



INTERNATIONAL

MAY 2022

Spring in Summer

IN Manila where we are based, May is a sweltering summer month. Right now, as we write, the thermometer shows 28 degrees Celsius, about 82 degrees Fahrenheit—a very warm day, indeed.

But we feel like it's Spring! Yes, after the cold and gray winter, we have Maytime, when vegetation begins, and we have a garden, a feast of flowers.

And why do we feel Spring in Summer? Because this issue of *The Feast International* celebrates our Feast in the Garden City of the Gulf, Al Ain in Abu Dhabi, which marks its 9th Founding Anniversary on May 10, 2022. Read on, starting on *page 2*.

Our deepest gratitude to Feast Al Ain's Builder, Bro. Jeffrey Tampinco, *here* with his family, for all the Al Ain updates. Thank you, forever, Bro!



Springtime is also Eastertide, since we are in the fourth Sunday of Easter-- Resurrection Day.

Trivia: On Easter Sunday, moms and their kids have fun egg hunting. Why egg? Egg, dyed red, symbolizes the blood of Jesus (although now, the eggs come in various, happy colors), the hard shell symbolizes the sealed tomb of Christ, and cracking the shell symbolizes His Resurrection from the dead.

Speaking of moms, we also feel Spring in May because we celebrate Mother's Day on this month—May 8, this year, to be exact. Yes, life begins in the womb of a mother. And so, in this issue, we honor our mothers with features on Grace To Be Born, our Mercy Ministry for pregnant women in crisis, *pages 6-9*.

And speaking of beginnings, our founder, Bro. Bo Sanchez, starts a new Feast talk series this May titled *Depths of Mercy*-- focusing on Jonah, the reluctant Prophet swallowed by a big fish but by God's mercy, eventually gave pagans a new life with the Lord, *page 10*,

Yes, amid the unforgiving heat, Spring in Summer is refreshing Mercy-- which is all about The Feast!



Glory!

VIC ESPAÑOL
Region Head
Feast International



Celebrations!

FEAST AL AIN
A New Spring

By GEOFFREY TAMPINCO



FEAST AL AIN was established on May 10, 2013. So, this May 10, 2022, we mark our 9th Founding Anniversary.

The Feast International featured Feast Al Ain in May 2018 to celebrate our 5th Founding Anniversary. For those who missed that issue, here's a recall...

With a Bachelor of Science degree, major in Computer Science, I landed a job as clinical coding officer in the Middle East, in Al Ain.

Here I am with my family, my wife Anna; children Amira, 7; Johanna, 5; and Gianna, 2.



Calling

Early on, in the 1990s, my wife Anna attended the prayer meetings of the Light of Jesus (LOJ) Family, the faith community founded by Bro. Bo Sanchez.

So, we got familiar with the *Kerygma*, the inspirational magazine also founded by Bro. Bo, now named *The Feast*. I became a regular reader.

In Al Ain, we found out there's a branch of LOJ in Dubai. LOJ mounted a Life in the Spirit Seminar here. We attended and eventually then began attending *The Feast* when it opened in Dubai in January 2009. Just to attend *The Feast*, we travelled back and forth Al Ain and Dubai, which are 130 kilometers apart.

In *Feast* Dubai, I got acquainted with Bro. Roy Pasimio, then *Feast* International builder. To reach out to more people in various regions in the United Arab Emirates, Bro. Roy suggested to me to start *The Feast* in Al Ain and be its *Feast* Builder.

I was reluctant to accept the responsibility, as I am an introverted person. I had many insecurities and doubts. And to top it all, I feared having my life (exposed) under a microscope.

Then, suddenly, God knocked me on the head. In June 2012, we became financially challenged – Anna lost her job, and lost her mother as well. We were desperate at the time. I turned to the Lord and prayed that I would be promoted in my job. And that if He answered my prayer, I would put up *Feast* Al Ain.

And soon enough, in just two weeks, I got my promotion, complete with a villa accommodation.

Grateful for the blessing, I started making good my promise to build *The Feast* in Al Ain. In March 2013, I had a meeting with Bro Roy and Bro Vic Español, region head of *Feast* International, to actually build *The Feast* here in Al Ain. On May 10, 2013, we launched *Feast* Al Ain, with the villa I received as venue.



became members of LOJ here. We



Refreshing Spring

Al Ain is the largest inland city in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates. *Al- 'Ain* is Arabic for *Spring* and with its oases, parks, and tree-lined avenues, the city is indeed as refreshing as the season -- thus it is also called the Garden City of the Gulf.

Yes, we've been blessed to be spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus in this Garden City.



Courageous Projects

Today, our devoted, committed servant leaders are Bro. Jun Palinawon, co-Preacher; Bro. Rick Talibutab, Admin and Logistics; Judith De Ortube, Worship Ministry; Cristina Areola, assistant Worship head; and Hazel Hondrique, Intercessory.

As in the rest of the world, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) hit us in 2020, causing massive layoffs, affecting our Feast servants and attendees.

Undaunted, like the rest of Feasts worldwide, we held our faith gatherings online called The Feast at Home.

Recently, I headed the #iShare project for a year that showcases the Feast Abu Dhabi district's creative talents.

With fervent prayers, we hope we can mount Feast Al Ain again *live*. And courageously expand territories through Feast Lights.



Feast Meeting: As a Feast Builder, I've had my ups and downs but I know God has still great plans for my family and me and The Feast here in UAE.

By Divine Grace, we continue to try our very best to fulfill the avowed core principle of our Light of Jesus Family, the mandate our Lord Jesus gave to His apostles:

Go and make disciples of all men.

--Matthew 28:19



Mercy Ministries

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

– John 16:33

GRACE TO BE BORN

By Faith, Not By Sight

IF you've been a regular follower of *The Feast Family*, you already know that Grace To Be Born was established on May 8, 2009. So, this May 8, 2022, Grace To Be Born is already 13 years old.

We celebrate Grace To Be Born's 13th Founding Anniversary by reminiscing blessings in this our journey to help pregnant women in crisis and yes, give their baby the grace to be born.

I've been very blessed to be the executive director of Grace To Be Born. This post has given me the priceless opportunity to make good use of my education as Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the degree I earned at Miriam College, formerly Maryknoll College.

PALACIO

I've also been blessed with a loving family.

Here we are, *from left*: daughter Marie Renee; me; son Genaro holding Marie's baby, our grandson Avery; and Marie's husband, Avery Celestina.



By **ESTER**

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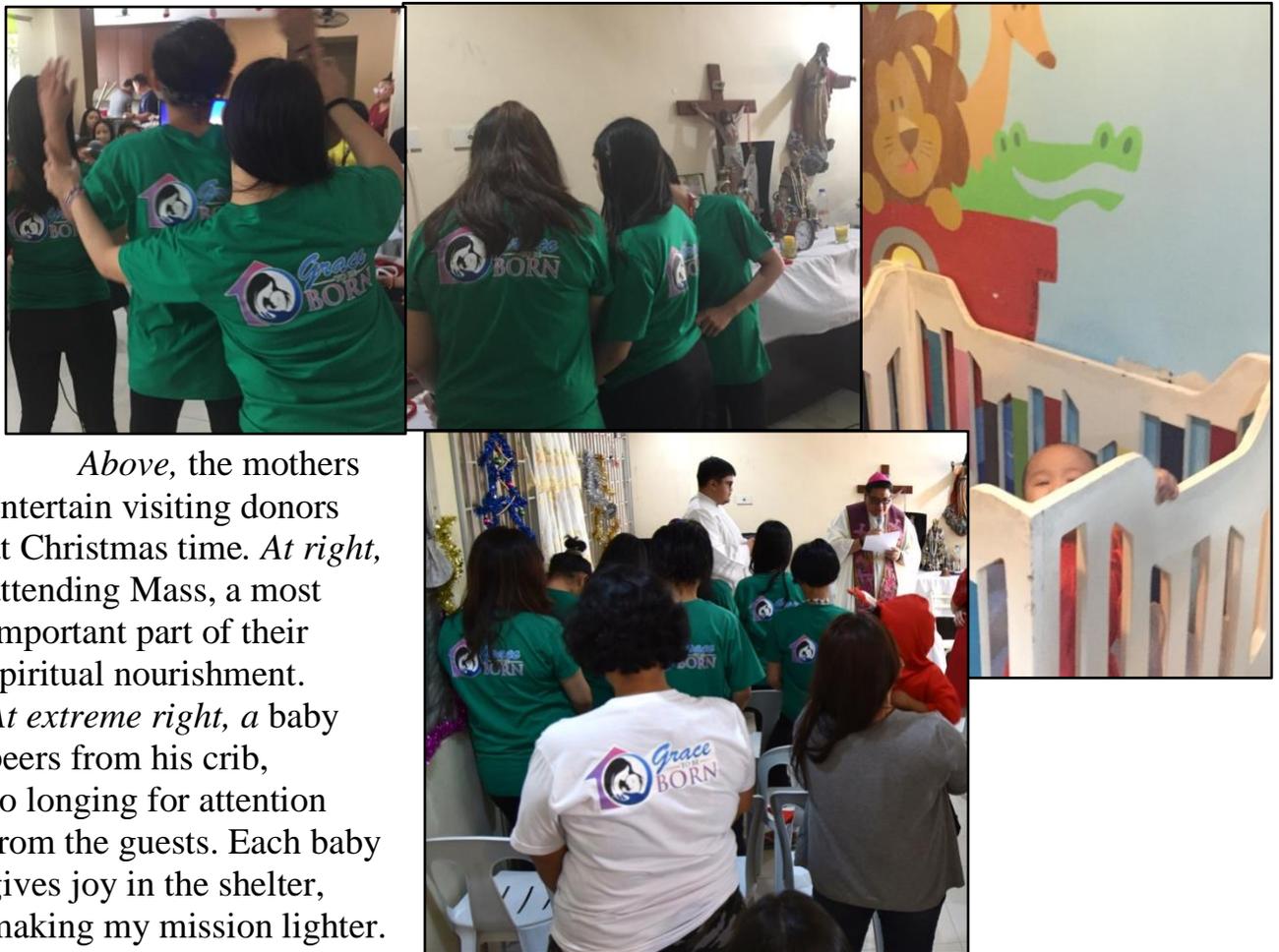


Joy in Service

We are a simple family, blessed with unconditional love for each other—yes, *grace* that has inspired me to choose this mission serving mothers and the babies.

In 2011, a friend told me that a Catholic faith community, the Light of Jesus Family, was looking for a social worker. I applied for the post and as our good God would have it, I became a social worker at Grace on June 1, 2011—and in time, I was appointed as executive director.

I love serving here in Grace. I am very happy and grateful that I am able to serve the mothers and their children in the shelter.



Above, the mothers entertain visiting donors at Christmas time. *At right*, attending Mass, a most important part of their spiritual nourishment. *At extreme right*, a baby peers from his crib, so longing for attention from the guests. Each baby gives joy in the shelter, making my mission lighter.

Blessings and Big Dreams

Serving with the Grace staff is also great joy for me.

Here is a photo taken during our Christmas celebration last year with our staff and volunteers, *from left:* volunteer Mel Dela Gente; staff Jinky Gilo, Rochelle Del Monte; me; Anna Ojero, Joy Reyes, Anne Alianza, and Tin Sampang.



Grace has opened so many doors for me. Learning about the dire situation of the mothers before they came to Grace, I've well appreciated my family members and I've become closer with them.

I serve God, but as we often say, God cannot be out-given. God has returned to me the little I've given to this Ministry. I've well received financial blessings.

The best blessing is while we see to it that our mothers are spiritually nourished, we servants have also been filled with spiritual food—at the Masses held at Grace, and The Feast weekly.

And another blessing I'm so grateful for is that I've been able to share God's love to my nephews and nieces, encouraging them to participate in the Church.

Yet, I still have big dreams—big dreams especially for our Grace To Be Born Ministry.

I have plans for the future of Grace and by the grace of God, I believe that these plans will materialize in His Perfect Time.

As 2 Corinthians 5:7 puts it: *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*





BLESSINGS

Two Unwanted Pregnancies; One Great Truth from God

CALL me Mona. Not my real name. I'm using a pseudonym to protect the privacy of the people involved in my story.

If I have to describe myself before I came to Grace To Be Born, I can say that I was stubborn and disobedient.

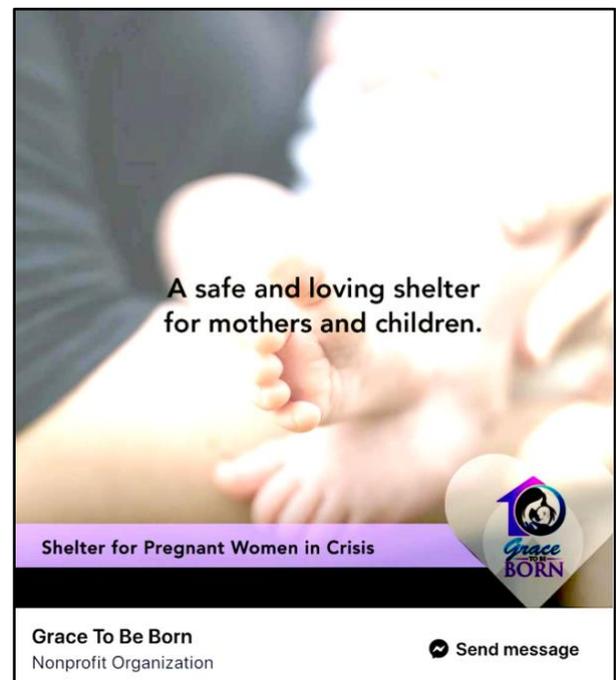
When I was 13 years old, I had a relationship with someone who was too old for me. I got pregnant at the age of 15 by a 30-year-old man.

At the age of 16, I had a relationship with my stepfather-- and I got pregnant the second time.

My mother was furious. My stepfather was like, the relationship was all my fault. She believed him. She chose to still live with him. She drove me away.

I had to stop studying.

I hated myself and my two children.



Grace To Be Born poster on its Facebook



Forgiveness

I had nowhere to go. But by God's Divine Mercy, I got accepted at Grace To Be Born. And Grace also accepted my children.

Grace To Be Born has given me not only shelter. Most important, with daily spiritual nourishment and counseling here, I've learned what's right and wrong. I've learned from my mistakes.

My mother has not forgiven me. Though the process is difficult for me, I've learned to forgive her for siding with my stepfather and driving me away, and not accepting my children

I've also learned to forgive the two fathers of my children.

Unconditional Love

I can forgive because I myself have been forgiven. Grace accepted me wholeheartedly-- with no judgment. I've found a family here loving me without condition. And because I feel loved here, I've also learned to accept and love my children.

Grace has never abandoned my children and me. We are being nurtured here. The Admin officers and staff, my house mother, social workers, health caregivers-- they all don't get tired of taking care of us. They console me, they counsel me. They help me get back on my feet so I can be a good mother to my children.

Now, I want to continue my education to give them a good life. I don't want to waste this blessing that Grace To Be Born has given me.

The Good News

Yes, *blessing* coming, above all, from God. Throughout my stay here in Grace, I've learned God's Word during our Bible study.

This one's my favorite-- it's from Romans 16:25: "*Now, all glory to God, who is able to make you strong just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed His plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time.*"

The apostle Paul who wrote this letter to the Romans praises God for revealing the Good News of salvation-- that all can be forgiven and receive righteousness from God through faith in our Lord Jesus who died on the Cross to pay for our sins.

I've learned this one great truth as through Grace To Be Born, our Lord Jesus has revealed Himself to me and gave me a new life of righteousness and dignity.

Yes, my children have received the Grace to be born. And so have I.

Glory to God!



THIS MONTH

Graduate from Looking at The Bible as a Children's Book

FOR MANY, the book of *Jonah* is nothing else but a simple children's story.

Admit it. When we hear the word *Jonah*, the first thing we think of is *Whale*. (Note: The Bible does not say *whale*.

It was a mistake of the translator of the King James Version.)

Believe me, *Jonah* is not a children's story.

By the way, this is not just a problem for *Jonah*. This is a problem for the entire Bible. Many think the Bible is a collection of simple bedtime tales with moral lessons: "And the moral of the story is... be a good boy... be a good girl."

Here's the truth. The book of *Jonah* is one of the most sophisticated, complex, intricate writings in all of the Scriptures, jam-packed in one-and-a-half pages, crafted by a brilliant Jewish author some 2400 years ago.

Sadly, people don't see the profundity of *Jonah*.

Welcome to a brand new and exciting Feast talk series, *Jonah*.

By learning how to read Jonah, you'll learn how to read the Bible the way Jesus read His Bible.

Talk 1, titled *The Prophet Who Won't Preach*, centers on the key message: *God is more loving than you think He is.*

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Talk 2, titled *Sleeping on Stormy Seas*, has two big messages:

First, *See Him in the storm.*

Second, *God loves them more than you do.*

As a father of two boys, I focus half of my daily prayer time on interceding for those two gentlemen.

I prayed even before they were born.

Every single day. For decades!

Now that my two sons are already 22 and 17, I still pray for them.

But even if the words are the same, the way I pray has changed.

Because one day, I heard God speak to my heart.

He said, *“Son, you’re praying out of fear. Learn to pray out of trust. Because I love them more than you do.”*

When I heard those words, I felt the weight of my worries just fall to the floor.

That’s what Talk 2 explores through the book of *Jonah*.

Talk 3, titled *In the Belly of the Beast*, presents the key message *There are blessings at the bottom.*

People have known this a long time ago. In the 14th century, Italian poet Dante Alighieri wrote *The Divine Comedy*, and in his masterpiece, he said, *“The path to paradise begins in hell.”*

Meaning? *Sometimes, a person needs to hit rock bottom before he can even start climbing out of his pit.* He needs to be brought to a place where he has no alternatives. Once there, he realizes his pride vanishes, his stubbornness evaporates, his deafness is healed, and for the first time in a long while, he starts listening.

I’ve been there. Many times.

Yes, there are blessings at the bottom. Most of all, I found God at the bottom.

Have a beautiful Feast!

May your dreams come true,



Bo Sanchez





INTERNATIONAL

Thank You!

The Feast International is part of The Feast Family, now organized as the **Feast Mercy Ministries**, 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 Family. No gift is too small.

Thank you very much in advance for your gift. Our prayer is that God will continue to reward you as you give.

FOR EXISTING DONORS:

Thank you for the Love. Your monthly donation helps us continue extending support to our Light of Jesus spin-off organizations, including our partner beneficiaries. Your gift will sustain our operations and, we hope, help us reach out to the persons our Lord has called us to make disciples and give them renewed hope.

Be a Feast International member. Write or call us. Now.

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Our Partner Beneficiaries

Jeremiah 33 Foundation

is a shelter for girls particularly victims of sexual abuse



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



He Cares Mission

provides shelter for street children.

Pag-asa ng Pamilya gives scholarships to poor students.



Jesus Christ Cares for Cancer

provides financial assistance and pastoral care for indigent cancer patients.



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

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



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

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INTERNATIONAL ONLINE NEWSMAGAZINE

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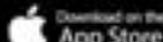
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Go and make disciples of all men.
— Matthew 28:19

