



NEWSLETTER
August 28, 2022



A New, Practical Series

STARTING this Sunday, August 28, 2022, we will have four Sundays of a new series led by Bro. Audee. Villaraza with invited experts on practical topics, particularly financial stability especially during these difficult times.

Don't miss this helpful series.

Be very blessed in The Feast today.

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



LETTERS

‘How Are You?’

THERE was a time when someone asked you that question, you usually replied: “I’m fine. Thank you.” Then, there came this five-card game which, if one already had a complete set, one says, “I’m good!”

And, guess, that set up the now popular reply when you’re asked, “How are you?” You simply say, “I’m good!”

Today’s issue of *The Feast Family* tells us there’s a more profound, if not exactly Biblical meaning of “I’m good!”



Fr. Mario Quejadas in last Sunday’s Holy Mass at The Feast talked about “how abundance is your inheritance and your destiny.” That’s because we have an Abundant God. That’s how good God is. More on *page 3*.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, and Feast Builder and Preacher Bro. Audee Villaraza wrap up our study on the book of *Genesis* with the last talk



of our series, *Blessing and Curse*. *Genesis* started with the message: *God made you good*. Talk 9, *God Turns Curse into Blessing*, points out the start of *Genesis* is the end of this beautiful book: That God wins—and *you will win, page 16*. That’s the gist of the story of Kiram Kudos, once a street child, now happily living in The Promised Land of our He Cares Mission, *page 34*.



What about you? How are you?

Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

AUGUST 21, 2022

Holy Mass



FR. MARIO QUEJADAS
on the Gospel: Luke 13:22-30
The Narrow Door

Edited Excerpts...

Church, today I want to talk about how abundance is your inheritance and your destiny. Abundance is my inheritance and my destiny.

Do you know that we have an abundant God? Amen. This morning, I googled and asked Siri, "Siri, how many galaxies are there in the universe?"

Siri said, "About a hundred billion galaxies to two trillion galaxies."

My mind blew when I heard that.

Then I asked again, "Siri, how many cells do we have in our body?"

Siri said, "37 billion cells."

Look how abundant the universe is. How abundant God's creation is.

But also, how abundant our experiences of life: We have joys and we have sorrows. We have victories, we have pain. We have opportunities, we have defeats. We've experienced love but we've also experienced rejection. We know celebration and we know grief.

Abundance Spirituality

How many of you have experienced love? All of us, by the way, because we've been loved. How many of you experienced grief? How many of you have experienced losses in life? How many of you have experienced joy?

See, how abundant God the Father wants us to experience the fullness of life.

Church, because of these, do you have an abundance of spirituality in your life?

You know, I didn't grow up with abundance spirituality because I didn't even know that *that* word existed -- even though we're not rich. I thought though that I was not talented, not good enough, not smart enough. I noticed that some people have those qualities-- especially my classmates--but definitely not me.

Others may be blessed but not me. How many of you have thought that way before? "Somebody's blessed but not me."

My friend, you know this feeling. Abundance spirituality celebrates that God's blessings are more than enough and cannot be outnumbered.

Bro. Bo always tells us that we are swimming in the Pacific Ocean of God's blessings and he mentioned that it's not the Atlantic Ocean because the Pacific is bigger than the Atlantic Ocean.



Reading I: Isaiah 66:18-21

¹⁸ "I can see what they are doing, and I know what they are thinking. So I will gather all nations and peoples together, and they will see my glory. ¹⁹ I will perform a sign among them. And I will send those who survive to be messengers to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans^[a] and Lydians^[b] (who are famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece,^[c] and to all the lands beyond the sea that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. There they will declare my glory to the nations. ²⁰ They will bring the remnant of your people back from every nation. They will bring them to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD. They will ride on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels," says the LORD. ²¹ "And I will appoint some of them to be my priests and Levites. I, the LORD, have spoken!"



Scarcity of Spirituality

Listen to me Church. When you believe that you are a beloved child of God, who is Father, who cannot help giving, giving, and giving—that is the very essence of a Father. You will eventually believe also that abundance is for everybody, especially those who are aware of it. And abundance multiplies when you give it away-- when you share your abundance. Abundance multiplies only when you bless others.

We mentioned-- and we heard from our preachers-- that you are blessed to be a blessing. No wonder the question that was posed by a disciple to Jesus today was kind of insulting. It comes from a scarcity of spirituality.

Look at the question: “Lord, will only a few people be saved?”

Listen how small and how poor the question is. Kaunti lamang ba Panginoon ang makakarating sa langit? Lord, will only a few reach Heven? Kaunti lamang ba ang minamahal mo? You love only a few? Kaunti lamang ba Panginoon ang binibless mo? You bless only a few? Kaunti lamang ba Panginoon ang gumagaling? Only a few will be healed? Kaunti lamang ba Panginoon ang paborito mo? You have only a few favorites? Kaunti lamang ba Panginoon ang nakakakilala sa iyo? Only a few know you? Kaunti lamang ba Panginoon ang mga anak mo? Your children are only few?

Ha! Scarcity of spirituality.

What if the disciple asked, “Lord, what can I do more so more people will be saved? What can I do more so more people will be blessed? What can I do more so people can find a blessing in me? How can I forgive more? How can I share more? How can I be a person that you’re proud of?”

Church, our wish in life should be #SanaAll. Sana all pinagpapala. Wish all will be blessed. Sana all kami nasa langit. All will be in Heaven. Sana all kami nakakakain tatlong beses sa isang araw. All of us are eating three times a day.

All, Lord.



Joy in Being Last

Do you know that there is joy in being last? In the Gospel today, Jesus said, *“The last will be first and the first will be last.”*

I must admit that in my type A personality, it’s so hard to process this. But it is so good that when I have a meeting with my executive committee, I am the last one to speak. Not the first one. Because what happens is if the leader—the father of the family—speaks first, there’s discussion, then nobody will say anything anymore.

But it’s so good to hear your mother and father first before you speak. It’s always so good for leaders to hear their people first before they speak.

You know, before, it was so hard for me to hear this Gospel message. When I was growing up, my father served my mother during our meals. It makes sense. When my parents would serve my sister and me first before they eat, it made sense. There is joy in being last. Why? Because abundance spirituality is deeply rooted in generous love.

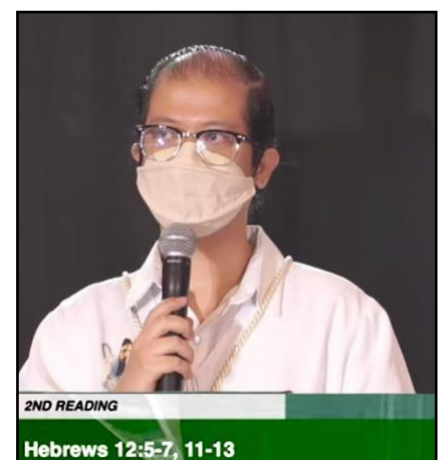
Love generously. When you know that you are loved and blessed by God, you will also generously love and bless other people. It is not the happy people who are generous. It is the generous people who are happy. Kung may makikita kang taong masaya, yang taong yan mapagbigay. If you see a person who's happy, that person is generous. Kung may nakikita kang taong masaya, yung taong yan mapagpasensya. If you see a happy person, that person is patient. Kung meron kang nakikitang taong masaya, ‘yang taong ‘yan mahilig magpatawad. If you see a happy person, that person is forgiving. Because there is always joy in being last.

Reading II: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 *Brothers and sisters,*

⁵ *You have forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as children:*

“My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reprovved by him; ⁶ for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledge⁷ Endure your trials as “discipline”; God treats you as sons. For what “son” is there whom his father does not discipline?¹¹ At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.

¹² *So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.¹³ Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.*





My Confession...and Decision

You know, I became a priest in the year 2000 and I became a parish priest in the year 2010. I mentioned to you three weeks ago that my parents introduced us, siblings, to a charismatic spirituality when we were in high school. So, I know a lot about tithing. I don't know about the Philippines, but studies show that Protestants, Evangelicals, and Born-Again believers would tithe around 6-8% of their income. And you know how much the figure among Catholics? 1-2%.

You know, I have believed in tithing 10% of one's income because I'm Charismatic. But if you ask me if I tithe 10% since the time when I gave my life to the Lord... I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own faults. Because we have this predominant thinking among us ministry leaders that since we're giving our life serving the Lord, we don't have to tithe. That-- my ministry-- is already my tithe, Lord.

Since 2010 when I became a parish priest— called pastor in America-- you know, I've always listened to The Feast and I heard Bro. Bo talking about tithing. I got convicted-- not because of what I didn't do-- but because I saw the goodness of God in my life. I saw the graciousness of God in my life.

So, I made a decision: "Lord, I will tithe and give it to my own church."

So, I started giving 10% of my salary to my parish church.

And by the way, for us priests-- even though we have all of these staff-- we are among those with small salaries. The janitor in my church in the United States receives more than I do.

But then when I trusted the Lord with my money, you know what happened? The income of my parish doubled immediately. There were so much more blessings that happened in my life and this one is the first time that I will reveal this publicly...



And Then, Blessings

So, in 2010, I became a parish priest and started my tithing, right?

In 2022, my parents were in a car accident. They were driving a Toyota Camry. It was good enough that both of them were safe in that accident. The only thing is, they have no more car. They couldn't afford a new car. My first instinct was to give them my car. For the first time in the United States, I didn't have a car and you know, in the U.S. if you don't have a car, where do you go? There's no public transportation for me.

My first weekend not having a car, I told God, "Lord, how can I visit the sick? How can I go to the hospital? How can I bless homes? How can I go to the prison? But I know, Lord, that you're such an abundant God. Such an abundant God! You cannot be outdone in generosity."

So, after my morning Mass at 11 o'clock, Sam Azzarelli (may he rest in peace) came to me and said, "Father, may I walk with you to Directory?"

Directory is where we live. And I said, "Okay, Sam, I can walk with you."

And as he gripped my hand, he was 88 years old, he said, "Father, you have been so good to my family. I want to give you \$15,000."

I said, "Sam, that is so awesome! My parents just had an accident so I gave them my car. I don't have a car right now so I'm going to put the money you're giving as a down payment to my car."

You know what Sam did? He thought for a second and he said, "I'm going to give you more money."

You know, that car was named after our Lady. The car's name is Queenie because I purchased it on the day of the Queenship of Mary—August 22nd.

That car is a testament that we worship a God of Abundance.



We Worship a God of Abundance

One more witness. You know, at the start of the. Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic in 2020, we started fundraising in our church for those who have lost their jobs -- and we have received tens and thousands of dollars for them.

And I told myself, “What can I do for my beloved country, the Philippines?”

So, stepping out in faith, I went to my Facebook account-- inspired by the community pantries here-- we started a community pantry at Ermita District -- you know, Adamson University, San Marcelino parish—and in Pandacan.



Church, we worship a God of Abundance. Abundance is your inheritance and your destiny. Your inheritance, because you are the beloved child of the Most High King. Your inheritance, because abundance for us is a name. It is not just a feeling, not just a state. Abundance for us has a name and His name is Jesus Christ.

If you have the Lord Jesus in your life, you are already abundant. If you have Him in your life, you have more than enough reason to smile more often because there are more smiles to give. Open the door for somebody because there are more good deeds to give. Forgive more often because there is more mercy to receive. Say thank you more often. Say good morning more often. Take care of your body like it's the temple of the Holy Spirit. Sleep at least 6 to 8 hours a day because your body needs it. Tell the person you love “I love you” more often. When you hug somebody, hug the person like there's no tomorrow, and when you say goodbye to people, let them know that they are indeed loved. Be abundant because you have received an abundant God whose name is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ!

Let's bow and pray:

Lord, thank You. I am abundant because you have given me the Lord Jesus. I am abundant because you have given me a family. I am abundant because you have given me friends. I am abundant because I can breathe and praise Your name right now. I am abundant because I belong to this spiritual family—The Feast, the Light of Jesus. I am abundant, Lord, because you've surrounded me with angels and saints to pray with me. I am abundant because you've given me a purpose, a mission in life. I am abundant, oh Lord, because of You. And so, today I repent of my scarcity spirituality.

And I invite You into my life once again. Convict me, forgive me, love me. Be my Lord and Savior once more. Let me be more like You, oh Jesus. This is my prayer in Your sweet name. Amen and Amen. Thank You, Jesus.

Worship!

EXHORTATION

VANYA CASTOR: Good morning, Feast! In a few weeks, we're nearing the *ber* months and by now, I am sure we have received many good things from the Lord, yes? But we also know by now that not every good thing goes according to plan. Amen?

The good thing, though, is we are here gathered in the powerful Name of Jesus.

And as we stand in the powerful Name of Jesus, not everything will go according to our plan. Not everything will go our way. But we can be sure that everything will be good.

Our God is good, our God is powerful -- but most of all, our God loves us and cares for us.

So, we're going to sing about that today.

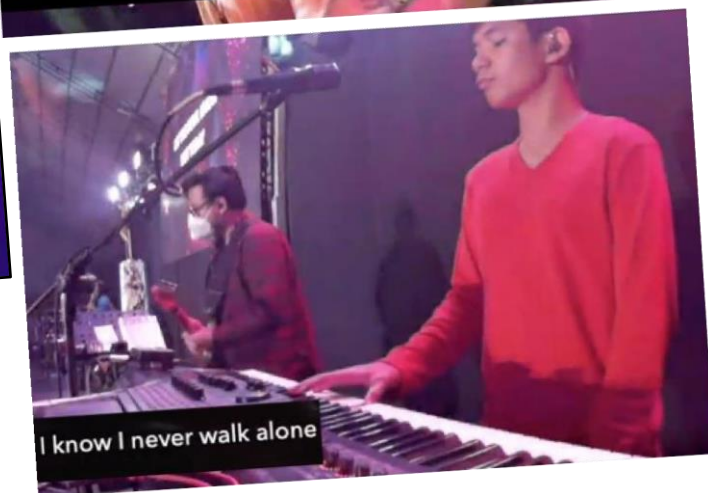




DIDOY LUBATON: Lord, we are in a world that is dark. We are in a world where we seem to see so much hurting, poverty, and too much fighting. But right at this moment, we are reminded to look to You. It's You why we are here. It is You what we're looking for. You are our everything. And at this moment, God, we're just declaring that despite the world's unfaithfulness, You are faithful. Nothing else can take that away from us.

So, here we are, Your children. We're declaring: Yes, we will never walk alone again. You have never abandoned us. You are with us. Nothing can be against us. So, hear the songs, the heart, the praises of Your people.

Lift Him today. Sing!



Welcome!

Yes, Lord, we'll never walk alone. We love You, God! We praise You! Hallelujah!

You know, God speaks directly to our heart but also God reminds us through the people around us. So, can you just remind that person that “You’re not walking alone, you are not abandoned. I want you to greet as many persons as you can, and tell them, Welcome to God’s Family. Welcome to the Family. Welcome Home, Everybody! Those who are coming from far, far away, those watching online – thank you for being always one with us. You are now part again and again as one of the Light of Jesus Family, here in our Feast gathering and I hope that you will be nourished today—physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually.



And I love that we are reminded by Fr. Mario that we serve an Abundant God. I want you to remember that and take that into heart. We are not alone and God is giving us everything that we need.

Welcome again, Everybody. And I hope we are not just aiming to be happy because we have everything with the Lord, already. And it’s not the happiness we’re looking for. We’re looking for not a feeling, but Someone. And His Name is Jesus Christ. Amen.

We welcome our first-timers. Welcome to our Light of Jesus Family. We are a Catholic Charismatic group, and we love one another. It’s fun here. It’s one of the happiest places, the most joyful places. And I hope you can feel it here. And we can continue and cultivate and build this Family. Amen.

And we recognize all our servants—not just those onstage but everywhere around you. This is a beautiful place, full of love, and serving people, and we recognize you and thank you, thank you again, so much.

FEAST CONFERENCE BONUS!

Some are surprised I'm not wearing a coat, something formal business attire as I usually do.

I just want to say that we're launching our Feast Conference tickets today. And this is a shirt that you get for free if you buy tickets today.

We are going to have discounted tickets today. Feast Conference-- three months to go from today, August 21. Be one of us and the whole family. It is our biggest gathering. And why are we selling tickets? Because it's our first time to welcome everybody again in a *live*, face-to-face session.

For the past two-three years, we had not been doing it. But finally, we get to do this again.



LAUNCH SALE
ENJOY SAVINGS ON TICKETS PLUS A FREE SHIRT!*

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FEASTCON 2022
November 18 - 20
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I think that's how life is: Sometimes up, sometimes down. Sometimes face-to-face, sometimes online, sometimes sick, sometimes well. But in all these seasons, God is there.

Come and be part of this family gathering. You are one with us.

Declaration of Abundance

Let's pray our favorite prayer in our Feast, and I want you to connect with the Lord, to be there, hungry for the Word of God. Let's pray...



TODAY, I RECEIVE ALL OF GOD'S LOVE FOR ME. TODAY, I OPEN MYSELF TO THE UNBOUNDED, LIMITLESS, OVERFLOWING ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S UNIVERSE.



TODAY, I OPEN MYSELF TO GOD'S BLESSINGS, HEALING, AND MIRACLES. TODAY, I OPEN MYSELF TO GOD'S WORD SO THAT I BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS EVERY DAY.



TODAY, I PROCLAIM THAT I AM GOD'S BELOVED. I AM GOD'S SERVANT. I AM GOD'S POWERFUL CHAMPION. AND BECAUSE I AM BLESSED, I AM BLESSING THE WORLD. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN.



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



LESSONS AND INSPIRATION



FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS + + + + +

Put your hands on your heart and pray this with me:
*Dear Lord, I am listening. Speak Your truth. Touch my heart,
 Renew my mind. Restore my spirit.
 I look forward to knowing You more, to experiencing You more in my life.
 I welcome You Do what you have to do. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Talk



Talk 9:



BO SANCHEZ: Last talk on our series on *Genesis* today, Talk 9.

We have been super-duper blessed. Just working through, navigating through, *Genesis*.

Can you actually say that you know more about God's Word and you know more about *Genesis* and you heard the Lord in our series on *Genesis*? We were blessed by that series. Amen.

Today, I want to preach the message: *God Turns Curse into Blessing*.

I want to share a bit about my story.

When I was a kid, growing up, I didn't like to read.

Do I have classmates here? I would rather watch the whole day cartoons than read 10 minutes of a book.

That was *me*. And so, all my academic life, I just had bad grades—even until my college days. I probably had mild dyslexia—that was undiagnosed. Because when I would read the words, the letters would just invert themselves.



My Childhood Story

The only thing I remember, when I was a kid, I took up a spelling quiz and there were 20 words to be spelled. And I was able to spell correctly only two words. It was horrible—18 words I could not spell correctly. I could not understand why *receive* was spelled with an *ei*, and *believe* was spelled with an *ie*. I mean, who makes these rules?

So, there I was. What made it even worse was, you know, I lost all confidence in school.

Because not only were my grades bad—I share this always—I was not good in sports. Some of my classmates, they were not good with their grades, but at least they were terrific in sports. I wasn't.

You know, in PE (Physical Education), we were required to play basketball. And I did not know how to play. I remember, I would be dribbling the ball, walking, and then I would trip on the ball, I would fall flat on my face. I would look around me and everybody is laughing.

But guess who was laughing the loudest? My PE teacher.

So, that was life.

To make it worse, I was an incurable introvert. I liked being alone. I didn't like being with a lot of people—which made me a perfect target for bullies. And so, when I was growing up, I was bullied.

I remember watching the movie *Spiderman*, and I saw Peter Parker being bullied by his classmates. It was so surreal. Because, oh, my gosh, that was *me*. But, of course, in the movie, Peter Parker becomes Spiderman and he beats them up, right?



<https://www.google.com/search?q=peter+parker>

Well, I became a Jesus-follower-- at the age of 12—which gave more reasons for the bullies to bully me.

That was my story.

Curse to Blessing



I also already shared my story that when I was eight years old, I was molested, and that traumatized me.

And so, you could say that a huge chunk of my childhood was miserable. And there was a part of me that felt that my childhood was cursed.

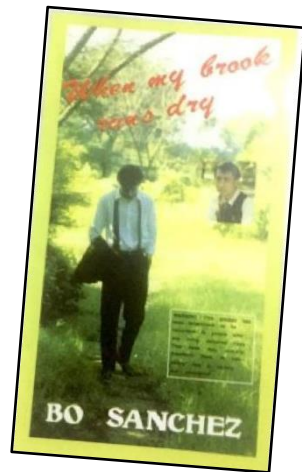
Fast forward. Who would have thought that the kid who did not like to read had written 60+ best-selling books? And the logic, in hindsight, is very simple: I hated complicated books. So, I wanted to write a book for people like me who did not like to read books. And so, my goal was not to impress people with my knowledge but to pass on a message that would change people's lives.

Who would have thought an incurable introvert would one day lead many organizations and would be a preacher speaking to crowds? Somebody who does not like crowds would be in front of crowds almost every day of his life, speaking in 20+ countries.



Who would have thought that somebody who did not like basketball—today still does not like basketball?

Some things don't change, right? Well, at least I bike every day, and believe me, at 56 it's the most athletic I've ever felt in my life.





A Woman's Story

I share with you my story to tell you that I thank God that when I look back at my miserable childhood, when I look back at my life, and feel it was cursed, I see the Presence of God. I see that God was there all along. And do you know what He was doing? He was turning the curse into a blessing. The reason this introvert onstage became somebody who reaches out to massive crowds almost every day – the logic in hindsight is clear: I feel people's pain. I feel the brokenness of people because I was broken for many, many years. I know what it feels like to be bullied by Life.

And so, I speak to people, I tell them, "I'm just like you. I know your pain, and I'm telling you, God is in your life. He was in my life. He turned curse into blessing. He's going to do the same thing for you."

I believe in that.

I need to tell you this story—crazy story.

Woman—taking care of her sick husband for three months in the hospital. Caring, caring, loving her husband.

Then, one day, the husband wakes up in the morning, motions for his wife to come nearer, sit beside him.

And the husband tells the wife, "Sweetheart, I realized that all my life, during all my tragedies, you're always there. I remember when I lost my job --I was retrenched—you were there beside me. The house got burned—remember that?"

The wife says, "Yes, yes."

"You were there beside me. And remember that time when I got sick three months ago—you thought I was gone—and I was such a difficult patient, but every day, you were there for me."

He went on about this, and about that—how the wife was there. And the wife was getting teary-eyed at the beautiful words of her husband.

And then the husband says, "Now, I realize, in every tragedy, you were there. Sweetheart, ikaw ang malas ng buhay ko--You are the bad luck of my life.

Now, that's a horrible husband, right? The analogy is not perfect. But there are times when we go through our trials, we blame God. But the reality is that God was there in every single tragedy. And do you know what He was doing? He was turning the curse into a blessing.

Joseph's Story, Part 2

AUDEE VILLARAZA: Everybody, say one more time, “God turns curse into blessing.”

I cannot think of a message that is more fitting to end this series, *Blessing and Curse*.

We started the story of Joseph last Sunday, talking about his life. This is Part 2. The story is so long that we got to divide it into parts. You learned last Sunday how Joseph was thrown into slavery because his brothers hated him, he was rejected.

And then, you saw how Joseph was promoted by his master, Potiphar. Why? The Bible says that because the Lord was with him.

That was our message last Sunday: “The Lord is with me.”

But soon, after, we also saw that Joseph was being thrown back into prison. Why? Because he was accused of rape by the master's wife.

So, you can see if there's any message we can extrapolate from this, it's this: That just because the Lord is with you, it doesn't mean that you won't go through problems. A blessed life doesn't mean you've got absence of problems. A blessed life is the Presence of God in the middle of those problems.

God walks with you in your problems. That's why don't worry if sometimes, you know, God doesn't remove the mountains in front of you. You want to know why He doesn't do that? It's because He wants to climb the mountain with you. He wants to go through that mountain with you. That's what God does.

So, now, Joseph is in prison. And then he meets in prison two of the Pharaoh's servants—the cupbearer and the baker, both of whom have dreams. And then because Joseph is such a master of interpreting dreams, he interprets the dreams of the servants.

And one of them says, “I'm going to talk about you to the Pharaoh.”

But then he forgets all about it.

Then, two years after, later, the Pharaoh has his own dreams. And the cupbearer remembers Joseph in prison. So, the Pharaoh pulls Joseph out of prison, and the Pharaoh is wowed by the wisdom of this man.





Genesis 41:40 NLT

"You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."

From Prisoner to Prime Minister

From Genesis 41:40 NLT, we learn what the Pharaoh does. Amazing. From becoming a prisoner, now Joseph is somewhat becoming like a prime minister, having power. That's amazing.

The story shifts back now to the family of Joseph-- back to Jacob.

And God is speaking something like this to me:

Because at the end of our life, wherever you find yourself in this world, however successful you may be, however good you might have been, it always leads back home. It always leads back to family. That's why you know, sometimes, when your family is messy, there's a problem.

Genesis 42:1-2 NLT

When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why are you standing around looking at one another?

² I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we'll die.'

Genesis 42: 1-2 NLT says now, there's a problem in the family of Jacob. There's a famine in the land. So, Jacob's family is also struggling along with everybody else.

You know, sometimes, it helps, whenever you read the Bible, you put yourself in the storyline, so you can imagine seeing yourself in that picture. Jacob says, "Why are you standing around looking at one another? There's a solution to our problem."

Here's my reflection: Although not implied, when they heard the word *Egypt*, the brothers might have remembered that once upon a time, they sold their brother into slavery in Egypt.

Now, what is my point? My point is simple: Sometimes, you run away from your sin for so long, that you try to cover that sin. But sin will catch up with you eventually. You're never too far away from your sin. It's there. One memory, one moment, one reminder, one photo, and there it's back.

Messed Up

Sometimes, people struggle because they try to cover up the sin so long, it becomes a part of them. Like their morality is messed up already, they don't see the difference between right and wrong. When sin gets lodged into your life, your morality is just messed up.

Here's a demonstration, with the help of volunteers from our Music Ministry: Tin, Kayel, and Jed.

I brought something with me here, today: It's called Bean Boozled. They are special jelly-bean candies. The box contains both the tastiest and the strangest, nastiest flavors imaginable. For instance, one jelly bean—colored brown—comes in two flavors. You can have either the flavor cappuccino or the nasty liver and onions.

We're going to make each of our volunteers taste one jelly bean and we'll see their reaction.



Tin:
Green Juicy Pear



Booger!
(dried nasal mucus)



Kayel: Juicy Pear



Booger!



Jed: Peach



Vomit!

Just by looking at them,
you know what they got.
Thank you, guys.

God Speaks

What is the point of that demonstration?

Last Tuesday, my son Ethan bought Bean Boozled. He bought it in the morning and in the evening, I saw him doing something. He was watching a movie, and he was eating the jelly beans—one after the other.

And I was like, “Ethan, what are you doing? Not all of them are good.”

He said, “No, Dad, they’re yummy.”

You know, sometimes, God will speak to you in moments...

And He spoke to me like this: Sometimes, when we get exposed to sin and we think that it’s good, and when we try to cover it up, and we try to convince ourselves that it’s good—you can no longer tell the difference between what’s good and what’s bad. They get mixed up in your mouth and you’re unable to discern what’s good and what’s bad.

So, I’m wondering if that’s what the brothers of Joseph felt. And they heard the word *Egypt* and then it comes flooding back to them.

Let’s continue the story. Jacob knew what the solution was: Go to Egypt, buy grain. But then the Bible author says something specific in Genesis 42:4:

But Jacob would not let Joseph’s younger brother Benjamin go with them, for fear that some harm might come to him.

Remember last Sunday, I said Joseph was the youngest son of Jacob? That’s true—during that time when the author wrote it. But now, there is another son who comes, another boy: Benjamin. Who is Benjamin?

Benjamin is the second son of Rachel. So, he is the only full-blooded brother of Joseph. The other brothers—they were 12 in the family, now 13—they were brothers from other mothers because Jacob had four wives. Now, the favorite wife of Jacob was Rachel. Remember, how Jacob worked for 14 years to have Rachel? How crazy must that have been! Some can’t even stay in a relationship for a year. This guy worked for 14 years for this woman.

Yes, Jacob had four wives. I don’t want some of you thinking here, “Ahh, the Bible said it’s all right to have four wives. So, it must be okay.”

Actually, the reason the author even brings it up is he wants to talk about the struggles that come with having multiple wives.

But why did Jacob did not want Benjamin to go to Joseph in Egypt? Because he was the new favorite. Joseph was gone. So, you can see from this point that there’s still favoritism.

That’s what we talked about last Sunday.





Genesis 42:6 NLT

Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground.

Joseph's Dream Already Happening

And so, now, they're on their way to the journey towards Egypt. Genesis 42:6 (*above*).

Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. Remember that 20 years ago, there was a dream.

And he shared that dream with his brothers: "One day, all of you will bow to me."

But you see at this point, the dream was already happening. The intention of the brothers when they started out was not good. They wanted to get rid of Joseph. Why? They were envious. They were jealous. But here's what I believe: It was because they wanted to kill that dream. When they heard that dream, they plotted against Joseph.



But now, you see that this evil intention is being used by God to actually fulfill the dream.

If there's anything that you need to learn today, it's this: That God can use every wrong thing in your life for good. God can use it for the greater good – because He's the God of the Turn-around.



Genesis 42:7-8 NLT

⁷ Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where are you from?" he demanded. "From the land of Canaan", they replied. "We have come to buy food."

⁸ Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn't recognize him.

Grabbing vs. Giving

Now, this is a chance encounter with Joseph. *Above*, Verse 7 says Joseph recognized his brothers instantly.

Once upon a time, Jacob, their dad, was the master of disguise. He pretended to be Esau in front of their dad Isaac. Remember that? So that --what? —he could grab the blessing. Now, we see Joseph is doing the same thing. It's a family tradition. Except there's a difference. The difference is the posture of the heart-- the intention. Remember that when Jacob pretended to be somebody else, it was because he wanted to *grab* the blessing. But Joseph was a bit different. He pretended to be somebody that he was not because he wanted to *give* a blessing.

There's a big difference between *grabbing* and *giving*. And I hope that you will understand this today because Joseph continues with his act of pretending. So, he keeps on this drama—until it shifts to this weird event where Joseph now accuses his brothers of being spies.

He's like, "You're scouting the land and you're spies."

And, of course, they were like, "No, we're not."

But then he continues—until he comes up with a solution.

He says, "Okay, I believe you that you're sincere, if you go back home, go back to your father in Canaan, and then I want you to bring your youngest brother with you when you come back here."

Of course, they knew that was going to be difficult. Of course, they knew, their father Jacob would not allow it. But he still proceeded with it.

But then you see the picture changing a bit.

Sometimes You're Up, Sometimes You're Down

Once upon a time, the authority was with the brothers, right? They had every authority over Joseph. But now, you see that it's Joseph who has authority over them. What is happening?

Here's a reminder for everybody: Don't ever get too cocky when you're at the top position. Because you'll never you when it's your turn to be at the bottom. Amen.

Bilog ang mundo—the world is round. Sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down. You'll never know when God will make you experience burnout and downfall. So, there—Don't ever get too proud. What do you do? You humble yourself: To know that God is your Source. Sometimes God gives, sometimes God also takes away.

So, that's what's happening here. The authority is now on Joseph. He is second in command—governor of Egypt.

But then Joseph does something. Joseph, being in charge, says to his soldiers, “I want you to go and fill up the sacks with grains for these people to take home.”


And then, he says, “I want you to put back the money that they used to buy the grain. Not only that. I want you to put in extra money.”

At this moment, my friends, we're seeing the very heart of God. That before Joseph could experience the forgiveness, the repentance, the penance of his brothers, I wonder how many of you would do this. He already chose to love them. He already chose to care for them.

Sometimes, when we get hurt, you know what we do? We hurt the person who hurt us.

But Joseph is not doing that. He is actually giving them more than what they deserve. Isn't God like that? While you were still a sinner, God loved you. God forgave you. Even before you deserved it, God gave you Jesus. How amazing is our God! God blesses you more than what you deserve. Aren't you happy that God does that? He blesses us more than we deserve.





Genesis 42:27-28 NLT
But when they stopped for the night and one of them opened his sack to get grain for his donkey, he found his money in the top of his sack.
²⁸ "Look!" he exclaimed to his brothers. "My money has been returned; it's here in my sack!" Then their hearts sank. Trembling, they said to each other, "What has God done to us?"

What God Has Done

God blesses us more than we deserve. So, Joseph does that for his brothers. But then this will stir something inside of his brothers. Because that night, as it says in Verse 27 (*above*) they found money in their sack.

By the way, another reflection. It wasn't easy for Joseph to do this. Because he loved his brothers. And though it was not easy for Joseph to see his brothers suffering, it was necessary.

Let me just say this: It doesn't make God happy to see you in misery. But God knows it's necessary. It's necessary for your growth. It's necessary for your wisdom. It's necessary for your resilience. It doesn't make God happy. But it's necessary.

So, here's what's happening, in Verse 27.

You know, one of the biggest blessings that you can have is that you wear your jeans, and then you wear it for another week. And then when you wear your jeans again, you put your hand in the pocket—and then there's a P100 bill. That's nice, right?

Women, wouldn't it be a blessing when you use your handbag and then the second time you use it, you dig around and you look for stuff, you try to clean it out, and then you see a P500 bill? Isn't that exciting?

But here, it's not. The brothers saw extra money.

Trembling, they say: "What has God done to us?"

Your Blessing Is Going to Happen

What is the author trying to tell us?

When you live life with a guilty conscience, you will never be able to appreciate the gifts of God. When you have a guilty conscience, a bad heart, no matter how good the blessing is, you'll never be able to use that blessing. Why?

Can you imagine, thanking the Lord: "Lord thank You for this blessing that I stole!"

You can't. Because the blessing of God, when you steal it, when you grab it, it will not give you serenity. It will give you anxiety. Instead of being grateful, you become fearful.

Just like the brothers. That's what's happening here. They are not able to appreciate God's gift.

So, reconcile yourself with Jesus. Here's some advice: Confess. Confess your sins. Because until you reveal it to the light, the darkness will always prevail. The darkness will always have power over you.

Now, the image is the brothers are back in Canaan. And they tell Jacob all about it. And, of course, Jacob is not happy.

He is like, "What are you doing? You're killing me. They already took Joseph. Now, you want to take my son Benjamin?"

But of course, you know, Jacob does not have a choice. To live, they got to go back to Egypt.

By the way, before Joseph sent the brothers back, there was one brother left behind in prison—Simeon. And he was imprisoned just to make sure that they come back to Egypt.

And so, Jacob now is struggling. You see, early on, Jacob was a picture of somebody who kept on grabbing blessings, after blessings, after blessings. And you witnessed that even in his old life, even until such an old age, he was still grabbing blessing after blessing.

You know, one thing we need to learn today is we need to learn how to trust God more. Because the reason we grab the blessing is we are afraid that God's not going to follow through—God's not going to fulfill His promise.

But when you completely trust God, you know that your blessing is going to happen. Because God said so. When you learn how to trust God, you learn how to surrender to Him.



Let Go of What's in Your Hand

At this moment, Jacob is about to learn for the first time in his life what it means to surrender everything. Even with a heavy heart, he allows Benjamin to go to Egypt.

But there's a purpose God wants you to let go of *that* thing. I don't know what kind of things you're holding on to right now. You're struggling because you think that there's scarcity. But you will never experience abundance like no other if you don't let go of what's in your hand.

Jacob is about to do that now. So, the brothers go back to Egypt, And there's this beautiful reunion between Joseph and his brothers for the first time. They found out who the Governor was.

And they sent word to Jacob, "Your son is alive! Come!"



So, Jacob is now having a reunion with his family.

What an amazing story, right? You know, we can end the story right now and be blessed -- or we can continue a little further. I want to take this full circle now.

Genesis is an amazing book in the Bible. But let me take you home.

We started with the message of *Genesis: God made you good*. He did! That's the truth. God made you good. You were created in the image and likeness of God.

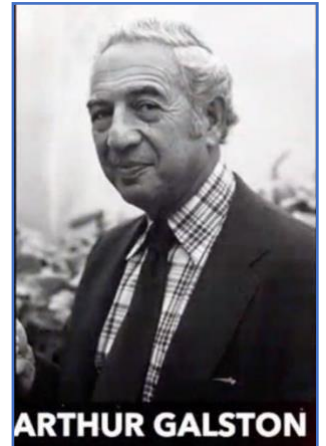
You are good.



The Problem

The problem is, over time, we're not always good. We forget that we are good. We invent ourselves. Sometimes, we create things that are not even meant for that purpose.

For instance, in the 1940s, there was this graduate student by the name of Arthur Galston, who studied at the University of Illinois. And he was trying to look for ways to speed up the ways of growth of soybeans.



So, he did research and he found one chemical and it's called 2,3,5 Triiodobenzoic Acid.

And he discovered that this chemical agent could speed up the growth of plants—of soybeans, in particular. But he also noticed that when you put excess amounts, it did not speed up the growth, it sped up the death of the plant.

And to him, that's fine-- because who in his right mind would want to kill plants?

Wrong. Because in the 1960s, some military researchers got a hold of his research. And you know what they did? They turned it into a weapon. They were at war with Vietnam during that time. Vietnam is a beautiful land—

a tropical country of fields, of green, and trees, marine life, and animals. They dropped this chemical agent all over the fields of Vietnam. They called it Agent Orange and it killed every plant, marine, and living thing in the area.

So, bad! When Arthur heard about it, he said, "That's *ecocide*." It's like genocide, the killing of a mass of people. But ecocide was killing the ecosystem.

2,3,5 TRIODOBENZOIC ACID



ECOCIDE



Genesis 1:31 NLT

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

God created you to be good. But sometimes we distort the purpose by which God created us, to begin with.

Check this out: In the beginning, Genesis 1:31 says God looked over all He had made, and He saw that it was *good*. You saw this. There was murder, there was evil, there was famine, there was deception, there was cheating. It was good, yes, but not entirely good. So, what happened?

Genesis 1: God saw that it was good—49 verses later, not everything was good. Would you like to know how Genesis 50 ends? In Genesis 50:20,

Genesis 50:20 NLT

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good."

Joseph was talking to his brothers:

The start of *Genesis* is the ending of *Genesis*. What is Joseph trying to remind us today?

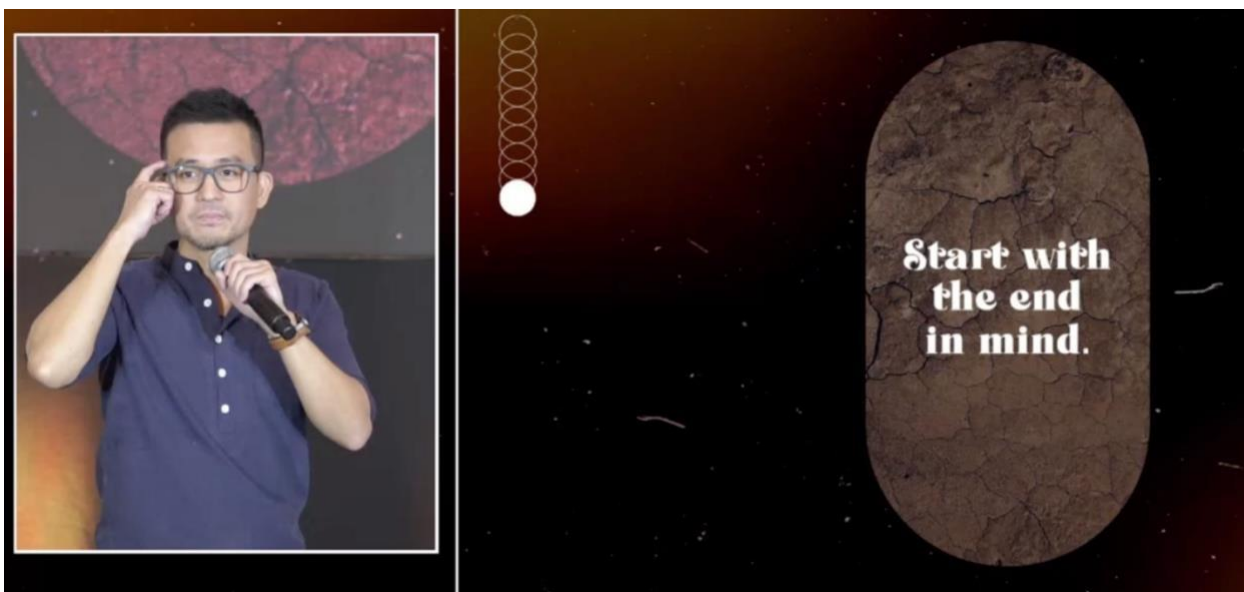
Whatever is happening in your life is not all good.

There's brokenness, there's

heartache, there's cancer, there's diabetes, there's divorce, there's abortion, there's corruption, there's evil-- there are a lot going on in our life. But the promise of God in the book of *Genesis* is that no matter what happens, in the end, it will be *good*.

When you go through the next book, the book of *Exodus*, the Israelites enjoyed abundance through the leadership of Joseph. Joseph was amazing.

But then, they became slaves again. And 430 years, they were slaves until Moses came. When they were freed by Moses, it was a celebration – after 430 years of bondage. But then, what happened? They wandered in the desert for 44 more years.



God Wins

What am I trying to say to you today? We said this last week: Life is not a straight line. There are zigs, there are zags, there are defeats, there are losses, there are gains, there are victories. Life is not a straight line.

When something comes against you—a problem, a struggle, a storm, a trial—here’s what I want you to do this week. It’s just a simple piece of advice. I want you to start with the end in mind. Let me say that again: *Start with the end in mind.*

If you know that the end will be good, no matter what comes against you --how evil it may be-- you know in your heart that God will win. And *you* will win. Because if you go back all the way to the ending—the start of this beautiful book is the end of this beautiful book: that God wins. So, what do you do?

What He wanted for us all. He won the ultimate good. Where? On that Cross. You don’t need to do it for yourself anymore. You just have to have a life with Jesus. He’s the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

So, have a life with Jesus.





Let's Declare the Goodness of God Today:

Lord, look at your children. Look at us as we bask in your Presence, as we lift our hands in faith. We've gone through so many experiences in our life—not all good. Some were just nasty, some were just difficult, some were just too stressful for us to even think about them.

But now we know, Lord, we don't have to run away from them, we don't have to hide away from them. We don't even need to steal a blessing to feel good. All we have to do is declare that You are good, and that Your goodness and mercy chase after us.

So, we lean our heart toward Your Son Jesus right now. We lean our life to the Savior—to the One who won it all, the One who loves us so much

Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus. May every person in this room today be filled with Your love—to be reminded that You are good. Amen.



MERCY MINISTRIES

*The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
may the name of the Lord be praised...
Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him.*
-- Job 1: 20-21; Job 13:15

HE CARES MISSION PART 3

How To Be Respected and Generous

WE started our series on He Cares Mission in *The Feast Family* August 14, 2022. Part 1 of our series featured The Promised Land, a private lot donated to He Cares which it is now developing into a farmland to provide food, livelihood training, and shelter for its beneficiaries. The next issue, August 21, 2022, featured Part 2--about Sis. Judith Enriquez, He Cares administration assistant, sharing challenges—and blessings—of the Mission’s operations.

In this issue, we feature a He Cares beneficiary—once a street child. The Mission provided a shelter for him in the He Cares Mission Center in Quezon City, and from there, he’s now in The Promised Land.

Here is Kiram Kudos. *Kiram* is an Arabic-Muslim word which means *respected and generous ones*. He was born in 2001 to parents who are Muslims—the reason he has a Muslim name. He has a brother, Sabdula. They were poor. To survive, Kiram and Sabdula begged on the streets.

We recently interviewed Kiram, and he told *The Feast Family*: “We always played on the streets and begged for alms from passengers of cars and jeepneys.”

Until in 2012, Bro. Joe Dean Sola, He Cares founder, who’s always on the lookout for street children to take care of, spotted Kiram and Sabdula on the streets, and promptly invited them to He Cares’ Feeding Program. Then, yes, He Cares welcomed them to live in the Mission’s shelter in Quezon City, and from there, to The Promised Land.



Job's Story

In our interview, Kiram said he has no favorite Bible verse: “But my favorite Bible story is the life of Job.”

The Bible, in the book of *Job*, tells the story when Satan tested the Lord. He told the Lord that His people obey Him only because they have a good life. To prove that Satan was wrong, the Lord presented Job who lived in the land of Uz.

“Then the Lord asked Satan, ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. (Job 1: NIV).

Then, Satan challenged the Lord: *“But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face (Job 1:11).*

The Lord agreed, and so, Job lost everything—his family, his flocks and herds, his source of livelihood, and he even suffered horrible skin sores.

And Job responded this way: *At this, Job got up and tore his robe. And shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: Naked I came from my mother's womb, naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised (Job 1: 20-21 NIV)*

And he added, *“Though He slay me, yet I will trust Him (Job 13:15.)*

Job eventually got back everything he lost: Job being restored to an even better condition than his former wealthy state, receiving his wealth back several fold, his wife escaped death, God healed Job and blessed him with another 10 children, and he lived another 140 years (Job 42: 10-17).

Kiram's Story

Just like Job suffered, Kiram may have had a difficult childhood. But today, like Job he praises and thanks God for his blessings.

First, safety in The Promised Land: “When the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic started in 2020, we transferred here in The Promised Land. This land is a safe haven for us because it is far from the city where there's high incidence of COVID infection.”



<http://new.hecaresmission.com/our-causes/6/>

Paying It Forward

Second big blessing for Kiram: education opportunity. Kiram was 10 years old and Sabdula 8 when He Cares found them and promptly enrolled them in an elementary school to start Grade 1. Now 20 years old, Kiram is in Grade 11 at a national high school. Sabdula is 16 years old, also still a He Cares scholar. *At right*, Kiram in The Promised Land on his way to school.

“We get to continue our studies and we are learning livelihood skills here. Now, I know already how to drive and I can now operate a backhoe machine (big machine used for farming, such as tilling the soil).”



Third, Kiram and his co-beneficiaries now attend The Feast at the Bureau of Soils in Quezon City. *Above*, image of The Feast BSWM stage from the Facebook page of its sound system provider, Musicbucks Pro Lights and Sounds [#musicbuckslightsandsounds](#) [#musicbucks](#)

And Kiram joyfully serves during The Feast Holy Mass as an altar boy, and in the Music Ministry as bass guitar player.

Yes, He Cares well prepares its beneficiaries to be self-sufficient and self-confident, as well as to have the heart of a missionary to pay forward their blessings.

Just like what God did for Job.

The ultimate lesson in Job’s story is that even the righteous man suffers. We suffer, but if we trust God, we will eventually overcome Life’s challenges and be an inspiration to others.

And, as Kiram’s name puts it, we will be the *respected and generous ones*.

--With reporting by Cybill P. Bayto





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.

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He Cares Mission provides shelter for street children.

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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.

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FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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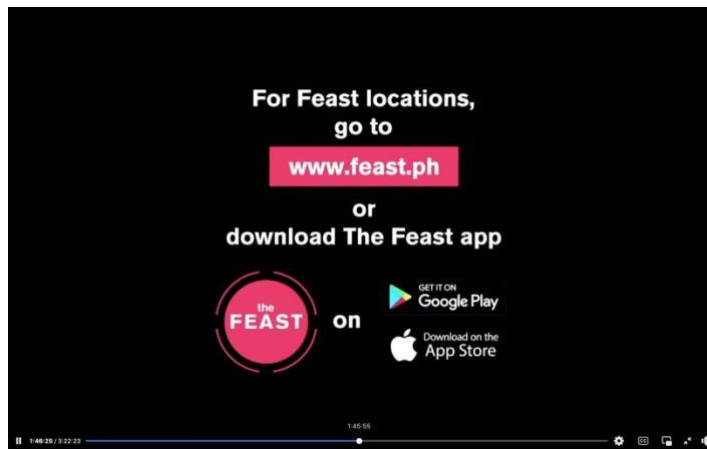
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Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19