



NEWSLETTER
August 21, 2022



WHEN I was a kid, I never liked reading. I would rather watch cartoons than read. That's why my grades were bad until my college days.

I probably had mild dyslexia. I recall taking a spelling quiz of 20 words. Would you believe? I spelled only two words correctly. I kept inverting the letters. But 50 years ago, there was no such thing as dyslexia. So, I was just *bobo—dumb*.

I lost all confidence in school. What made it worse was I very bad in sports. Plus, I was an incurable introvert. On top of this, I was molested as a child—and the memory haunted me. So, yes, a huge part of my childhood was miserable. It felt like I was cursed.

But now, at 56, I look back and see how *God turned curse into blessing*. That's what He did in my life. And that's what He will do to you too. Have a powerful Feast today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



LETTERS

Choose This Day...

THIS issue brings to mind the popular Bible verse, Joshua 24:15: ... *choose this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord* (ESV)

Fr. Paolo Asprer, presider of the Holy Mass in our Feast last Sunday, August 14, 2020, pointed out that every day we make choices and decisions. His question: in decision-making, which do you use—your mind or your heart? Read on, *page 3*.

As you can see on *Page 1*, our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, points to choices in our Feast talk series: *Blessing or Curse*. No worry, though. Because yes, *God Turns Curse into Blessing*.

How? You'll know if you choose to listen to today's Feast Talk.

Actually, if you chose to attend The Feast last Sunday, August 14, you would have learned how to make the right decisions in life—as Birthday Boy Bro. Audee Villaraza singlehandedly tackled The Feast talk, *The Lord Is with You*. Here's a *Flashback*, *page 14*.

And if you're looking for inspiration, we give you the story of Sis. Judith Enriquez who chose to serve the poor through our He Cares Mission, *page 30*.

This issue's challenge is to fill in the blank: ...*choose this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house* _____.



Glory,
Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

AUGUST 14, 2022

Holy Mass



FR. PAOLO ASPRER

on the Gospel: Luke 12:49-53#

Not Peace but Division

Edited Excerpts...

A blessed Sunday to everyone! I hope and pray that you are in the best of health, the best dispositions to receive the good news of hope and healing through our Feast this morning.

Every day we make choices and decisions. From simple choices to tough decisions like this morning's breakfast: tea or coffee? scrambled egg, or sunny side up egg, or boiled egg? In going to The Feast, shall I wear plain or prints?

Simple choices to tough decisions—related to family, to career, to relationship crossroads—life-ending decisions.

Kapag nagdedesisyon tayo, anong ginagamit natin? When we have to make a decision, what do we use: gut feeling, head, heart, or all three? Sometimes, it is our emotion, isn't it? That makes us difficult to make and accept hard decisions.

In a relationship for example, should you walk away, choose to stay, or try and try harder? Should we choose what we ought to be, or what we want to be? Should we cross the bridge or burn the bridge?

I think the ultimate decision there is either we give up, give in, or give all we've got. We cannot be forever discerning.

Guide in Decision-making

I have this friend who told me, “You know what, Father, I don’t believe in taking the right decisions. I take the decision and I make it right.”

Sometimes, that’s the tendency, isn’t it? We make hasty decisions. There are other times also we are indecisive, and there are times too we are committed to taking that decision and we are flexible in the approach, in our approach.

The reality is that we are free to make whatever choices or decisions in our life but we are not free from the consequences of such choices and decisions.

You know, several years ago, I was invited by this family to Makati Med. Our seminary was just 5-10 minutes from the hospital. A member of the family was brain dead and so, the family told me, “We have exhausted all healing means. May we pull the plug on the life support of our family member?”

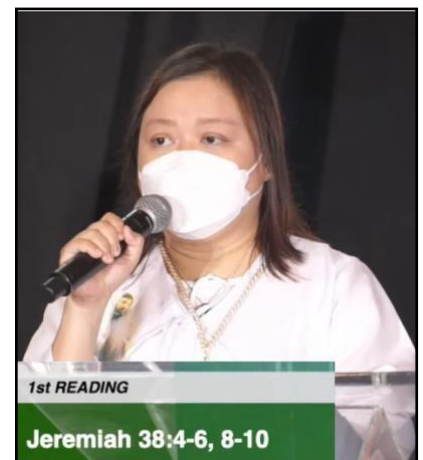
Of course, pulling the plug would mean the patient would not be able to breathe and the heart would stop beating-- within minutes.

And, of course, we priest—it is not our task to make the decision for the family. We’re just there to simply guide the family to discernment.

My dear friends, discipleship, following the Lord, entails decision-making. Choosing to live by the truth of God and witnessing to that truth may lead to death—like what happened to our Lord Jesus. Like the prophets in the First Reading. And it may even cause division among family members.

Reading I: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

⁴ In those days, the princes said to the king: “Jeremiah ought to be put to death; he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin.”⁵ King Zedekiah answered: “He is in your power”; for the king could do nothing with them.⁶ And so they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Prince Malchiah, which was in the quarters of the guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud...⁸



Pray for Openness

Yet the assurance of our Second Reading, for those of us who remain faithful to the Lord: There is light. There is hope. There is vindication. There is salvation.

How can we make a Christian and godly decision? St. Ignatius of Loyola of the Jesuits defined discernment as the art of choosing well. How do we know what God wants us to do in our life?

We discern not between good and bad options. We discern which is better among the two options. So, what are the pointers we can consider?

Number 1, we pray for openness to God's will. Will my choice, will my decision lead me closer to God or far away from God? Far away from my deeper self? Will I be more loving? Will I be more committed?

You know, my dear Feasters, our God is not a kill joy God. God is there not to stifle our deepest desire, our dreams, our ambitions. God is there to direct or to redirect our ambitions, our desires to their proper object—which is love, which is charity.

St. Ignatius said: “Our heart, it's like a battle ground between the good and the evil forces and there is no such thing as a middle option. Eventually, we have to make that choice.

Reading II: Hebrews 12:1-4

Brothers and sisters:¹ Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us² while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.³ Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart.⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.





Trust the Process

You know, every time we make a decision, *nandiyan lagi ang angel*—the angel of light and the angel of darkness. What is the role of the angel of darkness? The angel of darkness would give us the false sense of peace. *Bubulungan ka ni Taning, sasabihin niya, “Basta nag-eejoy ka, hayaan mo na ang bang tao na sila ay masaktan. Hayaan mo na ang ibang taong matapakan mo, basta nag-eejoy ka. Go ka lang sa iyong desisyon!”* Satan will whisper to you: "As long as you

are enjoying in what you're doing, it does not matter if the people get hurt, it doesn't matter if you step on their toes. Go ahead with your decision."

False sense of peace.

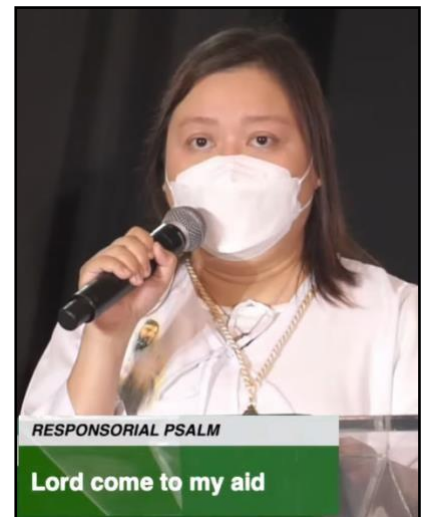
While the angel of light would disturb us, would disturb our comfort zone. *Sasabihin ng angel of light, “Naku! ‘Wag kang padalos dalos sa iyong desisyon.* The angel of light would tell you, you have to weigh all the options. Making a decision may take some seconds, minutes, but living out the consequences of such a decision, may take a lifetime. *‘Wag kang padalos dalos.’”*

Second, trust the process. Trust the process. There is wisdom in waiting. *Meron ngang kasabihan, hindi ba? Be quick but don't be in a hurry. Ikaw ba yung tao na laging nagmamadali sa iyong desisyon?*

You know, love and hurry cannot co-exist. Love is patient. Love has its own speed and rhythms. Different from the technological speed that we have right now. When we are always in a hurry, our eyes would not open to the greater, to the deeper, to the bigger things coming from God.

Trust the process. St. Ignatius of Loyola said, “Make that imaginative exercise.”

Number 1, for example, if a friend comes to you for advice, what would you tell him or her? Number 2, if you are on your death bed, what would you choose? Number 3, if God will ask you for advice, what would you tell God? So, trust the process of discernment.



‘The Heart Has Its Reasons’

And finally, we use not only our head, but also use our heart.

There is a philosopher who said, “The heart has its reasons that reason itself does not know.” *Kung minsan hindi natin lubusang maiintindihan ang ating sarili*, our feelings. Sometimes, we cannot fully understand ourselves, our feelings. Yet while feelings can be changing, can be treacherous, we discern our feelings and not our thoughts. Our feelings, although they are treacherous, they are crucial material for our discernment of God’s consolation for us.



The brain and the heart need not be enemies. See the head as the gateway to the heart. But sometimes, that journey from the head to the heart is a challenging journey. It’s a long and arduous journey, and so we use both the head and the heart.

We decide when there is no doubt-- when emotions are calm, and we put top priority to inner peace.

My dear friends, in our life we will not always make the right, the fair, the best decisions, *maaaring meron tayong nasaktan, meron tayong masasaktan, merong magtatampo, merong magagalit satin--* it is possible that there's someone we can, hurt, or will hurt, one who will get angry at us. We cannot please everyone. Please all and you please none.

My dear Feasters, in any moment of decision, the best thing to do is to choose and to do the right and the godly thing, and perhaps the worst thing is to do nothing—to do nothing at all.

My dear Feasters, God who sees our heart, the depths of our heart, the struggles to become a better person, a better servant—he loves us, he empowers us, he enlightens us, he heals us, and he fulfills our human hearts, the totality of our being.

And so, in this Eucharistic celebration, we pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to enlighten and strengthen us—na ang ating mga desisyon ay hindi lamang maka-Diyos, na ang ating mga desisyon sa buhay; hari nawa makatao. Amen.

Worship!

EXHORTATION

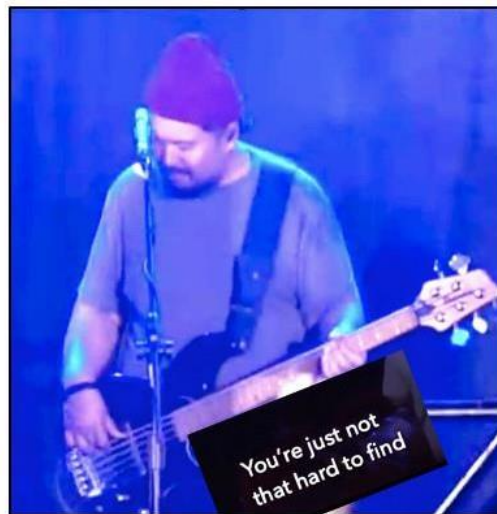


TISHA CARO: It's been quite gloomy these past few days. You know, something about gloomy days is that no matter how much clouds cover the sky, they can never really threaten the existence of the sun. And what's true of the sun is what's true of its Maker. That no matter what fear or anxiety or even our own failure could cloud our sight of God they can never threaten the truth that God is always Present in our life. And all we need to do is to *see*. And what's beautiful is that God says in Jeremiah that when you seek Me you will find Me, if you seek me with all your heart, So, that's my invitation to you today. Let's seek God with all our heart. You can open your hands like this and mean ever word that we're going to sing.

Let's seek Him and trust that we will find Him because our God is a God who's never too far from those He loves. Do you believe that? He loves you.

If you believe that – or even if you're still on the way to believing that, let's sing this together.





What Church Looks Like

AUDEE VILLARAZA: That was amazing. How many of you feel right now, honestly, that you can say you had a tiring week... You're not alone. Some of us here are tired from chasing after our dreams, chasing after our desires and really just living, trying to live life in the way that God wants to live it.

But let me give you a glimpse of what Church looks like.

I want you to look at this picture:

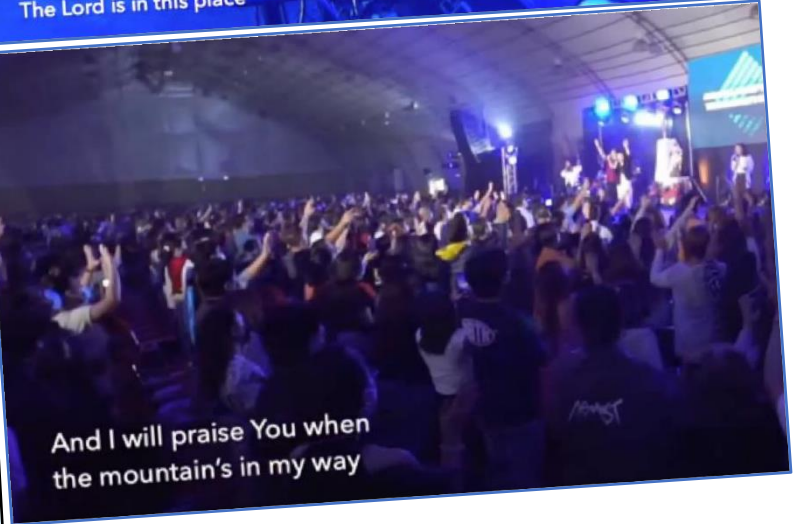
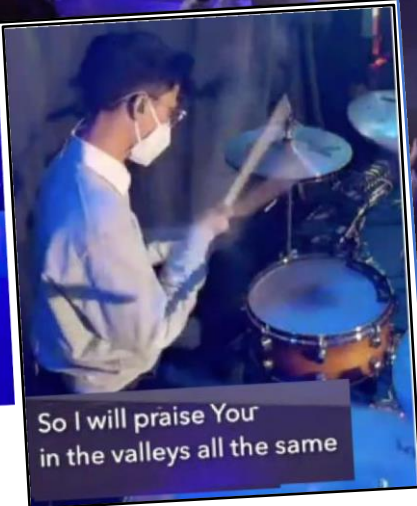


It's an old photo that I took, pre-Pandemic, when we used to have those open fun-run races. I took the photo by chance because this image spoke to me. It reminded me of what Church looks like. Some of you might not think much about it, but do you see that guy in the middle—wearing black? It's a bit vague, blurry. You know what he's doing? He's holding a piece of hose--open water. So, when the runners come, they get doused with water.

You know, Church is like this: All week-long you're running around meeting your needs, chasing after dreams, and obligations, and responsibilities—and you get tired. You get exhausted. But when you come to Church, when you come to Jesus, there is that One guy who waits for you—so that He can give you that encouragement that you need, that sustenance that you need so that you would just pass through, and that you would be blessed, and that you would be healed, and that you would know that there is a God who loves you. Are you glad to be in the presence of Jesus?

You might be in the valley right now—and you've got burdens, you've got problems. But know that God is not just a God of the valleys—but He's also the God of the mountains. He's the Lord of all. And He's here! Jesus is here! He's here to heal you. Open your hands—receive the blessing of the Lord, receive the healing of God. Receive the restoration of our Savior.

Let's just sing it one more time:
From the valleys, from the mountains...



Welcome!

Everybody shout, “Thank You, Jesus!” It’s really all about our God. It’s not about the people you see onstage. It’s not about the teams that you see serving you. It’s not about me. Not even about Bro. Bo.

But it’s all about Jesus. He’s our healer. He’s our provider. He’s our encourager. And today we just join our hearts to thank Him for the ways He has blessed us this week. How many of you were blessed this week? In spite of everything that you went through, you felt the Lord blessing you.

You know, this is my first time serving after two weeks. I went on a sabbatical for two weeks because my family and I got hit by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID). But you know, we don’t focus on the sickness. We focus on the healing that took place. And we’re grateful that God heals. God restores.

So, I don’t know if somebody’s here and you’re sick, you’re dealing with some stuff. I want you to be encouraged today— to know that God knows what you’re going through and God has a solution to your deepest problems...

We’re so glad to be alive today.

Anyway, may we see the first-timers?

Everybody, pat them on the back, welcome them to The Feast Community. Everybody say, “Welcome Home!”

We’ve got VIPs in the house today. There is a group who came all the way from Laguna: Feast Light Laguna. They’re celebrating their Eighth Year Anniversary under the leadership of Bro. Robert and we’re so blessed we’ve got so many people who are our arms and feet not just here in Manila but they are extending the reach of the Lord to different places, different barangays. So, thank you so much.

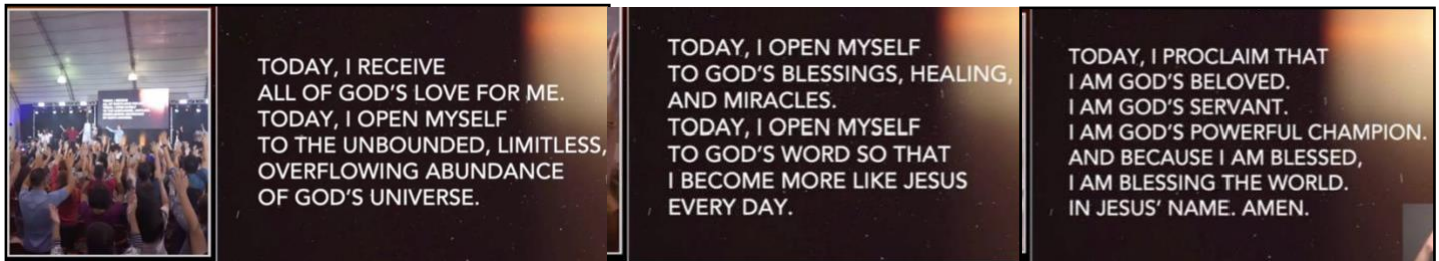


Declaration of God's Abundance

We're going to have fun today. Because today, specifically this day, is actually my birthday. But I'm not alone We've got other August birthday celebrators. Details on page

You're probably expecting another preacher to join me. And I'm sure some of our first-timers would love to see Bro. Bo. But it's my birthday today and so, Bro. Bo asked me to preach the whole message— if that's okay.

May I invite you now— we do this every Sunday as a family—where we declare God's abundance over our life. Can we all signify the greatest symbol of love as we come, in the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Say this with me:



Everybody, lift your hands, and we all sing:
*Thy Word is a lamp
unto my feet;
And a light unto
my path.*



We're on Talk 8 of our series *Blessing and Curse*. I know that just in case you need to leave right after I'd given the big message, you're already going to be blessed because the message today is this: *The Lord is with you.*

Before I open the Word, I invite you to close your eyes, and know that Jesus is here:

Father, this is Your Word. It's immovable, it's immutable, unshakeable. It will not change. And there's a promise here today that You are going to speak in the life of Your child. Whatever that message is, may it pierce through their heart - through bone and marrow, through flesh and bone and let it speak to them in a powerful way but more so in a personal way. There are some people who are hurting right now, God— physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, relationally— I ask that You would speak to them. Use the Holy Spirit to convert this message. Make it travel across distances and let it speak to them in the season of their life. Thank You. Even now, Lord, we just glorify You in advance knowing that You will minister to us. Thank You. And we join our hearts to praise You, to love You, and to be used by You. All these we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen

Talk



Talk 8:



SAY, “*The Lord is with you.*”

We’re almost to the finish line of the book of *Genesis*.

Today, we are going to talk about an Old Testament character and one of you might probably know this guy already. He’s pretty famous. His name—a very common name—is Joseph.

In the Bible, you’ve got St. Joseph in the New Testament. But in the Old Testament, there is this one guy called the Dreamer.

You know, you guys are also dreamers – when you’re in the office, Day Dreamers.

So, Joseph is a very famous guy.

Quick, quick trivia about Joseph: Joseph was the youngest son of Jacob. Remember, we’re studying the family of Jacob? Jacob had 12 sons. Can you imagine that? In our family, we’re only two, and it already takes big effort to relate to one another. Imagine 12 children!

History Repeats Itself

So, Joseph was the youngest child of Jacob. And they were 12 siblings altogether.

You know how it is in families. Filipinos would probably know this—when the youngest is often the favorite.

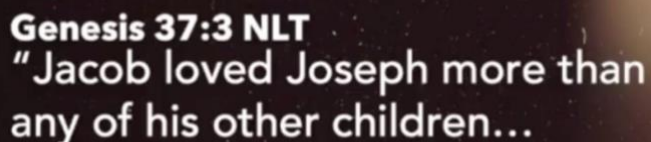
We're a family of three. I'm the youngest. I think the reason the youngest is the favorite is when you're a parent, normally, with your first child, you want to perfect parenting, you're so controlling, you want to make sure you get this right. But when the second kid comes, you're a little more relaxed, laid back, you know, it's okay. But normally, when you get to your third kid, onwards, that's when you let go: "Basta humihinga, okay na.—As long as the kid is breathing, and there's no blood, it's fine."

That's why, sometimes, it's the bunso, the youngest, who feels like, "Bakit hindi kasing-strict si Daddy at si Mommy sa akin? Why are Daddy and Mommy not so strict with me?"

Kasi sawa na sila-- sawa na silang magalit-- they are already tired of getting angry. 'Yun ang narasan ko, e-- That was my experience.

My parents were so tired of disciplining the first two children, so when it came to me, "Ahh, that's it."

Joseph's case was like this. In Genesis 37:33, this is how the author describes Joseph:



Genesis 37:3 NLT
"Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children..."



So, because of this, the brothers hated him.

You know, in life, there is what's called generational curse or generational sin—it's sin passed from one generation to the next. It's a

dysfunction that you pass on to your children, your children's children.

That's why, you know, if you're not careful, history will repeat itself—if you don't break that curse.

Generational Dysfunction

At this moment, the *Genesis* author is telling us that there is a generational dysfunction in the family of Abraham.

What is that dysfunction?

It's called favoritism.

FAVORITISM

All the way from Abraham. What did Abraham do? Abraham favored Isaac over Ishmael. And then we see that Isaac did the same thing—Isaac favored Esau over Jacob. And now we see that Jacob is doing the same exact thing—favoring Joseph over his 11 siblings.

You know, as a parent, I've come to know this lesson: that the worst thing that you can do to your children is to play favorites. The easiest thing you can do to make a child lose his confidence is to love him lesser and make him feel that he is lesser than his siblings.

I was asking my wife one time, "Sino ang paboritong anak mo sa ating dalawang anak?"

She said, "Nah, I love them equally. They receive my equal love."

You know, that's correct. Because for every parent, the challenge is you need to love your children without partiality—there's no preference.

I know a family who does this.

The mother said, "You know, Bro. Audee, we sibs grew up feeling our parents loved us equally."

I asked, "Why?"

And she said, "Every birthday—whether it's my sister's birthday or my brother's birthday, we all received gifts."

I said, "Hindi ba magastos 'yun? Wasn't that expensive? Ano ba trabaho ng magulang mo? What's your parents' jobs?"

She said, "Oh, no, nothing like that. They didn't have to give us expensive gifts. But just so we receive something in a package, to open it."

How amazing is that? That the parents equally distributed their love, so the children felt like they were equally loved.

You know, Matthew 5:45 talks about God's love in that way: *that you may be children of your father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

When God sees you, He doesn't look at you based on your sins. God sees you as His wonderful creation. We are all uniquely made, but we are all equally loved. You cannot say that you are more loved than the other person beside you. So, God loves you just as much as He loves every sinner.





Genesis 37:4 NLT

“One day Jacob had a special gift For Joseph – a beautiful robe.”

Let's go back to Joseph. His brothers hated him because--we know this without a doubt -- that Jacob preferred Joseph over his other children. Why? Because as Verse 4 says Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful robe.

In the play *Joseph the Dreamer*, you'll see that's the rainbow-colored coat, the multi-colored tunic.

So, the brothers knew that Joseph was preferred by their father. And to make things just a little more interesting-- you know, Joseph was so naïve. Because as if to add insult to injury, you know what Joseph does?

Verse 5:

Genesis 37:5-8 NLT

“One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. ⁶ ‘Listen to this dream,’ he said.

Genesis 37:5-8 NLT

⁷ ‘We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!’

And his brothers responded:

Genesis 37:5-8 NLT

⁸ His brothers responded, ‘So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?’ And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

I don't know what Joseph's problem was. Maybe it was innocence. Maybe he was naïve. But here's what I believe: I believe that Joseph had very poor timing. Why do I say that?



Blessing vs. Bragging

Did you know that there should be the right timing whenever you share your blessings with people? There's a certain sensitivity... Like, you cannot talk about being blessed with your seventh child to somebody who's still struggling to have one kid. That's sensitivity. You can't talk about building your fifth business to somebody who just lost his job—unless you want to hire him in your company.

Here's some sound advice: When you feel compelled to share with people your blessing—like a dream that God planted in your heart—have the intention of also sharing the blessing with people.

When you share your blessing with people, have the intention to bring them to the top with you—to enjoy your success—and not just leave them at the bottom. Because if you're leaving them at the bottom, you know what you're doing? You're just bragging.

There's a very thin line between *blessing* and bragging.

And as Christ followers, you know what we need to do? We don't just run our own races-- and finish our own races. We help people also finish their races.



So, you serve people. Be sensitive to others. It's good to post your blessings on social media. But if your intention is just to attract attention, my friend that's not *blessing*. That's called *bragging*. So, be very careful about your intention.



Genesis 37:20-24, 36 NLT

"Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams

Crime...and Compassion

Since the brothers hated Joseph, they wanted to kill him (Genesis 37:20). Doesn't this remind you of another story in the Bible?

This author is so brilliant that there are so many connections in the book of *Genesis*. The story of Joseph points us all the way back to Cain and Abel. Cain wanted to kill Abel. Why? Because he felt the favor of the Lord was upon Abel.

The brothers felt the favor of Jacob upon Joseph, so they said, "Come let's kill him."

But then in Verse 21, you're going to be blessed by this:

Genesis 37:20-24, 36 NLT

²¹ But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said.

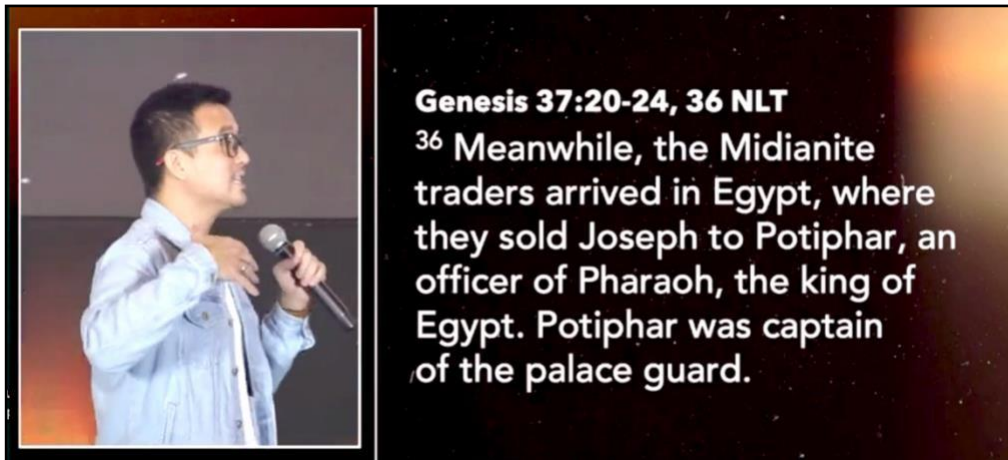
Aren't you glad that there are still compassionate people around you? In a world that's full of evil, there are compassionate friends that you have. When people want to destroy you, there are in turn people who want to rescue you.

Genesis 37:20-24, 36 NLT

²² "Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.

Genesis 37:20-24, 36 NLT

²³ So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. ²⁴ Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern...



Important Question

So, this begins the story of Joseph becoming a slave. He was exiled to Egypt.

Here’s an interesting trivia: Did you know that when the author wrote this story in particular, he was writing it during the Babylonian exile?

GENESIS WAS WRITTEN DURING THE SEVENTY YEARS OF BABYLONIAN EXILE.

This was written at the time when they were exiled from their

hometown. Imagine: Living in Jerusalem, having the time of their life, and all of a sudden, they get conquered by Babylon. And now they have to leave their place. They saw some of their relatives killed. They saw their temple destroyed and burned. And now they’re living as slaves.

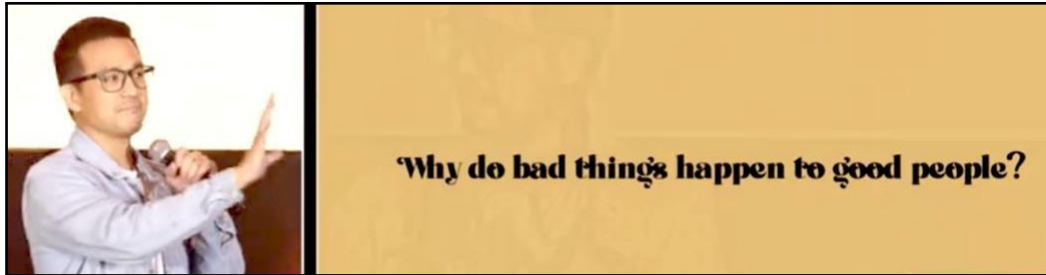
Now, why is this important? Because, remember, we’re looking through the lens of the author. That’s what we’re learning, right? We’re asking: What was the purpose of the author? What did he want his readers to know?

Here is the answer: He wanted to ask one of the most important questions that were hanging in the head of the Jews:

“Lord, why me? Lord, I’ve been serving You. I’ve been worshipping You. I’ve been offering in the temple. Why did you allow me to be exiled?”

Lord, why me?

Today, somebody may be asking: “Lord, why me? I love You. I follow You. Why did You allow me to have cancer? I’ve been giving to Your Church, to Your Community—for years. And I’ve trusted You with my finances. But why is my business struggling?”



Message for Those in 'Exile'

If you stretch that question further, you can ask this question that a lot of people have asked: Why do bad things happen to good people?

If this were Adam or Eve, or Noah, or Abraham, or Isaac, or Jacob, or Esau -- we would understand that. Because they did something wrong—they deserved the consequences, after all.

But Joseph was a good man. He was a straight A student.

Why do bad things have to happen to good people?

In Verse 39, the author says this:

Genesis 39:2 NLT

"The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master."

This is a message for those who feel like they are in exile right now. And you don't have to be exiled to a different place for you to understand this.

You don't have to be exiled away from your family, or from your job to understand this. Because all it

takes is for you to feel like you're not happy with where you are right now. Or you're not happy with what you've got. You're not happy with who you've become.

Because the message today is so good-- that I want you to know that prosperity doesn't depend on your location. Prosperity doesn't depend on your situation. Prosperity doesn't even depend on your position. You know what it depends on? It depends on your companion.

**YOUR PROSPERITY DOES NOT DEPEND
ON YOUR LOCATION
BUT ON YOUR COMPANION.**

If the Lord is with you, you will prosper no matter what you do.

Isn't that good? If the Lord is with me, I don't have to have everything that I need. But I can make sure that I will enjoy and I will be grateful for everything that I've got. Because grace-filled people are grateful people.

Because if the Lord is with you, you've got joy, you've got peace, you've got purpose. Even if you've got problems, you've got Jesus with you through those problems.



Another Good News

So, if the Lord is with you, you will prosper—no matter where you are and what you do.

And I wish that was the only message that I could give to you today. That's not the only good news. Because the other news is this: That the reason God prospers you is that you can also prosper others. You know this-- God blesses you so that you can be a blessing to others too. And that's exactly what happened to the story:

Genesis 39:3-6 NLT

Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. ⁴ This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.

Genesis 39:3-6 NLT

⁵ From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the LORD began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished.

Genesis 39:3-6 NLT

⁶ So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!

Remember how God promised Abraham: "You're going to bless nations. You're going to be a blessing to many."

In a way, we're seeing that already happening. This is it. Joseph was about to bless the entire nation of Egypt.

But you know, when you really think about the life of Joseph, it wasn't easy. He was experiencing good now. But it wasn't easy because after all, you know, life is not easy. Life is not a straight path. It's not linear. If some of you think that success is just one straight road, you will be utterly disappointed because life is not a straight road.

This Is Life

You know what life is like? Life is more like Kennon Road. Before you reach the beautiful mountains of Baguio, you've got to pass through one of the most dangerous, hazardous roads in the country. Imagine: Beautiful road, beautiful scenic route, you get distracted, you fall off the cliff.

That's how life is.



Life is going good – until you hit an obstacle. You think that now you're experiencing remission and all of a sudden the sickness comes back in full force. Just when you think that you're experiencing abundance, all of a sudden, your business is crashed. Just when you think you're headed towards the next level of that relationship, then all of a sudden, you break up.

How many of you believe that life doesn't come in a straight line? Why is that? Because sometimes, before you can get to the best part, you've got to go through the hard parts. Before you can get to the lightest part of the day, you've got to go to the darkest part of your life.

That was what Joseph was experiencing.

I recently met somebody and I discovered that he was able to kick the habit of vaping and smoking. Praise God for that. But if I tell you how he did it, you might not want to do the same thing.

You know how he overcame his bad habit? He got COVID. He realized that because of Coronavirus Disease, he couldn't breathe as much. His chest hurt. But then it was a blessing.

Sometimes, before you can get to the best parts of your life, you've got to go through the hard part.

Some of you want the strength, but you need to go through the struggle before you get the strength. Some of you want the triumph but you know you've got to go through the test first. Some of you want to be called champions already but you don't want to go through challenges. It's the hardest parts of your life that will get you to your best part.

The Prisoners' Dreams

Life is not easy

It wasn't easy for Joseph. You know what happened to Joseph?

Sometimes, on Kenon road, if you're not careful, what happens? There are landslides. And so, you have to take detours—take a different, longer route.

And that's what happened to Joseph.

He was already experiencing abundance, but what happened? The wife of Potiphar, the master of the house, suddenly developed a crush on Joseph. So, what did she do? She seduced Joseph. She invited Joseph to sleep with her.

But Joseph was with the Lord. Why do we know that? Because he knew that the offer of Potiphar's wife was just a curse disguised as a blessing. When you're with God, you know when it is actually a curse just disguised as a blessing, the good thing. You know what Joseph did?

He said no. But it hurt her pride. You know what she did? She accused him of rape. And because Potiphar believed in his wife, he threw Joseph into prison. Guess what: Joseph was back in the place where it all started.

You can be doing so good in life, and all it takes is just one backslide. You could be doing so good, getting rid of that addiction, and all it takes is just one temptation, and you're back where you started.

It's hard, my friends. But know this: When Joseph was in prison, there were two other persons who were there—the Pharaoh's baker and the Pharaoh's cupbearer. And they had a dream. Thank God that Joseph was in the same place-- because he was a master of dreams. So, Joseph interpreted the dream of the baker and the dream of the cupbearer. And they were so amazed.

The cupbearer said, "I'm never going to forget you. I'll tell the Pharaoh all about you."

But you know what happened? When he got out of prison, he eventually forgot about Joseph.

Because sometimes, when you're at the top, you forget the people who journeyed with you so you could reach the top. That's a reality that we go through.

But God did not allow Joseph would be forgotten. I want to say this to somebody: God has not forgotten you. He hasn't.



The Pharaoh's Dreams

After two years, the Pharaoh had a dream—two dreams actually. And he was looking for somebody who could interpret his dream.

The cupbearer suddenly remembered, “I know a guy who could interpret dreams. And he’s in prison.”

So, what did the Pharaoh do? He pulled Joseph out of prison and Joseph interpreted the Pharaoh's dreams.

He said, “Your first dream—it’s about having seven years of fruitfulness in the land of Egypt. But your second dream—it’s about having seven years of famine. So, what you need to do is to stock up during the seven years of fruitfulness—so that when the seven years of famine come, you are more than prepared.

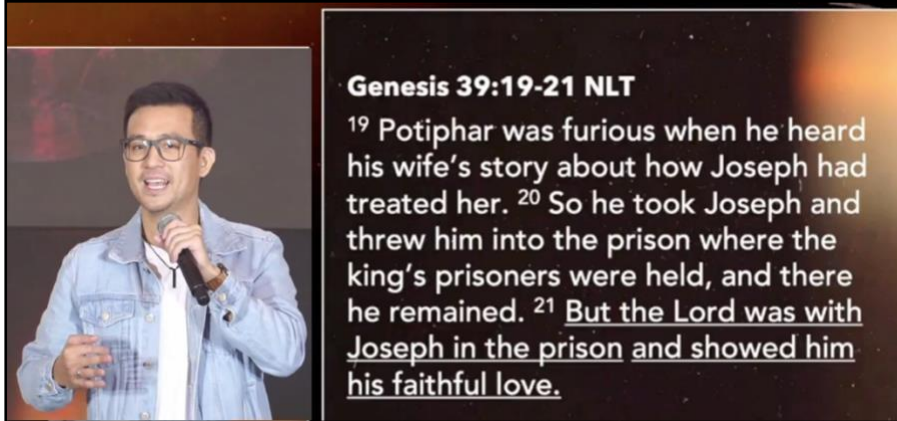
So, you know what the Pharaoh did? The Pharaoh loved Joseph so much, that he actually made Joseph the governor of Egypt. Impressed by Joseph's interpretation of his dreams, Pharaoh made Joseph his second-in-command.

Now check this out: Joseph never applied for that position. Joseph did even submit a resume for that position. But God mentioned his name to the Pharaoh who eventually gave him that promotion.

Now, what am I trying to say? I want to declare over the life of somebody here today: That because God hasn’t forgotten you, God will mention your name to somebody who will take you up to the next level of growth.

That’s the Good News today. God hasn’t forgotten about you. He can mention your name to somebody who will take you to that next level of growth, the next level of promotion.





The Biggest Question

We all know how Joseph was—he was faithful to the Lord even until the end. While Joseph was in prison, there was something significant about his stay in prison. In Verse 19, it's about Potiphar finding out how Joseph supposedly raped his wife.

The Lord was with Joseph. You know, the craziest thing about this story: The prison warden loved Joseph so much that he actually made him in charge of all the prisoners. This is Joseph—hated, rejected, abused, misused, and just completely reused—again and again. If we were Joseph, we would probably have rebelled against the Lord already. We would have questioned the Lord. We would have already walked away from Jesus. But at no point in this whole story of Joseph did it ever mention that his trust was removed from the Lord. Adversity was not enough to destroy him. Not even prosperity was enough to ruin him.

And—I don't know—I'm sure some of you can probably relate to Joseph. But let me just say this already: you and I are the same as Joseph—in the sense that we didn't choose the crisis that we are in right now. We didn't choose to be bankrupt or heartbroken or sick. We didn't choose to be under the baggage of problems that we go through. None of us wanted this in the first place.

Joseph never wanted to be a slave. He never wanted all he went through. But the biggest question right now is not about what you're going through. It's not about how big the problem you're carrying is.

The question is: Will you believe that even in that bad place, the Lord is there with you? Because if He is, know that you will prosper no matter where you are and what you do. Will you trust that God is there with you? In that prison, in that place of pain. Because you're not meant to stay in that place, my friend. You're not meant to stay in brokenness. You're not meant to stay in bitterness. You're not meant to stay in resentment. God wants you to walk out of that.



Worship Him in This Truth

In some of the places that you think God is sending you *to*, He's actually just sending you *through*.

As Psalm 23 puts it, *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.*

Why? Because the Lord is with me. His rod and his staff guide me. His grace protects me.

His love abounds in me. So, why worry? If the Lord is with you, who can be against you?

Put your hand over your chest. Close your eyes. Whatever burdens, baggage, sins, or shame, that you're carrying right now, I want you to know that Jesus is with you. He doesn't want you to remain in that place but He wants to walk with you-- to move you forward.

I want you to believe right now that no matter how hard the place is, no matter how dark it may be, the Lord will meet you there. He's not just a God of the mountains but he's also the God of the valley. He's not just the God of your good side, He's the God of your bad side. He's not just a God of your victory but He's the God of your defeats. The Lord is with you, my friend, wherever you go.

And I want you to just declare that right now: "The Lord is with me. And because He is with me, I will fear no evil."

Believe, my friend that Jesus walks with you. And let's just worship Him in that truth and declare it out loud: "Thank You, Jesus, for meeting us in this place. Thank You, Jesus, for meeting us in our brokenness. Thank You Jesus, for meeting us in our bitterness. Thank You, Jesus, that You meet us in our anger, in our dysfunction, in our limitations. That here, in the middle place where we are waiting for our miracle, thank You, for being here.

Thank You, Jesus, You will minister to us. Thank You, Jesus!

Thank You, Jesus!



BOUNTIFUL BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!

Today, on this day, is actually my birthday.
But I'm not alone I'm sure there are other August
birthday celebrators.

We got Ryan Nabus, our Events Council head.



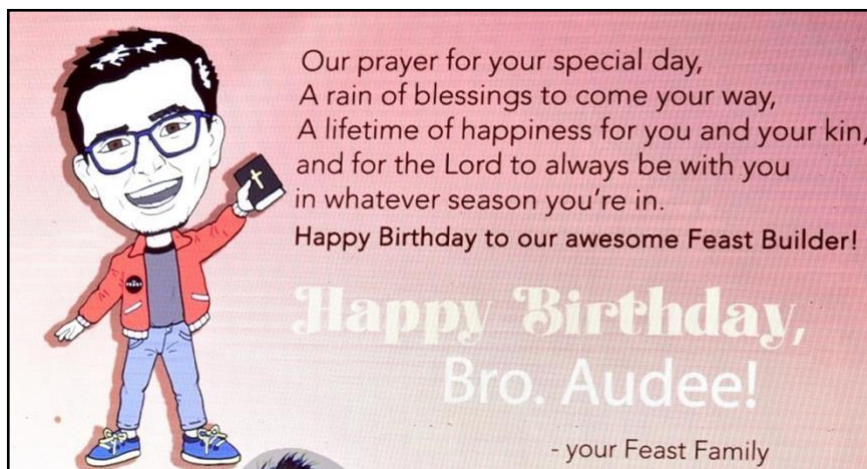
August celebrators, we pray for you:

Father in Heaven, we believe that the power that courses through our hands right now is energy coming from You. It's strength from you. It's power from You. And we extend this Lord with every intention of praying for abundance, blessing, healing, provision, purpose, and every good gift that can only come from Heaven above. We want You, Lord, to just flood their life with so many blessings that they won't know what to do with them — except to share them with the people around them. Whatever the season of the life they find themselves in, Father, walk with them. Be there God. Be ever so close in their time of need and. Let them know that You love them so much. Make this month so special so that people will know that they walk as a blessed woman, as a blessed man.

Thank. You, Jesus, for how You will give an encounter to them like no other. We declare a future like no other — that the best is yet to come.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Happy Birthday! God is good. God is good.



SURPRISE!

We honor you with your favorite DONUTS--
and everybody gets a bag-- or two?

Plus: Your favorite SUPERHERO!

And the greatest gift we can give someone:
the GIFT OF PRAYER:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and
the Holy Spirit:



Father God, thank You for giving us the gift of Bro. Audee. Thank You, for His heart of service, his heart to reach out to every Feaster, to love everyone, to disciple them. Thank You, Lord, for Bro. Audee's efforts to bring people closer to you each and every day of his life.

And on this special day, Father God, we pray that You grant all the desires of his heart. We pray for his family. We pray for all the other desires of his heart, even those that only You will know, Father God.

*Thank You so much for the gift of Bro. Audee.
And forever we will praise You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*



MERCY MINISTRIES

*When the time is right, I the Lord,
will make it happen.*

--Isaiah 6:22

HE CARES MISSION PART 2

Just in Time

By **JUDITH ENRIQUEZ**

ISAIAH 6:22 is my favorite Bible verse because I have experienced God's promise being fulfilled in my life.

But something happened at a time that didn't seem right for my family. My father, Jesus Enriquez, who worked as a sheriff, died in 1980-- when I was only 9 years old. Left as a single mother, my mom Bernardina, who also worked as a sheriff, struggled to raise my siblings Mac and Edel, and me.

With God's grace, to her credit, our mother was able to send us to school.

I took up Fine Arts, majoring in Advertising at the University of Sto. Tomas, hoping that after graduation, I would have a lucrative career as an artist in an Advertising company. But it was not the right time either, nor the right job God intended for me.

Right Timing

What was in the right timing was what God placed in my heart as early as when I was young -- the desire to serve the poor. For my elementary education, I went to a Catholic school-- St. Mary's College. For high school, I went to a public school— V. Mapa High. And yes, for college, at the Catholic UST.

So, exposed to private and public schools, I've well learned the basics of our Catholic faith-- to love God and our brethren, particularly the least among them.



Right Calling

And God's call for me to put my faith into practice came at the right time, too.

In 1994, I joined the Light of Jesus Family, particularly its youth arm, the Youth Mission for Parishes and Communities (YMPACT).

The inspiring teachings in LOJ further deepened my faith-- just in time to prepare me to cope with the pain of losing my mother. For this was four years before my mom's death in 1998.

From 1999 to 2001, I served as pastoral carer for the LOJ Pastoral Care Ministry for the emotionally and spiritually wounded. Listening to them, guiding them to their healing, I myself also gradually healed from the pain of losing my parents.



In 2001, I started as volunteer at He Cares Mission founded by Bro. Joe Dean Sola for indigent street children. In 2003-- five years after my mother's death—and I was at the ripe age of 32, Bro. Joe Dean invited me to work full-time at He Cares. And right there and then, I knew in my heart this was the calling from the Lord I'd been longing for.

During awarding of scholarships, *from left*: Bro Joe Dean; former scholar Melyjoe Balino; Judith; and Brenda Deyto, member, Board of Directors.

I started as an administrative assistant. This job not only fulfills my desire to serve the poor, but it is also the very opportunity for me to put into practice my Fine Arts course.

Now, as admin staff in He Cares, I specifically serve as an artist in charge of developing our fan page and creating brochures, posters, and other info materials for our Mission.

What's best for me is serving as pastoral carer for our He Cares children, helping them to heal, by God's grace, applying the knowledge and skills I learned in the LOJ Pastoral Care Ministry.

Not only that. As admin staff, I am the all-around girl designated to be emcee during our programs and even cook for our daily and special events.

I am deeply grateful to serve in He Cares. As I serve, I learn so much more about how to relate with the poor-- when to help, when not to assist, and when to refer them to agencies that are experts in handling their cases-- *all at the right time*. How do I know when is the right time?

I am grateful for the grace to simply trust God's promise in Isaiah 6:22:

"When the time is right I, the Lord, will make it happen."





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.

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Our Partner Beneficiaries

Jeremiah 33 Foundation

is a shelter for girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



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



He Cares Mission

provides shelter for street children.

Pag-asa ng Pamilya

Foundation gives scholarships to poor students.



Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer

provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.

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



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



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

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



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

CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO GIVE

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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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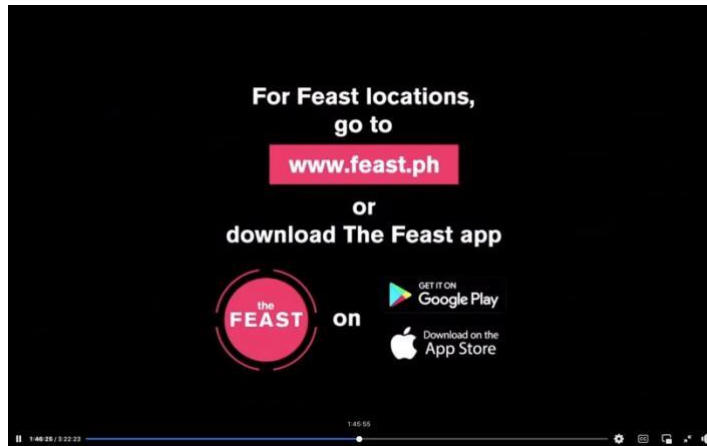
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19