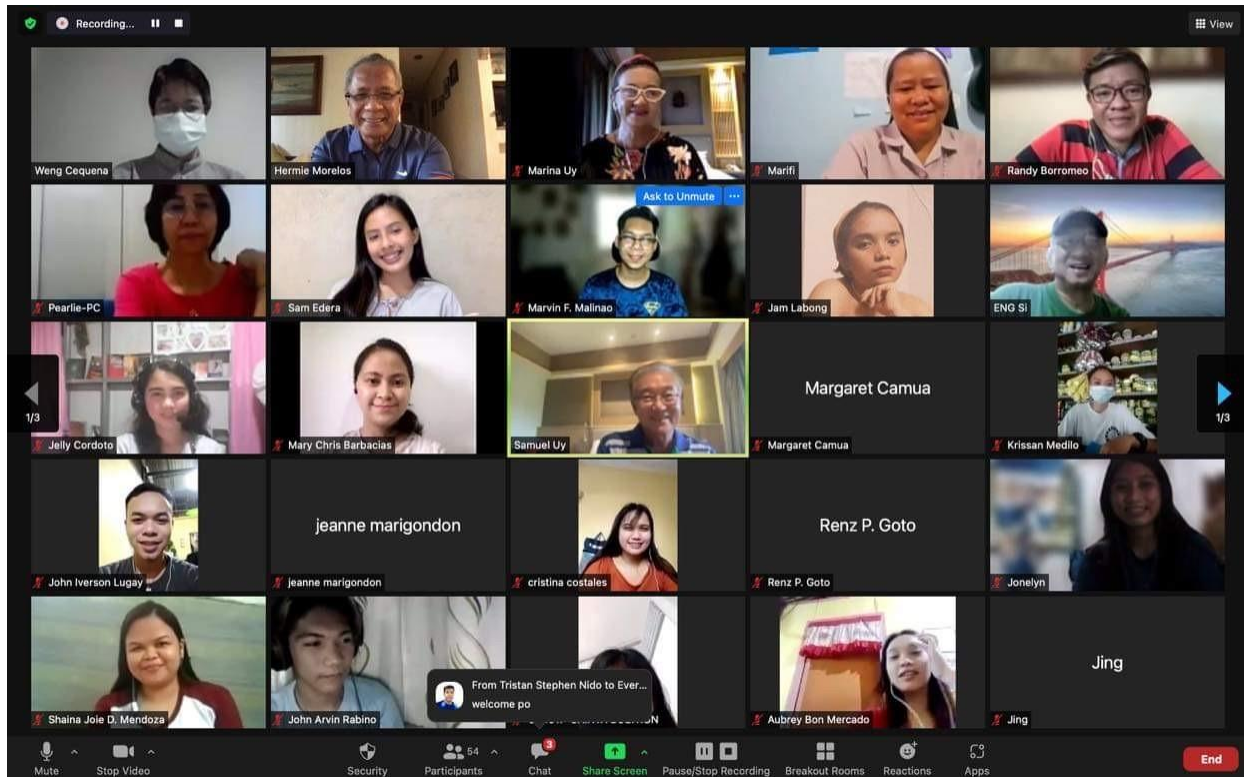
Touched by the parents’ concerns, Bro. Sammy provided scholarships for 24 students so they could afford Grades 11 and 12. Then, he connected with the Chinese Filipino Business group to provide college scholarships for the students.

“We did this for two batches of students and we are thinking again of starting with a third batch of Grades 11 and 12 students,” Bro. Sammy adds.

Pag-asa Projects

Yes, *God has heard* the parents and their students, and yes, He has given Pag-asa ng Pamilya a good man who listens to the people's woes.

As soon as he started as president, along with members of the Pag-asa Board of Directors, Bro. Sammy has been implementing a number of projects.



Here, the Pag-asa Board members during a Zoom meeting with the scholars.

Board Meetings. Pag-asa now has a devoted, hardworking Board members: Bro. Hermie Morelos, chairman; Bro. Samuel L. Uy, president; Sis. Rowena B. Cequeña, treasurer; Bro. Randy Borromeo, Bro. Eng Martin Si, Sis. Pearlie Flores, and Sis, Marina S. Uy, directors.

Bro. Sammy has set Board meetings every third Saturday of the month.

“All members of our Board of Directors are committed to serve.

We have assigned a director or some directors to take charge of certain projects who discuss progress reports on the projects during the Board meetings,”

Bro. Sammy says.

Allowance Increase for the Scholars. As soon as he assumed office, Bro. Sammy reviewed the financial grant for the beneficiaries. He then recommended, and the Board agreed, to give each scholar P4,000-allowance increase. Bro. Sammy announced the increase during a Zoom meeting in August 2021.

To date, allowances are P8,000 for Elementary grade scholars; P12,000 for high school scholars; and P20,000 for college scholars.



During the Zoom Meeting, members of the Youth Ministry *here* present an entertainment number. Four of them are active in The Feast Light, a mini version of our Light of Jesus faith gathering.

Assistance During the COVID Pandemic. To ease the burden of parents suffering financial problems following the onslaught of the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic, Pag-asa has granted scholarships to more youth in need. There are now 104 more Pag-asa scholars.

Says, Bro. Sammy, “God will provide. We trust that many good-hearted people out there will help support our scholars.”

Fund Raising. Pag-asa is intensifying fund raising programs for the Foundation.

Bro. Sammy says, “We are happy that some Feast districts are donating funds to Pag-asa and some other Mercy Ministries.

“We need, however, to do more as our annual financial need to be able to continue to assist our scholars is more than a million pesos.”

He says that he will recommend to the Board organizing a concert to raise extra funds for the Ministry.

“When we have extra funds, we can accept more deserving poor students as our scholars,” he adds.

Formation Meetings for the Scholars



Pag-asa holds quarterly meetings with the high school and college scholars, which include character formation.

He may be a cheerful giver in our Mercy Ministry, but for Bro. Sammy, serving gives him back immense joy.

He shares, “I love guiding young scholars through life. I am thrilled to see our scholars graduate and become successful in their chosen career. That is like my deal with the Lord to help

uplift the poor, especially students. Every now and then, when I hear some success stories of our beneficiaries, I feel so good and so encouraged—like being supplied super doses of vitamins and being given the thumbs up sign by our dear Lord.”

He adds, “For me, aside from the financial assistance, what is more important is the values formation for the youth. We emphasize to our scholars that we would like them to be physically, emotionally, socially, intellectually, and spiritually balanced. Good grades will land them on a good job. But it is their good character that will keep them there.”

Yes, God has heard pleas for assistance for our youth.
And He shows He continues to listen through Pag-asa ng Pamilya.



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