

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

The **Light**

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25
YEARS
OF
*God's
Goodness*



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Editorial

by Fran Moredo

Reaching a 25th anniversary is an extraordinary accomplishment! Having been gifted with one fourth of a century, we have received blessings and encountered trials countless times. They have allowed us to see and taste the mercy and justice of God.

We are celebrating our 25th anniversary in a maelstrom of a global pandemic and the height of blatant rebellion against God around the world. Precarious as these days are, we thank God for His grace and faithfulness, that we are able to thrive despite the situation. As we rejoice in this amazing milestone notwithstanding the crises facing us, it behooves on us to reflect on our own days and what we have been doing to prepare for the Lord's coming.

What have we done as these days tumbled into each other with their points, pains and people saturating our lives? How have we spent the hours as they persistently passed from morning to night? Are we preparing through our personal and church life for His return? Are we using our gifted time in this world to become a faithful servant of God?

We collaborated with the ministries and outreaches for our anniversary issue to share how the ministries and church workers practiced, experienced or were challenged by the admonitions of Romans 12:10-13.

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.”

Read with your heart and feel God's moving in their lives as the testimonies unfold, guiding them in the seasons of their life, through the rough and smooth seas they navigated, and ultimately, in their individual narratives highlighting choices and consequences.

We pray that these glimpses into the lives of our brethren usher you to a hushed moment of contemplation about your own story line. Are you continuing in readiness for Christ's Return? (Lk 12:35-39)

Do not tarry for you know not what tomorrow will bring.

2021 GLCC 25th ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE:

CONTINUING IN READINESS FOR CHRIST'S RETURN (Lk 12:35-39)

By Ptr. Robbie Casas

Dear beloved GLCC family, I greet you with God's love and hope a very blessed 25th anniversary!

This anniversary is a Silver Jubilee, the celebration of quarter of a century's existence – a major milestone in the life of any organization, even in the marriage of two people. This makes this anniversary special. But what makes it uniquely special is that we are celebrating it in the midst of a major crisis.

If you think I am referring to the Covid-19 pandemic, that is only the icing on this crisis cake – terrible as its impact has been. The pandemic simply triggered what I see is the true crisis: **the unprecedented open rebellion against God that in many cases have even been institutionalized.** Included in this are: the acceptance and promotion of abortion, the widespread pervasive agenda of the LGBTQ movement (now assaulting the orthodox family unit and the institution of marriage) supported by lawmakers and both the mainstream and social media, the growing anti-Christian sentiments and actions, the increasing number of those who we thought were believers turning away from their faith and God, the alarmingly rapid spread of anti-Jewish thought and behavior in nations that were once supporters.

In the midst of all this, we are celebrating our 25th anniversary, not as a church gasping for breath but as one that is still thriving despite the situation – a testament to the faithfulness and grace of God toward us all.

As I look at where we are amidst all that is happening in the world, processing these through the lens of Scripture, I see the need for continuing and growing preparedness for the return of our Lord and Savior as prophesied in the Bible. Many times it seems that His return is just around the corner. And the nagging question is: **How truly prepared are we for His appearing?**

Because of this I am compelled to believe that as a 25-year old church, **all the more** we must be busy getting ready for our Lord so that when He appears none of us will be ashamed before Him. Although our theme last year was “Called to Be Ready for Christ's Return”, I feel strongly that God's call on our 25th anniversary is our **“Continuing in Readiness for Christ's Return.”**

One major reason is **the doctrine of the imminence of His return**, which means that Christ's return is “ready to take place; happening soon or at any moment”.

The Scripture passage for this year is Luke 12:35-39: “35 *Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit. 36 Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them. 38 Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. 39 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 40 You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”*

The theme of preparedness is all over this passage. Notice the repetition of words of preparedness: “readiness” (v. 35), “waiting for” (v. 36), “alert” (v. 37), “be ready” (v. 40).

There are **three commands** that illustrate three images of preparedness. “35 *Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit.*” This is the **first command**. “*Be[ing] dressed*” is a reference to the practice of tucking the ends of the outer garment into the belt to shorten it in preparation for activities like running, work, fighting in battle, etc.

Keeping lamps lit means making sure of having sufficient supply of oil and staying awake to keep the lamps lit. Both are images for preparedness at all times. Jesus was calling the disciples to be dressed and ready for action, like military watchmen or others who stay prepared when others sleep.

In v. 36, we see the **second command** which is a continuation of the first: “36 *Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast....*”

This is a description of faithful slaves (v. 37) waiting and ready to welcome their master returning home from a wedding: “36... so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.” They had to remain constantly vigilant so that the master would be able to come into the house whenever he arrives. The Lord was comparing the disciples to servants who are ready to immediately serve their master.

In v. 37, there is a beautiful promise of blessing for faithful and ready slaves: “37 *Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them.*”

What an awesome and humbling picture this is! As the master arrives and finds faithful and “alert” servants, we see a reversal of roles – the master dons servants' clothes to serve his servants, honoring them as he lets them “recline at the table” while he waits on them! Such an image would offend the well-to-do but would be a powerful picture of how Christ, who at His return, would treat those who remained faithful to the end: **He would minister as a servant to believers.** Unimaginable as this is to believe, the Lord prefaces this promise with “truly (Gk.,



ame n) I say to you”, which signifies His confirming and emphasizing the certainty of this promise.

“38 Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.” In v. 38a, the uncertainty of the exact time the master will be arriving is emphasized. It speaks of a return at an unusually late hour. By the Jewish method of reckoning time, it would be 10 pm to 6 am. The point is that **constant vigilance is necessary**.

The Lord reiterates the promise of blessing upon those whom the master finds ready: “... and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.”

The return of the Lord is sure, but its timing is unpredictable, so those who are His servants must be ready and alert to welcome Him when He does.

“39 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 40 You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”

In vv. 39-40, we find another parable, the image of a house owner always prepared for the breaking in of a thief. Knowledge of the time of the thief's coming would lead to vigilance. **But since the time is not known, constant preparedness is crucial**. Hence, we find the third command: “40 You too, be ready...” In v. 40b, the Lord makes clear the reference to Himself: “... for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”

The Lord makes it clear that the time of His coming cannot not be predicted. He further stresses this adding, “at an hour that you do not expect.”

Surely, the imminent return of Christ is not meant by God like a trap for us in order to catch us off guard. But I believe that the Lord had meant to keep from us the exact day of His coming so that we would not be complacent in our walk with Him. If we knew exactly when, our sinful tendencies would surely lull us, at the very least, to be careless and lazy and, at worst, to be smug and self-satisfied.

But though we might not know the exact day or hour of His coming, in many places in Scripture, we are given the circumstances that accompany His coming that should prepare us like in Matt 24:1-14; 1Tim 4:1-3; 2Tim 3:1-9. When we are observant of these signs of the times, we are compelled to double up on our readiness.

So how are we to be ready?

In **our personal life**, this includes:

- fighting for the deepening of our love and devotion to God-praying, studying God's Word
- dealing daily with our sins in true biblical repentance
- taking advantage of spiritual growth opportunities
- looking for more opportunities to serve and represent God
- sharing the gospel to friends and family
- seeking forgiveness and forgiving those we need to be reconciled with

In **our church life**, this includes:

- renewing our commitment and support to the church in prayer, giving, participating in activities, inviting others, serving in the ministries
- doubling our efforts in evangelizing others
- being more intentional in encouraging and helping one another
- seeking to disciple and being discipled

In striving to be ready, we hope to hear from the Lord when we see Him the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matt 25:21).



GUIDING LIGHT CH

25th ANNIVERSARY

Highlights from

FIRST SERVICE
July 7-BCF GYM

THE LIGHT
First Publication

**DAGUPAN
OUTREACH
MINISTRY**

**MISSIONS &
EVANGELISM**

PHILEX MINES
Outreach Ministry

**START OF
BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION**

1996

1998

2000

2003

1997

EVANGELISM
EE
Evangelism
Explosion Training

1999

**SHEPHERD'S
CONFERENCE**
Participation Starts

2002

GLCC BUILDING
Purchase of property
for the Building

GIT
Launching of Formal
Membership

2005

AGOO
Outreach Ministry



CHRISTIAN CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

1996 to 2020

ORDINATION
of GLCC Formal
Elders

IBI
International Bible
Institute

CIM
Conference in the
Mountains Retreats
& Seminars Nov
2010

BCC
Building Construction
Committee

TEA
The Expositors
Academy Feb 2017

IMMERSION
of other churches in
the Missions
Program

2010

2015

2017

2019

2013

2016

2018

2020

OIC
Overseas Instruction
in Counseling

FIRST SERVICE
at Main Sanctuary
Oct 27, 2013

LIBON
Outreach Ministry
fruits of mission
outreach launched in
2007

FOC
Financial Oversight
Committee Aug 2016

DEACONSHIP

CODC
Church Operation
and Development
Committee

ESTABLISHED
CHURCH COVID
RESPONSE

**SYSTEM
SET UP**
For Benevolence

**ONLINE
BROADCAST**
of Church Activities

**QR CODE &
GLCC APP**

DEBT-FREE
Sept 2020

1st ONLINE
Christmas
Celebration

January 11, 2020



ONE-ANOTHERING

Balikatan Sa Panalangin (BSP)
Jannah Adam

The BSP ministry is where the Lord has sovereignly called me to serve in the local church. I was a “youth” at the time I decided to join the ministry through the invite of other youths who also wanted to observe in BSP.

When I joined in 2011, my initial thought as a young person was to serve in the BSP ministry because I desired to grow in the discipline and practice of intercession. It has been 10 years and the Lord has taught and blessed me with so much more learnings than what I initially hoped for. Being an intercession ministry, I thought we would do just that, pray. But as soon as I joined, we were introduced to a cell with a cell servant, with the main purpose of one-anothering through Bible study and fellowshiping. This became one of the means of God to grow me deeper in the study of His Word, and cultivate relationship with fellow workers through intentional sharing of lives, giving and receiving encouragement and admonition, and praying for one another. Through this process, I came to realize that intercession starts with knowing God Himself and that it is both a personal and shared discipline between believers.

I was the youngest at that time and I learned to be like a sponge, absorbing all the learnings I could get whether through formal or informal settings. As much as the Lord greatly blessed me through this ministry, He also made me an instrument of blessing to my fellow workers. It was humbling to hear how they were blessed to see me serving in the ministry, young as I was. It is indeed true that when we serve, we bless others as we are being blessed ourselves in the process.

Looking back I see how the Lord sustained my service through His grace and faithfulness. I experienced the truth of God’s blessing when I submit to Him, in His way and His timing. Serving has been a privilege given by the Lord, accomplished through a deeper study of His Word, applied in devoted love and service toward the brethren, shown in tangible and practical ways, all for the building up of the body of Christ to the end of glorifying God! “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). All glory to Him alone!

DEDICATED SERVICE DESPITE MY IMPERFECTIONS

Intercessory Ministry (IM)
Ian Calunge

One of the most obvious expressions of my selfishness is being uncaring towards the brethren which subtly settles into the darkest part of my heart. This is my sinful tendency which is constantly being addressed by our Lord. To serve our brethren through the ministry requires sacrificial love, a love that is only present in the life of the redeemed. Though I am imperfect, I reckoned that it is a practice of faith and devotion to God when I love and serve with what God has given me, understanding that I am coming from an imperfect disposition. It is the promise of the Lord that soon His people will be clothed with heavenly clothing, no longer groaning and burdened but will fully experience the power of the Spirit without the entangling imperfections.

I have no other resolve in serving God than to cast my dependency on Him for this will undoubtedly be rewarded with an increasing purity in loving and serving. I go to Him in prayer. Prayer refreshes the soul. Learning how to pray is one of my great desires in my Christian walk. I had this conviction before joining my current ministry that coming to God in submission and dependency with my imperfections can properly put into place my humble intercession. There is much to learn in the area of thanksgiving and prayer. I give thanks to our ministry for giving me an opportunity to serve God and His people alongside them through corporate and individual intercession, and ultimately to our Lord for His mercy. To Him alone be glory and honor.

BE FAITHFUL UNTIL CHRIST RETURNS

Ministry of Evangelism (MOE)
Cris Paguergan

I learned how to share the gospel as a joyful way of life through the local training of our church in Evangelism Explosion (EE) which took 16 long weeks with OJT. The Lord gave me myriad of opportunities to reach the lost.

I remember the first time I shared the gospel to an old woman. I was so nervous and I did not know how to start. But the Lord reminded me of His promise in 2 Corinthians 3:5 (ESV), *“not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.”* Until today, I am still nervous when I share the profound message of the gospel to strangers but this promise of God makes me rely on the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Through this evangelism training, God instilled in me faithfulness to share the gospel. I have learned to be always available in whatever opportunity He gives and to be teachable as I continue to grow in my faith in Him and be continually burdened for the unbelievers. The passage that always motivates my heart to reach out is *“the love of Christ compels us”* (2 Corinthian 5:14, NIV). The message of Romans 1:16 is also crystal clear in my mind that only the gospel of Christ has the power to save sinners.

The Lord called me to be a worker of the Ministry of Evangelism where I continue to grow in my knowledge and understanding of our God and His Word through discipleship. I became part of the team to teach and equip other members with regards to evangelism and “The Way of the Master”. It is with great joy to witness through the years how the Lord prepared the members and as a church obey the Great Commission.

I joyfully press on to do the good works in and through MOE. As Ephesians 2:10 states *“we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”* I thank and praise my Lord for giving me this privilege to serve Him. This continues to deepen my relationship with Him, and also allows me to lovingly share my faith to the people around me. Let us be faithful until Christ returns!





A LABORER IN HIS VINEYARD

SIGA
Ricky Herrera

Matthew 20:1 *“For the Kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.”* Those who had agreed with the wage set by the landowner were hired. In John 1:28, recall that morning in Bethany beyond the Jordan where Jesus was baptized by his cousin John. Verse 37 talks about two disciples. *“Then Jesus turned, and seeing them following said to them, ‘What do you seek?’ They said to Him, ‘Rabbi, where are you staying?’ (v38) He said to them, ‘Come and see.’” (v39)* And the rest of John’s narrative goes on to tell us whom Jesus “called” to join Him in His Ministry.

My own narrative as to how and why I joined the GLCC SIGA started in 2009. I had just left the first church where I experienced three years of immersion in the Scriptures and the men’s ministry in service to God.

How was I called to service?

Back to the narrative of Matt 20:6, *“And about the eleventh hour he (landowner) went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day long?’”* They answered in verse 7, *“They said to him, ‘because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go onto the vineyard too, and whatever is right you will receive.’”*

After attending a few services, an invitation for men to join SIGA was announced. I joined without hesitation. I had been standing idle for some time. I cannot explain my action but I knew and understood that the Lord was calling me to get involved. I was in a void in my Christian walk during that lull like a boat that would not move because there was no wind to fill her sails, so the boat (me) sat idle...waiting.

How did I accomplish it?

The Holy Spirit prodded me into action. I was not a member yet SIGA welcomed me. The Bible studies continued and my relationship with the men was enriched through fellowship. The ministry work of gospel sharing watered my spirit and I continued to grow.

To be a servant of God, to serve others is the most honorable of sacrifices one can offer Him. *“...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”* Matthew 20:28.

A laborer in God’s vineyard – what can be more rewarding? To be a worker – what can be more gratifying? As we willingly answer His call to serve – what can be more pleasing? For at the end of the day – It is all for God’s Glory!

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we thank God for His mercy and grace. May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit guide us in our journey.

PAGLAGO SA

ILAW
Virene Azarcon

Sa pagdaan ng maraming taon, marami na rin ang nagbago sa ating iglesya. Malaking pasasalamat namin sa Panginoon para sa buhay ng mga kababaihang ginamit Niya upang umpisahan at pagtibayin ang ministryong ito sa Kanyang Salita at sa Kanyang mga gawain. Ang bawat buhay na Kanyang ginamit upang ihayag ang Kanyang katotohanan sa bawat pagtitipon, upang gabayan ang mga kababaihan sa paglago sa Panginoon at upang turuan ang mga kababaihan sa iba’t ibang aspeto ng pagiging ina, asawa, lola, tiya, ate at marami pang iba, ay aming ipinagpupuri sa ating Diyos Ama.

Marahil isa sa mga pinakamalawak na ministryong sa iglesya ay ang pagmimistryo sa mga kababaihan, kaya’t ang pinakamalaking hamon ay ang maabot ang bawat isa at matulongang maisabuhay ang Salita ng Diyos. Gayunpaman, nagpapasalamat kami sa Diyos dahil hindi kami nag-iisa. Marami mang kababaihang kailangang abutin, marami rin namang mga taong ginagamit ang Panginoon upang matulungan.

Nariyan para magtulungan ang ating mga butihing pastor at lider na tapat sa paghahayag ng Salita ng Diyos. Kasama ang kanilang mga butihing maybahay na matiyagang nagdisipulo ng kanilang mga anak at ng marami pang kababaihan sa Iglesya, ayon sa kakayahang pinagkatiwala ng Panginoon sa kanila. Magkakatuwang din ang iba’t ibang fellowship ministries at ibang ministryong, kasama ang maraming mga kababaihan na manggagawa, na walang sawang umaabot sa kapwa kababaihan, ay tunay na pagpapala sa iglesya.





SA PANGINOON

Hindi lingid sa kaninuman ang maraming gawain na kailangang harapin ng isang ina, lalo pa kung siya ay naghahanap buhay rin. Iba rin ang hamon na kinakaharap ng isang ina na walang katuwang sa pagpapalaki ng kanyang anak, solo parent, ika nga. At sa aspetong iyon, nais kong pasalamatan ang Panginoon para sa aking mga kasama sa ministeryo.

Sa kabila ng mga tambak na gawain sa bahay, nakakapaglalaan pa sila ng panahon upang makapag-aral ng Salita ng Diyos para sa sariling paglago at para sa pagmiministeryo sa iba. Hindi rin nawawala ang pananalangin hindi lamang para sa sarili kundi pati sa mga taong nangangailangan. At dahil malapit sa puso ang mga bata, minsan'y naghahanap pa o hindi tumatangi sa mga pagkakataong makapagturo sa mga nakakabata.

Napakinggan ko na rin ang kanilang mga hinaing tungkol sa pagdidisipulo ng mga sariling anak. Gayunpaman, hindi nila pinapalampas ang pagkakataong maibahagi sa iba ang kanilang kaalaman sa Salita ng Diyos at karanasan sa pagdidisiplina. Nakita ko rin kung paano silang matiyagang nag-aral ng mga kaunting pangkabuhayan para lamang maibahagi sa iba ang kakayahan. Nakatutuwa rin silang makita na lumalago sa kanilang buhay may-asawa na nagiging halimbawa rin sa iba upang palaguin din ang kanilang pamilya.

Sa pagdaan ng maraming taon, pinagtibay at pinalalim ng Panginoon ang ILAW ministry. Ngunit hindi ito mangyayari kung hindi dahil sa pagtutulong-tulong ng lahat sa iglesya at sa walang maliw na pagkilos ng Panginoon sa bawat isa. Mula sa tapat na pagtuturo ng Salita ng Diyos hanggang sa matiyagang pananalangin ng bawat miyembro, patuloy kaming luluhod sa Panginoon upang matulungan ang bawat kababaihan sa iglesya sa paglago sa Kanya.

SERVING AS ONE

Jay-O Suaco
MCM

My wife and I started our married life in San Fernando, La Union and we joined the First Baptist Church. We participated in various fellowships aside from the regular Sunday services. During that time, we still did not know what ministry to join. The Lord opened an opportunity for us to join the Choir Ministry together. Serving together, we were so blessed to have answered the Lord's call as we came to realize what privilege it is to serve and grow in the Lord together as a married couple!

Some years later, when the Lord brought us back to Baguio, we already knew we will join the Married Couples Ministry because we wanted to continue serving and growing in the Lord together as a couple. In April 2008, we renewed our church membership with GLCC, after which, we signified our intention to join the MCM. We were admitted and became official workers in the ministry.

Although I had the opportunity to work with our Men's ministry (SIGA), it is far more encouraging to be serving the Lord in the ministry where my wife not only supports me, but also works and co-labors with me. As I serve in MCM, the Lord continues to fill my heart with so much joy as I see the love of my life grow spiritually with me through the common challenges that we encounter and overcome in the ministry, through the Lord's enabling grace.

I know that there will be more challenges ahead in this ministry. But certain as the dawn, I also know that the Lord is faithful and He will continue to allow my wife and me, AS ONE, to minister to each other in this ministry, even as He enables us, together with our co-laborers in the ministry – Bro. Emong and Sis Liezel, Bro. Rolly and Sis Jen, Ptr. Jason and Sis Maroh, to serve also AS ONE all the other married couples in the church as well for His greater glory!





MAY THE YOUTH KNOW HIM BETTER

Youth
Hali de Velez

“And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”Romans 6:13

In my younger days, I have been exposed to every kind of church activity in Guiding Light. I have grown up in church with no other religious influences. I even went to a Christian school in my grade school years. For a while, I was drawn to God because of the friendships formed in ministry but this didn't last. My heart was not committed to know God nor to be part of a church and even to serve. But I remember that my desire to know God and serve Him unfolded the moment God changed my heart. He opened my understanding of the Gospel and the price it took to save me from my sins. I praise God for the ministry of the church that led me to this point. And from that moment on, the Holy Spirit put a burden in my heart for the younger generation.

It was not a smooth journey. I was trying to figure out how I can serve and what I can give. God has been faithful and gracious in growing me in my service through these years. I am very thankful for His abounding grace in making Himself known through His word. My desire is to preach the gospel to the youth, that they may know Him deeper. God works in my life through the church continually and I want to be part of that work for the young generation.

LEADING THE LOVELY CHILDREN

SPARK
Lyn Oro

I continually praise God for my salvation. Along with my salvation are many blessings. One of these is serving Him through the children's ministry of our church.

In 2016, God made me realize my need to serve Him in and through His church to fulfill His great commission. I became a member of GLCC in 2017 which burdened me more to serve Him in the church's ministries. As I prayed for this burden, I attended different ministry fellowships to observe. Many brethren advised me which I considered in my prayers. I met teacher Wilma in a Young Adult's Camp. She encouraged me to consider joining SPARK ministry so I observed their activities. I had difficulties early on because I am not a teacher by profession but the workers continued to encourage me and taught me how to handle classes of different levels. On June 11, 2017, I started teaching the lovely children of our church. I always find joy in serving Him through this ministry and continue to learn a lot. I see this as one of the ways that God uses to make me grow in my faith and knowledge in Him consequently sustaining me and the ministry face the challenges in the work of God through this ministry.

I attended seminars and different trainings to be more equipped in this calling. As I improve my skills, my desire to be more serious to study God's word deepens. Only by the grace of God can I continue serving Him through the SPARK ministry. God allows me to show Christ's love by building relationships with the children. I see to it that they will not only consider me as their Sunday school teacher but as someone they can approach anytime and be their friend leading them to Christ. The SPARK ministry is grateful that we can meet the beloved children online, continue teaching and leading them to Christ despite the pandemic. There are challenges but by the grace of God, we are able to address them.

It is my privilege to continually serve Him in this great commission. I am bought by His blood and to love Him and obey His commands are my proper responses.

SAVED TO SERVE

Young Adults (YA)
Derick Disu

The seed of the Gospel was planted in my heart back in my childhood days through my siblings. They were used by the Lord to open my mind on the ways of God in the Bible. They ushered me to attend Sunday school which then paved the way for me to understand the Gospel and to have a saving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

When my mother allowed me to study in Baguio, I was invited by my board mate to attend service in GLCC. I became a regular Sunday attendee during my College days. When I became a formal member in 2002, I was invited by Sis. Susan Castro to join the YA fellowship and was introduced to the YA Ministry Head. I became active in joining the YA fellowships and other activities of the Church.

Thereafter, I was invited to be part of the YA workers and was discipled by Bro. Marlon Buclares and Bro. Atong Ydel. In my discipleships and mentoring with them I was deepened with my walk with the Lord and understand the importance of being saved to serve. Being part of the workers and eventually becoming one of the core of leaders was both a growth opportunity and a challenge because of different point of views among workers which led me to deeper perspective on what is real spiritual leadership. As stated in Romans 12:10-11 that we must be steadfast with one another in brotherly love, continually show appreciation for fellow workers in the ministry and fulfilling the ministry work with enthusiasm and due care.

Serving in a ministry is costly. It requires sacrifice and deep love for one another. The concept of servanthood stemmed through God's love and compassion that Christ demonstrated to all those around Him and it involves obedience, humility and loyalty to the One who has called you. It is by God's grace that I am sustained for the past nineteen years serving in the YA Ministry. Many times I attempted to quit because of difficulties and struggles that I faced but I am always reminded of 1 Corinthians 15:58, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."*

CHRIST SUPREMACY: OUR ARMOR THROUGH THE YEARS

Young Once (YO)
Gil & Nora Calderon

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing." Psalm 92:12-15

Even at an old age, we must do God's work and actively serve our Lord. The advancement of God's kingdom never stops. Physical infirmities may limit what we can do but only death can stop us from serving the Lord. Eighty four years old Anna, Simeon 84, Abraham 75, Moses 80, Aaron 83, and many more examples of men and women served the Lord despite their old age (Psalm 71:18-19). John Piper offers this challenge: "Knowing that we have an infinitely satisfying and everlasting inheritance in God just over the horizon of life makes us zealous in our few remaining years to spend ourselves in the sacrifices of love, not the accumulation of comforts."

Isaiah 40:31 is our key for dedicated service. We aim to make God's greatness known to future generations. Psalm 71:18, "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake, me O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." Psalm 104:33 motivates us to persevere. David exemplified a character of wisdom, maturity and humility. With increased age, comes heightened responsibility to stay involved and remain invested in the glory of God.

The Lord sustained the YO ministry for fourteen years on Nov. 14, 2020. Our monthly fellowship encourage us to develop good relationship. We edify one another with God's Word, glorify God through memory verses, God-centered testimonies and answered prayers, and we lift up our concerns to Him. The pandemic did not stop us from coming together everyday at 7:30 AM for our online intercession. At least twenty members are involved. We meet on Sundays after the preaching to deepen our understanding of the message. Nowadays sharing the gospel through social media is a way of life for us.

God uses people of all ages who are willing to prepare themselves to be of service to Him. Since God does not revoke our gifts in old age, He does not negate our responsibility to use them for the benefit of others. God tells us that greater age brings greater responsibility in choosing to do what honors and glorifies Him. If we are to live the most meaningful lives, we must age in Christ. Jesus is supreme over all things and sufficient to meet our needs.

Will you bear fruit even at an advanced age? Will you be able to declare "Christ is my armor through the years of dedicated service to Him?"





A CONDUCTOR'S TESTIMONY

Choir
Yda Moredo

*“For everything there is a season and a time
for every activity under heaven:
A time to give birth and a time to die,
A time to plant and a time to uproot what is what is planted;
A time to kill and a time to heal,
A time to tear down and a time to build up;
A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance;
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones,
A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to seek and a time to lose,
A time to keep and a time to discard;
A time to tear apart and a time to mend,
A time to be silent and a time to speak;
A time to love and a time to hate,
A time for war and a time for peace.”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (TLV)

A musical piece is marked by symbols that tell singers and musicians when and for how long to sing and play their instruments, as well as when and for how long to be silent. Sound and silence work together to create music. The Master Conductor composes and arranges the different seasons of our lives to create His Divine Symphony. He cues in our lives to sing and play together in melodies, harmonies, and movements that sound out His Divine artistry. The participation of the singers and musicians is a showcase of His loving attention to the details of His composition and arrangement of the music in their lives.

In March 2008, the Master Conductor cued this conductor into the musical piece of the GLCC Choir. Through these thirteen years of making melodies and harmonies with the choir, she has witnessed and experienced the Master Conductor's moving in different seasons, all of which were served through singing and music. There is the monthly service of giving song offerings on Sunday services. Beyond that, there is

also the service of giving song offerings in all seasons of life. We commemorate people from different walks of life: the celebration of a birthday, mourning with those who grieve the death of a loved one, dedications of an infant life or of one's new home, the joyful union of couples on their wedding days and anniversaries, giving honor to senior citizens, fellow music ministers, garbage collectors, and helpers in the home, serenading the sick, making orphans laugh through games and songs. Inside and outside the church, we served through singing songs about God, of His presence and moving upon those moments, and of His saving grace.

This conductor taught other choirs and singing groups, imparted music lessons and sang with other ministries. She became a music student for a second time when the Master Conductor cued in teachers and fellow music ministers from other parts of the world. The melodies and harmonies of their teaching, service, and friendships have greatly enriched her life.

At this point in the Master Composer's Divine Symphony, the musical movement has shifted into tones that gave one a sense of deep dread over sickness, strife, uncertainty and so much caution. At this point in the life of the choir, we have been cued into a time of rest – a prolonged rest and silence. But it's not a completely silent time. We sing at different points not in regular set schedules, in smaller number and make do with virtual singing. This is how the Master Conductor cues in our moments of serving during this prolonged rest and silence, marked with soft tones of service in teaching music to homeschoolers online.

This conductor doesn't know how long the Master Composer has arranged for this time of rest and silence to continue. But as with all things, He has set a time and a season for it. His Divine Symphony still continues according to how He has composed it. He is still very much at work in the individual notes of our lives, cueing them into harmonies and movements of His Divine making. Though we can still make music mostly through virtual means, we await and look forward to the time when the Master Composer will once again let His singers and musicians, without fear or dread of disease and restrictions, sing and play together in the actual presence of people who can be served and ministered to through music.



IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT SINGING

Praise and Worship Ministry
Bles Almogela

Singing is one of my favorite things to do. My passion for it is coupled with love for music and it comes from the soul, heart and mind. When I was a church-goer at GLCC, I always looked forward to the praise and worship time. I envision myself singing with the worship team, how it feels to be standing behind a microphone, rehearsing and singing every Sunday. It's one thing to imagine it but to live it out and put it into practice is another story.

By the time I became a member of GLCC, I was excited to join a ministry. I remember seeking advice from my relatives who are also members about choosing the right ministry. My thought that time was the worship team since singing is my talent. But I learned an important lesson when my uncle told me to pray for a ministry where I will grow not only with the talent God has given but to grow spiritually and minister to others with my chosen ministry.

I cannot thank and praise God enough for He has given me a ministry I enjoy and love. Not only did I join a ministry I like, I also have a family with the team. I learned that our service is not just about singing with a beautiful voice or with the right key but singing to praise and worship God, to commune with God, enjoy His holy presence, to let His word dwell in us, to enrich and deepen our personal walk and to build up fellow believers with their wondrous testimonies of faith.

Psalms 96 says, "Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples." We choose to serve Christ and in so doing serve others. It is not just about singing for in our service God is magnified and glorified.

LIFE IMPRINTS

Publication Ministry
Leo Tiukeng

By the grace of God, I came to know the Lord through my sister who shared the gospel to me when I was still in college and was then regularly attending her local church but stopped when I got too busy with school and job as a student assistant at SLU.

I was hired as a pioneer crew in 1991 after the deadly earthquake. While working, I met a former attendee of Bread of Life. She constantly encouraged me to attend the church services. I was drawn to the preaching and was revived spiritually. I was so hungry for the word of God that I joined most of the church activities like prayer nights, dawn watch, and discipleship classes.

I grew in my spiritual life and He gave me the opportunity to serve in the youth ministry for several years. I left for better job opportunities in Manila and also to accompany my father, visiting Baguio occasionally and attending the new church which is now GLCC.

I came back to Baguio in 2004 to start a small business. However, after a few months of running the small shop, I went back to Manila again to work for a former boss and used my earnings to support my struggling business.

I came home for good at the end of 2006 to finally take charge of my business personally as it was already self-sustaining. Being a regular attendee of GLCC and being self-taught on photography as well as photo editing software, I had expressed my desire to join the Publication Ministry. However, I was informed that I need to be a formal member of the church before I serve in any ministry.

I eventually did. Fresh from serving as president of the Cross-eyed Photography Club of GLCC, I was invited to observe at the Publication Ministry in 2014. I initially helped in the design and layout of *The Light*. Through this ministry, I realized that it was the Lord Himself who gave me the desire to learn photography and also enabled me to learn various creative software applications to use it eventually in the ministry. Because of this and the skill sets of new members, the design and layout of *The Light* publication significantly improved. With a new and better equipped printer partner, we were able to produce and sell beautiful calendars and greeting cards which helped raise funds for our building.

After seven years of being honed by the Lord spiritually and guiding me to build my competencies, I now serve as the new ministry head starting 2021. I trust that whatever the Lord has started in me and even in the Publication Ministry as a whole, He will be faithful to complete it (Philippians 1:6) and that He will accomplish what concerns the ministry (Ps 138:8). All for His glory!

These life imprints are truly significant and made possible only by the grace of God.



HIS CALLING IS HIS ENABLEMENT

Missions Ministry
Mitchikoi

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." Romans 12:10-11

God's calling me to serve Him is also His display of faithfulness in sanctifying me as He helps me respond to Him in humility and obedience.

A friend shared the gospel to me in 1998 and made me understand my need for Jesus, and my inability to save myself. I started attending GLCC, joined the worship, listened to the Sunday preaching, and enjoyed being served by others. I thought this was all there was to being a Christian – being a Sunday seat-warmer. This resulted to compartmentalized life – a "Christian" during Sundays; a secular worker the rest of the week.

This kind of life continued for years until the Lord brought me to utter hopelessness. Several circumstances moved me to desire nothing but death. God used these circumstances to reveal who He really is. I thank the Lord for using devoted women from whom I once more heard the gospel, and who closely walked alongside me. God gave me true hope found in Jesus alone.

Realizing God's immeasurable love, I desired to be involved in ministry. The prayer ministry was my first involvement. My self-centeredness was more exposed as I witnessed the joyful service of the brethren while praying for the concerns of others. I learned about the Backyard Ministry and was burdened to serve the M's even with risk and trepidation. But God is faithful. He encourages and equips His workers. Loving the M's is not easy. To keep ministering to them, I constantly reflect on God's love for me, and look to Jesus and His life as my model and motivation to persevere.

This burden would fuel my desire to serve the Lord in a fulltime capacity. During the wake of one of my college batch mates, people were talking about how her academic achievements gave her a well-lived life. This made me cry for at that point the only legacy I wanted to leave behind was a well-lived life serving the Lord. I know that only by God's grace and mercy can I achieve this.

I resigned from my job in 2016 convinced that while still young, I would be strong and able to serve the Lord fulltime. I submitted myself to our pastor and the Missions Board for direction. I was granted a year of cultural exposure in Thailand where I taught English. I came back and focused on missionary training. During the period of seeking as to where the Lord will send me, the love for the M's continued to grow. His providence led me to be burdened for the Roh M's in Thailand. As I prepare for missionary deployment, I am not only excited to witness God's plan unfold, but also for how He will work in and through me and the church as we continue to pray for diligence and fervency in our service to Him by serving them.

God be praised! His calling is His enablement.



SIMPLE OBEDIENCE

MOM
Dominique Lee

I am fondly called Nikki by my friends and family. I have been a Christian since I was eight years old. I literally grew up in church and was educated in Christian schools. I knew the doctrine of salvation but it was not evident in my life. I do not have a colorful testimony because as I was growing up I always did what was expected of me and tried to live an honorable life as I was taught.

Innately I have always been a passionate person. Passionate in the sense that I never did things half way. It was always all or nothing except with God. I lived with one foot in the world and one foot in the church. I sat on the fence wanting the best things the world could offer and the SALVATION through Jesus Christ. There was really no genuine love for God in my heart, I was just afraid to go to hell. But through the course of a very long time, 31 years to be exact, God met me. It was the darkest hour of my life and no one knew what was going on. I didn't understand what was going on. I guess it was the time when God said "ENOUGH!" It was the darkest and the most beautiful part of my life. I was in the valley of the shadow of death but I didn't care because my ABBA FATHER was beside me. I learned true

peace, unconditional love, forgiveness, sacrifice, unspeakable joy. I knew there was a genuine transformation that occurred inside of me, and I knew that I wasn't the same person I was before. And from that time I changed my name from Nikki to NIQUE.

During my so-called metamorphosis, the Lord called me to GLCC. It was almost a year before I would heed the call. I was called into the Ministry of Mercies and the members were instant family to me. I was very happy and the assignments don't feel like work but a treat and a reward. Because I love God, it just comes so naturally to love all that He loves, to keep watch over what is important to Him, to prioritize Kingdom work. I find being a part of the ministry is the most rewarding way I am able to express my love for God and my Church family. Serving in a ministry is Kingdom work that I believe is both a command and a privilege. I never heard from God supernaturally what ministry to serve in. I just obeyed the command to serve – no angels and trumpets, dreams and visions, just simple obedience and the rest was history.



WHAT A JOYFUL EXPERIENCE

GUM
Rey Almogela

When I was called to the Greeter's and Usher's Ministry, I was overjoyed. I have a shy demeanor and I rarely interact with people. But when I joined the ministry, my shyness was lessened through constantly greeting and shaking hands with our brethren during Sundays. My shyness was replaced by real love and joy in simply welcoming them and leading them to their seats.

However, this joy and love faded when our leader asked me to take the place he was holding. Although I have a deep and passionate burden to contribute to our ministry, I decided not to accept the offer. I was worried that I would not be able to handle the responsibilities of a leader. I lack of ability to lead my colleagues especially in teaching the Word of God. I also thought that I would find it difficult to handle the problems of my colleagues. I told my leader that this was not my calling. But because of the frequent persuasion and reminder from my colleagues that God can use anyone as long as he has a real burden to contribute to the growth of His ministry, I accepted the responsibility. Since then, I have entrusted myself to God and promised to serve Him and our brethren through this ministry.

As a leader, God humbled and taught me to depend on Him and not on my own strength, knowing that apart from God, I can do nothing. I also faced the challenge to be a diligent reader of the Bible. I bore in mind that the Word of God is God-breath and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. I spend more time communing with God in prayer and to pray for my co-workers especially those who are going through difficult situations such as severe illnesses, financial concerns and relational issues.

What a joyful experience to serve my brethren! In spite of the difficult circumstances, I have witnessed the true love and joy as brothers and sisters in Christ. I thank God for giving me the privilege of serving. I thank the Lord for all my co-workers, for their loving support to our ministry and to our church.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Staff Ministry
Gigs Nemedez

If we were to describe how we were called as part of the staff ministry it would be the "s" in the word "staff", for SOVEREIGNTY...

We were asked to testify as to how we became a staff of the church and how this calling is being fulfilled. But then, we thought, wouldn't it be nice if all of us can share how we were called in this ministry and how we are fulfilling this calling? Amazingly we could sum up all our experiences in two words... God's sovereignty.

Our individual stories aren't really very different from each other. Liza – our ever efficient accountant, Jill – our lovely receptionist and secretary and myself had jobs when the Lord put a burden in our hearts to serve as part of the staff. We hesitated at first but with the Lord's leading, our attention and more importantly, our hearts were set in the right perspective. Elcs -- our very dependable cashier, Marc and Ian – our equally talented and amazing technical staff, Daniel- our mild-mannered librarian, were all ready to embark on new job opportunities, when by God's sovereignty, were offered to fill in positions in the church staff. Bong – our hard-working driver and Benny – our reliable housekeeping personnel, were also offered positions which they gladly accepted in spite of the challenges they knew they were about to face. The Lord has used our individual circumstances and preferences to weave a beautiful tapestry which we now know as "The Staff of GLCC".

"YOUR GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR ME" is our theme song as we continue to be part of the beautiful tapestry working as one to fulfill the calling God has given us.





MY GOD CONTINUALLY CARES FOR ME

Zone Servants
Elizabeth Antolin

Praise God from whom all blessings flow and mercies too! The Lord sustained and kept me from any complication.

Exactly one year has passed after I was diagnosed with hypertension, global glomerulosclerosis / nephrosclerosis stage four that triggered severe anemia. Almost every night I experienced leg cramps that led to a medical check-up. I thought it was normal due to the work I have. But lo and behold medical checkup and laboratory results showed a very serious, irreversible and fatal condition.

My immediate response were questions – Why me? How come? How long will I live? Anxiety and fear became real. More so that it was pandemic time and going to the clinic or hospital to see a doctor was very risky. I decided to keep it to myself since I was in denial but I began to lose weight very fast. My family decided to see a specialist. It was not encouraging because I did not understand why I have to undergo immediate dialysis and I was told that I might not make it within the next 5-6 months. I was devastated.

But God reminded me of His love and mercy (Mathew 11:28) and encouraged me for He is the Father of mercies who comforts us in any affliction (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). He understands my troubled heart.

Thanks to brethren who advised to seek a second opinion. The Lord led us to a specialist who explained the best option. She recommended a pre-emptive transplant which is not very immediate. Dialysis is not an option because it was not a cure and would mean spending time in the hospital with great exposure to covid 19. It was expensive and the quality of my life would degenerate. She encouraged me to exercise, eat the right food and gave medication to slow down the progression, while preparing and praying for the next steps.

True to His word, when we give Him our concerns and trust, He will carry us through. The medicines were expensive but we experienced His faithfulness and provision. He sustained me through the medicines and vitamins that kept me going. His grace kept me away from any infections and complications. Thanks also for “work from home.” He provided more time to pray not only for my needs but for others who are also sick, to meditate on His word.

Human as I am, the *pre-emptive transplant* seems impossible. Sometimes I am overwhelmed and the questions come – Will someone donate a kidney? If there is a donor, will there be no problem during the cross match? Where will we get the money for the procedure? Will the procedure be successful? What if it fails?

I appreciate the blessings of having a praying and loving church family, their texts and calls mean a lot. Someone pointed me to continually pray to see God's perspective in this battle. From June to December, no one in the family volunteered. In my desire to get well, I was tempted to buy but under the law, buying a kidney is considered human trafficking. Again, the Lord did not allow us to sin. On January 12, God answered our prayers when my eldest son confidently announced that he will become my donor. Cross match was done. We were both low risk and the possibility of my body rejecting the new kidney is low. What about the resources needed? We continued to pray and plead to God. Pledges started to come in from family and friends. The Lord delivered me from despair. Succeeding laboratory tests yielded good results.

I am amazed and so thankful. When life gets hard, we mess up, we sin but Jesus continually loves us anyway. God keeps His promises. He will continue to take care of me despite of me. His compassion for the sick gives me confidence in Him. The pre-emptive transplant will be scheduled as soon as the covid-19 cases will get down. Please continue to intercede for the success of the operation. All glory and honor to Him.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

1998 TO 2003



- Missions Program formally established incorporating it to the Evangelism program- MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM MINISTRY (MEM)
- Three workers attended Cross Training for Muslims in Palawan learning the concept of Backyard Missions
- Two workers went for Ethnic Evangelism Explosion Training in Mindanao

1998

- Celebrated first mission's month in April; confronted with the challenge to engage in Backyard missions among the Muslims
- Twelve members went for a three-day missions exposure among the Badjaos in Batangas
- Started work in the Muslim community at Crystal Cave through visitations and Medical/Dental Mission
- First Backyard missions team officially formed consisting of six workers; began classes among the kids with the help of a missionary couple
- Backyard team accepted full control over the literacy program

1999

- Continued the literacy classes of the preschool kids at the Crystal Cave Madrassah with seven workers

NOV 1999 to JUNE 2003

- Separation of the ministry from the Evangelism Ministry; MISSIONS AND OUTREACH MINISTRY began initially in 1999 by the staff.
- Identified MCO Leaders, Missionaries and the Backyard
- First home- group Bro. Ellis Sudaypa to Northern Thailand
- Three programs in the Backyard mission classes for elementary school students; Out-of-school youth literacy program

2003

OUTREACH

GLCC has been graciously given by God to start potential outreach ministries continually maturing this church under the leadership of Ptr. Athan. W Home bible studies have started that will eventually lead to a group of when He will allow these ministries to be fully engaged. There are plans what Christ has commanded to "make disciples of all nations" for His glory

REACHES TIMELINE

PRESENT

The Missions Ministry (MCOM) initially handled

M Core of Missionaries-in-Training and Missions Team

own Missionary, was deployed

implemented missions: Tutorial elementary and high school Typing Tutorial; youth computer

- Home visitations continued in the Crystal Cave Backyard missions
- Three Missionaries-in-Training; Joy Carolino, Charissa Bulos and Cris Paguergan
- First Muslim Missions Awareness held in the church as part of the Missions Month activity.
- Established the Crystal Cave Learning Center to carry on the work of the Backyard missions
- The Condensed World Missions Course (now KAIROS) was conducted during the Missions Month producing a new crop of MCOM workers

- Established the Alternative Learning System (ALS) among the Muslim Out of School Youth; A ten-month program in coordination with Dep Ed granting OSY's to completion of Elementary or High School Education upon accomplishment of the required curriculum.
- Four OSYs completed the Elementary Course; Two full time workers for this ministry
- Established a yearly "Araw ng Pasasalamat" - a gift giving and Gospel sharing activity for the Muslim families

- Formed the GLCC Missions Board; MCOM becomes MM (Missions Ministry)
- Backyard missions focused engagement in community setting and expanded ministry to foreign students
- Missions Board/Church leadership officially declared the Crystal Cave Backyard ministry as a mission field with Toni Anonas as the commissioned missionary
- Drafted the Missions Manual and put to full use
- Established partnerships with missions organizations and other churches
- Deployed Zabeth Lacanaria as a missionary to Japan
- Adopted Ptr. Morris Bashir as GLCC missionary to Pakistan
- Deployed Michelle Dicang as missionary to Thailand.
- Two missionaries preparing for deployments: Beverly Nobres (India); Nayda Echiverria (Cambodia)

3 to 2005

2005 to 2008

2009 to 2014

2015 to PRESENT

REACHES

ministry in different areas. One of His blessings is Libon where the Lord is working. We are now looking into another church planting work in Pangasinan. We are praying for the Lord's timing and for the professing believers of Christ. We are praying for the Lord's timing and for the planned activities that will facilitate evangelism and discipleship to fulfill His glory.



I SAW THE NEED AND I WAS BURDENED

GLCC AGOO

Pastor Jose Renato Ydel

How was I called to service?

It was a journey of knowing my God at the same time an opportunity to give myself in service to Him who saved me. It was a longing to be part of everything that God is doing in the church in whatever way I can from Sunday services to weekly gatherings. It was the desire to do even the simplest mundane service to help in the church whenever I can. As Marjory, a member, said “I was called to service when I saw the need and I was burdened.”

My willingness to serve led to more opportunities to be used in the ministries that the Lord opened in the church. I wanted to be part of any activity and be utilized for His purposes. It was a learning experience from fellow brothers and sisters in Christ especially those who are ahead of me in the faith.

As years went by, I experienced serving in the sideline and in the frontline ministries. My learnings are very helpful in my ministry until now. Serving is not easy, failures and mistakes are inevitable. They grow and mature a believer. When faced with difficulties, I remind myself that I am serving the Lord not men.

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men,” (Ephesians 6:7 NIV). That is why prayer and devotion to God is so vital to overcome struggles along the way. Everything that I do is

connected first of all to my relationship with Him.

Rachelle, another member said, “I was afflicted with a physical condition, yet the Lord used it so that I may grow in wisdom, in my relationship with Him, and study of His Word. This lead me to serve Him encouraging others in their walk with the Lord.”

Maritess, another member said, “Throughout the day, we must intentionally spend more time with God, enjoying and thanking Him for all the blessings and grace. This will help us become Godly influence to others especially those who do not know God.”

How did I accomplish it?

From the time I obeyed God’s call to fulltime ministry in 2002, being a pastor in training until the Lord brought me to Vigan, Ilocos Sur for three years and now in Agoo for thirteen years, every service was done purely by the grace of God. As Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:12 “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.” (NIV).

The service and ministry are far from over, there’s a lot to be done. I hope that when the time comes, I can say like Paul in 2 Timothy 4:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (NIV). Hoping also that my Master would say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Matthew 25:21 (NIV).

GROWING AS ONE IN OUR DEDICATION TO SERVE GOD

LIBON OUTREACH
Pfr. Jonathan Satuito

"Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." Romans 12:10-13

Our anniversary theme this year is "We Grow As One". This pandemic exposed a lot in our service to the Lord and humbled us to grow more in our service to Him. We are all a work in progress and our hope is in the faithfulness of God to complete His work in us.

In light of how the Lord challenges us in our dedication to serve Him, here are some of the workers' testimonies.

DEDICATION TO HONOR OTHERS ABOVE ONESELF. (v.10)
(Joanne C. Se)

As an OFW, it's difficult to reach out, connect and maintain friendships. And because I am away, I thought I am useless and won't have any contribution to the church at all. But their love that transcends time and distance rebukes me as they include me in church activities, offering friendship and mentoring in the Lord.

I am loved and honored making me feel that I am still part of the family of Christ despite the distance and my shortcomings. It has a big impact on me as a Christian who is away from the physical church. I pray that I too may love with brotherly affection and consider the needs of others before my own.

DEDICATION IN KEEPING OUR ZEAL IN SERVING HIM (v.10)
(John Vincent C. Satuito)

Looking back at the past years of my service in the Lord, I confess that it was not perfect, because sometimes I served Him with pride. Throughout my journey, I thank Him for He always humbles me, using me for His purposes and making me dependent on Him.

Sometimes serving God is disappointing because people do not appreciate what I do, but God is the only one I serve and He encourages me to carry on. I am amazed how He enables me to serve Him passionately and to love His people. I cannot think of my life apart from serving God because definitely I will just waste it.

DEDICATION TO SERVE DESPITE SUFFERING (v.12)
(Jenifer L. Satuito)

Many times, my faith has been tested. Afflictions and troubles make me anxious causing me to sin. Recently the electric post near our house suddenly burst into flames. Looking back, God exposed my doubts and fears even though I "prayed". I was concerned with the penalty if I failed to meet my online student that day due to power interruption. Ironically, I was going to lead our intercession that same day. God rebuked me thru Pastor Athan's teaching on prayer which tackled the sovereign nature of God. It was a test of faith and it revealed the true condition of my heart. He graciously lead me back to His word to always trust, be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.

DEDICATION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE BRETHREN. (v.13)
(Jessa S. Rellona)

Serving God in this pandemic is both a challenge and an opportunity. Being a mother of two, I feel so limited. I can't attend Sunday service physically and join ministry activities because I stay home for safety reasons. This set-up is difficult and my spiritual fervor is also affected.

Despite my limitations, I thank God for the opportunity of discipleship with Hazel and Nikka in our house. The time we spend studying God's word, praying and helping them are all grace from the Lord. It is in this trying time that the Lord grew me more in the aspect of sharing, meeting the needs of our brethren and being hospitable.





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