

FAMILY

NOVEMBER 19, 2023





Stop Taking...

Start Receiving!

YOU may be asking, "Gee Bo, aren't *taking* and *receiving* almost the same thing?" According to the Bible, they're miles apart.

Taking means grabbing, forcing yourself, elbowing your way through the crowd, pushing, and stepping on others to get what you want.

Why do we do this horrible thing? Answer: Fear.

It comes from the terror that there is a shortage of blessings. That if I don't become ruthless, I won't have enough.

If you see pain in your personal life, check if you have been Taking.

Note: Not all pain is caused by *Taking*. But some are.

So, what is *Receiving?* It's *NOT* passivity or being lazy. *Receiving* is working with God yet surrendering the results to Him—trusting that in the end, He will give you what you need.

Because of a deep trust in the Lord, you never hurry. In Receiving, you remain faithful, patient, and relaxed—because your blessing is coming.

May God speak to you in today's Feast!

May your dreams come true,

] Bo Samely

Bo Sanchez

WELCOME

to our ongoing series:
PLENTY: How To Live
in God's Radical Generosity
Talk 3: Stop Taking,
Start Receiving



Keep Your Lamp Lighted



THAT's the lesson we learn from last Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 25:1-13, on *The Parable of the Ten Virgins*. Yup, they who failed to keep their lamps lighted!

In his sermon, Fr. Bob McConaghy pointed out that it's all about preparation. For what? Review the *Flashback*, *page 3*.

But first things first: Have you a Lamp? Or are you still in the process of *Taking* it or *Receiving* it? What's the difference? That's

what we will learn in today's Feast Talk. OurBro. Bo Sanchez gives a hint in his intro, *page 1*.

But wait... Are there Lamps for Taking or Receiving? Are there enough at all? That is, for everything we need—or want. And what is *enough*? We learned about that last Sunday in Talk 2 of our ongoing new series, *Plenty*. Bro. Audee Villaraza helps with *Flashback* on the talk, *pages* 22-39.





Okay. Granted you have a Lamp... How do you *really* keep it lighted? Or, for that matter, how do you keep your Life sunshiny bright? Is it just all about you? Or is there a better way to be, yes, *okay*?



Look! Members of SHEFA Industrial Products Inc. are all happily okay. They are among the supporters of our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly. More joyful companies on *page 40*.

Yes, we made this issue to help light up your Lamp...

Your Life!

All for God's Glory,

Randy Borromeo Media Ministry Executive Director





Holy Mass





THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Homily

FR. BOB McCONAGHY

on the Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13 *The Parable of the Ten Virgins*

Excerpts...

WE know neither the day nor the hour that we will die.

I said a couple of weeks ago when I was speaking about Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory, that a third of us will die after a long illness of about four days-and the rest of us will die suddenly and without warning.

So, this Gospel, all the Readings today, are about preparation.

And that's what Advent too is really all about. It's not just celebrating Christmas. But Advent is a preparation for the end of the world.

Now, about the end of the world, we can get very worried and very upset. Because there are many now-- with the war in the Middle East and the war in Ukraine and what's going on all over the world with anti-Semitism.

'The End of the World'

Many are pointing to the book of *Ezekiel* and they are prophesying that the end of the world is coming soon. So, *be frightened*. Not *be prepared*. *Be frightened*.

But Jesus made something very clear: He said, "Many will come in My Name..."

So, some are saying *the time is here*. Don't listen to them. That is known only to the heavenly Father.

But we get frightened.

You know, I remember when I first moved here in September of 1999. On the 12th of December 1999, there was a 5.7 earthquake.



I was staying in an apartment across from where I helped out—Greenbelt Chapel (Makati). My Bishop paid for the apartment my first year when I was here. And so, I just had to go across the street to the Chapel.

Well, this earthquake hit at about 1:00 a.m... Some of you are not old enough to remember this...

We all got outside and we waited about two hours till the guard came out and he said, "Okay, it's safe to go back in."

Well, everybody there knows I'm a priest...

And they said, "Father, you go in first." ©

And so, I did. There were no aftershocks, thank God.

But you know what? The next day, I had 4:00 P.M. Mass at the Greenbelt Chapel—the outdoor chapel. And I always hear Confessions about 45 minutes before the Mass. Usually, there would be about five or six people in line.

I'm not exaggerating when I tell you that there were a hundred people in line. Because of $Y \dots 2 \dots K \dots$

People were saying, "At midnight, the Year 2000, all computers in the world are going to crash and nuclear weapons would be sent... You better be ready..."

And a lot of people made a lot of money off frightening people.

That's not the purpose of the Gospel today—to frighten us. But to remind us that this is *not* our home. *We're on our way home*. And what is waiting for us is beyond anything our imagination can even conceive. But we have to live here. And so, we get scared.

'Roll Out the Barrel'

Some people say, "You know you only live once. Go around, grab all the *gusto*—what you want—you can."

No. You live *more* than once. You live more than thousands upon thousands of days... But you only die once. And that is what this is really all about. But we're very much drawn here.

Back in Pennsylvania, you know, there is a form of music called the polka, and there is this form of dancing called polka. And you'll find it nowhere else except in my State in

Pennsylvania. It's very lively sort of dancing.



But they like to drink beer. And about halfway through the night, when they had enough beers, they sang *The Beer Barrel Polka**—you can look that up on YouTube...

* Originally in Czech, *Skoda lasky*, also known as *Roll Out the Barrel*, a drinking song. https://www.google.com/search?q=the+beer+barrel+polka&oq...

In Heaven, there is no beer...That's why we drink it here...And when we're gone from here, all our friends will be drinking all the beer...

That's what people think about Eternal Life—that somehow it is going to be boring and we better grab all we can in this life. And what is that *lack?* It lacks wisdom.

Bro. Bo Sanchez, when he gave a talk last year at the retreat right here in this hall, he said no matter what you do in this life, no matter what your situation here in life—whether you have a great marriage, whether you are separated, whether you have a wonderful family or big problems in your family-- he said this is the key: The title you will always have—no matter what title you achieve-- you must believe that the title that is the truth: *You* are the *Beloved*.

That is the title you will have for all eternity.



First Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

(12) Wisdom is radiant and fades not away; And easily is she saw those who love her, And found of those who seek her. (13) She forestalleth those who desire to know her, making herself first known. (14) He that rises up early to seek her will have no toil, For he will find her sitting at his gates. (15) For to think upon her is perfectness of understanding, And he that watches for her sake will quickly be free from care. (16) Because she goes about, herself seeking those who are worthy of her, And in their paths she appears to them graciously, And in every purpose she meets them.

The Truth

Now, St. Paul talks about our losses in life. Especially when we lose someone we really love a lot. The price of love is lost and we pay with our tears.

It is good that we mourn. Really. When I hear people say, "I have to be strong for the family..."
I say, "No, you don't."

Let them mourn. It's healthy to cry. It's not a sign of weakness. It's a sign of strength—the pouring out of the emotions of loss.

So, Paul reminds us that yes, we'll experience loss – but not to give up hope. For one day, you will see your loved one again-- where every tear will be wiped away. That's the truth.

Very often, when I go to a wake, you know, that's when people usually begin to zero in a little bit on death. And I tell them here in a casket or an urn, we have a death. But that's not Marie in that casket or in that urn. In reality, Marie is more than alive than any of us. See, we have this notion of sleep—even Paul uses it. *Sleep in heavenly peace*.

But when we die, we're very much alive, and we're not sleeping. It's just that we humans need a frame of reference—waiting for the Second Coming... I guess they're sleeping during that time. But no. They're resting. And they're being refreshed in Heaven. And there is no time in Heaven. So, for them, their particular judgment —is taking place instantly.

But we have no frame of reference for it.



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

(13) But we don't want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you don't grieve like the rest, who have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. (15) For this we tell you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will in no

way precede those who have fallen asleep. (16) For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, (17) then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever. (18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.





Think About It This Way...

Supposing by some miracle—when you are in your mother's womb... you have your umbilical cord... and it's the ninth month... And your Guardian Angel recently assigned to you comes into your mother's womb.

And for a few moments, you will understand language and communication.

Now, supposing your Guardian Angel says to you, "Why, you have a beautiful world here... You have everything you need.

You have comfort, warmth, security, nourishment... You have your own swimming pool, you have amniotic fluid...

But this isn't really what you're meant for. This isn't your home. Wait till you see what it's like when you're born... You're going to see a woman's face and you will call her Mom. And you'll see a man's face and you will call him Dad. And you already have a brother and a sister. You're going to meet them..."

You'll probably say, "Huh, what? O, common..."

The Angel continues: "Yes. And not only that. You're going to see light for the first time. It's very dark here. I know you're used to the dark. But when you're born, somebody's going to slap you on your behind and you'll gonna see light for the first time and you'll gonna cry and say, "Huh? I don't understand that."

"Well, if you want to experience a sunset on Manila Bay, if you want to know what it's like to go to the mall for weeks before Christmas, if you want to know what it's like to graduate from school and to get married or maybe become Wow... all you have to do is one thing: while you're holding on to your Mama's umbilical cord, you'll say what? You have to die – to this place..."

You would probably say, "A-ah, I don't want to give up the known for the unknown."

But then you die. But not to hurt you. Rather, to open you up to something that no one could have explained to you until you experienced it.

You go through your childhood where the most important thing early on is finding your way home from two blocks away, and you're the center of the world and you think the world revolves around you—because everybody says you're so cute. And then you become two years old and you learn to say "No." And now you're not so cute...

Passages...

Then we go through our childhood...

Do you remember the last day that you didn't play with toys anymore? Do you remember the last day that you put the dolls away and never bothered with them again? You probably don't. But you know what? On that day, you died. But not to hurt you. But to open you up to a new experience that we call *school*. And then you would come to



graduation—and you died that day. You would never have to worry about tests again. But that would open you up to another experience that no one could explain to you until you experienced it—a boyfriend, a girlfriend... married... having children... being in your 20s, and 30s, and 40s...

And you know what you'll find? That life, when you're young, goes by so slowly. But when you get older, it goes by quickly...

So, you go through these passages of your life. And then you find yourself rather quickly getting to where I am—into old age and the things that go with this – here's a song sung by George Burns, a famous comedian, and actor in the United States that goes, I wish I was 18 again... Going where I've never been...Old folks and old oaks standing tall just pretend ... I wish I was 18 again...

If you would ask me, "Fr. Bob, do you wish you were 18 again?

Nooo. Because if you had told me when I was 18 that I would be a priest, and I would spend 50 percent of my priesthood in a foreign country called the Philippines, I would have said, "Huh? What? No! My girlfriend Cheryl-- we're going to get married, we're going to have kids..."

But that's not what God had in mind for me. I had to die a little bit – and almost did when I was 50-- of a heart attack-- but I am still here.

Today, I was coming out—they'll tell you I was coming out for Mass-- I was all vested, I said, "Where are my glasses? They were here, a minute ago..."

They said, "Father, they're in your hand."

My mother told me when she was 76, she said, "Bobby, don't get old." And then I disobeyed her.

But you see, we go through these passages of our life—all in preparation for when we get old. And when you get old there's a wisdom, the book of *Wisdom*, and ask anyone who's in their 70s or 80s, or 90s, and they're going to tell you how fast they got here... Number one, they're going to tell you that they are sensing deeply that this is not their home.

Our Choice

That's the truth about all of us. We're on our way home. As we're on our way there, why not care as the song says...

So, this Gospel today, these Readings today, are not meant to frighten us but to give us from the first book, wisdom. To be able to see things from God's point of view. And then as I said two weeks ago, at the moment of our death, we can choose Heaven. No doors there. We're welcome to come right in at that moment you experience a love unlike you've ever experienced in your life. And every question you ever had is instantaneously answered.

I was telling Bro. Audee Villaraza before Mass, he said to mention it again. I said a few weeks ago, I talked about Heaven because I knew this mystic by the name of Eileen George -- and Eileen now is being put up for sainthood. But I got to know her personally. She came to my parish to do a healing service. When she would go to Korea, she would fill the Olympic Stadium. A genuine mystic. And when she received Holy Communion, she would be taken mystically to Heaven.

I asked her where is Heaven? Is it up there, down here? She said, "Father, you are standing here-- right here is Heaven."

She said we're surrounded by it: "Father, when you say Mass, you know what I see?"

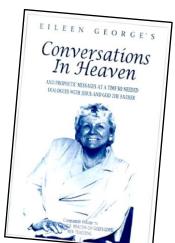
I said, "No."

She said, "St. Michael the Archangel is standing on your right at the Consecration. Your Guardian Angel is on your left, and Mama Mary is standing above your head looking down on her Son when you say, "This is My Body. This is My Blood."

Private revelation... Yes. But that's what she said.



Responsorial Psalm Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.





Keep Your Lamp Lighted

So, with you and me, as we go through these passages, what we're really celebrating when we go to a funeral is someone's homecoming.

And you know what Eileen told me? They don't miss us. Because there's no time in Eternity. There's no time to miss us. So that when you and I are crying, all the tears are wiped away, it's going to seem to them like they just left. So, we don't cry for them. We cry for us. And we cry for our loss. And that's okay.

So, all these Readings now that we're going to hear until the first Sunday of Advent are about the end times. But they're not meant to frighten us, but rather to prepare us to keep our lamps lighted.

Why? Because yesterday is a canceled check—in banking terms. Tomorrow is a promissory note. The only day we have to keep our lamps lighted while not being afraid is today—one moment at a time. You only go around thousands upon thousands of times each day of your life—but only die once. Be prepared joyfully for Eternal Life.

Have a great week. God bless you.



BRO. BO SANCHEZ:

I want you to greet somebody beside you with a high-five. High-five some seven persons around you and tell that person, "God blesses you today."

So good. So good. Oh, Amen.

There's one thing I want to share with you today.

My name is Bo Sanchez and I am one of the guest preachers here. I'm not going to be the one giving the Talk today. It will be Bro. Audee and you know, I love when he preaches. I'll just be sitting down there and just drinking it all in.

How many of you watch zombie movies? I don't. I really don't—except those few times my wife and I, we watched a zombie movie, and it was so entertaining—it really was. I really enjoyed it. I was surprised – and not because of the movie. But because I was watching with my wife. She would scream every seven seconds and it was so good-- really, really wonderful just watching her.

She would ask me, "What happened to that guy, and where did he come from?" And I said, "I have no idea. I'm just watching you."



Three Kinds of Zombies

It's really good. It's funny that we look at zombie movies but there are real-life zombies in our world. There *are*. And you look at your own life and you realize, "Are there times when I feel like a zombie?"

There are three kinds of people that are zombies:

No. 1 People with No Purpose.

They wake up in the morning, they go through the motions of life.
They feel dead the whole day because they are directionless—they have no purpose.



https://unsplash.com/s/photos/zombie

No. 2: People with no alignment. Their hearts are not connected with their hands. They believe one thing, they do something else. People who have no life-- zombies.

No. 3: People with no surrender. They are people who control things they have no control over whatsoever. And because they do that, what happens is that it really feels like: "Where am I? What's happening?"

And they feel like they are living a dead life.

You're Not a Zombie

My dear friends, you do not have to be a zombie. Tell somebody beside you, "You don't look like a zombie. And you don't have to live like a zombie. You have life."

You know, in Psalms 150:6, it says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Everybody say that with me: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Say that again: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

One more time: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

When you say *breath*, you raise your fist up high.

One more time: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."





Can you just move? Move! Move!
Jump up and down! Jump up and down!
And sway, sway! Sway right! Sway left!
Twirl around! You grab that breath!
One more time: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"

Breathe!



Now, my family, we have a pet cat named Beans and a pet tortoise named Peanut. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." They're probably included there. They have breath, right?

But one of the things I've realized is, this verse, I think, is pointing to us.

Why?

Because in Genesis 2:7, it says that God takes soil from the earth-- and what does He do? He breathes on us with a breath of life.

Inhale, Everybody. Hmmm.



Exhale...

Inhale again...

You just inhaled the Breath of God. Every time you inhale, every time you exhale, you are declaring that the Breath of God is in you.

You cannot be a zombie.





The Spirit of God Is in Me

There are two kinds of breathing: physical breathing and spiritual breathing.

The Hebrew word for *breath* is also the same word for *spirit*.

And so when God breathes upon you, He gives you His Spirit.

Put your hands over your chest. Everybody say this: *The Spirit of God is in me*.

One more time: The Spirit of God is in me.





Tap somebody on the shoulder and say, The Spirit is in You.

How can you live without purpose? How can you live without alignment? How can you live without surrender—if the Breath of God, the Spirit of God is in you?

Do you know why you go to The Feast?

I just came from Bohol late last night. I met the Feasters in Bohol. I preached in The Feast there. Last week, I went to The Feast in Dagupan.

There are hundreds upon hundreds of Feasts all over the world.

Do you know why people report for duty every week at The Feast? Do you know why every Sunday they go to The Feast? Why *you* go to The Feast every week?

To remind yourself that the Breath of God is in you. Do you know why you go to The Feast every week? To remind yourself that you have *purpose*. That you have *alignment*. And that you have *surrender*.

You need to *re*-purpose in your life. You need to *re*-align your heart with your hands. And you need to *re*-surrender your life to God.



Why We Are at The Feast

Let's go back. I'm going to end with this... Psalms 150:6:

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

I'm going to invert the words: If you want *breath*, if you want to be really *alive*—not just physical breathing but spiritual breathing—you need to praise

the Lord. You need to surrender your life to God. And that's what we do every Sunday. That's what we do at The Feast.

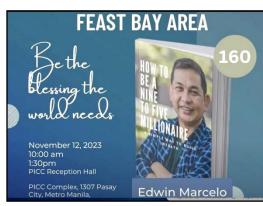
You say, "God, I report for duty every week. I'm not going to miss coming to You because I need to re-purpose, re-align, and re-surrender my life to God." God is telling you to not just live a life of physical breathing. Spiritually breathe.

Oh, my friends, I want you to know this: Every week you come here... You know, I really think this: You know when you miss The Feast, something's off, something is not repurposed, something is not realigned, and something has not been re-surrendered.

Love Offering

We're going to have our Love Offering today and you're going to give money. But that money is a symbol of your whole life that you are surrendering -- everything that has breath surrendered to God.

Edwin Marcelo, one of our own (head of the Technical Department of Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television, the Production arm of The Feast), is launching his book, *How To Be a Nine to Five Millionaire*. Grab it later on. He's part of our family and I'm so proud that he's *giving*, making this book alive.





Lift your Love Offering envelope.

You know there is this very active Intercessory Ministry. I was in the backstage before I came here. And I was listening to them praying. The whole time we were enjoying the Mass, they were at the back praying, praying, it's crazy. They pray for you. They pray for all your prayer intentions that you write on your Love Offering envelope.

Everybody, say:

Jesus, repurpose my life, realign my life re-surrender my life. His is but a symbol of my best, given to You, surrendered to You. Thank You, Jesus, I have Your Breath, Your Spirit. I am alive because of You. In Jesus' Name. Amen. Give to the Lord. Re-surrender!

Worship! EXHORTATION



BRO. JHON JAVIER:

Hey, Good Morning, Everybody! Come on, is everyone who has breath in this place, ready to praise and worship our God? Are you ready to sing and dance in the Presence of the Lord today?

What are you waiting for? Come on, stand up, put your hands together... If you believe that He is good, why don't you lift your voice and give praise to the One who loves us? Come on! Thank You, Jesus! You're so good. Hallelujah!

As we continue in this moment of Worship, We're going to sing a new song. This is one of the new songs from Feast Worship. Thank You, Lord!

Worshipping God is a beautiful thing to do. Amen. Worship is good for you. Worship is good for all of us.

The song is about asking for God's glory to come—a song of surrender, a song of letting go so we can make room for more of what God wants to do for us. Room for more of God Himself.

And you may be wondering what *God's glory* means. Allow me to share with you from the book of *Exodus*. It is when Moses was speaking with the Lord and he asked God: "Show me Your glory."

And the Lord responded: *I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you and I will proclaim my name in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.* (Exodus 33:19)

Isn't God so good? And I believe all of us here need God's mercy and compassion. And God's glory is here. The manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ is in this place and He is with you. He is beside you.

And we will enjoy this moment of Worship as we come in the Name the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

If you have a need right now, may I ask you to lift your hands? If you are burdened and tired, come on, lift those hands. If you feel like you need rest today, lift your hands. If you feel like you need purpose right now, lift your hands. If you feel that you need the Breath of God surging over your life, lift those hands and let me pray for you:

Heavenly Father, look at Your children right now. We lift our hands in complete surrender, declaring that we need You. We want You. We want more of You in our life. More of You in our relationships. More of You in our jobs. More of You in our organizations. More of You in our families. We declare that you are sovereign, Oh God.

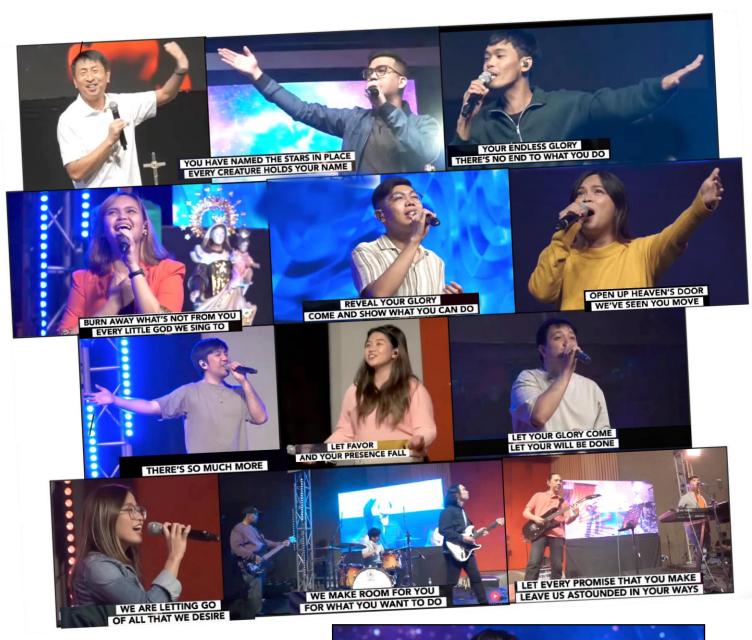
Pray this prayer with me:

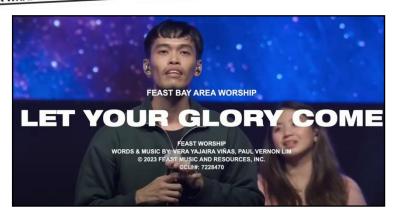
Our Father, who art in Heaven, holy is Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

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.



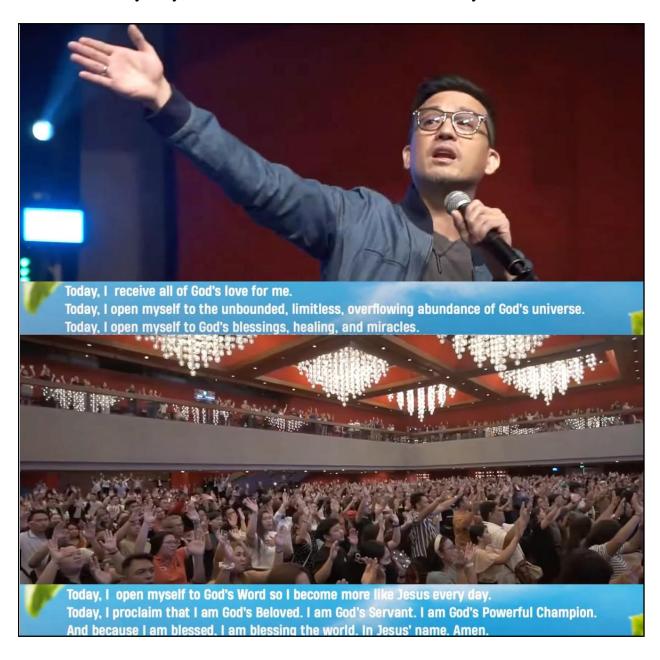
The FEAST FAMILY November 19, 2023 19





NOVENA TO GOD'S LOVE DECLARATION OF ABUNDANCE

Are you ready for the word of God? All right. But first, let us pray our favorite prayer here at The Feast. Join me, Everybody, as we lift both hands in the air, and say this with me:

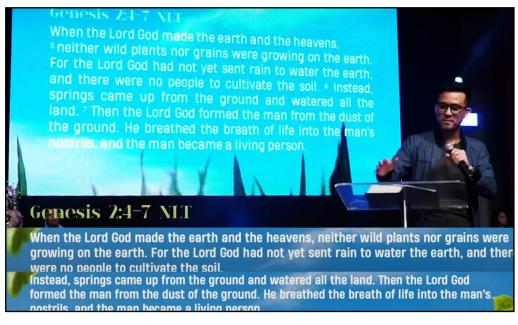


Talk



BRO. AUDEE VILLARAZA:

We're going to take a page from the book of *Genesis* 2:4-9:





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



I want to give you right now our big message and I pray that you can preach this to somebody standing next to you. Our message for somebody who's been wondering: "Is it enough that I have the money that I have in my pocket? Are my savings enough?"

I came to announce to somebody here today: You have more than enough.

You have more than enough.

Father, this is Your Word. And we know that this will come alive and active today as we unpack this beautiful message that You have for us. I pray Lord for somebody here who has a need and that need can only be met by You. I pray that You show up loud and clear and give him that message through me and through this Worship session that we have. Thank You so much. We declare in advance Your Victory over our life. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

One more time, Everybody, sing to the Lord:



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



Have you ever asked that question in your life — maybe at one point in your life... You've been struggling with your finances, you've been struggling with your relationships—have you ever asked this question: Is this enough?

Have you? Or maybe it's just me?

Have you ever wondered: "Is this enough?"

You know, I've come across

that question at different moments of my day.

For instance, I'm driving through Skyway 3 and then all of a sudden, I get so worried because my RFID balance (Radio Frequency Identification used for electronic toll payment) might not be enough.

So, I have to ask myself: "Is it enough?"

You ever wonder about things like that?

Or, maybe, some parents here who are almost ready to retire but then your child is ready to go into medical school and then you begin to wonder, "Are my savings enough? Are my investments enough?"

You ever come into that place, or am I just talking to myself? Raise your hand if you feel like that sometimes.

Or: "In this relationship that I am about to enter, is this enough?"

I can certainly attest that this is where the enemy often gets us—when he wants

you to think that it's not enough that God is for you, and that He is with you.

And this is the part where we just read in the book of *Genesis*. Because you see, it's so interesting—walk with me for a moment—how Jesus who is the Son of God, came in the living flesh...

You know, somehow, we would assume that God would come—you know, wearing luxurious items, branded clothes, would live in a palace with a thousand servants...





Abundance - According to Jesus

I mean, after all, He is the Son of God. You know, He would have a chauffeur, He would have butlers here and there...

And yet, Jesus came. He came as a lowly servant—somebody who *served* people.

You know, He owned everything in the universe, and yet He came in a simple form.

So, you begin to wonder, where does abundance come from?

How did Jesus define abundance?

The Bible says that foxes have holes, the birds have nests, and yet the Son of Man, He had no place to lay His head on.

So, you kind of wonder... How did Jesus define abundance? He lived simply. He lived in borrowed clothes. He preached on a borrowed boat.

When He died, did you know Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb? He didn't even own the tomb.

So, what was the message of Jesus? Jesus is trying to tell you and me today that abundance does not always have to mean material wealth.

Maybe abundance comes from trusting that the Lord will always provide for all your needs. Amen.

That's what He showed us.

Because in the very beginning, if you can see here from the passage that I read to you in *Genesis*, when God created the world, there was abundance, there was rich life everywhere.

There were trees, and fruits, and plants. But when the enemy came in, the enemy started asking the question:

"Are you sure that it is enough?"





I'll teach you four ways right now—I pray that you receive this. I'm telling you you're going to need it this week.

I'm going to teach you four ways—four lies-- that the Devil wants you to believe. Every single time you question God, this is how the Devil wants you to question God.

Here's the first lie.

1. Fixate on what you don't have

The first strategy of the enemy is he will convince you to fixate on what you do not have—to focus on what you do not have. Let's go to Genesis 3:1

The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

The serpent is the shrewdest of all the animals the Lord God has made... Take a moment to pause there...

Did God Really Say...?

Wait a minute...

God made the serpent?

Yes. He did. God made the Devil. So, the next time that you feel like your sin is overpowering you, guess what... God is more powerful than your sin. Because God created the Devil.

And it says here, one day, he asked the woman: "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

You know, that question *Did God* really say...? has often gotten me in trouble.

I share with you one story...

When I was in college, I had a crush on one girl. Believe it or not, when I was in college-- raise your hand if you're *torpe* (*awkwardly shy, sheepish*), come on. ☺

I was very insecure when I was young. I'm still insecure right now, by the way...

I liked this girl in college. I could not find the right words to tell her that I like her. And so, we would go out with different people, in a group. And I just sort of assumed that she wasn't interested in me. Because she wasn't showing any sign...

Later on, I lost interest and I moved on... Then, many years later, we happened to meet each other. I was single, she was in a relationship. We got to talk to reminisce about the old days. And I got to tell her-- you know, just in passing: "Did you know that once upon a time when I met you, I liked you? I had a crush on you."

She smiled, and she said, "Well, did you know that I also liked you?" I said, "Why didn't you tell me?"

And you know what she said? The most powerful words ever: "You didn't ask. You just *assumed*."

Raise your hands, those of you assuming... It hurts to assume, right?

But that's what the Scripture is saying: Did God really say...?

Because you might not be asking God—you're just assuming that God said it.

Where We Are

So, this is where we are... Because if you backtrack, this is what God said...

The Lord God warned Adam.

This is in Genesis 2:16.

You see what the Devil is trying to do?

He is trying to twist the words that God said.

The Devil said: You *cannot eat* from any of the fruit trees.



Genesis 216 AU

But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of *every* tree in the garden - except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

God said: You can eat from *every* tree. Did you know that just as I read a while

Genesis 2:8-9 NLT

ago, God placed the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil—where?—in the *middle*.

In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

You know what that means?

That before Adam and Eve could get to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they had to pass through all the other fruit trees. That means they had to say no to every fruit tree that they passed ...

I remember our two-year-old daughter Ellie. She loves chocolate.

And whenever we open our fridge, she sees everything in the fridge, but the only thing she's going to pay attention to is the chocolate.

I can offer every yummy treat in the ref:

"You want guyabano (soursop)?"

"No, Dad, I don't like guyabano. I don't like watermelon. I don't like yogurt. I don't like buko (coconut). I want only the chocolate."

You know people like that? They're surrounded by a plethora of blessings yet they're eyeing only that one, single blessing: "That's the only thing that I want and I'm only going to be happy if I can grab that blessing."

This is the area where we live in...

I mean, think about the guy who owns a bike and complains he does not have a sedan. The guy who owns a sedan complains that he doesn't have an SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle). The guy who owns an SUV complains that he doesn't have a sports car... When will it be enough?

Want P10 Million?

You meet people who are so successful in life and yet they're also the most judgmental. You ever know people like that? Are they sitting next to you? I hope not. ©

Let me tell this to you:

The moment you keep on fixing your eyes on what you don't have instead of focusing on what you already have, you will be poor, you



will feel poor no matter how richly blessed you already are.

May I prove it to you?

I have here a check. Who needs money? Here's the first one...

"What's your name?"

"Lea."

Okay, Lea. I have a check with me for P10 million. This is a real check. I signed it *Brother Audee*. Because that's my real name. My first name is *Brother*.

So, P10 million—paid to cash. Okay. You may encash that tomorrow in the make-believe bank and I'll give you make-believe money.

So, if I give you now P10 million, will you receive it? "Yes."

Absolutely. Everybody, will you receive P10 million? "Yes!"

But there's a catch. Of course, there's a catch. I'm not God-- I do not give things freely. The catch is this: If I tell you that when you receive that check for P10 million, tomorrow, you won't wake up, will you still receive it?

"Yes." ©

Yes? Really? You will not wake up to enjoy a single peso tomorrow. Will you receive it?

"Yes."

I need another volunteer...

The answer I am looking for, would have been probably, a *No*. Thank you, Sister. Thank you for being honest. And I love that.

Because I was thinking, if somebody would give me P10 million, I'd say *Yes!* right away. But then in my heart, that means if I receive the check for P10 million, I won't get to live another day, right?

What Is Enough

What is my point?

Waking up tomorrow is more valuable than P10 million.

So, what do you do every day? This is my advice: You wake up with a smile on your face and you declare that *your day is more than enough*.

It's more than enough to make you happy. It's more than enough to give you joy. Clap your hands if that's a good place to be in.



The enemy wants you to fixate on what you do not have.

Meanwhile, God is telling you: "I've already blessed you so much."

Here's the second lie of the enemy: The enemy wants you to exaggerate God's commands.

So, he went from *one* fruit to *any* of the fruits. But check out how Eve answered the snake...

Genesis 3:2-3 NL

"Of course, we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.""

I challenge you: If you can, read the entire book of Genesis and look for that passage where it says that *God says you must not eat it, or even touch it, if you do, you will die.*

You won't find it. It's not there. Why? Because God never said it. What was Eve trying to do? I don't know... She was trying to put one more lie on top of another lie.

And isn't it this is what we do? Isn't this what we do-- when in our attempt to be righteous, sometimes we project our righteousness onto other people? And just because they are not obeying God not as much as you do-- they're not praying as many hours as you do—you try to project it on them and you make them feel guilty and afraid.



God's Call

That's what we do sometimes. We exaggerate God's commands. And I have to be very careful as a leader. Because there's a sense in which when we create policies, especially for The Feast, we would be more focused on policies than people.

Here at The Feast, we always say, "Serve at The Feast. Serve with us."

But there's a point when sometimes, people would come and say, "I want to serve the Lord.

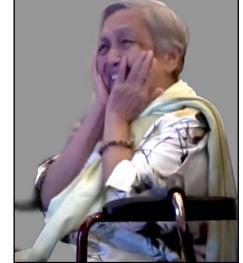
But then there are so many steps to get to serve the Lord."

So, we try to shortcut those--we try to lessen the steps. Because we always want to put priority on people over policies, loving people over the laws that we create.

How do you solve this? How do you stop comparing yourself to other people and exaggerating God's commands to them?

I'm thinking of a person right now. Her name is Nanay Tuding. For those of you who don't know her, Nanay Tuding joined The Feast in 2007. Nanay Tuding is turning 90 years old on November 15. I just want to honor you... Nanay Tuding has been serving the Lord all her life. Not just at The Feast. There was a time when she had to raise some donors and sponsors to build a tabernacle in Tondo (Manila) and she had to work simply because they wanted to replace the tabernacle.

Nanay Tuding, you see her in a wheelchair but did you know that even up to today, Nanay Tuding serves us. She welcomes the people here at The Feast with a smile. She can even stand up. What a miracle! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Advance Happy Birthday, Nanay Tuding!



What is my point? It's very simple: Serve and love the Lord the best way that He has called you to. Maybe the Lord is calling you to be the best mother. Maybe the Lord is calling you to be the best brother, or the best sibling, or the best employer. Serve the Lord wherever He's called you to.

Stop comparing yourself to what other people are doing. Because maybe the Lord is calling them for a different thing. Focus on what the Lord is calling *you* to do. Be the best.



The Devil wants you to assume that God is holding back something from you. After all these conversations, check out how the serpent answered the woman.

The snake said, "You won't die if you eat that because God knows that your eyes will be opened.

Matthew 3:4–5 NLT

"You won't die! God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and *you will be like God*, knowing both good and evil."

Wait a minute... The serpent says, "You will be like God..."

Didn't God say we're already like Him? The Bible already says that *God created us in His image and likeness*.

What is the Devil trying to prove today? He's simply trying to say that God might be holding back a blessing from you. See, the truth is, whenever we focus on what we don't have, we're focusing only on the *burden*—we're not looking at the *blessing*.

Meanwhile, God is consistently shouting to you:

"Hey, you're already blessed!"

And sometimes, you would realize—this comes as a shock to me every time... Whenever I'm praying for a miracle, God would often show me the miracle not in a new form – but a miracle I'm already holding in my hands. Have you ever had that experience?

We complain but we're actually holding the blessing already.



The Devil wants you to assume that God is holding back a blessing-- when in reality, you already possess that blessing. Amen.

I pray that somebody here, open your eyes to see that you're already blessed.

Here's the last strategy of the enemy. The enemy wants you to think that God is playing favorites—and guess what: you're not it.

I want you to fast forward right now to a time when Adam and Eve had two sons—Cain and Abel. Genesis 4: 2-5 says:

When they grew up, Abel became a shepherd, while Cain cultivated the ground. When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the Lord. Abel also brought a gift – the best portions of the firstborns lambs from his flock.

The Lord accept Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.

What is the story trying to tell us? That God preferred Abel more than Cain? Maybe God was a carnivore-- He liked lamb chops more than salad?

Because Cain offered crops. Abel offered lamb. So, was God preferring one over the other?



You know, let me teach you this:

Many times, Bible authors love to put little ambiguous gaps in the story.

Why? So that it would mirror our own human existence.

How many of you have ever prayed for something and God did not grant your prayer-- instead granted the prayer of somebody else? Perhaps, you've been praying fervently for a child. You have no kids and you've been married for seven years.

Meanwhile, God granted a child to somebody who has two kids already. She's got three now and you've got still zero.

So, you're like, "Why is God blessing that other person and not me?"

Or maybe some of you are praying for a business, and you're asking the Lord to help you succeed in that business because God knows you've been putting in hard work – but it's not succeeding and you've been opening businesses left and right.

Meanwhile, God is blessing that other business...

Why is God continuing to give you the bankrupt business-- and the other people the booming business? Does this feel familiar to you?

That's what Cain must have felt like: "Lord, why is it that You're blessing my brother Abel – and I'm giving You an offering?"

Scarcity Mindset

Here's where the *scarcity mindset* comes from.

Scarcity mindset is when you think there's only one blessing. That's it.

And because there's only one blessing, Cain was like: "I'm going to kill my brother for my blessing. I'm going to grab that blessing. I'm going to steal that blessing. "

That's scarcity mindset.

You know what the abundance mindset is?



The abundance mindset is when you believe that in God's storehouse, there's no shortage of mindset. Amen.

In God's storehouse, there is no shortage of blessings.

Never assume that there's only one blessing because the truth is there is enough blessing to go around. And sometimes you don't get what you pray for simply because—I want you to think about this—you need to ask three questions.

1. "Do I need to do something?"

Because when Cain encountered God, you know what God said to Cain?

In Genesis 4:6, God said:



Cain was only focused on God blessing Abel. So, he was probably asking, "Lord, why are you so unfair? Why are you blessing my brother more than me? Is he better than me? Do you love him more than me?"

See, that's the scarcity mindset. But what if you shift that? Instead of looking at it from that perspective, you start asking, "Lord, is there something that I need to do? Maybe you need to teach me how to make a better offering just like my brother. Lord, what is in me right now that I need to change so that I can be open to the blessing?"

Is there something you need to do so that you can open your hands and be ready for the blessing?

'I'm Next!'

How many of you believe that God has a different timing than your timing?

He does. But sometimes, we are impatient. We want the Lord to bless us right here, right now... "It feels like the Lord is blessing other people more than me."

But if you truly believe that the Lord has His own timing, it will not matter if God is blessing other people.

Why? Because I can declare, "Lord, I'm next."

Put your hand over your chest and say, "Lord, I'm next."

Touch your neighbor and say, "Lord, this person is next."

Here's the third question you need to ask yourself if your prayers aren't being answered:

feast.ph



If only Cain could have recognized that there was more than enough blessing to go around ...

2. "Is it the right time?"

But you see. a lot of us, whenever God removes something from your life, it feels like God is punishing you. It feels like God doesn't love you.

And so you begin to ask: "Lord, why are you so unfair?"

But did you know this? Let me speak this to somebody right now...

You feel like the Lord subtracted something from your life. I want you to know that He's not a subtraction-God. He's an addition-God. He likes to add things to your life. Because God is not in the business of removing things.

You know what God is in the business of?

God is in the replacement business.

Some of the greatest blessings you will receive, my good friend, is when God removes something from your life. Why? So that He can replace it with something better. Because God knows what you need.

Better!

Maybe you're broken right now, or you're hurting, or you're in pain because you lost something...

I want you to believe and declare with your own heart, right now...

Put your hand over your chest and say, "God is going to give me something better."

Because He's not in the removing business. He's in the replacement. He'll give you what you need. And when God gives you what you need,



I guarantee you it will be so much better than what you planned, what you envisioned, what you dreamed of—because God is good. Amen.

Our series is titled *Plenty: How To Live in God's Radical Generosity*.

It's hard. I mean, in real life we go through shortages. Have you ever gone through a shortage, some lack in your life from time to time?

Maybe you're like me who goes through shortages every day, who always wonders, "Is this going to be enough...?"

I want to close by reading to you what St. Paul wrote to the people of Philippi when he was thanking them for their generosity in building the churches that Paul was planting. And some of you, you might be familiar with this verse. It's from Philippians 4:19:

Philippians 4.19 N

"And my God will meet all my needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

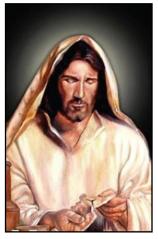


Can you say that with me? Put your hand over your chest and say, "And my God shall supply all my needs—say that out loud: all my needs—according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

I want you to pay attention to those words. They mean so well, right? When you say it over your life, it means that God is going to provide for you.

But I want to point out those words: *He will provide my needs...* But it will be all your needs—according to where? *According to the riches of His glory...*

Wait a minute... God is going to supply my needs but it will not be according to the level of my need. It will not be according to the level of my giving. But it will be based on the level of His generosity.



From *Empty* to *Plenty*

Now, what kind of generosity is this? He says: according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. How rich is God? Is God rich? Yes! He is! He owns everything. But He said that He will bless you according to the riches of His glory.

Where? In Christ Jesus.

The way I see it, you will be richly blessed if you've got Jesus. Amen.

Abundance is found in Jesus.

And when you think about abundance, my goodness, there is no lack in God's supply.

There is no lack in God's supply, and I declare this: For those of you who are experiencing an emptiness, a shortage, a lack, I declare that you have a life with Jesus. In your season of *empty*, God will be your source of *plenty*. Amen!

This is Your Word, Lord.

Open your hands, Everybody, all over this place:

Thank You for this, Lord, Thank You for Your Word. Thank You for Your Wisdom. Thank You for this message. Thank You, Lord God, for Your Son Jesus—that through Him we are abundant. We don't have to have the best of everything. We just have to Thank You for what we already have. And we Thank You that we have Your Son. That we can walk with Him every day and experience life, experience love, experience purpose. You are more than enough, Lord Jesus. Come. Come and fill our heart today. Come and fill our life with Your Life. We declare You as King. In Jesus' Name. Amen.





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Declaration

Everybody lift your hands. Let this be your declaration and your symbol of surrender that you are accepting Jesus to be your Lord and your Savior.

From this day on, you will choose Him.

You will choose to worship Him.

You will choose to love Him

And you will choose to walk with Him every day.





Everybody say this with me:

Jesus, here I am with my hand lifted in complete surrender. I ask You to have life with me. To forgive me. And to love me. Thank You that this day, this is the day that I am reborn. And from this moment on, I will worship You, I will trust You and I will love You until the end of my days. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

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--Matthew 5:7

ANAWIM YEAR 28 SPECIAL

Corporate Sweet Response

WE continue our celebration of the 28th Founding Anniversary of the Anawim Lay

Missions (ALMS) which operates our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly.

As we said in last week's issue, *The FEAST FAMILY* features one Mercy Ministry per month—four stories for the four weeks of the month.

In October 2023, we gave you four stories for the four weeks of the month.

But since Anawim is celebrating its 28th Founding Anniversary, we have more than four stories.



By God's grace, contributions Thank you, SHEFA Industrial Products Inc.! of our Feasts help sustain our Anawim ministry. But since our lolos and lolas have many needs, we hardly have enough for those needs. Thus, we are deeply grateful for donations from generous visitors.

In our issue last Sunday, November 12, 2023, we paid tribute to Anawim's donors—families, friends, birthday or anniversary celebrators, and civic organizations on medical missions for our elderly.

Today, we honor companies who have chosen Anawim as a beneficiary of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. Yes, their Corporate Sweet Response to the cry of the needy.

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Thank you, FWD-Vermilion Phoenix!





Thank you, 168 COREBILT INC.!

Thank you, New APEC Development Corp!



Thank you, Marco Polo Hotel Ortigas!



Thank you, Lahing Ginebra!



Thank you, PLDT and SMART!



Thank you, Robinsons Hotels and Resorts and Love CSR Program of Robinsons Land for precious fun time with our lolas!

--Arsenia D. Binohhi Anawim Center Administrator



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



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



CARES

of sexual abuse.

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. kerygmafamily.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.

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Go and make disciples of all men.

— Matthew 28:19