



I WAS going to fulfil a long-time fairy tale dream: To bring my sexy wife of 25-years on a honeymoon to Switzerland. (Thank God, I just finished leading a pilgrimage in Europe, so it was just a stone's throw away.)

And we were excited.

But on the day we were going there, I woke up with a heaviness in my chest.

Like a dark cloud shrouded over me.

'Enjoy My Love'



I couldn't put my finger on it. What I was feeling? And why?

So, I sat down with it. And remained still.

And little by little, it uncovered its face to me: It was fear.

And soon, I realized why. I was afraid this was too good for me. That I was unworthy. That I didn't deserve this. I felt shame eating up my soul.

But once it was named, it lost its power.

Inch by inch, I felt God's shaft of light pierce through the smog of my shame. I heard His whisper in my heart: "Bo, enjoy My love."

Booom! With those words, my sense of dread blew away like a mist.

It's amazing how I came to know God's Love when I was a 12-year-old kid in a small Catholic prayer meeting. But after 45 years of being pursued by this relentless love, I still doubt it. Every once in a while, I'm still suspicious if it's really true—if I'm really His Beloved.

And this is the crux of the entire Bible story.

Have a glorious Feast today!

May your dreams come true,

Bo Sanchez

**WELCOME
to Talk 9
of our Feast Series
Dear Prodigals,
our study of the
Book of *Deuteronomy*.**

Want To Trade Blessings?



BEFORE you answer that question, review first the homily of Fr. Albert Garong in last Sunday's Feast. It's about the day's Gospel, about workers in a vineyard, *page 6*.

Or listen first to the Feast Talk today about enjoying blessings. Bro. Bo Sanchez's introduction is on *page 1*.

Or review last Sunday's Feast Talk on what's your mission in life—which should lead you to blessings you can really appreciate. *Flashback* by Bro. Audee Villaraza (*below, right*) with a cute feature on his beautiful daughter Ellie starts on *page 15*.



Or check out—and enjoy—our feature on the 28th Founding Anniversary of our Anawim Lay Missions Foundation Inc. and our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly—from a report in *Anawim Herald* by Bro. Hermie Morelos (*above*), chairman of the Light of Jesus Mercy Ministries and ALMS Board of Trustees. And find out why we aren't trading Anawim's blessings for anything else, *page 33*.

All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo
Media Ministry
Executive Director





FLASHBACK!

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Holy Mass



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Homily

FR. ALBERT GARONG

on the Gospel: Matthew 20:1-18

*The Parable of the Workers
in the Vineyard*

Excerpts...

GOOD MORNING, Everyone!...

I'd like to give you three important reminders from our Readings today.

The first one is that we like always to think of prayer as a transaction.

"How does that work, Father?"

"Father, I already finished my Novena. But the Lord has not given me what I asked for."

Have you ever said that? Or maybe someone you know said that?

"Father, we do serve the Lord. We go to The Feast very early to set up the stage for the 8:00 A.M. session. We make a lot of sacrifices-- but why is it that when we are the ones who need something from the Lord, it seems He does not care about us?"

Or, a complaint like this: "Father, why is it that our neighbor who doesn't go to church already has three cars? And we have only one..."

Have you ever heard those complaints-- from yourself or from others?
Or from both?

The FEAST FAMILY October 1, 2023 **3**

1. Get Rid of the Transaction Mentality

The underlying belief there-- which is wrong-- is that *faith* is what you put in should also be what you should get back.

Transaction. When you buy something at 7/11 or Mini Stop worth P27 pesos, and you give P50 pesos-- you should receive a change worth P23.

Fine for commerce, fine for business. But for God, for faith, for prayer, is that how it should be?

That's difficult. Because if we insist that way, sooner or later, we will realize we owe God a much bigger amount.

God might say: "Ah, you want we count what you give as against what I give? All right, let's do it your way. And let's see if you would be left with something..."

Nothing. If we do it our way, we end up with nothing. None of us would survive. Even Pope Francis would vanish. Because none of us have done anything worthy of grace, worthy of blessing. Nothing. Let's accept that what we offer God does not add anything more to Him-- because God is already perfect!

What do you give to someone who is already perfect?

It's like if you're playing Kris Kringle with your richest classmate or friend, or officemate, what can you give him that he does not yet have?

That's how it is with God. What do you add to God? Nothing.

So, if we insist that what we put in we should get back, we lose.



Reading 1, *Isaiah 55:6-9*

⁶ Seek out Yahweh while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.⁷ Let the wicked abandon his way and the evil one his thoughts. Let him turn back to Yahweh who will take pity on him, to our God, for he is rich in forgiveness;

⁸ for my thoughts are not your thoughts and your ways are not my ways, declares Yahweh.⁹ For the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

God's Grace Is Priceless

So, we are fortunate that we are blessed with God's Grace. It is priceless. You cannot buy it.

The only One who could afford it is God Himself-- as He sacrificed Himself on the Cross, and He gave the grace of salvation to us willingly and generously.

So, forget about the transaction mentality. Because it does not work here. It might be good for you-- in your other ventures, in other aspects of your life...

Like, if you are working on a thesis with a classmate, you would be annoyed or angry, if all he contributes is the title of the thesis. It's okay to be mad at him-- because he's not being fair.

Don't do that with the Lord. Because that's not how He works. If you insist that that is how it should work, you would be on the losing end.

Pity us if we insist on the transaction system with God when we ask for blessings and graces.



Reading 2, Philippians 1:20-24, 27

²⁰ all in accordance with my most confident hope and trust that I shall never have to admit defeat, but with complete fearlessness I shall go on, so that now, as always, Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or my death.

²¹ Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would be a positive gain.²² On the other hand again, if to be alive in the body gives me an opportunity for fruitful work, I do not know which I should choose.²³ I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and to be with Christ, and this is by far the stronger

desire-²⁴ and yet for your sake to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need.²⁷ But you must always behave in a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come to you and see for myself or whether I only hear all about you from a distance, I shall find that you are standing firm and united in spirit, battling, as a team with a single aim, for the faith of the gospel.

2. God Does Not Play Favorites

Another mindset the Gospel cautions against is believing God plays favorites.

When you see someone receiving so many blessings, you tend to conclude that he is God's favorite. God loves him very much.

And you're like, "God has already forgotten me... because I don't receive many blessings..."

But again, is that true?

You know, that was what ailed the ancient Jewish leaders.

They perceived that the state of the health of a person indicated the level of his holiness or sinfulness.

Like, they would say, "Why are you childless? You must be sinful."

"Why are you sick? Because three years ago, you committed a sin and so now, God is punishing you. God does not like you."

That's it? Is God really like that?

Or are we being reminded today that God's opinion of you never changes? That when God looks at every single one of you, He feels only love for you...



Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

² Day after day I shall bless you, I shall praise your name for ever and ever.

³ Great is Yahweh and worthy of all praise, his greatness beyond all reckoning.

⁸ Yahweh is tenderness and pity, slow to anger, full of faithful love.

⁹ Yahweh is generous to all, his tenderness embraces all his creatures.

¹⁷ Upright in all that he does, Yahweh acts only in faithful love.¹⁸ He is close to all who call upon him, all who call on him from the heart.

3. His Thoughts Are Not Our Thoughts

My brothers and sisters, remember this: You are loved now as you are. You are loved the most right here, right now, by the Lord.

“Oh, but I haven't gone to Confession... Maybe He will love me later...”

Right here, right now, God looks you in the eye and sees only a beloved son, a beloved daughter—and that does not and will never change.

So, stop punishing yourself. Stop limiting yourself. Stop thinking that you have to be a certain way to earn more blessings.

Lastly, we insist that God explain Himself to us.

What did the actor Piolo Pascual say in one of those movies?

“I deserve a proper explanation!”

We tell God, “Lord, I am here. I love you, Lord. I am Your servant. Tell me where to go. Tell me what to do with my life.”

But when He tells us what He wants us to do, we're like, "Ay, How will I do that? Please spread out the steps-- from 1 to 72.

It's like when I felt I should enter the seminary. I asked, "Really, Lord?"

So, I would not do it because I don't understand it. It doesn't make sense! So, why will I follow it?

We're very good at saying, “Lord, Your will be done.”

But we follow that with an asterisk sign (*), meaning: Explain first what it is. Explain it first and once we get it, then we'll do it. When the steps are already clear, we'll take them.”

Like the worker in the parable complaining, saying, “Master, please explain why is it like that--how come those who arrived later than us are receiving the same pay we are getting? We need an explanation.”

Some of us who don't get an explanation, stop going to church. Or leave and worship another group-- because there, there is an explanation.

I tell you right here, right now, our God is a mystery. We don't understand a lot about Him.

In the First Reading, it says, “His thoughts are above our thoughts. His ways are above our ways.”

We will never figure out what exactly God is thinking or doing. We cannot, and we should not. Instead of trying to know God's plans, instead of trying to know God's thoughts, just know God. Know God through your prayer times, through the sacraments, and through reading the Bible.





God Is Calling You

When you open the Bible, don't look for an explanation-- "How come I still don't have a girlfriend or boyfriend unit now?"

No.

Open the Bible with only one thing in mind: "Lord I want to know You more today. I want to understand You a little better. I want to see

into Your heart. So, please, let me share that. Let me be a part of it."

Because when you know God, then you know that you don't need an explanation. When you know God enough, you know that even if you don't understand, you can follow Him with your whole mind and your whole heart.

Okay. Let's think of the reverse: There are many around you, you know them, they tell you what you want to hear-- they give you what you want to receive. Yet, deep in their heart, they have evil intentions.

How many times have you fallen into such traps? How many times have you been burned? They impressed you with sweet talks, but little did you know they had bad plans against you.

With the Lord, it's the other way. We don't understand much about what He's doing, or what He's thinking. We don't understand why He gives this couple 12 children, this couple, zero children. We don't understand why that person is successful even though he's cheating everyone-- and here you are trying to be fair and just and you can't get ahead in life. We don't know, we don't understand. But when you know God, you know you're in good hands. You know that His heart has only love for you and therefore you don't have to worry.

So, which do you want: Sweet talks but you can't see what's really in that person's heart? You're forever in doubt about what's in his heart.

Or would you rather have a God who may be mysterious in many ways but His heart is clear and completely revealed to every one of us—full of love?

I prefer what I can't understand but I know He truly cares for me. I know He has no evil plans against me. I know that all He cares about is my welfare.

That's what the servants in the Gospel forgot. They complained about their pay, forgetting, in the first place, who gave them their job--who went out to hire them. Who did not mind that they really did not qualify for the job-- but still he hired them.

That is our God. He is calling out to you. He is bringing you home. He is asking you to be part of His Kingdom.

May we all be with Him. May God bless us all.



BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

GOOD MORNING, Everybody! It's so good to be with you here today. Is there any first-timer here? Come on, all the first-timers, we want to recognize you. We want to honor you and welcome you to our Family. Thank you so much for being here and for those who invited our new attendees, thank you for bringing them!

Everybody say, "Welcome home!"

After The Feast, we'd love for you to stick around because we want to connect with you and we want to pray for you.

Parents who have children aged four to seven, we have the Awesome Kids Ministry to take care of your kids. The venue is at Elizalde Hall. For parents who have children younger than four years old, we also have a Children's Room right beside Elizalde Hall so you may bring your kids there.



We set up a screen there where parents can watch the online *live* streaming of The Feast.

So, you don't have to leave your kids there.

Love Offering

I'd just like to share that during the Mass, I was praying to the Lord, "Lord, what can I tell these people that you could bless them with their tithes? What message do you want me to tell them?"

Then, my son Ethan asked me a question. He was toying with my wedding ring on my finger. So, I took it off, gave it to him, and I told him, "Ethan, please don't lose that."

And he asked, "Why, Dad? Is it expensive?"

That's the kind of question that kind of makes you think: Is it expensive? You know what? If I were a student, I would probably say, "Yes, it's expensive."

Because at the time, I needed to earn to buy that ring. But now that I'm earning a bit more, I can probably say it's not as expensive as I thought it to be.

But then, I also realized that for some people, it might be expensive – if you can't afford it yet, especially if you don't have a job, or you're paying for so many things.

And I suddenly realized, you know, in the same manner, some people who see one's Love Offering envelope might say the envelope is too thin. Or if they saw what one put in the envelope, they would be like, "Why did she give only P20? What a shame..."

But you know, you don't know where that money actually came from. That 20-peso bill, or whatever that amount, might be the last bill that's in the person's wallet and you won't even know that.

So, (if you are in the same situation) between you and God, only you can determine how much the value of what you give.

Because for me, the value of something is not necessarily about its amount in pesos, but its significance to me.

The ring is priceless. Why? Because it's a symbol that I belong to my wife. I'm committed to my wife and for me, that's priceless. You can offer me 10 million pesos for the ring, but I will not sell my ring because to me, it's priceless.





The value of what you're holding (what you're putting into your Love Offering envelope) that's between you and God.

So, whatever amount you put into your envelope, I pray that that amount is significant enough for you to give to God today-- because that's between you and Him.

Together, let's lift our Love Offering envelopes. Everybody, together, say this with me: *"Dear Jesus, I give this with a cheerful heart. I give this out of my sacrifice because I love you. Bless me more so that I can give more.*

In Jesus' Name. Amen!

The FEAST FAMILY October 1, 2023 11

Worship!

EXHORTATIONS



BRO. JULIAN JUANGCO:

Good morning, Feast! Come stand up!
Come stand up!
And let's worship Jesus!



SIS. TISHA CARO:

Come on! Let's lift it up to Jesus!
We thank You, Jesus!
Come on, if you're grateful,
let's lift it up to Jesus!
Thank You, Jesus!






Worship!



NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA: Everybody, lift up your hands in this place.
Both hands. I want you know that you're in Presence of God.
The God who has never left you alone.
The God who has never given up on you.
The God who is faithful to His promises.
And because He is faithful, we dare to declare today:



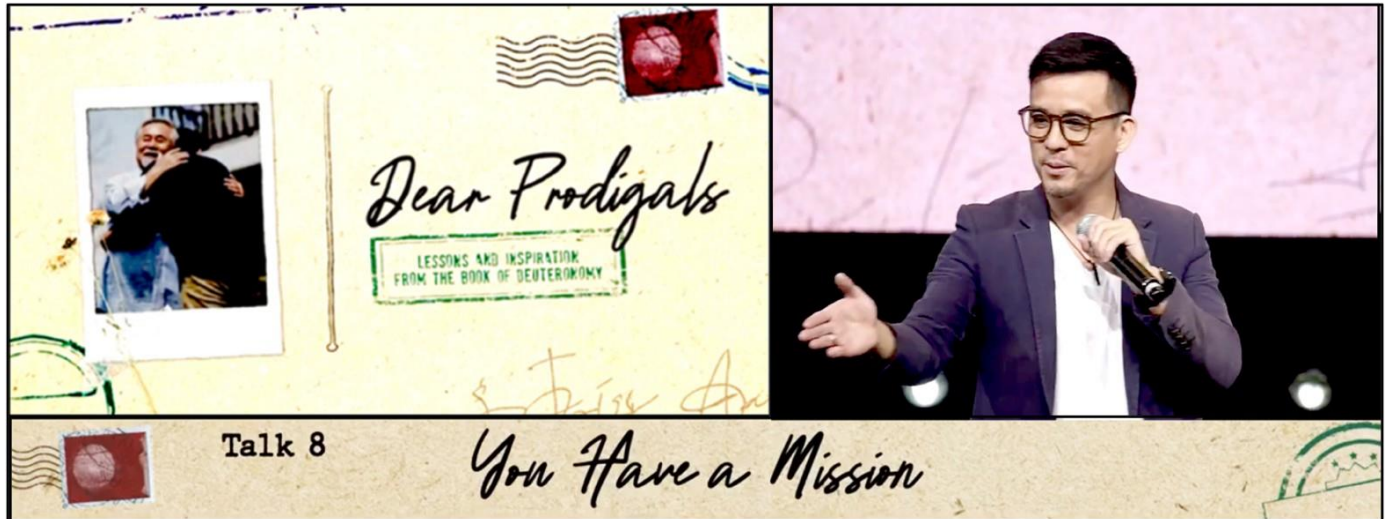
	Today, I receive all of God's love for me. Today, I open myself to the unbounded, limitless, overflowing abundance of God's universe. Today, I open myself to God's blessings, healing, and miracles.
	Today, I open myself to God's Word so I become more like Jesus every day. Today, I proclaim that I am 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.

Continue your posture of worship
by lifting up your hands...

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



Talk



BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

WE are down to our last talk on *Deuteronomy*. Next week, we're going to take a macro view of the entire *Torah*. We're done with *Deuteronomy* but when you think about it, we're actually done with the whole *Torah*-- the first five books in the Bible.

If you've been studying this with us ever since the beginning, can you just turn to somebody right next to you and say, "Congratulations! You did it! I'm so proud of you."

You've been with us in the Garden when we studied the Book of *Genesis*. You've been with us when we went to Egypt in *Exodus* and you've been with us through the wilderness, through *Numbers* and *Leviticus*. And now we are at the doorstep, literally, of the Promised Land and I pray that this will bless you today.

And you know, I don't want to be that kind of guy because there's always one in every barkada (group) who, when there's a new movie, this person is always the spoiler of that movie and I don't want to be that. But I have to be that guy here today who will give you that spoiler alert because this is just so good!

The Hero Does Not Step into the Promised Land

We are in Deuteronomy 34:5-8 and it says:

"So Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, just as the Lord had said."

DEUT 34:
5-8 MLT



The hero of the story, the protagonist who, from the very beginning, has been there for the Israelites, he dies before he gets to enter into the Promised Land. How tragic is this? He doesn't even get to set foot in the Promised Land! Not one foot, not one nail, not even a cuticle!

May I show you a video of what this looks like? We visited an indoor playground at Vertis North which has sandy ground.



Ellie's Step...

My daughter Ellie looks like she is hesitating to step on the sand, even as she's wearing socks; she puts down her toy; she attempts to step on the sand; but backs out...



Moses' Step...

I remember, when I was a kid, my mom used to tell me, that I did not want to go to the beach. Why?

Well, today, we already have Boracay, El Nido, Coron in Palawan-- white sand beaches. But back in the day, the beaches -- Matabungkay, Puerto Azul,-- which was not blue at all-- the sand was dark, looking so icky.

So, I hated stepping on the sand.

When I saw that video on Ellie, I said I must share this with everybody. Because that's a glimpse of what Moses went through. He could not step into the Promised Land. He was just there, right outside.

And you know the story that comes close to this? At least modern tale is the *Avengers*. How many of you are fans of the Marvel Cinematic Universe? How did the Marvel Universe start? Who was the first superhero? Tony Stark, otherwise known as Iron Man, right? It started with Iron Man.

How did the MC Universe end that saga? With Tony Stark. It started with Tony Stark, it ended with Tony Stark.

But here's the thing: Tony Stark, or Iron Man, fought in that last battle in the end game. I hope that this is not a spoiler alert. If you haven't watched the end game, where were you? Must had been hiding in a cave.

Iron Man, at that last moment, right before he defeated Thanos, snapped his finger, and gradually, he passed away. He died. The struggle consumed him.

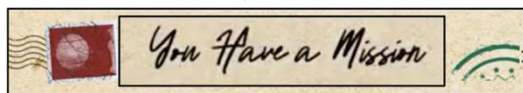
The story's hero doesn't even get to see the new world he fought for.

That's the story of Moses. He was there with the Israelites since the very beginning-- and yet he wasn't with them when they were entering the Promised Land.





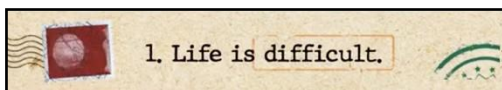
So, here's the big message that I pray will bless you today:
I want to teach you, now that we are at the last part of *Deuteronomy*,



we saw the life of Moses, and now we're going to see his death.

So, I want to package it this way:

I know our big message is *You have a mission*. But I want to make sure that you go home today with practical lessons. So, I want to share with you today four lessons from the life and the death of Moses:



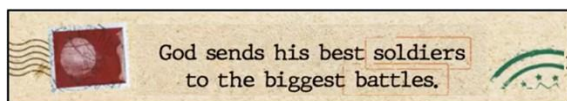
The Bible doesn't sugarcoat the fact that life is difficult and if you're struggling to resonate with Moses-- simply

because you've never led an entire nation from Egypt-- you've never been through the desert. I want you to know that we're just like Moses. I mean Moses had plans to get into the Promised Land.

You've had plans that died, that didn't even see the light of day. You studied for an exam and then you failed. You applied for a visa and then you got denied. You were working so hard for that job promotion but then you got retrenched. Or you've been together with somebody for six years and then you popped the question and then she said *No!* Ouch! You raised your children to the best of your abilities and then 10 years later, you find out that they're taking drugs.

Realization

Life is difficult! And it doesn't even matter if you're somebody who says, "Well, I'm close to the Lord..." Because how many of you also know that being close to the Lord or having the Lord in your life is not an indication that you won't go through problems? Some of you might even say this: "The more I get closer to the Lord, the more that I feel like... you know, I'm going through all of these battles."



I believe that God sends His best soldiers to the biggest battles. So, if you're going through a big



battle right now, guess what? You're one of God's best soldiers! He knows that you can handle that problem. He knows that you can take care of that business—not because you're good but because you're with God.

It's not easy. Life with the Lord doesn't get any easier. But here's the thing: You do get a lot stronger, right? Do you know that when I first started preaching here at The Feast, before I came out on stage, I was not shaking, I was vibrating? Every single part of my body was just vibrating. I couldn't wait to get off the stage. That was six years ago.

Now, if you're asking me, "Do you still get nervous?"

Absolutely! I mean, right before I go on stage, I feel like I always have to go to the bathroom-- even if I don't have to go to the bathroom. Because it's scary to be here on stage. But you know what?

As I've been doing this again and again--many times--I've realized that I don't get nervous as much anymore when I step on stage. Because I feel the grace of the Lord flowing through me and I see people smiling, happy, not sleeping-- I hope—I sense I'm not doing this alone.

There was a time, when I got jittery, I would always say this to the people, especially the worship leaders-- I would often tell them this advice: "Be scared if you're not scared."

And that's good advice!

But you know, now-- at my age, where I am-- I realize that the advice is not entirely true. Because if you continue to be afraid every single time you're here, that you're supposed to be doing something for the Lord, that simply means that you're not really doing it for Him. You're doing it for *you* because when you're so self-conscious about how people are judging you, and how people are looking at you, what you're doing is not about God-- it's about you!

Purpose

Through these years of preaching on the stage, little by little, I've realized that, “Hey, if God anointed me to preach His Word, and He equipped me to be able to do it, it won't matter how people will see me. Because it's the Lord who will be speaking through me.”

So, now, I am no longer afraid!

I get nervous, yeah. You see, my hands are always sweaty. But that's normal. But being afraid? No, I'm not afraid-- because I get to do this with God. Amen.

See, that's what happens when you're with God. It doesn't get any easier and life is difficult-- but why do we continue to serve the Lord? Why do we continue to worship the Lord even if it's difficult?

Because your purpose is greater than your phobia. That's what happens when you know you're on a mission. You can be afraid but you can do it afraid.

When you've got a purpose-- the Japanese call this the *ikigai*. Have you been watching this Netflix documentary— *Live to 100 (Secrets of the Blue Zones)*? If you're not watching that, you better do..

This documentarist, he looked for four places in the world where people have gotten old-- 100 years old. He researched, trying to discover how they're doing it. For me, the answer is simple: Purpose.

Because these people live with a purpose. If you don't have purpose, it's so hard to get out of bed, right? It's so hard. That's why if you live with a mission just like Moses did, it's going to be so good for you to get up every day-- no matter how difficult it is.



A Pattern

But you know, the story of Moses, it's not unique-- in the sense that it's not the only story that we hear of a hero traveling on a long journey and then you know, going through difficulty. Like Moses wanted to save the Israelites. There are others in different cultures who went through the same ordeal.

I'll give you examples.

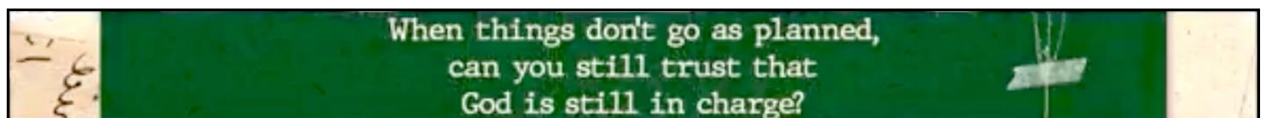


The Greeks, they have *The Iliad*. You had to read that in college because that was part of the curriculum.

The Mesopotamians, they had the Epic of *Gilgamesh*. The Indians, they have the *Ramayana*. The Chinese, have *The Monkey King*.

I'm hoping that some of you have read this. We Filipinos also have one: *Biag ni Lam-Ang*. Have you read that? I haven't. Even the Tokiens, they have *The Lord of the Rings*.

There's a pattern in these stories: The hero of the story leaves his comfortable life, travels, and goes through a difficult passage. Why? Because he wants to save the princess, he wants to find the treasure, he wants to kill the dragon. This is a pattern that happens everywhere and the lesson is this: it's a question actually -- that even if life is difficult, even if your plans don't go your way, here's my question to you:

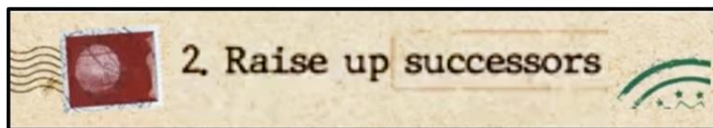


Will you continue to trust God? Will you? Will you continue to trust God even if life is difficult?

That's the lesson that we're going to learn from Moses today.

Old News: The Truth

Here's the second lesson:



Let's go to the Bible:



"I am now 120 years old, and I am no longer able to lead you. The Lord has told me, 'You will not cross the Jordan River.'"

DEUT
31:2 MLT

My goodness! I don't know what secret potion Moses is taking, but he's now 120 years old...

Now, let me just highlight this: When Moses says, "*I am not able to lead you,*" it's not because of physical disability that Moses is not able to lead the people. It's not.

Moses is not able to lead people -- some of you know this, if you studied *Numbers* with us-- because the Lord told him that he was not supposed to go into the Promised Land.

So, to Moses, this is not news. It's actually old news. Since *Numbers*, when he disobeyed the Lord and when he did not trust God, from that moment on, he knew that he wasn't going to enter into the Promised Land.

I want you to see what Moses has been doing since then.

He says:

DEUT 3:
27-28 MLT

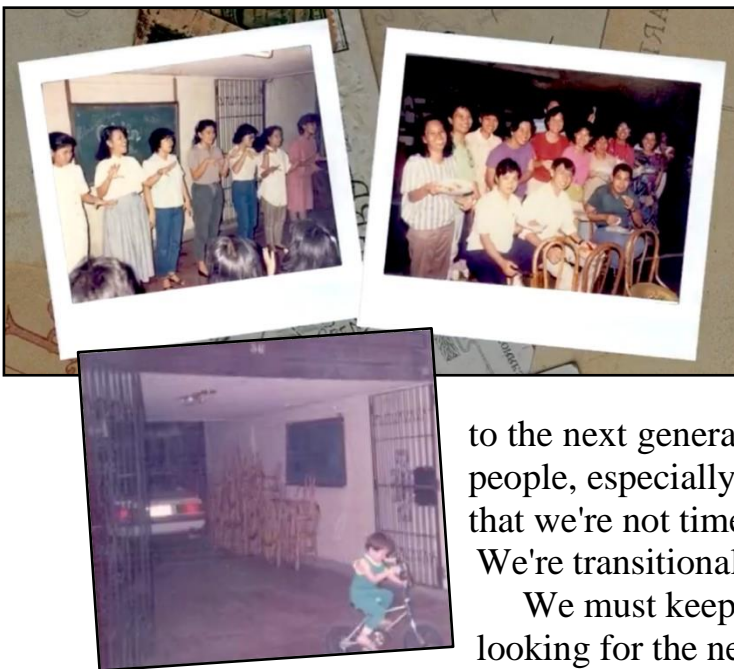
"Take a good look, but you may not cross the Jordan River. ²⁸ Instead, commission Joshua and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead the people across the Jordan. He will give them all the land you now see before you as their possession."

I want to tell you that the reality of life, in case you do not know this yet, is that nobody comes out of this world alive.

It's the truth. Maybe one day we're going to disappear -- I hope not today or tomorrow-- hope we'll have more time here. But one day, our clock will stop and we're going to go to that next chapter of our life. So, it pays for you to understand that the moment you believe and accept the truth that one day you will die, what happens next to the legacy that you've been building? How do you sustain this, how do you continue this?

The Light of Jesus Family

I'll give you an example. Our Community, the Light of Jesus Family, has been around for 43 years now. In 1980, it started in a small garage on Chicago Street in Cubao, Quezon City with a few people worshipping. That means when Bro. Bo and Tita Chelle, and the Sanchez family were already serving, I was only two years old :)



I had to say that. But why is it for 43 years, we're continuing our growth? We're still thriving, we're still creating from that one small garage, now we are hundreds all over the world. Would you like to know why? What is the secret to our longevity?

Our Community is committed to the next generation. We need to raise leaders, new people, especially young people. Because we believe that we're not timeless.

We're transitional.

We must keep looking for the next leader who will replace us.



Our founder, Bro. Bo, could be our leader forever as long as he wanted. He established this Community. But what did he do? He stepped down. Why? So that others can step in and step up. The leader that we serve-- my goodness, our founder himself-- no longer has a title. But he's still on a mission. He still preaches, he still ministers to thousands and millions of people all over the world.

It doesn't end when you say, "My position stops."

Because if the mission is here in your heart, ministry will not matter--wherever you go. That's the kind of leader that we need to establish.



When you're the leader and you're given an organization or a team, establish that to the best of your abilities. But when it's time for you to pass the torch, then you endorse. Establish and then endorse.

What God Is Doing

Because the one thing that I'm learning from the life of Moses--and this is something that you need to learn also today-- is that as great as Moses was as a leader, the one lesson there is that he was not irreplaceable.

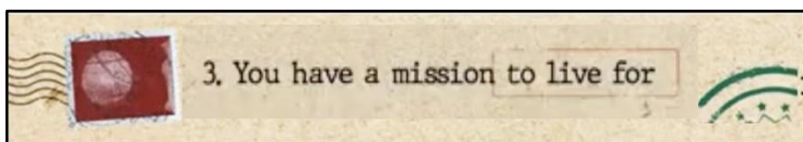
Moses was not able to enter the Promised Land. So, it means that, hey, was Moses valuable? Yes! He was loved by God. But what's more important in this lesson is that Moses was not king of the Israelites. It was God. It is God, even up till now. So, don't worry if you're the person who sometimes doesn't get into that promised place—or situation. Because what's more important is what God is doing and it's God who will take you to different places. So, even if you retire, hey, you still have significance!

What's important is that God follows through. God is the One, not Moses. That's the lesson. All right, so raise up a successor!



How Moses Died

Lesson No. 3:



How did Moses die? Chapter 34:5 says: “So, Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab just as the Lord had said. The Lord buried him in a valley near Beth Peor in Moab...”

Listen to this: “...*but to this day, no one knows the exact place.*”

You know, when a loved one dies, what is the thing that we do? We set up a tombstone, an altar, where we can commemorate this person.

Was Moses valuable to the Lord? Yes. Did he deserve a tombstone? Yes, absolutely.

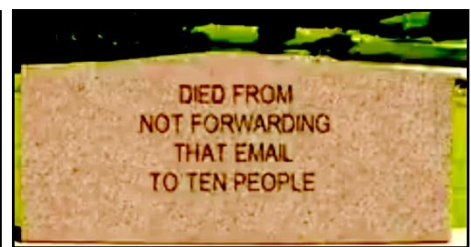
But why is it that the Bible says, to this day, no one knows the exact place where he was buried? I'll get to that point later...

Epitaphs

I imagine that if Moses did have a tombstone, he would have an epitaph.

What is an epitaph? An epitaph is the description of you, however you want it. Let's say you have a wife and your wife puts that epitaph on your tombstone--or your children put that. That is, if never decided what your epitaph should be. That's why as early as now, you make a decision about what to put as your epitaph. You tell your spouse, you tell your children, you tell your family.

I want to show you examples of epitaph:



I imagine that if Moses had an epitaph, it would not say:

"Moses, The Prince of Egypt."
"Moses, The Shepherd in the Wilderness."
"Moses, The Prophet."
"Moses, The Man Who Saw God."

It would say: *Moses: The Servant of the Lord.*

"Moses, The Servant of the Lord."

I don't know about you, but for me-- I'm so sorry Moses-- I've got to borrow that same title. If my wife is listening, that's the same title I want to have when I die-- to describe me. Just put my name, then add *The Servant of the Lord.*

"
The Servant of the Lord."

Simple yet so powerful!



What Is Your Mission?

Who lived life loving God. Serving God and worshiping God. That's how I want to live.

In Verse 7, it says, "So Moses was 120 years old when he died and yet his eyesight was clear and he was as strong as ever. The people of Israel mourned for Moses and the plains of Moab for 30 days until the customary period of mourning was over."



⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died, yet his eyesight was clear, and he was as strong as ever. ⁸ The people of Israel mourned for Moses on the plains of Moab for thirty days, until the customary period of mourning was over.

Listen to this: I'm sure this shocks you-- to find out that Moses died at 120 years old. Have you ever seen anybody over a hundred years old? What do they look like? They look old, of course. But they look frail. Some of them cannot see anymore. They're blind and some of them, they're walking with a stick. But the Bible says, Moses was 120 years old and when he died, his eyesight was clear and he was still strong!

The reason Moses died was not old age. It wasn't because of sickness. It wasn't because of cancer.

He died because he already completed his mission!

Would you like to be like Moses? That the Lord will call you not because of a sickness, not because of old age but because you have completed your mission? God will tell you, "Mission accomplished! Now come back to me."

I love that!

That's why I want to encourage you today, to ask yourself these two very important questions.

- 1) What is your mission?
- 2) How are you fulfilling that mission every day?

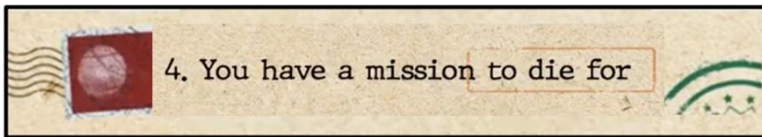
Because if you're somebody who doesn't have a mission yet and you don't know what your purpose is, what God calls you to do, you better start discerning, processing.

You've to know your mission and then embrace that mission for as long as you live.



God's Timing

Here's Lesson No. 4:



Moses didn't get to be in the Promised Land.
But check this out:
It says in Deuteronomy 34:1:



And the Lord showed him the whole land, from Gilead as far as Dan; ² all the land of Naphtali; the land of Ephraim and Manasseh; all the land of Judah, extending to the Mediterranean Sea...

DEUT 34:
1-2 MLT

It's painful, isn't it? The Lord showed the place where the descendants would live. And then He says, "You will not enter that land."

You know, there is a word that we use nowadays. It's a technical word, when you message someone—in Messenger, or What's Up, or Viber, you see the person but does not reply, what do you call that? Seen Zone.

What would you do if all the blessings that you see are only Seen-Zone by you? You see your dream house, your dream boy or dream girl—but you can't have them. You're just limited to Seen Zone.

That's what's happening to Moses. Moses, you're up to Seen Zone only. You cannot enter the Promised Land.

What do you do when that happens? When all the blessings that you see are not for you?

Here's one way to process that...

Because I believe all of us have a different timing. The Lord has a timing on how He will bless us. He has a timing on how He will bless you.

So, here's what you do: You embrace your mission by embracing your season.

**EMBRACE YOUR MISSION
BY EMBRACING YOUR SEASON.**

If this is not your season yet to have abundance, then you embrace that season of working and planting because God maybe is not going to elevate you yet. But here will come a time when the Lord will ready you and prepare you for that blessing. But until that time happens, you can embrace that season.



Seen Zone

Here's one way I want to explain this Seen Zone.

What happens when you keep seeing the blessing but you cannot enter?

I want you to close your eyes and imagine all that you are praying for-- whatever it is—material thing, relational, spiritual, can be one or two...

I want you to imagine this: That the Lord is with you, He's beside you. And now the Lord is showing you this big land -- a land flowing with milk and honey, where all the blessings you have

been praying for, and working hard for, are in that land.

And then the Lord tells you: "Child, this is the land that I'm going to give-- not to you-- but to your family, to your loved ones, to your children, to your children's children. Because you have been faithful to me..."

Now, open your eyes... Was it a sad moment? Or was it a glorious moment?

You see, what's happening here is that God is telling Moses: "You have worked hard all your life, you've done your mission. But I want you to know that your mission will bless not just you—but it will bless everybody around you.— everything that you see."

And He says, "This is the Land that I will give to your generation."

That's the mission that you die for. That you don't get to enjoy it sometimes, but it's okay...

Because the people that I love – my son, my daughter, my wife, they get to enjoy it.

My friends, that's beautiful, right? You have a mission to live for but you also have a mission to die for.

You have a mission to live for

You have a mission to die for



Tragic Life

Some people might say the life of Moses was very tragic. I mean, he wasn't able to enter the Promised Land. The hero of the story doesn't get to enjoy the fruits and the promises of God.

How many of you agree that it's a tragic ending? It is. It's a tragic story but you see, one thing you have to know is that the story of Moses doesn't end there.

It ends in *Deuteronomy*—but Moses reappears in the New Testament. Matthew talks about it. When Jesus was up on the mountain with His disciples,



it says in Matthew 17: 2-3:

"As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus."

What does that mean? Moses did not enter into the Promised Land in *Deuteronomy*. But he was actually in the Promised Land—with Jesus.

Whenever we see people who are successful, we always say, "You've made it."

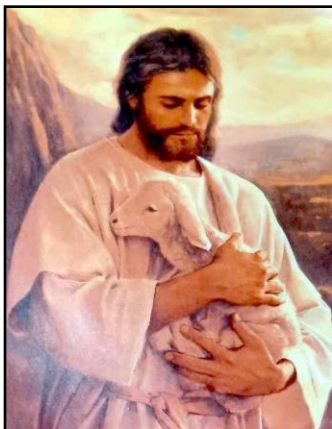
This person has made it-- depending on how you would define success.

Let's say you look at success as having an amount in the bank.

Then you tell that person, "You know, you've made it."

Or, maybe for you, success is a certain position in a company or an organization, and you tell that person, "You know, you've made it."

Or maybe you can even tell yourself – depending how you view success: "I have made it."



Because to us, success is a place. That's the destination. But in the Bible, it's different. Success is not a place. The destination is not a place. It's a person. It's Jesus.

Jesus *Is* the Promised Land

So, what am I trying to say? You don't have to be in Heaven to reach the Promised Land. As early as now, if you're with Jesus, hey, you *are* in the Promised Land.

Because Jesus *is* the Promised Land.

That's how Moses was able to get into the Promised Land. Because of Jesus.

And if you're walking with Christ right now, and you're encountering Him every day, guess what: Every single step that you take is on Holy Ground, and you are with Jesus. Every single breath that you take.

That's the promise of the Lord. Isn't that amazing? Moses reappears in the New Testament. And here's how I want to end:

When you think that the work of the Lord is done, that God's program ended when Moses stopped leading them, it did not-- because he continued on. It continued on with Joshua.

It doesn't end just because your friend said it ended. It doesn't end just because your doctor said, it's ended. It doesn't end just because your professor said that you've got no hope anymore. It ends when Jesus says it ends. He has the last say.

And I want to bring this to you and say this: That the work of God doesn't end with you and me. It doesn't end when we die. It continues on.

**WHAT YOU THINK IS A PERIOD
IS ONLY A COMMA.**

What you think is a period in your life, guess what: it's just a comma in God's Kingdom. It's just a continuation to where God will lead you.

That's why it's important, my friends, to trust in Jesus. To give your life to Him. The Bible says that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. God gave us Jesus so that we may have salvation.

So, my question to you right now is: Do you trust Jesus? Do you trust Him enough to give your life to Him and to walk with Him?

And to say, "Lord, You will be my Savior. No matter what comes my way—I can be in a season of drought, on dry land—and I trust You that You can bring me into the Promised Land. And it's not a place. It's You."

If you can walk with Jesus, then you are walking in that Promise—by Him transforming you every day.

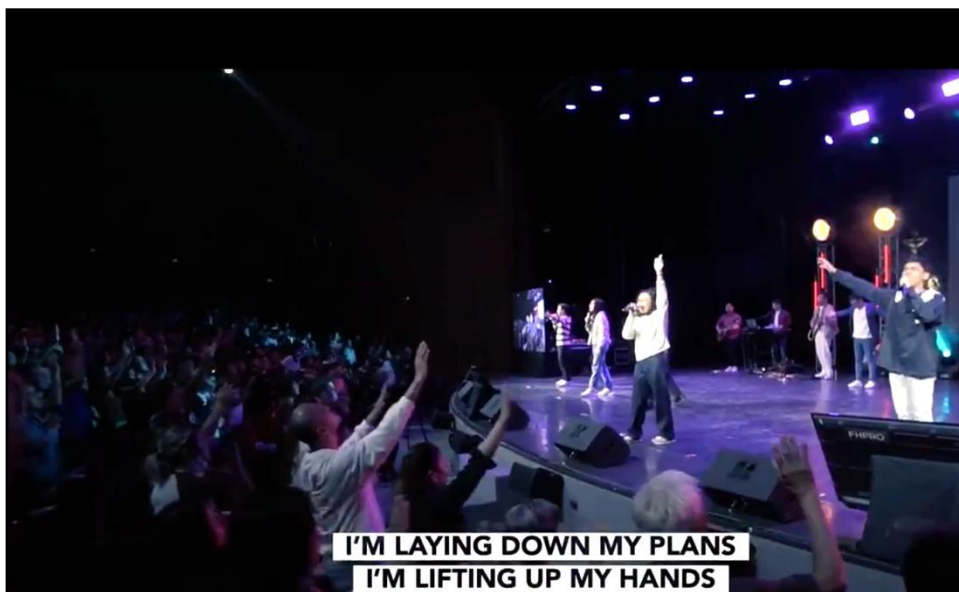


Acknowledgement

Lift up your hands. We pray and we acknowledge the Presence of the Lord:



Heavenly Father, look at Your children today. Look at their surrender, their posture of worship. We have all come here, Lord, with our sin and we don't want to walk with it anymore. So, we surrender it to You, at the foot of the Cross and we declare, right now, in this moment, that we fully trust You—completely, absolutely. Whatever You are doing in our life, Lord, we may not understand it—but we don't have to because we trust that You do. We have complete confidence in You, Jesus. Continue to speak to every person here, in this place. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





Commitment

We continue to be in the Presence of the Lord. Nobody stirring, nobody moving in this place—even if you're online, I want you to feel the tangible grace flowing through your screen right now. Let me pray for you.

Let me pray for you:

Father in Heaven, look kindly upon all of us today. See us as Your children like You always do and know that in our heart, we are sincerely we are sincerely approaching your throne with humility right now, relinquishing crown and laying it down at the foot of Your Cross. We decrease in this moment so that You can increase in all of us. Thank You, for walking with us in this journey. And we believe that because You are already with us in this journey, we have already arrived at the destination. Because the destination is not a place. It's a Person. It's Your Son, Jesus Christ.

I pray, Lord, for those who are here who have never even their life to Your Son-- that they may come to know Him in a powerful and in a personal way. That His Presence would pervade their life every day.

And I also pray for those who have been walking with Christ all their life—that You would rejuvenate, You would revive, and You would refresh them with the energy that they need in this journey.”

Now say, this prayer with me:

Dear Jesus, I have made some sins. I have some faults. But I acknowledge them in Your Presence. And I declare that You are my Savior. From this day on, only You I worship and only You will I trust. I believe that with You in my life, nothing can stop me. Because You fight for me. I trust in You. I believe in You and I will worship You. In Your Name, Jesus. Amen.





MERCY MINISTRIES

*God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

--Matthew 5:7

ANAWIM YEAR 28

From Dream to Divine Design

THIS YEAR, Anawim Lay Missions Foundation Inc. (ALMS) marks its 28th Founding Anniversary. Anawim celebrated with a thanksgiving get-together on June 7, 2023.



Our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, inspired our lolos and lolas with a simple Anniversary message: *Be grateful for your blessings.*

Bro. Bo first centered his talk on the folly of envy. He shared the story of the little bird Maya-maya who was sad, complaining about its small, brown body, envying the Swan who must be happy as it is as white as snow.

But the Swan said it's not satisfied with its appearance, saying the Parrot must be happier because it has multi-colored feathers. On the contrary, the Parrot said, someone must be happiest—the Peacock, which has long, rainbow-colored tail.

Maya-maya went to look for the Peacock, finding it in a zoo. Because it is so beautiful, people treasure it so much, they confined it in the zoo. Maya-maya congratulated Peacock for its beauty. But the Peacock is not at all happy because it cannot go anywhere—unlike the Maya-maya who can fly high, anywhere it wants to go.

Bro. Bo thus advised our lolos and lolas not to compare themselves with others. Instead, he said, “Count your blessings.”

The FEAST FAMILY October 1, 2023 **33**

Our Wonderful Story

What blessings? Bro. Bo told them: 1. You are alive; 2. You are in Anawim; 3. You have servant leaders and caregivers loving and taking care of you, and many others serving you – especially Fr. Joseph Pumihic who celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass, and the lay ministers. 4. You have donors.

Bro. Bo said the Anawim accountant informed him about the burn rate of Anawim. He explained that in business language, *burn rate* is the money of a company which indicates how long it would last. On the average, companies have enough burn rate of two to three years.

He added Anawim has had a burn rate of one and a half months. So, how has Anawim existed as long as 28 years?

Every celebration of Anawin, naturally, we love to tell again, reminisce, really, the beautiful story of this God-given haven for abandoned elderly.

Of course, it all started when Bro. Bo Sanchez and his family founded the Light of Jesus Family on September 9, 1980-- and they went on to establish LOJ prayer groups throughout the country spreading the blessings of the Good News – God’s Love and Jesus’ gift of salvation for mankind.



LOJ put up prayer groups, later to be called Feasts, in schools, churches, malls, or theaters. But it did not have a place of its own big enough for events such as retreats or pastoral care gatherings. *Above*, Bro. Bo presenting his dreamboard showing his wish for 1,000 LOJ Feasts.



For the Poor

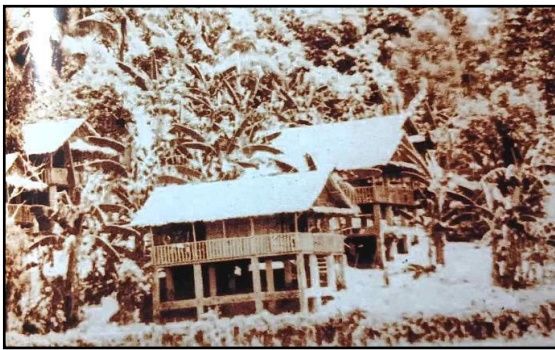
Beginning in the 1990s as the passion to serve the Lord and His people so intensified among the members, the Lord granted LOJ a place of our own. He inspired a member, Sis. Trinidad Mangahas, Tita Neneng as we call her, to donate to LOJ her family’s three-hectare property located at Sitio Tanag, Barangay San Isidro, Montalban (now Rodriguez), Rizal.

For the Abandoned

We were happy to finally have a place of our own. But in deep prayer, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, Bro. Bo realized the property was not really for us but for the *anawim*—that’s the Hebrew word which means *God’s poor*.

Long story short, led by Bro. Bo, LOJ established the Anawim Lay Missions in December 1994.

In March 1995, LOJ registered the Anawim Lay Missions Foundation (ALMS) Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-stock, non-profit charitable foundation.



Anawim started with huts (*left*), for the lolos and lolas. *Above*, Bro. Bo with mom Pilar Sanchez during groundbreaking rites for new Anawim homes. With them, *from left*: Erwin Bulatao, Aida Dy, Lynda Reyes, Donna and Rolly España. *Below left*, one of the resort-like cottages now.



During its early inception, Anawim accepted whoever God sent — young and old, the physically impaired, the orphaned, the abused, the homeless, anyone rejected by society.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), however, advised that Anawim focus on the least served among the needy: the abandoned elderly. So, this gave birth to the Anawim Home for the Abandoned Elderly.



Tita Neneng, with good friend, Sis. Julie de Jesus, a passionate LOJ supporter, became among the members of the ALMS Board of Trustees, with Sis. Marissa Chikiamco as directress of the Anawim Montalban (Rodriguez) Center, and after her, Bro. Tim Duran, all committed to make disciples of our Lord Jesus.

Thanksgiving

Today, I am blessed to serve as chairman of the ALMS Board of Trustees, with Bro. Carlos Dimson as our indefatigable Anawim Center executive director.

Here, we share precious moments of Anawim Year 28 celebration on June 7, 2023. Deepest gratitude and Glory to God!



During Holy Mass: Rev. Fr. Joseph Pumihic, CICM; Lolos, Bro. Bo Sanchez, his wife Sis. Marowe, Sis. Aida Dy, trustee; Sis. Chelle Crisanto, LOJ Community coordinator.



Precious Moments, *from extreme left*: Bro. Bo with grannies; Greetings from Bro. Caloy Dimson, executive director, and Sis. Arcie Binohhi, Center administrator; Dance time!



Hermie Morelos
Chairman
Light of Jesus
Mercy Ministries



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.

Email Address: jocelyn@kerygmafamily.com

Website: <https://kerygmafamily.com> Telephone Numbers: 8725-9999/

Fax 725-1230

Our Partner Beneficiaries

Jeremiah 33 Foundation
is a shelter for minor girls particularly victims of sexual abuse.



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



He Cares Mission
provides shelter and pastoral care for street children.



Pag-asa ng Pamilya Foundation
grants scholarships to indigent 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 Inc. 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.

3. Mail 12 Post-Dated Checks to Our Office for US and CANADA: Address Checks to Kerygma Family, 848 Rainbow Blvd # 1937, Las Vegas, NV 89107. For Other Countries/Philippines: Address Check to Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc. and mail (registered mail) to Shepherd's Voice, 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109

4. Directly Deposit to Our Bank Accounts. Deposit to Shepherd's Voice Account in any branch of these banks:

Account name: Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television Foundation Inc.

BPI: Savings Account no: 0123-4849-67 Cubao Aurora Branch

Banco de Oro Savings Account no: 003970019804 General Araneta, Cubao

Branch Banco de Oro - Savings Account no. 000160506123 SM Cubao Branch

PNB - Current Account no. 108410089566 SSS branch

Metrobank-Savings Account no. 265-3-26509112-2 e Rodriguez Branch

Allied Bank Savings Account no. 3160-12345-1 E Rodriguez Branch

Union Bank Savings Account no. 00-206-000940-1 Tektite Branch

Note: Text, Fax, or email us your name, date and amount of deposit, and the branch of the bank where you deposited your donation, or fax the deposit slip to us.

Email us at support@kerygmfamily.com or text us at (63) 922-828-9890/ (63) 998-968-4416 or Fax to (+632) 725-1230



FAMILY ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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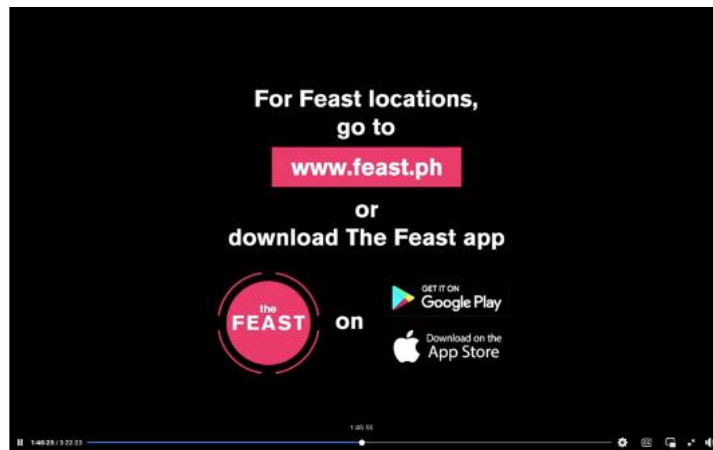
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Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19

