



NEWSLETTER
April 16, 2023

GRAND EASTER FEAST SPECIAL

Back to Eden

LAST Feast Sunday (April 9, 2023), we recalled the story of the good thief. *Good* because he admitted his transgression, expressed faith in the Lord Jesus, asking Him, “Remember me, please remember me...”

And Jesus told the thief:

“I assure you, today, you will be with me in paradise.”

We learned *paradise* in Greek means *garden*. And Jews, when they hear the word *garden*, there is only one garden in their mind: *Garden of Eden* --where the first gardener was Adam.

We then also learned that the Garden of Eden is not just in Heaven. It’s also on Earth. Because the Garden is not a place. The Garden is a Person. a New Gardener: our Lord Jesus...

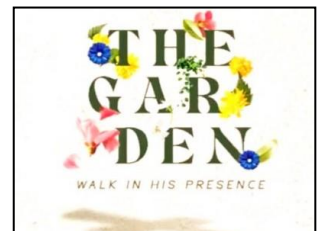
The question we will tackle this Feast Sunday is: How do we stay in this Garden, with our Lord as the Gardener?

Quick, turn to Page 2 where Feast Builder and Preacher Bro. Audee Villaraza introduces today’s Feast talk.

Have a beautiful, refreshing Feast!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez



Staying Strong

LAST Sunday, 4,000+ warm bodies celebrated Jesus at The Feast.

It was a sight to behold. The venue overflowed to a point where some people were not able to get inside the hall. We honor those who stayed to worship with us in spite of this.

Even before the event began, I already felt people were excited to celebrate Easter. And when the celebration ended, the whole venue was filled with rapture. People lingered, servants were singing and dancing in the lobby. Joy was in the air. Church was happening.

I bet people went home with a renewed desire to walk with the Lord in the Garden. How many of you today are still nursing a holy hangover today?

Here's our message for today: *Stay in The Garden.*

So now, the biggest question is: "How do you stay in the Garden?"

Answer: You need *staying power*.

Truth: *We don't celebrate STAYING power enough.*

Everyone thinks *starting* is sexy.

"I'm going to start a business, a church, a relationship, Bible reading plans."

We love to celebrate new beginnings.

But in reality, new beginnings are only as good if you're able to sustain them.

It's easy to start a relationship, but it's hard to keep one.

It's easy to start a goal, but it's hard to stay focused on it.

It's easy to start believing in God, but it's hard to carry your cross and follow Him day after day.

*The greatest power is not found in your faith to START something—
but in your fortitude to STAY the right course until the finish line.*

Glory to God,

Audee Villaraza

2 The FEAST FAMILY April 16, 2023





LETTERS

Blooming!

THAT's *The Feast Family* issue today.

We are abloom with fresh, multicolor, sweet-smelling thoughts, ideas, wisdom, lessons about The Garden, our Holy Week Retreat and Grand Easter Feast.



His Eminence, Cardinal Jose Advincula, blessed us with the New Image of Life-- how the Risen Christ, our Lord Jesus, really looks like, *page 10*.

Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, walks us back to blooming Eden, as he introduces our preacher this Sunday, Bro. Audee Villaraza (*right*) who tackles how we keep abloom-- in today's Feast Talk, *Staying in the*



Garden, pages 1 and 2.

But what's The Garden really about? Bro. Bo walked us through the beautiful paradise in last week's Sunday Feast. *Flashback, page 20.*



Bro. Ryan Capitulo (*right*) actually brings

us to The Garden of tomorrow—the many blooms of events of The Feast, *page 15*.

Sis. Nicole Barba (*above left*) blooms with wonder as she reprises the crucial role of Mary Magdalene, *page 4*.



Bro. Tony Valenzuela (*above*) meditates, allowing us to savor the sweet-smelling Garden of Easter, *page 7*.

Bro. Aio Barcelona (*above left*) sings a thought-provoking song, *page 9*.

Inspiring diva, Jamie Rivera, with Voice Kid Fabio Santos treats us with a 3-in-1 bouquet, *page 14*.



Mom Haylenth Tubban embraces a bloom --daughter Haeley Rose, now battling leukemia-- as both of them hold on to the bloom of hope in the assistance of the Jesus Cares for Cancer (JCCFC), *page 35*.

Yes, here, we have The Garden.

Bloom where you are!

All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

APRIL 9, 2023

RESURRECTION DAY



Mary Magdalene

“Oh, my God! The stone! But who? Hello?”

Mary draws nearer the tomb but as she does, sees the body of Jesus is gone. She leaps to the conclusion that He has been stolen. The distress of this opens a door to what she does not want to give voice to.

“No... No! No, please... Where? How could they take Him? How could they... How could He leave me? He just left me...”

Mary sinks to a seated position and weeps.



Portrayed by
MALAYA NICOLE BARBA

**That was how it went
at early morning...**

“And then I heard a voice. Hazy, like morning light. A man was speaking to me.”

Mary speaks the word of the man as she hears them...

“Dear lady, why do you weep? Who is it you are seeking?”

I couldn't lift my head, my eyes down. I could only suppose he was the gardener...

So, I said, “Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him.”

Then He said my name... “Mary!”

And I knew it was Him!

“Mary,” He said standing right there in front of me.

I think He said, “It was good to see you.”

I wish I responded with something poetic, something worthy of the moment, but all I could think of...

All that came out was, “I brought the myrrh.” He laughed, faithful anyway, right? I hope so.

And then I saw His hands, pierced.

And I remember the nails and the blood and the agony and... “Mary!”

“Mary, do not dwell inside old pain. I am risen and I will ascend to my Father!”

“Your mother will want to see you.”

He nodded, “Go to our friends and tell them, I am ascending to my Father, to your Father, to my God...”

“Yes! Yes! Of course, I will... But first can we just... I just want to stay here with You. Just for a bit.”

“Mary, you must not cling. This is a beginning, but only if you begin...

“So, tell our friends, and we will share a table together again... A beginning. I promise. Go, tell them.”

“Yes, right...”

Mary rallies and begins to leave with energy and purpose but quickly stops herself.

She turns back to Jesus with this last note of intimacy... “It is good to see you.”

Mary leaves and stops: I hated to leave Him, but I was also so excited to share this wonderful news with Peter and the disciples! So, I returned to them and told them...





I have seen the Lord!

Listen everyone, I said, Jesus is alive! I have seen Him! I saw the tomb was empty. He isn't there because He's alive!

Why had we ever doubted?

Jesus told us that He had to die but He would rise again in three days that's why the chief priests has posted a guard at His tomb.

Sometimes, we can be so slow to understand. So slow to recognize Who walks among us but wonder of wonders the Cross and the empty tomb reveal the depth of God's love for us.

I came this morning in darkness bearing spices but I leave this garden in the bright light of faith and carrying with me His promises that will last forever.



MEDITATION

Where is God present in my Easter experience?



TONY VALENZUELA: Brothers and Sisters, Friends... Today is Easter Sunday. It is the day that we rejoice in and we are glad in it. But what does it mean to us? Now that we are celebrating this wonderful event?

At this moment, Brothers and Sisters, Friends, Loved Ones, as we are here basking in His Presence, let us allow the Lord to fill us up as we meditate, reflect on the beauty and grace of this gift that is Easter. Not just for today but every day of your life, wherever you are and what you are going through.

Whether you're here in the Plenary Hall or outside, I invite you to take this moment, sit up straight, relax, breathe in, take in God's love, take in His light, His strength... and exhale.

Once again, can we do that? Breathe in... Take all of His love, His healing, His forgiveness, and exhale and release all your worries, all your cares, all your fears, all your anxieties, all your burdens, all the crosses that you've been carrying up to now.

And invite His Holy Spirit to envelope you and help you see today—Easter, as God sees it. And moving on from our Holy Triduum, these past days that we've been experiencing God's love and His Presence.



Reflect on His Presence...

The challenge is now: that often, after celebrating Easter Sunday, tomorrow you'll be going back to your regular routine... Or will you bring this Easter experience toward wherever you are?

Think about this Easter season, Friends. And recognize how God has been present in the days-- not just today-- but in every day of your life.

If it's all right to take a relaxed posture, to close your eyes, breathe in once again, breathe out.

And now we take a few moments of silence to reflect on His Presence today...

Now, Brothers and Sisters, in your posture of reflection, think about what you've experienced these past days. What are you grateful for? Be specific about it. Maybe it's a friend you've encountered after so long. Maybe it's a gift for a special meal because you've been fasting, you've been abstaining...but the moment you've experienced God's providence, you were grateful for that. Maybe it's about a shared time you've had with a loved one, a friend, or a family... Or during this Holy Week, someone prayed for you, or someone said something wonderful to you, or maybe you prayed for someone else, maybe not face-to-face but in your alone-time with the Lord. Recognize this wonderful experience of Easter and allow His Resurrection to come alive.

Again, we breathe in, we breathe out...

And now, Brothers and Sisters, as you pay attention to your feelings, to what is coming in, what you're experiencing—ask yourself: Where is God present in my Easter experience? Where is He right here, right now, through what I'm going through? What does He want me to do? What are the next steps? Like Mary who encountered Jesus for the first time after the Resurrection, she too asked.



BREATHE IN... BREATHE OUT



Begin a New Life

So, today dear Friends, have you experienced God's love? Have you experienced His forgiveness, His mercy, His abundant joy? Or are you still reaching out, searching for it?

Again, we breathe in, we breathe out...

Finally, what are you looking forward to? Think about what you are hopeful for. What are you expecting the Lord to do for you this Easter season as we begin a new life, a new step, a new day.

Offer these things to God and ask for His anointing, ask for His blessing for your hopes and dreams to come alive, and invite God to journey with you throughout-- not just of this Easter season-- but throughout the rest of your life.

For you are an Easter person. We are Easter children.

Let His Presence come alive in you, and together, we pray in the words that our Lord Jesus gave us:

Our Father, who art in heaven. Holy be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen and amen.



Blown Away



AIO BARCELONA continues meditation with deeply touching Hillsong United song, *Blown Away*

*...The Son of Man, the Lamb of God, Emmanuel
Given to die
What You went through
to love me
I'll never understand
What blows my mind away is
You love me as I am...*

Source: [Musixmatch](#)



FLASHBACK!

APRIL 9, 2023

Holy Mass



THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
THE MASS OF EASTER DAY



Homily

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL JOSE ADVINCULA
Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Manila

Concelebrants: Fr Bob McConaghy, Fr. Mark Demanuele,
and Fr. Mico Deller

on the Gospel: John 20:1-9

The Empty Tomb

Excerpts...

My dear concelebrating priests, assisting beacon, Bro. Bo Sanchez, Feast Builders, servants, volunteers, and members of The Feast Community, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, on behalf of the entire people of God in the Archdiocese of Manila, I bring you joyful greetings of a Blessed and a Happy Easter!

New Image of Life

*Maligayang Pasko ng Pagkabuhay
sa inyong lahat!*

On this day, the Sunday of Sundays, we celebrate the very reason we are Christians, the very reason we gather for The Feast every Sunday, the very reason we believe in Christ.

Christ the Lord is risen from the dead. The light of Jesus has shown and darkness has not overcome it. Love is stronger than death-- for love entered death and conquered it.

How does the Risen Lord look like? Was the Resurrection similar to the resuscitation we see in hospitals wherein doctors and nurses try to revive the person by recovering the heartbeat and the brainwaves?

No. The Resurrection is totally different from this. Jesus truly died. He was in the tomb for three days and He descended into hell. But on the third day, the Father raised Him up, not merely restoring His breath and pulse--but totally transforming His entire person into the fullness of life and glory.

This is what St. Paul meant when he told the Corinthians that in the Resurrection, we will gain spiritual buddies and perishable and glorious.

In the Resurrection, we become totally new persons. We don't return to our old selves but transformed into our better selves. We have a word for this in Tagalog: *banyuhay*, which means *bagong anyo ng buhay*.

My wise brother bishop, Bishop Ambo David of Caloocan-- wrote a lovely poem that beautifully captures this mystery of *banyuhay*-- showed how our earthly experience is filled with signs of Easter, signs of *banyuhay*-- *mga nagbabagong anyo ng buhay*.

Gripping caterpillars become gorgeous butterflies, little seeds become mighty trees, frail eggs become soaring birds, and the zygote in the womb become adult humans.

The mystery of *banyuhay* is exciting but it can also be scary or even traumatic. The paschal mystery of Death and Resurrection can fill us with doubt and anxiety.

We know that unfortunately, not all caterpillars become butterflies-- some of the pupa get eaten by critters. Not all seeds become trees-- some would rot in the soil. Not all eggs get hatched-- some chicks die in the shell. Not all fetuses are born-- some are miscarried, some are even aborted.



We Are Easter People

More than daunting, *banyuhay* is awe-inspiring. Imagine the caterpillar wrapping itself and falling into deep slumber then waking up with brilliant lovely wings. Imagine the seed burying into the soil then breaking through bright green leaves. Imagine the chick cracking shell then seeing its mother hen. Imagine the human infant passing through the dark canal of wound then seeing a great light and hearing the voices of fellow human persons as they transition to new life. They are still themselves, but with *banyuhay*, they have opened to a new level of experience and have become wonderfully different.



In the same way, the reason Jesus is the same Jesus who walked the Earth and continues to be with us-- but now revealing more fully the glory of the Father.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord's empty tomb is the pupa and chrysalis or the seed's empty husk or the chick's empty shell or the new born infant's detached placenta.

We won't see the caterpillar in the hanging chrysalis anymore. We have to look up to see the colorful butterfly.

We won't find the seeds in the ground anymore. We have to look up to the encompassing canopy of the tall tree.

We won't see the chick in the shell anymore. We have to look up to the high soaring eagle.

We won't find the infant in the womb anymore. We have to look up to see a grown-up human person.

And so, what should scare us is not our creaturely, infirmity, and mortality. What we should avoid is the stagnation and decay brought about by staying in the comfort of shells and wombs staying in our conveniences and conventions because we are too scared of the life beyond, because we're too afraid of *banyuhay*.

There is light outside the shell, there is a hand that will catch us outside the womb, there is life beyond death. It is a life that's more colorful, more glorious, and more fruitful. *May nakaantabay na kamay ng pagsilang at pagbabanyuhay. May nakaantabay na pagkabuhay at pagbabagong buhay.*

Let us rise then through Jesus who rose from the dead. We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY April 9, 2023

Mass Readings



First Reading: Acts 10: 34a, 37-43

34a And Peter opening his mouth, said: 37 You know the word which hath been published through all Judea: for it began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached, 38 Jesus of Nazareth: how God anointed him with the Holy Ghost, and with power, who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.39 And we are witnesses of all things that he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed, hanging him upon a tree. 40 Him God raised up the third day, and gave him to be made manifest, 41 Not to all the people, but to witnesses preordained by God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he arose again from the dead;42 And he commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is he who was appointed by God, to be judge of the living and of the dead.43 To him all the prophets give testimony, that by his name all receive remission of sins, who believe in him.



Second Reading: Colossians 3: 1-4 or First Corinthians 5: 6b-8



1 Therefore, if you be risen with Christ, seek the things that are above; where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God: 2 Mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth. 3 For you are dead; and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ shall appear, who is your life, then you also shall appear with him in glory. Or 6b Know you not that a little leaven corrupteth the whole lump? 7 Purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new paste, as you are unleavened. For Christ our pasch is sacrificed.8 Therefore let us feast, not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Grand Easter Feast Special

JAMIE RIVERA, inspirational diva, with Fabio Santos, Voice Kids contestant, sing Jamie's composition, *3 in 1* ...



"3 In 1"
(feat. **IMOGEN & Fabio Santos**)

I need coffee when I rise
To help me open up my eyes
And see the brightness of the sun
All I need today is my 3 in one
I delight with cappuccino
I enjoy the macchiato
Love the flavor of espresso
But I'd rather have my 3 in 1

But my favorite 3 in 1
Is the father and the son
And the holy spirit to guide me through
Believe that they are 3 in 1
They love you and everyone
They are equal and it's true
Oh my Lord, I believe in you

God the father's my creator
Jesus is my lord and savior
Holy spirit keeps me clean
Co'z I don't wanna live my life in sin

Co'z my favorite 3 in 1
Is the father and the son
And the holy spirit to guide me through
Believe that they are 3 in 1
They love you and everyone
They are equal and it's true
Oh my Lord, I believe in you



DR. RYAN CAPITULO: Come on, give a clap offering to the Lord!

Praises to him! Happy Easter my Feast Family!

As what Cardinal Joe said, we are an Easter people and Hosanna is our song!

Let us all shout: *Jesus is alive!*

Give the Lord a big hand!

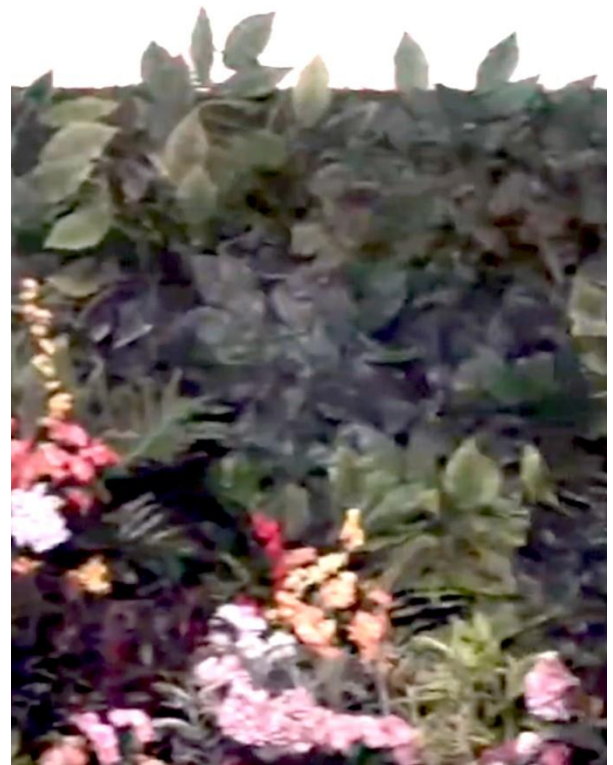
Again, we would like to thank his Eminence Cardinal Jose Advincula for the Spirit-filled celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Give the Lord a big hand for the gift of the Archdiocese of Manila.

First of all, I'd like to inform all of you that thousands came for this Grand Easter Feast. The Plenary Hall is in full capacity and we beg the understanding of all the people outside who we weren't able to let in the Plenary Hall. For those who have lined up outside, we have set up a viewing area at the lobby of the main building of PICC so, they are all there.

So, we have an overflow area for the Grand Easter Feast.

In the Holy Week Retreat, we were able to walk-- literally walked here inside the PICC to the different Gardens that we set up and many attendees told us that they were refreshed-- that they were really inspired and healed by the experience.



Exciting Events!

In the Holy Week Retreat, we walked through the Garden of Eden and the Garden of Gethsemane. But today, we will walk with the Lord in another Garden.

But before that, I have very important announcements for all of you.

First, we would like to invite all of you to attend Feast Bay Area every Sunday at the Aliw Theater. Please attend our Feast every Sunday at the Aliw Theater. First session is 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Second session is 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and our third session is 2 to 4:00 PM. Please choose from any of our sessions.



My dear friends, please save the dates for our various Feast community-wide events. We are ready to gather again! The Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic is almost gone! Thank You, Lord!

So, please save the dates for these important events:

First, FBA will be conducting a Love Life Retreat for Single people— June 23 to 24. We also have Camp Kalye, that would be on June 30 to July 1. So, save the date! Save your money and help our young people attend Camp Kalye.

We also have the FBA Youth Home, right? That's on April 29! Don't miss that!

Also, save the dates for the Feast Worship Night on June 17; Brighter Youth Conference on July 2023; Jewels Womens Conference on August 2023; Feast Conference on November 24 to 26 at SMX Convention Center.



Bro. Bo Launches New Book

This is also a very special day for everyone because Bro. Bo Sanchez is launching his latest book!

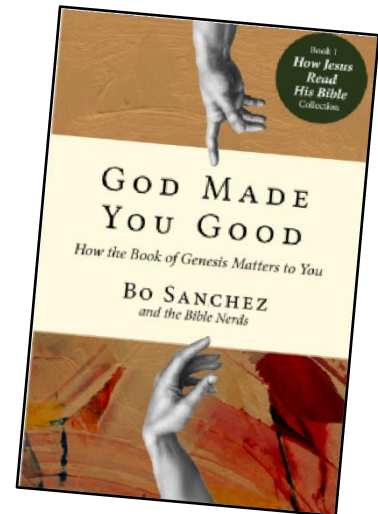
And because it's Easter we will want to treat you.

We are giving away free copies of Bro. Bo's book. It's a very special book because Bro. Bo co-wrote it with the Bible "nerds" of our Community.

And the title of the book is *God Made You Good*.

Who will be given free copy of the book?

Now, please look under your seats for the Easter egg taped under the seats. There are five Easter eggs, so the five attendees who find the eggs will each will get one copy of this brand-new book!



Love Offering



Help us continue this ministry: feast.ph/giving

 GCash



...Raise your Love Offering or sacrificial envelopes and please say this with me:
Risen Lord, I give You my best. Use my sacrifice. Use my offering to make your Garden bloom so that more people will get to walk in Your Presence.

Bless me more so I can give more. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Worship!

AUDEE VILLARAZA: Happy Easter, Church! As you stand up, can you just shake your hands and as you're shaking your hands, I want you to imagine that you're shaking the old. You're shaking the dust. You're shaking the pain away. You're shaking what had been because today is a brand-new day! Happy Easter again, Church!



How many of you believe that there is no event that happened in the Christian life that is more powerful, more significant, more life-changing than today? Raise your hand. Do you believe that?

But may I just pop your bubble? Just a bit? I want you to know that just because it's Easter, it doesn't mean that you're done here when you go home, that your problems will magically disappear. That's not going to happen.

Some here, you are in physical pain. After here, when you're done, you'll probably still going to be in pain. Some of you came here and you are in financial debt. By the time you're done here, guess what? You still have that debt. Some of you came here and you don't have money in your pocket and by the time you go home you probably won't have money in your pocket-- except that maybe the person beside you might treat you for lunch. I don't know, maybe God will send that person. Some of you came here, maybe the weight of the world is on your shoulder. Maybe, chances are, you might still experience that.

But may I give you a word that will set you free right now? May I?

Jesus said in John 16:33: In this world you will have trouble... but take heart, have courage, because *I have overcome the world.*

You want to hear some good news? Here's the Good News: In spite of all the trouble we go through in this world, the Good News is *you shall overcome.*

Hallelujah! Today, we praise the King of Kings! The Lord of Lords! He is the Chain Breaker! The Grave Robber! He is a Storm Stopper! He's a Life Changer, and His Name is Jesus!



**THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE
THAN YOURS**

**THAT THROUGH YOUR DEATH
AND CROSS MY DEBT IS PAID FOR**

**NO OTHER NAME
I'D RATHER LIVE AND SING FOR**

**FROM SIN YOU SET ME FREE
DEATH HAS NO HOLD ON ME**

**THIS LOVE LOOKS PAST
BEYOND ALL SINS**

**YOUR LOVE HAS MADE A WAY
FOREVER I AM SAVED**

THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE



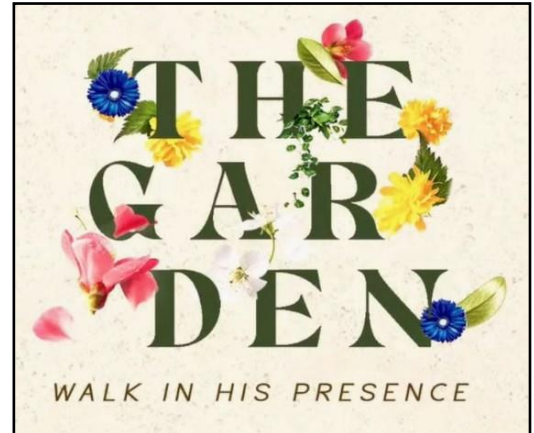
FLASHBACK!

APRIL 9, 2023

Special Talk

BO SANCHEZ: So good, so good. How many of you are being blessed today? How many of you believe that God is here and God is alive and God is touching, and God is healing, and God is blessing!

Give the Lord a big hand, Everybody!



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 everyday.

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.

A Simple Word

Today I want to preach a very simple Word:



If you watched *Avatar*— -- American James Cameron's epic science fiction about *avatar*, Sanskrit word meaning *descen,t* that is, of a deity to the earth-- and I am presuming that some of you did because it's one of the...not one... the biggest most watched movie of all time now—

In the movie, the tribe of Na'vi (extraterrestrial humanoids), they would greet each other by saying three words:



And we kind of like, layering upon the interpretation I have. It's like *I see you* as an individual person. I see you as a human being. I see you as precious. I see you as valuable. And because I see you, we can have a relationship together.

So, humor me. I want you to turn to somebody beside you and maybe not just one but a few of them and tell them, "*I see you.*"

Now, wait, before you do that, don't say *I see you* (briefly). You've got to pause between each word:

I... see... you...

And then what you're saying is "I see you. I recognize you. You are important. You are valuable. And *I see you* means that we can have this relationship."

So, go, go, go...





And how many of you can say this with me: that you see the Lord?
Everybody say, "I see the Lord!"
Oh, yes, I see the Lord.

We need to thank some people who have blessed us so much. Right now, there are hundreds upon hundreds of people outside this room who cannot come in. We just want to recognize them. There are two groups. The one here-- we even have in the main building a number of people who are there-- and there are projectors. We just want to give all of them a big hand. Thank you for staying and being part of this gathering. Thank you so much to those watching online as well. God bless you, guys. God be with you.

We want to thank the people who gathered us together for the past three days. We want to thank our leaders.

Thank You!

You know, I really feel embarrassed when some people think I'm still the overall leader-- like in the Prayer of Petitions they say, you know, "Bro. Boss,"-- and then Cardinal Advincula greeting me. I feel embarrassed because I'm no longer the leader. The responsibility and the pain and the burden are not on my shoulders anymore.



The responsibility is with other people. But they're not getting recognized. Anyway, I know it's just out of habit.

But I just want to tell you that I am like you now. I'm a member. And they put me here onstage because, you know, I'm a servant. And I serve. If they tell me to serve, I will serve.



Alvin Barcelona



Didoy Lubaton



Paolo Galia

But I want to recognize Alvin Barcelona, our leader here. And he is my leader. I want to recognize Didoy Lubaton who is like the admin guy who takes care, thank you, thank you for your service, guys. Maraming-maraming

salamat. God be with you. God bless you. Thank you. We want to thank Paolo Galia for directing this whole three-day Retreat. Shepherd's Voice and Radio Television (SVRTV) Team, Maraming-maraming salamat.

I want to honor the servants who for the past three days — do you now that they come at 6:00 in the morning? All the servants. You know, we, I included, we come here a few minutes before or even exactly on the time of the program, we sit down. The servants, they come here at 6:00 in the morning, and what do they do? The whole time they don't sit down. They're standing up, just serving all us.

Thank you for your love. Thank you so much.

Hey, guys, I see you servants. I see you. I do. And God sees you. He really does. Amen.

Share...

Everybody, say it again:
“I have seen the Lord.”

I have seen Him in my life. May I give you one minute? Pick up a partner== Person A, Person B—and then take 30 seconds each, look back at your life—where had you seen the Lord work in your life. Were there a few incidents? But you have to pick just one—one moment where you saw the Lord. He worked in your life. He rescued you. He blessed you. You felt His Presence. You heard His voice. You saw Him. You saw Him walk in your life.

Can you pick one moment? And in 30 seconds, take turns—Person A, Person B—choose one and then share. Go...





A Bible Quiz

Everybody say again, “I have seen the Lord!”

I can tell you story after story of how the Lord has been in my life and I’ve actually, really seen Him at work. And... But I need to pick one. So, I’ll share one of my favorite stories.

I was 14 years old—when my Mom came up to me and said, “Bo, my friend gave your name as contestant in this Bible Quiz. And it’s going to be on national television.”

She was so happy and giddy sharing it to me.

At that time, I was already preaching.

And so, I said, “Mom, I didn’t study the Bible to join Bible quizzes.”

Then, you know moms—moms, raise your hands—you’ve got a way of making things happen. When you deal with mothers, you cannot say just one *No*.

You say, “No, no, no! No, Mom. No, no, no.”

But no matter how much you say *No*, things still happen. And so, because they have a tool in their tool kit, named in two words: Maternal Manipulation. That’s what mothers do.

And so, my Mom just smiled at me.

“Mom, no, no, no, no, no, no,” I said again.

And she just smiled.

Then, a few weeks later, I received a letter from the Bible Quiz organizers—I was supposed to report to the TV studio for the Bible Quiz.

And so, I went. I won in that first quiz. They told me to come back the second week. I won again. I went back the third week. I won again.

Two years – going back and forth to this TV studio. After two years, I was already 16 years old.

And it was the finals. I was competing with the best of the best, the brightest. These kids, they memorized the Bible. Like *memorize*.

I didn’t. I would use the Bible to preach. So, I didn’t, and I remember that the score was tied. At the very end of the quiz, we were given a rectangular white cardboard and a Pentel pen

And the host said, “Fill in the blanks...”--and they could get any verse from the Bible-- ...Luke 1:35:

*And the spirit of the Lord will come upon you and the _____
of the most high will overshadow you.*

Trip to Jerusalem

Do you know what happened when that question was asked?

My mind became blank. I did not know the answer.

... and the _____
of the most high will overshadow you. – Luke 1:35.

Seven seconds... start now...7... 6... 5...

I put my pen down. I said I don't know the answer.

... 4... 3... 2... When that second to the last second came, a word leapt in my heart. And it was so strong, I almost jumped out of my seat. I grabbed the pen and I wrote down the word that came out: *POWER!*

And then the TV host said, “The answer is ... and the *POWER of the most high will overshadow you.*”

I won that quiz. I won the finals My prize was a trip to Jerusalem!

Now, I want you to know that's not the *Trip to Jerusalem* – where there are chairs and you're supposed to go around... No. It was the *real* trip.

God navigated everything so that I would be in Jerusalem when I was 16 years old. Not knowing that 16 years later, I would lead my first Pilgrimage. And that for the next 30 years of my life, I would be leading Pilgrimages to Jerusalem.



**“RECEIVE YOUR MIRACLE”
HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

<https://pilgrimage.ph/holy-land-pilgrimage-bo-sanchez/>



That God somehow prepared me for this Ministry.

Now, if you look back at your life, you will find the same God walking in your midst, just engineering circumstances, preparing you for what you're doing now.

Can you honestly tell me: “I have seen the Lord. I have heard the Lord. I have felt the Lord in my life...?”

The Easter Truth

It's amazing when you understand the Easter Truth== that *Jesus is alive*-- is not just a historical event. Because we see a Jesus who is really alive in our life.

I want you to park that idea-- that you have seen the Lord in your life.

I believe God's specialty is Resurrection. God enters our life and He takes what is dead in you and He raises it up.

He turns tombs into wombs.
That's what God does.

That in your darkest moment, what God does is that He lets His light penetrate through that darkness and He blesses you abundantly.

This is the God that we worship.

I want you to think about the story...Let's backtrack a bit...

It's not yet Easter... He's hanging on the Cross...and then there are two thieves-- one at His right and one at the left. Familiar?

One says, "Hey, we deserve this..." --He is talking to the other thief...

And he tells Jesus, "Remember me, please remember me..."

And this is what Jesus says to the good thief...

Now, why *good* thief? No, he does not like, before entering a house, he does not wipe his rubber shoes on the doormat, so that the floor will not get dirty....
No, that's not good *good*.

But there's *something* about him... that's why people call him *good*.



*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet
And a Light unto my path.*



This is what Jesus says to the thief: “...*today you will be with me in paradise.*”
 Now, I know what you’re doing... You know what your mind is doing? You’re translating... And you’re translating the word *paradise* to *heaven*.

Yes or no? Admit it. Admit it...

So, this is what you’re hearing, this is what you’re reading:

Jesus told the good thief: “...*today you will be with me in heaven.*”

Yes or no?... Yes... Okay... You’re not wrong. It’s okay to do that.

But you don’t capture the original meaning of what Jesus was saying completely.

Why?

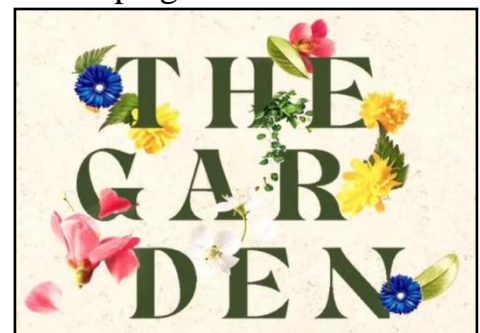
Because the word *paradise* – in Greek—means *paradeisos*.

And what does that mean? Drum roll, please...

Paradeisos means... You see, there was a Greek Bible—Septagint—
 where people who knew Hebrew and Greek,
 every time they saw this word, they put *paradise*.

So, what does *paradeisos* mean? One more time,
 drum roll, please...

It’s the title of our Holy Week Retreat: *Garden*.





Back to Eden

Jesus was telling the thief:

“I assure you, today, you will be with me in the *garden*.”

And Jews, when they hear the word garden, there is only one garden in their mind. It's like a glowing hyperlink: Click, move, boom, back to Page 2 of the Bible: ***Garden of Eden***.

Are you listening to me? Are you getting excited? What's this? Why is Jesus telling the guy ***Garden of Eden?***-- *I'm going to see you in the Garden.*

It's not just ***Heaven***.

I'll tell you why:

The **Garden of Eden** is not just in **Heaven**. It's also on **Earth**.

It's the overlap. It is the portal. It is the Station No. 934th in *Harry Potter*. It is the closet in *Narnia*. It's that point where Heaven and Earth meet. It's not just the past in *Genesis*.



The Garden Now

By the way, in the last book of the Bible-- *Revelations*—the last two chapters, the **Garden** appears, where there is a river, and there's a Tree of Life...

So, the Garden of Eden in the *past* is the Garden of Eden in the *future*, or is the *now*. I'm telling you, in different parts of the Bible, there are little pockets of Eden that burst out – Jacob on the stairway, Bethel... Burning Bush, Moses, burning mountain in the wilderness... Isaiah and the Angel... Ezekiel in the refugee camp in Babylon... with the bones... Oh, man... and the Transfiguration... Peter, James, John... Jesus shining in His whole glory...

My dear friends, there are moments in your life when Eden bursts. Eden-- it's not a past. It's not a future. It's not a heaven. It's not an earth.

Because the Garden is not a place. The Garden is a Person.

Jesus, He tells the thief: "Hey, I assure you, today, you will be in *paradise*."

Did He say that? No, no, no.

He said: "... today, you will be with *Me* in paradise."

The **Garden** is not a garden without the **Gardener**. The **Garden** becomes the garden because **God** is there.

Where Adam and Eve, they walk in the cool of day with God beside them and they chitchat, and they laugh, and they commune, and they fellowship.

This is the Garden.

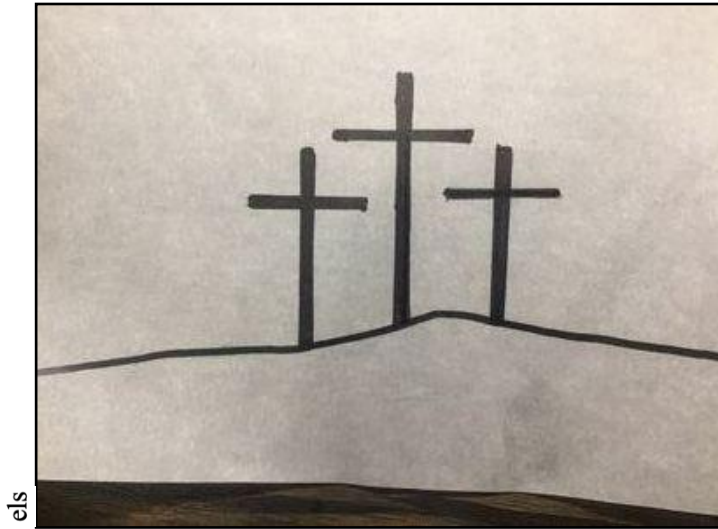
Do you know that when Adam and Eve rebelled against God, God had a mission and you see it all throughout the Bible – from Genesis 3, onwards.

God had one mission: to bring people back to the Garden. That's all He was doing-- trying to bring people back to the Garden: *You don't want to go? I'll still wait. And I'll still find a way. And I'll still find a way. And I'll try again to bring you back to the Garden.*

BOOM!
Everybody, do this:
Put both of your
hands, like fists,
on your head.
And then you
do this: Boom!



Is the Bible
mind-blowing?



The Test

When Jesus was on the Cross, the thief, he symbolized Adam.

And Jesus said: “It’s time. It’s been too long You’ve been away for too long. Today, I assure you, you will be with Me in the Garden—in the Garden.”

This is incredible. You know, this thief, he messes up with pure theology. A lot of people think that to be saved, you have to be baptized, you have to say the sinner’s prayer, you have to go to church, you have to tithe, you have to serve in a ministry.

This thief did not do a single one. He was never baptized. He never said the proper sinner’s prayer. He never went to church. He was not a good guy.

But he did the one thing that Adam did not do.

Remember Alvin’s talk? He said probably, the real test was not whether they would eat the fruit.

Probably, when God came looking for Adam, Adam Instead of saying, “The woman, You put on the garden... that’s why I fell.”

Instead of Adam doing that, maybe the test was whether he would say, “Oops, I’m sorry. I’m really, really sorry, God.”

And remember what Alvin said? Maybe the Bible will be very short -- just until Genesis 3... It ends there, right?

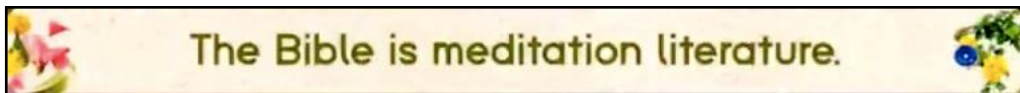
But that’s what the thief did.

The thief said, “I deserve this... Jesus, remember me...”

Jesus, remember me...



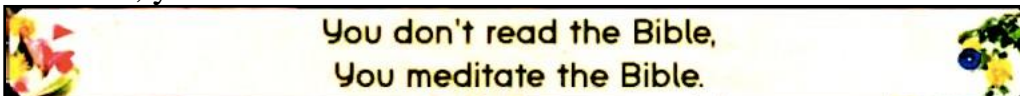
...was near a **garden**... May garden pala! There was a garden there...
 You know, the Bible is meditation literature.



You know you've read this many times, you've heard it from the Gospel many times. Hardly you note: there was a **garden** at the place of Crucifixion. Again, glowing hyperlink.. Click...Boom... Page 2 of the Bible. Okay, okay. I need to see the similarities between the Garden of Easter and the Garden of Eden.

My dear friends, what happened here?

You see, you don't read the Bible. You meditate the Bible.

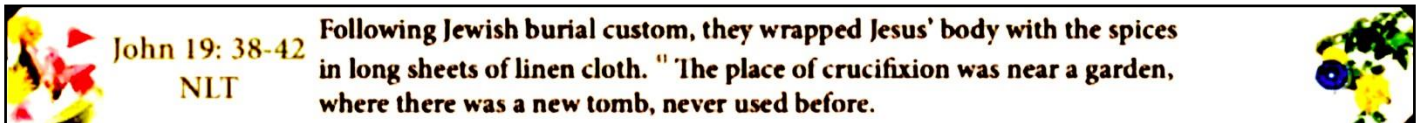


The Biblical authors, they wrote the Bible not to be read once-- but to be read thousands of times.

The Difference Between The Garden of Eden and the Garden of Easter



So, let's read that verse again:



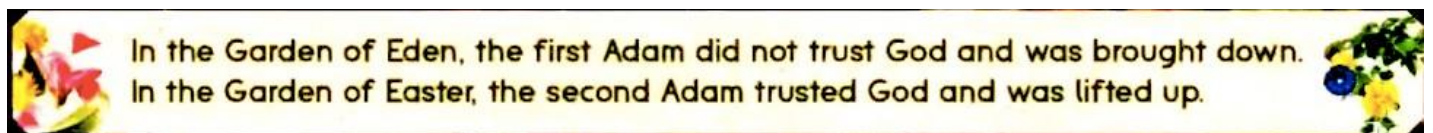
I want you to think about this:

St. Paul, he meditated the Bible. And so, in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul calls Jesus the *Second Adam*.

Because this is the difference:

In the Garden of Eden, the First Adam did not trust God. And was brought down.

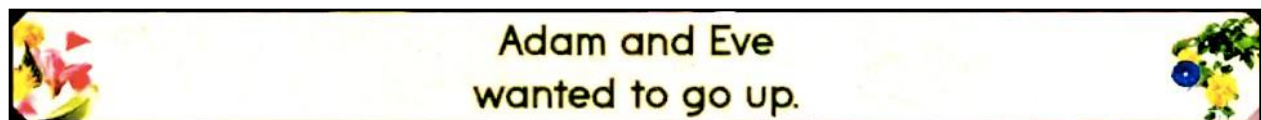
In the Garden of Easter, the Second Adam, he trusted God, and was lifted up.



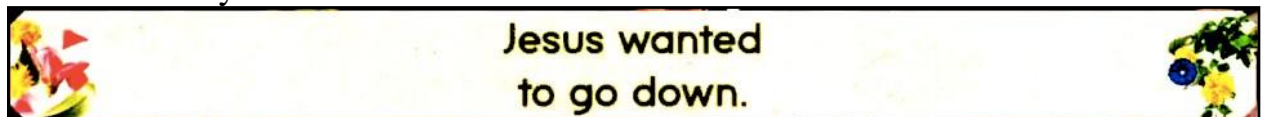
Now, think about that: Adam and Eve, they wanted to go up.

Why?

They were already like God. – That's what Genesis 1:27 says. But that was not enough for them. They wanted *to be God*. So, Adam and Eve, wanted to go up.



You know what Jesus wanted to do? The Second Adam? He wanted to go down. He was already God. But what He did was He went down to serve us.

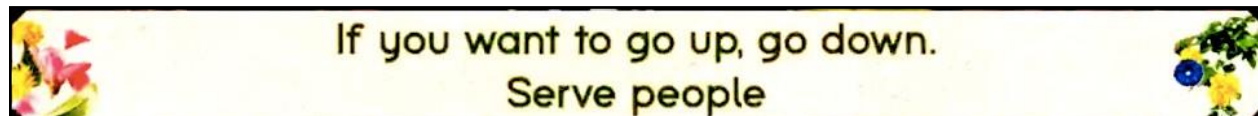


Why We Don't Hear God

In Philippians 2: 8—one of my favorite passages in all of the New Testament, I want to read with you:



My dear friends, do you want to go up? Yes... Go down...
That's what the Gospel is. You want to go up? You want to be promoted?
Go down.

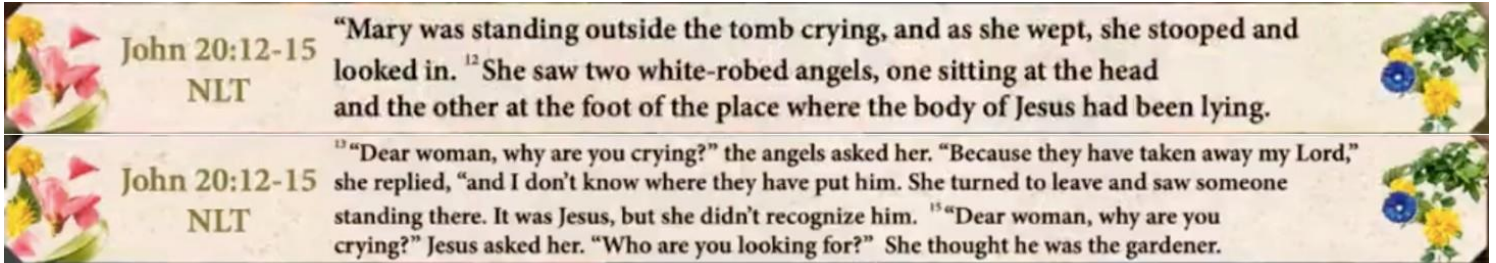


That's the Gospel. That's why we don't hear, we don't understand this-- and trust that in due time, God will lift you up.

That's the Garden of Eden. That's the lesson of the Garden.

The New Gardener

Now, in John 20, we continue the story. Mary was standing outside the tomb...crying...



Raise your hand if sometimes, God is there, you don't recognize Him. Sometimes, He is already speaking to you but you're stubborn and you don't hear Him. How many times, you know that God is there, but in your disobedience, you say, "No, I don't recognize Him."

That's what happened.

"Woman, why are you crying," Jesus asked.

"Who are you looking for?"

She thought He was the *gardener*.

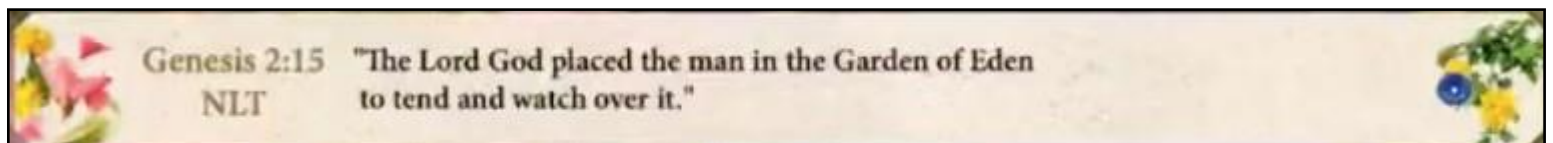
Glowing hyperlink, Glowing hyperlink...

I am so excited...

You know, she mistook Jesus for the *gardener*-- but was it a mistake?

The Gospel writer was winking at you 30,000 times... In that word, he is saying, *Jesus is the New Gardener. Garden of Eden is under new management!*

The First Gardener, Adam was appointed by God – because in Genesis 2:15, it says the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it...



...but he fumbled, he fell, he didn't do a good job...

Well, guess what?

A New Gardener is in town. He's going to make all things right. And this Gardener is here in your life today.

And you know why He is going to do all things right?



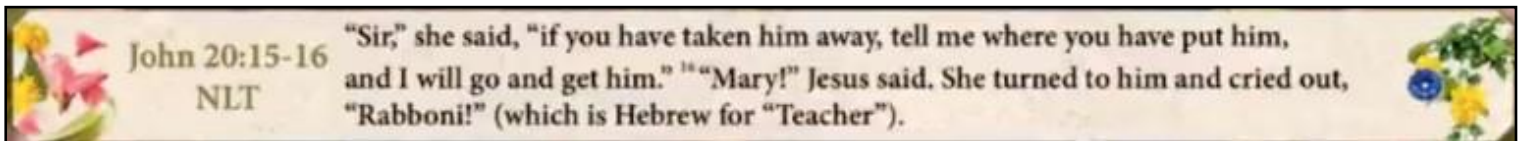
How To Recognize Jesus

While the First Gardener wanted to go up, this New Gardener will go down. And He will humble Himself. And He will serve you.

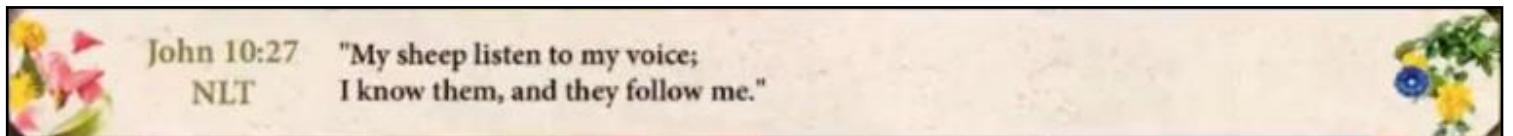
And He will be a King of a Kingdom of servants.

That's the Kingdom of God.

Now, think about this:



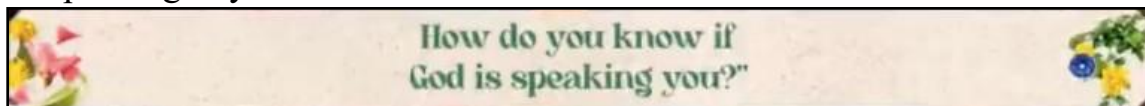
She recognized Him, finally, because 10 chapters before, Jesus said these words:



And so, when Jesus called Mary—by name—*Mary!*, Mary recognized Him.

My dear friends, raise your hands if in your life, you recognize His voice. Has God been speaking to you? Had God spoken to you in the past?

People ask me that question a lot: “Bro. Bo, how do you know if God is speaking to you?”



It's a common question I receive.

Full disclosure: I have. I have heard God—many times in my life. And it's not an audible voice—it's not something, you know, with thunder and lightning. No. It's something normal.



How To Hear God

This is how I answer that question:

When I got married, I made catastrophic mistake in interpreting my wife’s voice inflections, facial signals, hand gestures...

I remember in the first year of our marriage, I had a two-week mission trip. So, I was away from home.

When I arrived home, I had to go to an Elders’ Meeting right away.

So, I said to Marowe, “Hi, Sweetheart. I missed you... Sweetheart, I have to go – Elders’ Meeting. I was told very important. I have to be there. Is it okay?”

And she told me, “Ikaw bahala.”

So, I went to the meeting.

After the Elders’ Meeting, I came home. You know, it was summertime.

When I entered the house, it was very cold—North Pole! And my wife was not speaking to me. And I knew then there was something wrong.

I said, Sweetheart, what’s wrong?”

She looked at me – Snow Queen: “What do you think?”

I kind of like figured it out already.

I said, “Is it because I went to the Elders’ Meeting just after my trip?...”

But Sweetheart, you said, “Ikaw bahala... So, ako ang bahala...”

Husbands, raise your hands. Is this familiar? We make those mistakes because we do not know how to interpret... We do not recognize her voice. We don’t...

What happens is this: Now, 25 years later, I am a Marowe expert. I mean, I still make mistakes, but you know, I know what it means: Of course, *Ikaw bahala* means *Ikaw bahala sa buhay mo. Kung gagawin mo yung pinaplano mo.—Suit yourself—you do what you want to do.*

Now, I’m expert, right? 25 years later...

In the same way, to recognize God’s voice, it takes relationship. And it takes a long time for you to discern: Okay, this is what God wants... This is *not* what God wants...



John 10:27
NLT

"Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Don't cling to me...

Mary wanted Jesus to be the physical Jesus she was relating to for the past three years. But Jesus is no longer the physical Jesus. He is the Risen Jesus.

And in your life, your relationship with God will morph and transform – because you are getting to know more and more and more about who God is. The more you get to know about God, the more your image of God changes, your relationship with God changes.

This is how the story ends...

John 20:18
NLT

Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

This is how the story *must* end. Because this is a call from God to everyone of us: To go out into the world and to tell them about Jesus.

But you cannot go out into the world and tell them about someone you read about in history books. You've got to go out to the world—this unbelieving world, this world of skepticism, this world filled with doubts, this world surrounded with so much noise—you've got to cut through the confusion and tell them:

I have seen the Lord—in my life.



I See You

The world is going to be filled more and more by noises. And I am telling you, Artificial Intelligence is there. Artificial Intelligence now writes books and produces videos and creates all sorts of things—PowerPoint Presentations and what have you. It will continue to produce words.

But AI cannot do one thing: AI cannot say,
I have seen the Lord.

AI cannot say, when I was down, God lifted me up.
When I was broken, God came and mended me.

When I was lost and confused, God came and held my hand and led me out of the darkness. When I was sick, God came and strengthened my bones and lifted my body and healed my soul.

Friends, only you and me can say that. There is a difference between a fan and a follower. Are you a fan? Or are you a follower?

A follower has a relationship.

My dear friends, put your hand over your chest. Look at me.

You know what God is telling you right now? You know the reason Jesus is telling you right now?

I see you. I see you as a person. I see your weaknesses. I see your hurts. I see your warts. I see your wounds. I see your past. I see your present. I see your future. I see you as my precious one. I see your beauty. I see your glory. I see how beautiful you are. I see you. And that's why we can have a relationship. And you will see me – in your life, every day, telling you, today you will be with me in the Garden. And tomorrow, I will tell you-- this is what God will tell you tomorrow: Today, you will be with me in the Garden. And the next day, God will say the same thing: Today, you will be with me in the Garden.

When is that?

When you pray. Every time you pray, you're in the Garden. Every single time you pray. Whether you feel it, whether you're bored, it doesn't matter. If you're with the Gardener, you're in the Garden.

Let's raise our hands and just say this after me:

Lord, Thank You for seeing me. And Lord, I see you. I see you in my life. You've spoken. You've touched. You've healed. You've blessed me so many times. And so here I am. I walk into the Garden of Eden to fellowship with You.

Lord, I pray that right now, You would embrace every person. You would just hug each person. Please. I know You're doing it. And I know You're just loving them. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Lord. Thank You so much, Father.

Leaders' Prayers

Our leaders are praying for you, for each area of your life. Just always remember where you are. You're having fellowship with God in the Garden You're there. God is there beside you. Allow Him—just allow Him to love you. Allow Him to love you.

Allow Him to love you. Amen.



RYAN CAPULONG: Heavenly Father, You see us as people in need of healing. Lord, look with favor, kindness, mercy, and love upon Your Easter people. Send forth Your healing grace to heal every physical, emotional, and mental ailment.

Lord, we ask You, restore our body, restore our mind, restore our heart, restore our spirit. That we may continue to serve You. And as You are healing us right now, please heal all the people, the families, the relatives, the friends, the acquaintances,

the loved ones we are praying for. These we ask in the mighty Name of our Resurrected Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

LEP SUMERA: Lord, I lift unto you all the young people present. I pray, O Lord God, that with your guiding Presence, walk with them, journey with them, every step of the way. Lord, please remind them that they are not alone, and they will never be alone because You are there. Remind the young people, O Lord God, that you have beautiful plans for them. Though there are times that they feel they are unworthy, with all these challenges, with all these burdens that they are carrying, Lord, please continue to be that Voice telling them that they're Your beloved. That You love them so much, that You're already doing something with all these challenges that they're going through. Bless, Lord, their families, bless their dreams, bless, Lord, their studies, bless every relationship that they have, O Jesus. The future is bright, Jesus. And we're grateful, Lord, for these young people, for indeed they are the next generation of this Community. They are the next generation that will be with this country, cater to this country, even save this country, O, Lord, God. And that's what we are declaring in Your Mighty Name. Amen.



JB RODRIGUEZ: Almighty Father, I lift up to You every person here that You may bless them with good financial stewardship. Some of the people here, O Lord, are breadwinners for their families, even for their extended families. And some even for their parents, O God. Bless the work of their hands that they may align with your provision.

Almighty Father, I pray for freedom, for some of the people here who are buried in debt and financial woes, O God. We claim in faith that You will bless them with a heart that trust You at the same time that they are working hard to make ends meet for their families, O Jesus.

I pray for breakthroughs upon breakthroughs in the work that they doing-- promotions, O Lord, more clients for their businesses. Align their heart so that they may serve first and add value. And we know, Father, that money will follow because of Your goodness.

And lastly, Lord, I pray that you bless their heart with a good night's sleep every night, not thinking about money because they trust in the Father who provides for them each and every day. And we claim abundance for them—more than enough for what they need so that they can be blessings to other people. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

JC LIBIRAN: Thank You, Lord. As You see each family and we're lifting up to You each member of our family. Maybe the ones who are with us tight now, those who are left at home. We're praying that you bring reconciliation. You bring back joy. You bring back the happiness. You bring back peace, healing, forgiveness in our families. There may be those we have neglected. There may be silent wars among us. This is an opportunity for us to reconnect. We ask that we will overflow once again with Your love, with Your grace. We ask for Your protection. Provide for each family here and prosper each family, Lord.

We know, Lord, that we are going through challenging times. But, Lord, the Good News is we're still here. And that's why we are just so grateful. There's still hope for our families. It's never too late. Thank You, Lord. We receive Your love today. And we are going to share this to our family each and every day. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

41 The FEAST April 16, 2023





TONY VALENZUELA: Heavenly Father, at this very moment, we pray for our heart of faith, for those who are struggling in the faith, for those who do not see You as You see them right now.

Father, for all those who are having doubts, uncertainties, anxieties when it comes to understanding You, to knowing You, to loving You, for seeing You, for Who You are in their life. Lord God, I pray that it is not just a cerebral understanding. For oftentimes, when it comes to trusting You fully, we do not understand everything. But we pray for believing and trusting in You fully from the heart.

Lord God, for all of our friends and loved ones who we know are also struggling in the faith, meet them where they are. Lord Jesus, meet them as they are—as is, where is. Because we know when it comes to faith, O Lord God, You’re always there for us. You will never fail us. You will never abandon us. You will never forsake us.

And for those here right now, and those watching-- maybe they’re going through still their Good Friday-- Lord, empower their faith that they too may experience Easter Sunday sooner than expected. This we pray in Your Most Holy and Mighty Name. Amen.

DIDOY LUBATON: May we all put our hands to our heart.

Lord, if it’s not too much to ask, we pray for our personal self. We too, Lord. See us, see me. And as we have Your gaze, we open our heart, our life to You. We reveal our all to You. Our hopes and our dreams, but also our fears and our sins. Turn our mourning into dancing.

Lord, some of us may have self-doubt—replace it with self-acceptance. For every fear, You conquer it with Your perfect love. Help us and remind us, Lord, that when we take care of our self, we honor You.

Tend to the garden of our heart. Tend to the garden of our life.

And if You will it, Lord, use us for Your greater glory. We receive Your love, we keep it. And thank You for welcoming us home to Your Garden every day. We can take care of our self because You take care of us. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.



AUDEE VILLARAZA: God, we think about Your Church today. We pray for all the Church leaders that You have put in a position of influence and a position of power. We pray that You always guide them in Your ways. We pray for those people who might have walked away from Your Church, who have strayed away. And we thank You that You are a Shepherd who looks even for just that one lost sheep. We pray for those people who were hurt by Church -- people who have been abused. We pray for justice, and also for Your mercy.



We pray that You remind all of us today that Church is not a building—but a group of people. When someone cares enough to listen, or to pray, or to fellowship, and to do Life, Church happens. And we thank You for blessing us with this Community.

We pray, Lord, for The Feast, this Family. It's not perfect. But You're here. And You're changing lives-- one by one. We pray for all the leaders that you have called by name. That You humble us, You direct our steps, and You give us the wisdom so that we can guide Your flock to the right direction.

Thank You, Jesus, that You will use Your Church to give healing, to give mercy, generosity, purpose, and above all, to love Your people. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



ALVIN BARCELONA: Ama namin sa langit, Panginoong Hesus, itinataas namin ang aming mahal na bayan, ang Bayang Pilipinas. -- We lift up our country, the Philippines, as we extend this prayer to the whole world.

You said in 2 Chronicles 7:14: If Your people humble themselves, seek Your face, pray and turn from their wicked ways, You will hear from Heaven—yes, forgive our sins, and heal our land.

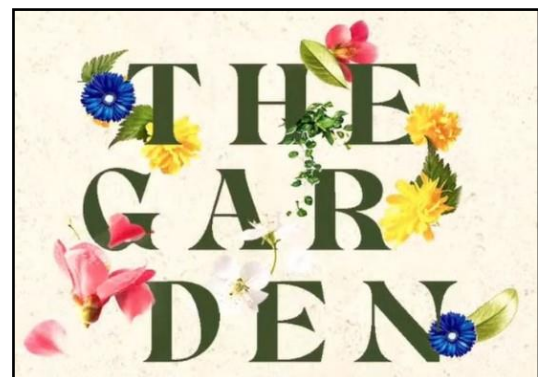
We pray, dear Lord, that You grant us peace—Your peace . Grant us justice—Your justice. And grant us abundance and prosperity, filled with hope and love that can only come from You. We believe, dear Lord, that You have a continuing plan, beautiful plan for our country, for the world. Turn this again into Your one huge Garden. Yes, with our New One True Gardener, Jesus, our Lord, our Risen Savior-- in His mighty Name. Amen.



BO SANCHEZ: Father in Heaven, today, we receive Your love – and that Your love is here.

And we thank You that we can continue every single day to live in the Garden.

In Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.





MERCY MINISTRIES

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” –Matthew 11:28-30

JESUS CHRIST CARES FOR CANCER PART 3

Haeley's Harrowing Ordeal

By HAYLENTH TUBBAN



IN April 2019, my daughter Haeley Rose Tabarnilla Tubban, was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (blood cancer).

Thus started her harrowing ordeal and untold anguish of our family.

Haeley was born on May 01, 2017, in Santiago City, Isabela.

She is currently enrolled in Kindergarten at the Rizaluna Elementary School.



At right, *here is Haeley (with black face mask) with Dad Victor Juan and that's me holding Haeley's sister Micalah Victoria, aged 2.*

Victor and I are both police officers. So, Haeley once upon a time dreamt to become a police officer just like us. But when she started school, her dream changed. She now wants to become a teacher.



Burdens ... and Blessings

Haeley's ailment was traumatic for us, to say the least.

She was so young – she was turning only two years old that time.

She was supposed to be having fun — like *here*, she's playing as a fashion model.

Instead, she is going to the hospital almost every day for her treatment.

But this early, our burden has been eased by a big blessing.

I still remember that day, when SPO3 Sir Vincent Calatay (*below, left*), my immediate superior at Camp Caringal where Victor and I were both assigned that time, approached me and asked about the condition of Haeley.

There and then, he introduced me to Ma'am Maritess Cordero (*below*) and told me about the foundation where Ma'am Tess is a board secretary – Jesus Christ Cares For Cancer Inc. (JCCFC), *here* with Angelo Gelano, JCCFC chairman.

Since Victor and I are police officers, I was hesitant to apply for a JCCFC assistance, because our application for our daughter to be their beneficiary might not be approved.

On August 20, 2019, Ma'am Tess sent me a message informing me that our application for financial aid for Haeley was approved!

She was two years old when she was included as beneficiary of JCCFC's cash aid program.

All thanks and glory to God indeed because God provides in many ways and Sir Vince and JCCFC are one of His ways.



Ever supportive of JCCFC, Sir Vince included two JCCFC beneficiaries-- Cristina Ramos and Vilma Mijares in the PNP's distribution of relief goods during the COVID Pandemic in Marikina. At the outset, the outreach did not include Cristina's and Vilma's areas. They were included nonetheless.

Another Blow... Another Rescue

Haeley underwent an operation for the insertion of portacath — a device to draw blood and give treatments, including intravenous, blood transfusions or drugs such as chemotherapy and antibiotics. (National Cancer Institute (.gov) <https://www.cancer.gov> > dictionaries > cancer-terms > def)

It's difficult to detect the vein for the transfusions. Without the device, Haeley would be in terrible pain every time the nurse or doctor determines where to inject the transfusions. Haeley used this device throughout her treatment.

But the operation didn't go well. After three days, she suffered an infection, causing a high fever that we had to take her back to the hospital.

Those were the days I thought that she would be taken away from us. But our Haeley was so strong. She fought – and she is still fighting today.

As if our ordeal over Haeley's cancer was not enough, we struggled with another burden. After Haeley's operation, our house was burned – almost all of our belongings were destroyed by the fire.

So, we faced twin financial needs — money for Haeley's medicine and hospital bills, and funds to find a temporary dwelling, if not build a house.

But JCCFC has always been beside us throughout this journey.

Indeed, Haeley is blessed with angels— like Sir Vince with his wife Mila and son Calvin Adrian.



And *here*, JCCFC Board Secretary Maritess Cordero, comes to us for pastoral visit: *Here* is Haeley with me (*extreme left*), and Haeley's grandparents Marlo and Elizabeth Tabarnilla.



Bigger Battle, Bigger God

But we are hardly relieved from this burden.

On February 2022, Haeley had to be confined at the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) to undergo Bone Marrow Aspiration — which, according to the National Cancer Institute, is a procedure in which a small sample of bone marrow is removed, usually from the hip bone, breast bone, or thigh bone,, to find out whether the bone marrow is making normal amounts of blood cells.

After two weeks, her pediatrician informed us that the bone marrow test showed Haeley had a relapse. So, she needed to repeat another set of treatments.

Utter depression gripped us – not only because of the money needed for the treatment, but also because we thought that our daughter would have to go through the pain when she started chemotherapy again.

As of today, Haeley, now five years old, is facing an even bigger battle. She had a relapse from leukemia twice in recent months. Cancer cells spread to her bone marrow. According to her oncologist, she needs a bone marrow transplant soon. Chemotherapy and other treatments will no longer work even if she starts and completes the cycle again.

To this day, we have to be strong because our daughter is super strong. And we are so blessed that many are praying for her miraculous healing – and JCCFC is one of them.



To keep track of the progress of its beneficiaries as well as fellowship with them, JCCFC holds a monthly assembly with them. *Here*, Haeley is the little girl in pink dress, and that's me at the right side.

Even amid this struggle, we are blessed with faith that our God is bigger than our battle. We are deeply thankful to God because He always provides for Haeley's needs in many ways. We found a second family in JCCFC-- that's why we know that we are not alone in fighting this battle.

Editor's Note: To connect with Sis. Haylenth, email her at Haylenth Tubban: tabzlhentot@gmail.com



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, The Feast Family is 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 Mercy Ministries. 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

1. Donate ONLINE (through credit card) Go to www.kerygmfamily.com and click 'DONATE' box Paypal I US Donations.

2. Pick Up from Your House or Office (Metro Manila Only) Cash or Checks Address Checks to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation and call Joy at (+632) 725 -9999 loc 112 or text (+63) 922-828-9890 and we'll pick them up from your home or office.

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Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19

