



TO LIVE A FANTASTIC LIFE

KERYGMA

APRIL 2015

**GOD WILL USE
CRAZY, BEAUTIFUL YOU
— WARTS INCLUDED**

**YOU ARE MEANT
FOR GREATNESS!**

**SAY YES
AND UNLOCK GOD'S
HIDDEN POTENTIAL
IN YOU**

**CHEF JESSIE SINCIOCO
COOKS MEALS
FIT FOR A POPE**

**COACH JOEL BANAL:
TRAINING
CHAMPIONS**

UNLEASHED!

**HOW YOU CAN RELEASE
WHAT GOD HAS PLANTED WITHIN YOU**

ISSN 01170-7710



9 770117 771001

Philippines P100
US \$8.14
AUS \$8.14
Euro 5.07
UK 4.49
CDN \$7.95
SING \$9.42
HK \$51.83
RUPIAH 1.24

**Bringing you inspiration through touching
life-stories, reflections and testimonies**

CELEBRATING
25
YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES



www.kerygmabooks.com

NAHANAP MO NA BA ANG ONE TRUE LOVE MO?

Hayaan mong gabayan ka ni Bo Sanchez sa mga pasikot-sikot ng buhay-pag-ibig.

Tutulungan ka ng librong itong makaiwas sa pagpili ng maling partner in life. Makakaiwas ka sa mga tragic relationship mistake at sa isang buhay na miserable.

Ang pagbabasa ng librong ito ay makapagpapalaya sa mga maling pag-iisip at behavior na pumipigil sa iyo para mahanap mo ang One True Love mo.

Malalaman mo ang mahahalagang steps to attract God's best for you, tulad ng:

Mga Maling Paniniwala na Kailangan Mong Pag-ingatan

Ang Top 10 Attraction Secrets ng Isang Babae – at ang 1 Attraction Secret ng Lalaki

Mga Myth na Sumisira sa Iyong Love Life

Alamin Mo Kung Ano ang Hanap Mo sa Isang Asawa

How to Know God's Will for Your Future

Sasagutin din ng librong ito ang mga katanungang matagal nang bumabagabag sa iyo:

Mayroon ba talagang iisang tao out there for me?

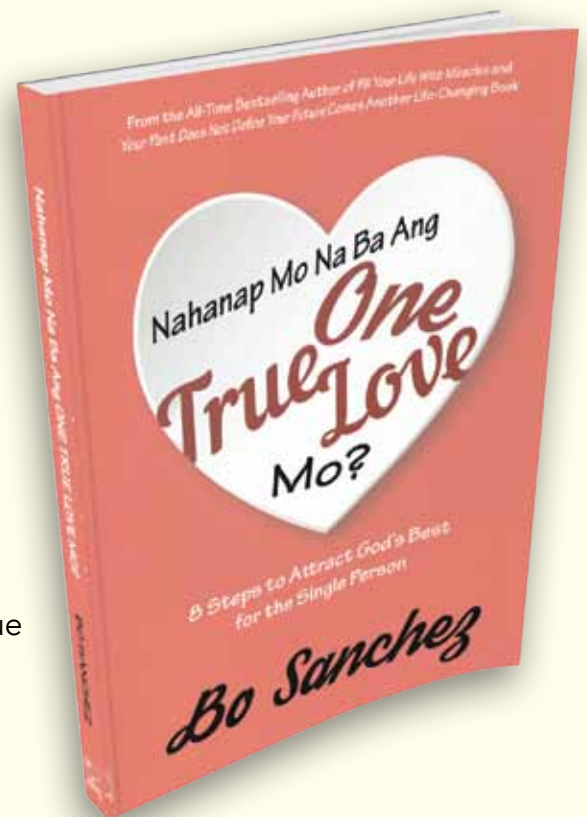
Puwede bang gumawa ng first move ang isang babae?

OK lang ba to flirt?

Paano ko malalaman kung siya na ang para sa akin?

At marami pang iba!

Isinulat ni Bo ito para matulungan kang mahanap ang One True Love mo. Ano pang hinihintay mo?



GO DIGITAL! Buy the e-book and download it straight to your gadget.

Visit www.kerygmabooks.com/ebooks.

Or call 725-9999 loc. 101 to 108



ANO ANG HUGOT NG BUHAY MO?

Nagmahal ka na ba at nasaktan? Pinaasa at umasa ka naman? Akala mo kayo na, pero hindi pala?

Sabi nga nila, bawal mag-assume unless otherwise stated at baka ma-M.U. ka, yung tipong Mag-isang Umiibig.

Pwede rin namang basted ka at kaibigan lang ang turing niya sa iyo. Relate much ka ba rito? Di bale, na-friend zone ka man o seen zone, mahal na mahal ka naman ni Lord. Yan ang totoo! You are loved.



Alam kong maraming katanungan ang puso mong bigo. Basahin mo ito at hayaan mong maghilom ang puso mo. Matatawa, maiiyak at maliliwanagan ka rito. Marami kang matututunang valuable lessons in life and in love sa maliit ngunit powerful na librong ito.

Para ito sa lahat ng nagmahal, nagmamahal at magmamahal muli. Ito ang #Hugot ng buhay mo.



Mabibili ang librong ito sa mga bookstores at sa www.KerygmaBooks.com.

Tumawag ka sa 411-7874, 725-9999 local 101-108 para mag-order.

Remember the story of Cain and Abel?

That's a story of envy. And it's the story of the entire human race. It's a story that is replayed over and over again in families, organizations, churches, offices, schools, and almost everywhere we go.

Cain and Abel were brothers. They offered a sacrifice to God. Abel's sacrifice was accepted and Cain's was not. The result? Cain envied Abel and killed him. (See Genesis 4:6-8.)

The spirit of Cain is the spirit of envy — and it continues today.

Today, we want to cast out the spirit of Cain from our lives.

The problem is, many envious people don't know they're envious.

In fact, right now, you might be tempted not to continue reading this, saying, "Nah, not my issue."

Actually, envy is as common as the cold. But it's as deadly as cancer. It's like a mental cancer that destroys your life, your relationships and your happiness.

I repeat. *Often, we don't know we're envious.*

Let me give you two examples.

I know of a young woman who fights with her sister all the time. She doesn't know it, but everyone around her knows she's envious.

I know of a prayer group leader who is always talking about the mistakes of another prayer group leader. He's not aware of his envy. But all his friends know. He actually envies this other leader because his prayer group is much larger than his.

Oh yes, envy is alive and well in Church.

In fact, I've seen religious groups split and fight each other simply because one leader was envious of another leader.

But here's the thing: The leader doesn't think he's envious. He thinks he's correcting the other leader's pride. He thinks he's mandated by God Himself to correct this other leader and save the group from total destruction. But ironically, the very thing that will destroy his group is his own envy — which he doesn't know he has.

Envy is one of the most destructive things on Planet Earth.

Let me say it again. Envy kills.

Envy is only a symptom.

The root of all envy is emptiness.

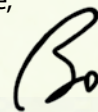
Envy isn't about the other person. Envy is always about a deep dissatisfaction with yourself.

Here's the point: A person who is happy with himself — and profoundly satisfied with himself — cannot envy others. It's impossible.

Where does the feeling of emptiness and insecurity come from? It comes from fear, specifically the fear of worthlessness.

And friend, there is only one thing that can fill your emptiness and heal your fear of worthlessness: God's love.

May your dreams come true,



DO YOU ENVY?



I was so thankful that the head of our parish youth ministry gave me a copy of the August 2014 issue of *Kerygma* magazine. As I expected, the contents of the mag blessed and inspired me. Among the articles in that issue, the “Dear K” column struck me the most. Someone named Chris asked whether it’s bad for a Catholic to attend non-Catholic Bible studies.

I was struck because during that time, I was having problems with the Bible study group that I had joined for many months, which was a mix of Catholics and non-Catholics. At first, I enjoyed it and I felt blessed. But eventually, my conscience could no longer accept some of the teachings contradictory to the Catholic faith shared by the other members in the group. I wanted to stand up for my Catholic faith but I didn’t want to argue. I felt so confused.

Just in time, I read that column. It was like God spoke to me through the answer of Fr. Rudy that it’s OK to join them but it shouldn’t push me to betray my faith and to limit myself just because I need to please the group. I made the other Catholic member of the group read this column and through prayer and by God’s grace, we had the courage, with peace in our hearts, to say goodbye to the group last December.

I now have a weekly prayer date with my Catholic best friend aside from my

weekly attendance at The Feast. It has blessed me much more whenever we pray the rosary and our personal prayers together through the intercession of our patron saints, and when we share God’s Word that springs from our Catholic faith. Thank God for that letter sender and for Fr. Rudy’s answer, my own concern was also addressed.

Krizelle R. Talladen
Marikina City

Now that my husband and I have retired from government service, I find joy and blessing in reading *Kerygma* magazine. After my daily house chores, this magazine makes my day, lifts me up, inspires me, and helps me realize how God works in our lives. He indeed loves us. He is with us in our ups and downs. All the articles are worth reading.

I thank my daughter, Joyce, for her monthly subscription of *Kerygma* because it adds joy to my life.

Thank you to all the staff of *Kerygma* magazine. It is the best magazine I look forward to. God bless!

Remedios dela Cruz
Guagua, Pampanga

KERYGMA EXISTS BECAUSE OF YOU

Send us your stories. Give us your feedback.

Email: editsvp@shepherdsvoice.com.ph

Mobile: 0923-378-4941 Landline: 725-9999; 470-4091 (Production Department)

Mail: 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City 1109

Facebook Pages: Kerygma Magazine and Shepherd’s Voice Publications

Twitter: @SVPOfficial

FOR SUBSCRIPTION-RELATED CONCERNS:

Email: subscription@shepherdsvoice.com.ph

Mobile: 0922-814-7031 (Sarah Discutido) Landline: 725-9999 locals 101 to 108



WHAT POPE FRANCIS TAUGHT ME

It's simple, really

By Rissa Singson Kawpeng

There was something different

about the scene I saw as Pope Francis boarded his plane after his heady five-day visit to the Philippines. I've watched many heads of state ascend these stairs before, but something was unusual as I watched this pontiff.

What was it?

Oh, he was carrying his briefcase!

I googled pictures of other dignitaries and popes but not even the first ladies carried their purses with them when they would board planes. Pope Francis stood out by doing the simplest things, even if he had other people to do it for him. Like carrying his bag himself. Or driving a 30-year-old car instead of taking the chauffeur-driven papal limousine.

His simplicity prompted even the fashion world to take notice. No less than men's magazine *Esquire* named him the Best Dressed Man of 2013. Max Berlinger, then online contributing style editor, defended their choice by saying, "While Bradley Cooper, Chris Pine, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt have all had banner years, their sartorial choices begin and end on the proverbial red carpet. Meanwhile, Pope Francis' sartorial decisions have subtly signaled a new era (and for many, renewed hope) for the Catholic Church."

What intrigues the world about Francis is not the

man who became pope but, as Fr. Joel Jason said during our preachers' retreat, "the pope who became man."

Francis' example of simplicity came as a strong message to me at the start of the year, prompting me to evaluate my superfluous desires against the staggering needs of the poor he so loves.

Did I really need a new, faster smartphone because my current one is old and slow? Can I spend less so that I can give more to the poor that I serve? Can I go through life with fewer baggage, living simply so that others may simply live?


Mother Teresa I am not. Nor am I even a Rey Ortega, who has founded many of our mercy ministries. I heard he's on his way to starting another one to help the lepers of Abra.

But I've taken baby steps to put flesh to this notion of simplicity in this Year of the Poor.

Like downsizing my bag — something I could never do in the past — as a reminder that I can survive with a lot less. And setting aside a regular amount every month to give to Grace to Be Born and Jeremiah, where I serve as a board member,

as opposed to my sporadic donations. And starting this little project with friends to rid our closets of stuff that we haven't used in months or years to give away

in a systematic manner to those who need them more.

I know, I won't be able to alleviate world hunger this way. Or even make a dent in a poor person's existence. But as Pope Francis has shown me, one man's simple ways can revolutionize a Church that measures change by the century. 

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

Email me at justbreatherissa@gmail.com, follow me on Facebook, or visit my website rissasingsonkawpeng.com.

What to Expect:

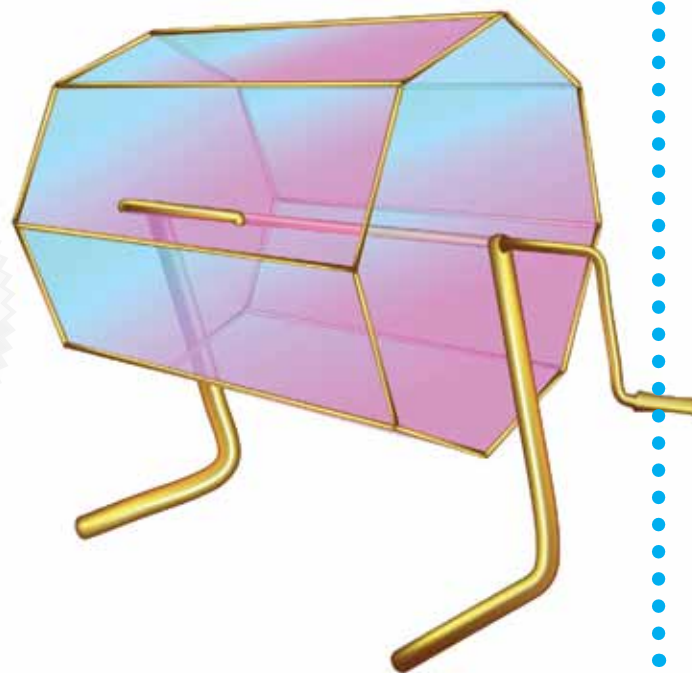
I used to be a mall rat in my younger days but ever since I discovered online shopping, I'm a convert. For the past few Christmases, I've done most of my Christmas shopping online, avoiding the holiday traffic as well the mad rush of shoppers in December. That's why we've made it easier for you to buy our books online as well. Visit **www.kerygmabooks.com** where you will find all our books on stock. We deliver FREE in Metro Manila for P300 and up. Outside the metropolis, minimal courier rates apply. Now, you don't even have to step out of your house to get the inspiration you need!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE KERYGMA MISSION PARTNER 2014 RAFFLE PROMO!

Marc Raphael Penaredondo - Trip to Singapore for 2
Cecille Joy Garcia - Samsung Tab 3
Victoria Maravilla - Samsung Tab 3
Loradel Lampas - Samsung Tab 3
Ma. Marcela Boncac - 24" LG Flat Screen TV
Antoinette Molleno - 24" LG Flat Screen TV
Baby Jane Ariola - SVP Products worth P15,000.00

Jessie Frencillo - Coffee with the Boss
Fleur-de-liz Bumanlag - Coffee with the Boss
Ghisleen M. Sy - Coffee with the Boss



You can now shop from home!

Why wait to go to the bookstore when you can shop right where you are? Shop for inspirational books at www.KerygmaBooks.com and have the books delivered to your doorstep, FREE of charge!*

You can GO DIGITAL! Have the books delivered straight to your gadgets!

Visit www.KerygmaBooks.com/ebooks to get the digital editions of your favorite inspirational titles.



Shepherd's Voice Publications



SVPOfficial



@SVPOfficial



@SVPOfficial

* For minimum orders of Php 300.00 within Metro Manila only. Standard shipping costs apply for orders below Php 300.00 and non-Metro Manila deliveries.

The Bo Files

- 1 The Boss
DO YOU ENVY?
- 48 Point of Contact

Departments

- 2 Mailroom
- 6 Daily Pause
- 8 New You
- 9 Real Stuff
- 10 Special Feature:
"With Love, Pope Francis"
- 12 KFam Insider:
16 Pag-asa Scholars Graduate
- 14 Mercy Ministries of the Light
of Jesus Family
- 17 Dear K
- 19 Feast Snapshots
- It Happened
20 **ON TOP OF THE WORLD**
- One Last Story
47 **ASK –THEN TAKE A LEAP
OF FAITH**

What's INSIDE

APRIL 2015

On our cover is Chef Jessie Sincioco who had her once-in-a-lifetime privilege of catering for Pope Francis during his stay at the Apostolic Nunciature while in Manila. Read her inspiring story on pages 20-23.

Credits: Hair and make-up by Moriel de Dios-Lim.



Columns

- 3 Just Breathe
**WHAT POPE FRANCIS
TAUGHT ME**
- Seasons
41 **HELP EACH OTHER GROW**
- Catholic Soul
43 **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**
- K Preacher
45 **HAPPY TRAVELER**

Special Section

- Teachings
25 **UNLEASHED! HOW YOU
CAN RELEASE WHAT GOD
HAS PLANTED WITHIN YOU**
- 26 **GOD WILL USE CRAZY,
BEAUTIFUL YOU – WARTS
INCLUDED**
- 30 **YOU ARE MEANT
FOR GREATNESS**
- 36 **SAY YES AND UNLOCK GOD'S
HIDDEN POTENTIAL IN YOU**
- Testimonies
- 28 **I AM BEAUTIFUL
AND I AM LOVED**
- 34 **RAISING UP MIGGY**
- 39 **TRAINING CHAMPIONS**

founder and publisher **BO SANCHEZ** • editor-in-chief **RISSA SINGSON KAWPENG** • managing editor **TESS V. ATIENZA** • creative director **MIKE CORTES** • graphics director **REY DE GUZMAN** • assistant graphics artist **JAP TARECTECAN** • assistant layout artist **LEAH KIM RECTO** • staff writers **DINA PECAÑA, MAYMAY SALVOSA, MARJORIE DUTERTE, KARREN RENZ SEÑA** • contributing writers **REYLINDO ORTEGA, CARLO LORENZO** • photographers **DANIEL A. SORIANO, DAVE APALLA, JAP TARECTECAN** • columnists **EDGARDO C. DE VERA, GEORGE TOLENTINO GABRIEL, ALLAN AND MARIBEL DIONISIO** • chairman of the board and CEO **BO SANCHEZ** • president **HERMIE R. MORELOS** • vice-president for corporate services **WENG CEQUEÑA** • assistant vice-president for production **RISSA SINGSON KAWPENG** • production manager **TESS V. ATIENZA** • sales and marketing manager **JOSEPH MARTINEZ**

Kerygma. A Greek word meaning "Proclamation of the Gospel." It is a Catholic inspirational magazine. It aims to be an evangelistic tool to all nations, providing Scriptural, practical and orthodox teachings to Catholics, particularly those in the Catholic Renewal, as an alternative to present-day magazines. It is also committed to fostering the renewal and unity of the whole Christian people. Philippine Copyright Shepherd's Voice Publications, Inc. 2015. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without permission. *Kerygma* is published monthly by Shepherd's Voice Publications, Inc., whose business office is located at 60 Chicago St., Cubao 1109 Quezon City. Tel. Nos.: (632) 725-9999, 411-7874, 725-1190, 470-4091 (Production Department) . Fax: 727-5615. Email: editsvp@shepherdsvoice.com.ph. Website: www.kerygmabooks.com

DAILY PAUSE WITH POPE FRANCIS

1

God created the world as a beautiful garden and asked us to care for it. But through sin, man has disfigured that natural beauty; through sin, man has also destroyed the unity and beauty of our human family, creating social structures which perpetuate poverty, ignorance and corruption.

2

All pastoral ministry is born of love.

3

The Bible tells us that the great threat to God's plan for us is, and always has been, the lie. The devil is the father of lies. Often he hides his snares behind the appearance of sophistication, the allure of being "modern" and "like everyone else."

4

Sadly, in our day, the family all too often needs to be protected against insidious attacks and programs contrary to all that we hold true and sacred, all that is most beautiful and noble in our culture.

9

Conversion to the newness of the Gospel entails a daily encounter with the Lord in prayer.

10

Only by becoming poor ourselves, by stripping away our complacency, will we be able to identify with the least of our brothers and sisters.

11

And Jesus always goes before us and when we pass an experience, a cross, He passed there before us.

16

Don't be afraid of surprises. They shake the ground beneath our feet and make us insecure, but they move us forward in the right direction.

17

Real love allows you to spend yourselves, to leave your pockets empty.

18

Do you let yourselves be evangelized by those you serve? This is what helps you mature in your commitment to give to others. Learn how to open your hand from your very own poverty.

19

How many solutions are found to family problems if we take time to reflect, if we think of a husband or wife, and we dream about the good qualities they have.

24

Just as the gift of the Holy Family was entrusted to Saint Joseph, so the gift of the family and its place in God's plan is entrusted to us so we can carry it forward.

25

Every threat to the family is a threat to society itself.

26

Be sanctuaries of respect for life, proclaiming the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death.

27

Let us look to our Mother and, like a little child, let us hold onto her mantle and with a true heart say, "Mother." In silence, tell your Mother what you feel in your heart.

5

And we need to care for our young people, not allowing them to be robbed of hope and condemned to life on the streets.

6

All consecrated life is a sign of Christ's reconciling love.

7

For the Gospel is the promise of God's grace, which alone can bring wholeness and healing to our broken world. It can inspire the building of a truly just and redeemed social order.

8

The Gospel is also a summons to conversion, to an examination of our consciences, as individuals and as a people.

12

And beside the cross was His Mother. We are like a little child in the moments when we have so much pain and no longer understand anything. All we can do is grab hold of her hand firmly and say, "Mommy" — like a child does when it is afraid. It is perhaps the only words we can say in difficult times — "Mommy."

13

If you don't learn how to cry, you cannot be a good Christian. This is a challenge.

14

We don't need young museums but we do need holy young people.

15

This is the challenge that life offers you: to learn how to love. Not just to accumulate information without knowing what to do with it. But through that love let that information bear fruit.

20

Rest is so necessary for the health of our minds and bodies, and often so difficult to achieve due to the many demands placed on us. But rest is also essential for our spiritual health, so that we can hear God's voice and understand what He asks of us.

21

If we do not pray, we will not know the most important thing of all: God's will for us. And for all our activity, our busyness, without prayer we will accomplish very little.

22

In the family we learn how to love, to forgive, to be generous and open, not closed and selfish.

23

Each of us, in fact, has a special role in preparing for the coming of God's kingdom in our world.

28

Do not hide your faith, do not hide Jesus, but carry Him into the world and offer the witness of your family life!

29

Pray often and take the fruits of your prayer into the world, that all may know Jesus Christ and His merciful love.

30

Be especially mindful of our call to be missionary disciples of Jesus. This means being ready to go beyond our homes and to care for our brothers and sisters who are most in need.



Family

MORE FUN AT A LESSER COST

It's vacation time once again! Almost everyone is set for their much-awaited summer plans. Along with the excitement is a major concern for travelers: budget. Here are some tips to enjoy the trip without stressing yourselves out every single day:

- 1. Explore and compare.** Do your assignment: find time to do some research. Search for hotels/apartelles, dining places, and tour packages within your destination and compare their rates. This will not only help you save money, but will also allow you to have an enjoyable stay. Take note also of promo deals and fare discounts that you may avail of.
- 2. Go by group.** Traveling by group does not only heighten fun but also lessens the expenses. Sharing bills when dining, commuting, and taking adventurous activities give opportunities to try more stuff without spending too much.
- 3. Bring baon - yes!** It's not a sin to have packed goods to fill your tummies. If you have a jammed itinerary for a certain day, it is cheaper and more convenient to eat your "baon" inside your hotel room (either for breakfast or dinner) than to go out and have your meals.

There you have it! Vacation is intended for us to give ourselves a break. With these suggestions, make every second – and every cent – count.

Source: <http://www.investopedia.com>



Relationships

ACING THE ART OF LISTENING

To be interesting, be interested – thus some relationship experts say. One, if not the best, way to express genuine willingness to know other people more is by being a good listener. It encourages openness and ease which are vital in building relationships. Next time you engage in a conversation, practice the following ways on how to be a more effective listener:

- 1. Focus.** Give your full attention to the speaker. Staying away from possible distractions such as electronic gadgets can help you do this. Ask for specifics.
- 2. Observe body language.** Making eye contact, leaning respectfully to the speaker, and nodding your head are some of the non-verbal ways of telling you are all-ears to every word the other person is saying.
- 3. Avoid being the "Know-It-All" kind.** Refrain from instantly responding whenever the speaker raises his concerns. Some people tend to "solve" the problem of the one they're listening to, enumerating advices on how to deal with the issue. Thing is, there are times when those dearest to us simply want someone to be with them. They need listeners, not another speaker. There's more comfort in genuine listening than in intellectual lecturing.
- 4. Above all, show respect.**

Having varied opinions and being excited to butt in randomly are inevitable, but keep in mind to be respectful at all times. It is not necessary that you agree, but allow him to express himself fully. Let the speaker have his "moment."

Source: <http://www.besthealthmag.ca>



Quick Health Tip

KALE

Kale is a dark, leafy vegetable which is part of the cabbage family. It contains folate that is essential for brain development. It also has an omega-3 fatty acid called alpha-linolenic that lowers cholesterol and prevents heart attack. The lutein and zeaxanthin content of kale guards the body against muscle degeneration and cataracts.

Source: <http://www.webmd.com>



ELECTRIC JEEPNEYS: CHANGING THE LIVES OF FILIPINO PUBLIC UTILITY DRIVERS

In this day and age when businesses try to edge out each other, Global Electric Transport (GET) has entered the field to make a difference through the City Optimized Managed Electric Transport (COMET).

The COMET is a fully electric, zero-emission shuttle that can seat 20 passengers with the GET Pass, a reloadable card needed in the COMET's cashless fare system. Thirteen units now ply the SM-North to Katipunan route in Quezon City after securing a provisional authority to operate from the LTFRB.

GET provided not just a revolutionary product but also an entire ecosystem that is sustainable, intelligent and integrated. Fleet management is handled by a Command Center through GPS and Vehicle Telemetry Tracking. COMETs have a CCTV camera to ensure passenger safety. Free Wi-Fi services and an in-vehicle LED display with a unique programming are provided to entertain passengers.

GET offers not only a solution to the country's growing problems on mass transportation and

pollution but also a genuine resolve to uplift the plight of public utility drivers.

COMET drivers undergo values formation and technical training to ensure road discipline and their responsibility towards commuters and other motorists. They are given fixed incomes with bonuses and other benefits.

GET has ensured that jeepney operators and drivers will not be displaced; in fact they are part of its transformation plan through the Drop and Substitute scheme, replacing their old jeepneys with COMETS.

"In doing business, we should focus on three things: economical benefits, which generate a generous return on investment; environmental benefits, which clean up the planet and create a better tomorrow; social responsibility, which improves the lives of the people around you," GET president Freddie Tinga said.

GET believes that progress has never been about profits alone; it has always been about giving back to the people and finding a better way to get going.

Saints-at-a-Glance



ST. JOSEPH VAZ

Born and Died: April 21, 1651, Goa, India - January 16, 1711, Sri Lanka

Saint Joseph Vaz was an Indian priest born in Goa. Concerned with the spreading of Calvinism in Sri Lanka, he volunteered to do missionary works in the country. He was warned about the persecutions suffered by the Catholics, yet he pushed through with his plan. He dressed up as a common laborer just to minister to the rural folks by celebrating Mass, presiding in matrimonial and baptismal rites, and preaching the Word. More so, he attended to the sick, poor and needy. He died after more than two decades of selfless service, converting many to Christianity. Pope Francis canonized him as the first saint of Sri Lanka on January 14, 2015, almost 20 years after Saint John Paul II beatified him.

Source: <http://en.radiovaticana.va>

KEEPING THE LOVE ALIVE WITH NEW POPE FRANCIS PLAY

By Nestor U. Torre

Last January, millions of Filipinos fell in love with Pope Francis when he visited Tacloban and Manila for five days. Since then, many of us have been trying to keep the love alive, because it would be such a waste if it turned out to be just a temporary spiritual ardor and “fling.”

For my part, my way of keeping Pope Francis’ spiritual “effect” deep and lasting has been to come up with my latest religious production, *From the Vatican to Tacloban — With Love, Pope Francis*, at the Mabuhay Restop theater cafe. Performances began on February 22.

Producer Rose Cabrera and I hope and pray that schools, parishes and individuals whom Pope Francis moved and inspired will patronize the production and use it to vivify and revitalize his exceptionally illuminating effect when he was with us.

We conceptualized the special project right after the date of Pope Francis’ visit was officially fixed and announced many months ago. We gave ourselves a lot of lead time because we wanted to come up with an in-depth spiritual experience that would be “valid” not just for the visit, but for the long-term.

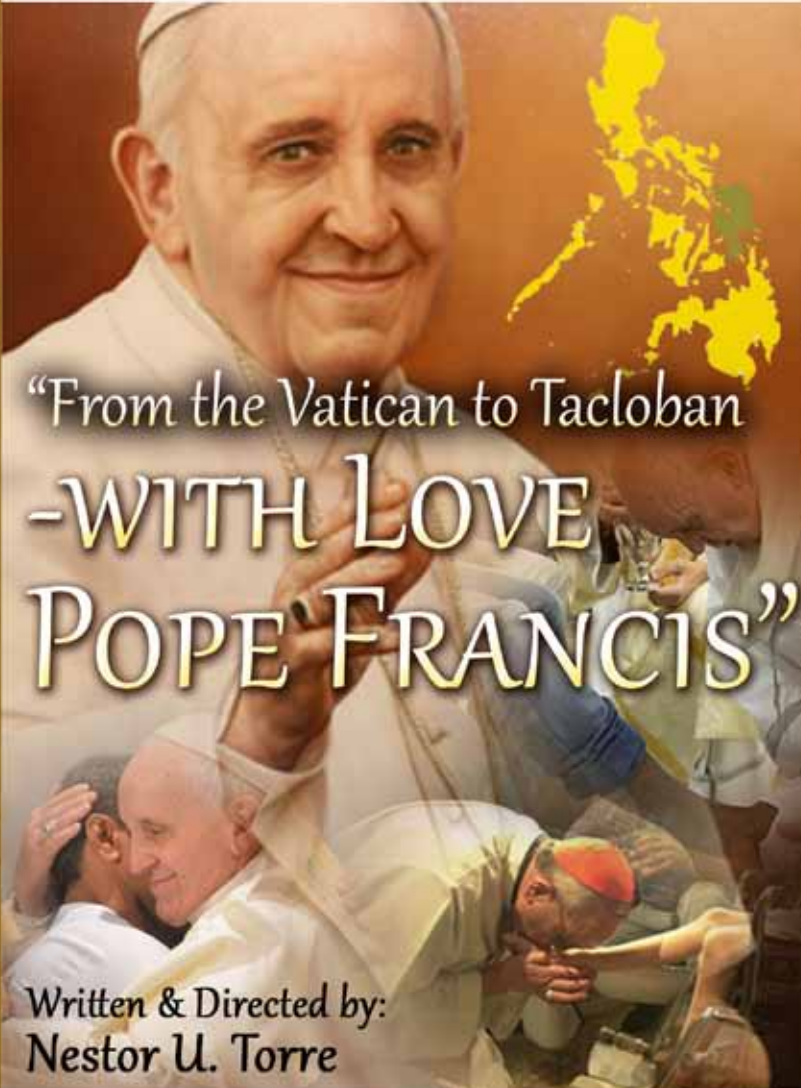
Basically, what we wanted to clarify in dramatic terms were the factors in the pontiff’s makeup that moved him to feel so deeply

for and want to comfort the many survivors of Super Typhoon Yolanda. Conversely, we also wanted to depict their stories — so that the entire viewing experience would be an interaction between victims and consoler, and so that they could learn valuable lessons from each other.

For these two key objectives to be attained, we did a lot of research. Rose and I also made it a point to visit Tacloban in October 2014 so we could interact with Yolanda victims and ask them what they wanted to share with the Pope about their harrowing experience. As the survivors of Yolanda told us their stories, we were struck by their faith and determination to rise above their traumatic experience — and made sure that collective strength in the face of extreme adversity were dramatically “represented” in our play.

Returning to Manila, we finalized our script and started rehearsing the show. As our rehearsals progressed, we felt the need to include a lot of existing songs in the production, since music is such an important part of Filipinos and Latin-Americans. To maximize this advantage, we cast some excellent actor-singers in key roles, and preview performances have affirmed their musical renditions’ special ability to move and inspire.

A SPIRIT-FILLED PLAY
IN RIZAL PARK



"From the Vatican to Tacloban
-WITH LOVE
POPE FRANCIS"

Written & Directed by:
Nestor U. Torre

Call for Show Schedule
* Group & show buyer rates available.

Mabuhay Restop
RIZAL PARK
TRAVEL • LODGE • RESTAURANT
EXCEPTIONAL PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCES

South Drive, Area II, Rizal Park, Ermita
Manila 1000, Philippines (T.M. KALAW ST. & ROXAS BL.)
PHONE: 02-359-7927, 02-353-8752, 0917-810-8194 to 95
EMAIL: info@mabuhayrestops.com
www.mabuhayrestops.com

Rigorous rehearsals also brought out the daunting fact that *With Love, Pope Francis* is an unusually challenging play to perform because its characters have gone through so much. All of the Yolanda survivors have experienced danger and destruction, and stared at the face of death, so the actor-singers who portray them have to be capable of deep and complex portrayals.

As for the key role of Pope Francis, we worked with two fine actors but eventually found them not quite right for the exceptionally demanding part, before we decided to "go" with fine actor-singer Dio Marco. But even Dio had to have rigorous one-on-one rehearsals with us before he built up the special artistic and spiritual stamina that the role required.

It helped a lot that, when Pope Francis came to visit, Dio became his follower, getting rained on at Rizal Park along with everybody else, and he used this newly-found spiritual ardor to make the role his own.

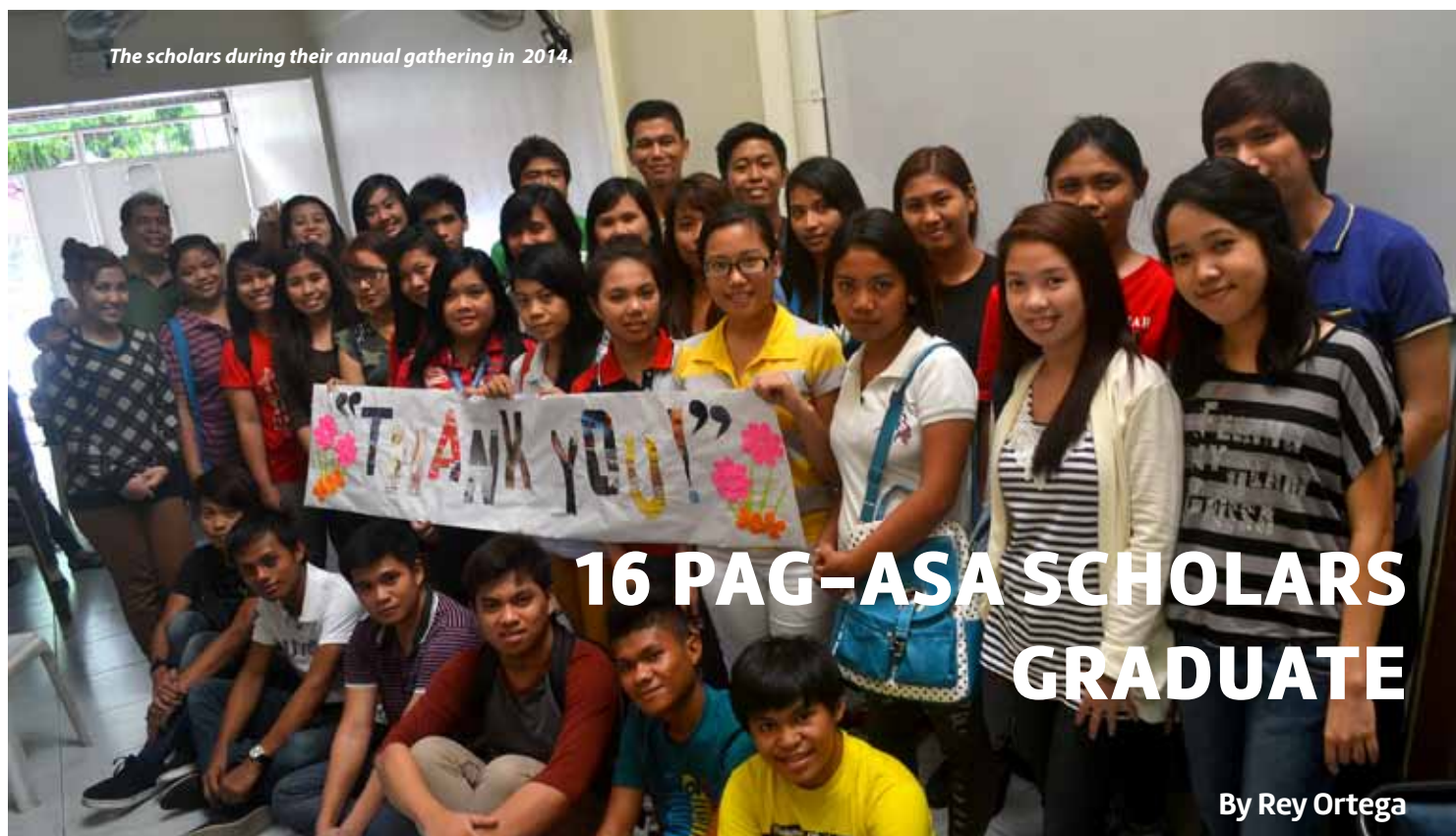
Other problems had to be solved, like computer crashing and debilitating illness galore, making *With Love, Pope Francis* an exceptionally difficult production to mount. But we trust that, with your help, it will achieve its objective of keeping the light of love and illuminating what Pope Francis lit when he was with us alive — for months and years to come!

Cast Names:

Dio Marco, Albert Jimenez, Shiela Asuncion, Jonas Santos, Barbie Rodriguez

For more information, contact:

Mabuhay Restop 353-8752 and 0917-810-8194 to 95



God willing, three seminarians will soon be ordained priests later this year, having graduated on the Year of the Poor and of the Consecrated Life. One graduated *cum laude*. Two other seminarians graduated from Philosophy this April and will start their masteral course in Theology in June 2015.

Eleven other students, all financially poor but persevering, graduated from various secular colleges and universities all over the country.

These 16 graduates have two things in common: all of them come from very poor families, and all of them are scholars of Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation, one of the mercy ministries of Bo Sanchez's Light of Jesus family.

Oh, there's a third thing in common: They all have this holy desire to pay it forward, to serve the poor once they are steadily earning salaries. These scholars are not required to pay back the Foundation; Pag-asa helps the poor with no strings attached.

But the Foundation's servants and the Kerygma preachers, who take turns giving them inspirational talks from time to time, instilled in their hearts the seed of worshiping the Lord by serving the poor. They learned outside the classroom that they are to see Jesus in the face of the poor they meet.

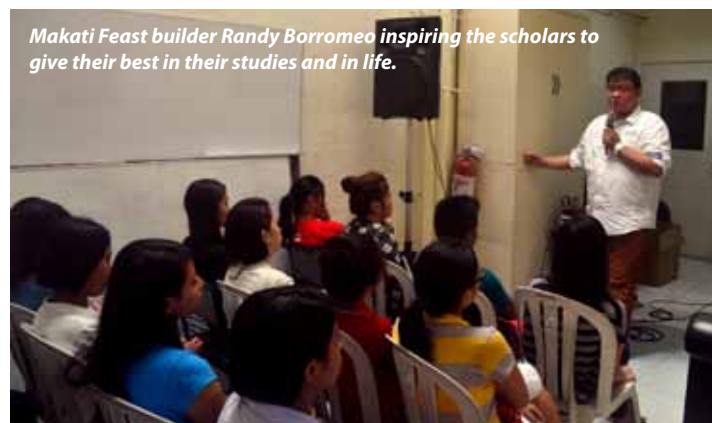
A cursory look at their files in the Light of Jesus office will reveal that one of them lives inside the North cemetery. That's no typo error; her father works as

caretaker for the tombs so the whole family lives right inside the cemetery.

Others are children of farmers, fishermen, drivers, domestic helpers, factory workers, construction workers. Some of them have parents working for less than the minimum wage.

A closer look will further reveal that some of them come from dysfunctional families, abandoned by either their father or mother, or both. One scholar is still searching for the whereabouts of her mother. She assumed her father had long died. Where and when and how he died, and where her living mother is, our scholar has no idea.

One used to live in Anawim where her mother used to volunteer, serving the abandoned elderly in a community founded by Bo Sanchez 19 years ago.





Quezon City Feast builder Eng Si giving the scholars more tips in facing life.

And some of these scholars had already lost one or both parents. One scholar is under the care of a Protestant pastor, who is not even a relative, in a war-torn area in Mindanao.

One of our scholars is an incoming college student in June. She was a child of the ill-fated union of a security guard and a housemaid. Several years ago, her father was shot dead by a criminal. And if that's not enough, her younger brother, aged seven, died of cancer two years ago.

That death triggered the start of a ministry for indigent kids with cancer. But that's another story to be covered in another article.

Graduation time is a time for celebration. And so the servants of Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation share their joy and proclaim with pride and pleasure to the world who these successful college graduates are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Armelito Alporo**, son of a farmer in Negros Oriental; Philosophy graduate of Saint Joseph Seminary in Dumaguete. Pag-asa will continue his scholarship in Theology.
2. **Renz Dave Gojar**, son of a construction worker in Caloocan; Accountancy graduate of Polytechnic University of the Philippines.
3. **Vanessa Gondraneos**, daughter of a fisherman in Binangonan; Accountancy graduate of St. Paul University.
4. **John Peter Ilocso**, son of a dressmaker (father deceased) in Pililla, Rizal; Tourism Management graduate of Our Lady of Fatima (Antipolo campus).
5. **Joshua Jagunos**, son of a driver in Bohol; Marine Engineering graduate of Bohol International College.
6. **Wincy May Lagula**, daughter of a butcher in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija; Business Administration graduate of Interface Computer College (Caloocan campus).
7. **Gerard Francheska Ligot**, daughter of a Parañaque teacher (father deceased); Bachelor of Science in Education graduate of Philippine Normal University (Manila Campus).
8. **Paul Winston Lontoc**, son of a factory worker in Taguig; Accountancy graduate of University of Sto. Tomas.
9. **Norben Octa**, son of a carpenter in Camarines Norte; Philosophy graduate of Holy Trinity Seminary in Bicol Region; Pag-asa will continue his scholarship in Theology.
10. **Ruby Ann Ramos**, daughter of former Anawim volunteer;

BSE graduate of Jesus Christian College in Amadeo, Cavite.

11. **Alyn Same**, orphan c/o a Bible Baptist Church pastor in Malaybalay; BSE graduate of Bukidnon State University.
12. **Jarys Christian Santiago**, son of a Marikina factory worker; Tourism Travel Management graduate of Our Lady of Fatima University.
13. **Armina Sevilla**, daughter of a maintenance worker in Manila; BSE graduate of National Teachers College in Manila.
14. **Wilbert Mark Simplicio**, son of a government employee in Butuan; graduate of Theology in San Jose Seminary in Ateneo.
15. **Jose Adrian Surigao**, son of a teacher in Bohol; *cum laude* graduate of Theology in San Jose Seminary in Ateneo.
16. **Howard John Tarrayo**, son of a bakery employee in Bulacan; graduate of Theology in Immaculate Conception Seminary in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Pag-asa Scholarship Foundation produced 16 graduates this year.

Pag-asa helped rebuild the hopes and dreams of 16 young people.

Pag-asa helped 16 youth see Jesus in a more concrete way. And we look at it as just another phase of our continuing journey of serving the Lord by serving the poor.

But with a twist.

This time, 16 new servants will join us in answering the call of servant leadership. 

If you hear God calling you to help rebuild the hopes and dreams of even just one poor but persevering youth by sending him or her to college, please consider making a donation to BDO 397-005-945-8. Account name: Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Your donation will make a difference in the life and future of a child. Contact person: Rey Ortega 0917-816-4700 or reylindo.ortega@gmail.com.

MERCY MINISTRIES OF TH

The Year of the Poor invites us, in the words of Pope Francis, "to put into action our love for God and our neighbor," especially the least among our brothers and sisters. *Kerygma* offers opportunities for its readers to do just that.

Here again are the mercy ministries that Bo Sanchez and his organizations, especially the Kerygma Family, support. More than your material donations, the people we minister to need your mercy and compassion.



Anawim

Anawim is a home for the abandoned elderly. Duly recognized by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Anawim provides physical care and rehabilitation, home life, medical care, spiritual nourishment, recreational activities and socialization, social service, end-of-life care, and burial services to its indigent inhabitants. Through Anawim, our *lolos* and *lolas* are given the love and care they need in their twilight years.

Address: Brgy. San Isidro, Sitio Tañag, Rodriguez (Montalban), Rizal 1860
Landline: (632) 710-5273 (Manila line)
Mobile: Caloy Dimson - 0917-507-0688
Email: alms.montalban@yahoo.com, carlos_dimson@yahoo.com
Website: www.anawim.com.ph
For Donations: Anawim Lay Missions Foundation, Inc, Banco De Oro, Current Acct. No. 397-800-3647



Grace to Be Born

Grace to Be Born Maternity Home and Nursery is a halfway house for young, pregnant and unwed mothers in crisis. It is a temporary shelter for the pregnant girls and an orphanage for the babies born there. At Grace to Be Born, young mothers have a chance for emotional and spiritual rebirth.

Address: 53 Dr. Sixto Antonio Avenue, Kapasigan, Pasig City
Landline: (632) 501-0965
Mobile: Rey Ortega - 0917-816-4700, 0922-859-7035
Emails: reylando.ortega@gmail.com, gracetobeborn@yahoo.com
For donations: Grace to Be Born, Inc., Banco de Oro S/A 3970-05968-7. Send details of deposit through email to reylando.ortega@gmail.com or fax to 501-0965 or 635-6056.



He Cares Foundation

Joe Dean with his wife Ardis, both full-time lay missionaries from Light of Jesus, started He Cares Foundation Streetchildren Caring Center in 1997

to take care of the poorest of the poor, especially street children. He Cares offers five programs that cater to the children's spirituality, health, family life, education, and livelihood. Joe Dean and Ardis's commitment to these children and their families' welfare are showing the caring hand of God in a concrete way.

Address: No. 9 Mines Street, Barangay Vasra, Project 6, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 928-8910
Calls accepted from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Email: hecaresfoundation@gmail.com
Website: www.hecaresfoundation.com
For donations: He Cares Foundation, Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands S/A No. 1953-0930-53

Tahanan ng Pagmamahal

Tahanan ng Pagmamahal provides shelter, education and care to the children that are now in its care. The need has become bigger such that Rey and his late wife, Myrna, together



with Tahanan Board of Trustees, had to build a bigger home for the growing number of children in its care. Many children have come to Jesus through Tahanan ng Pagmamahal, donors have opened the doors of their hearts to these kids, and doors have been opened to these young ones for a brighter future.

THE LIGHT OF JESUS FAMILY

Address: 45 Dr. Pilapil St., Barangay Sagad, Pasig City

Landline: 631-7188, 788-8380

Mobile: Rey Ortega - 0922-8597035

Email: reylindo.ortega@gmail.com

For Donations: Tahanan ng Pagmamahal Children's Home, Inc. Banco de Oro SA No. 430-191-022

Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation

The foundation has given scholarships to various poor but persevering students: children of blind parents in Antipolo, deaf students in a school for the deaf, children of farmers in Abra, and many others. Recently, the foundation has also started a scholarship program for Muslim students in Zamboanga City. Besides



providing financial assistance, Pag-asa also organizes seminars for the scholars where inspirational speakers motivate them to pursue their dreams. Most scholars make the commitment to help another indigent student to accomplish his dream for an education.

Address: 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City

Contact details: Reylindo E. Ortega at 788-8380 and 725-9999, 0917-8164700 or 0922-8597035

For Donations: Pag-asa ng Pamilya Scholarship Foundation Inc., Banco de Oro S/A 397-005-945-8

Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center

The Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center ministers to the emotionally and spiritually wounded through counseling and other healing interventions through telephone, face-to-face and online counseling. Vic and Ditas Español, the founders



of the center, have been serving in this noble healing ministry for the past 21 years.

Address: Lighthouse, 60 Chicago Street, Cubao, Quezon City

Online support: www.kerygmfamily.com

Telephone No.: (632) 725-9999 locals 117 to 121; 726-4709; 726-6728

Email: lojcounseling@yahoo.com or go to www.kerygmfamily.com

Contact Person for Administration: Judie Manuel

Counseling Hours: Monday to Friday – 24 hours; Saturday - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For Donations: Light of Jesus Community Foundation, Inc., Banco de Oro S/A No. 397-010-5927

Prison Ministry

The Prison Ministry group goes to the Correctional Institution for Women every second Saturday of the month to minister to the spiritual as well as some basic needs of the inmates, like toiletries and snack items. They

also provide compassionate presence to inmates who do not have visitors. Every January, they hold post-Christmas and pre-Valentine party and gift giving, and during Lent, a recollection. The seed that Babes Zambrano planted while she was serving sentence has continued to grow. Today, the group continues to reach out to the women at CIW, believing that it is Jesus Himself that they visit there.

Address: 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City 1109

Contact Persons: Beth: 0922-858-9782;

Miriam: 0915-953-4911

Email: bethcorral_0330@yahoo.com

For Donations: Light of Jesus Community Foundation, Inc., Banco de Oro Savings Account #3970105927




Jeremiah 33:6-7 Foundation, Inc.

Jeremiah Foundation is a shelter for young girls, particularly victims of sexual abuse. It aims to guide the girls in their journey towards a happy, healthy Christian living. To do this, Jeremiah provides psycho-spiritual counseling to the girls as well as their daily needs.

Contact details: Reylindo Ortega - 0917-816-4700 and 0922-859-7035

For donations: Jeremiah 33:6-7 Foundation, Inc., Banco de Oro SA 397-0133-240

Your voluntary donation of time, talent and treasure will be most welcome. 

**SUBSCRIBE
NOW!**

KERYGMA MISSION PARTNER 2015

25th ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE PROMO TRIP TO HOLY LAND

By being a Kerygma Mission Partner, you will not just subscribe to our highly inspiring magazine. You will also contribute to all our ministries and be a blessing to Anawim – our home for the aged; He Cares and Tahanan ng Pagmamahal – our ministry for street children and orphans; Grace to Be Born – a halfway house for unwed mothers and their babies; Shepherd's Voice Radio and Television, Inc. – our media ministry.

GRAND PRIZE:

Grand Prize for Silver, Gold and Platinum

– Trip to Holy Land

Tel Aviv • Jaffa • Nazareth • Mount Carmel • Cana • Mount Tabor
Sea of Galilee • Capernaum • Mt. of Beatitudes • Tabgha
Jordan River Jericho Bethlehem • Jerusalem • Ein Karem • Genesis
Land Qumran • Dead Sea • Emmaus

OTHER PRIZES:

| KERYGMA | Amount | FREEBIES |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Regular 1 year | <input type="checkbox"/> P800 | One raffle entry |
| Silver KMP | <input type="checkbox"/> P2,500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One-Year Kerygma Subscription sent via courier ➤ Thank God I'm Blessed ➤ Three raffle entries |
| Gold KMP | <input type="checkbox"/> P5,500 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One-Year Kerygma Subscription sent via courier ➤ Thank God I'm Blessed ➤ My Conspiracy Theory ➤ Awaken the Healer in You ➤ How to Live a Life of Miracles ➤ 8 Habits of the Happy Millionaire ➤ Five raffle entries |
| Platinum KMP | <input type="checkbox"/> P10,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One-Year Subscription of Kerygma/Fish/Mustard and All Stars sent via courier ➤ Thank God I'm Blessed ➤ Awaken the Healer in You ➤ 8 Habits of the Happy Millionaire ➤ How to Live a Life of Miracles ➤ How Your Words Can Change Your World ➤ Ten raffle entries |

Trip to Coron, Palawan for 2

Samsung Galaxy Tab Pro

Coffee session with Bro. Bo Sanchez



SEE POSTERS AND PRINT ADS FOR DETAILS

For International Subscriptions: P3, 000.00 / Year – No Freebie

FOR PROVINCIAL REGULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Option 1: Snail Mail. NO ADDITIONAL FEE- Sent monthly via Post Office unregistered mail.

Option 2: COURIER plus 300 /year– sent every two issues



SUBSCRIBING IS EASY!

• By Mail: Return this form with your payment (PMO or check payable to Shepherd's Voice) to 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City
P. O. Box #1331 Quezon City Central Post Office
1153 Quezon City, Philippines
Contact Nos.: 725-9999 local 105
411-7874 (Direct Line)
Email: subscription@shepherdsvoice.com.ph
Mobile: 0922-8147031

Name/Company Name: _____ Given by: _____

Address: _____ B-day: _____

_____ Zip code: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____ Date Sent: _____

Email Address: _____ Referred by _____

Start of subscription _____ Signature _____

☐ CHARGE ME: ☐ CASH/COD ☐ CHECK/PMO ☐ DIRECT BANK DROP

Bank Deposit thru Shepherd's Voice Publications, Inc. BDO S/A No. 397-000070-4 or BPI S/A No. 0123-4832-94, Allied Bank S/A No. 3160-00255-7, Metrobank S/A No. 3-2655-0807-4 (validated deposit slip enclosed)

I am authorizing Equitable Card Network to charge my Visa/Mastercard in the amount of P _____



Cardholder's Name: _____

Card No. _____

Expiry Date: _____



Signature: _____

Please allow three weeks delivery time for your first issue, together with your free items.

Sponsored by



I noticed that my boyfriend for five years frequently exchanges text messages with one of his female officemates. They even call each other "bes" (a shorter endearment for best friend). When I checked his phone, I found out that they are constantly updating each other of their whereabouts and activities, just as my boyfriend and I did when we were new in our relationship. It didn't bother me before.

However, I feel that my boyfriend is becoming more distant day by day. He's not as attentive to me as he used to be, and I am not sure if it's because we're just getting too familiar with each other. What bothers me more is that settling down is not in his future plans. He's eager to work abroad for his other priorities, but sad to say, marriage is not one of them. I already asked him about this several times but he gives the same answer.

I am confused. I don't know if his closeness with his officemate is related to his plans which do not seem to include me. I don't know where our relationship is heading. But then maybe I am just thinking too much. I love him so I want this to work. Please help me.

Ms. Paranoid

Dear Ms. Paranoid,

Thanks for emailing. I think every woman who has ever been in love has felt your pain.

Let's pretend this is your Facebook profile and you're filling in your relationship status. Would you choose "in a happy relationship" or "it's complicated"?

Let me go straight to the point.

Love is not complicated. True love is simple.

I got this formula from an Internet article by Jane Garapick:

"He's available + you're available + he wants to be with you + you want to be with him + you're both open to a relationship with each other and seeing where it takes you. That's it."

What makes a relationship complicated is when there's a third party. When he's so in your face one day and then disappears from the face of the earth the next.

When he has so many excuses why he can't make it to your dates.

When he says he has some issues he needs to fix.

When his words don't match up to his actions.

Here's what I suggest you do: Make an Excel file with two columns. On one column, write down your wish list for your relationship. On the second column, type in the actual state of your relationship.

Do they match up?

This should guide you in making the decisions you need to make.

May the Lord grant you wisdom to discern things as they are.

Praying for you,
Rissa

JEALOUS OF MY BOYFRIEND'S "BEST FRIEND"



Rissa Singson Kawpeng has been proclaiming God's Word through radio, TV and print media for over two decades. She has served extensively in youth and singles ministries and is an inspiration to many in living godly lives.

Rissa has written five books, the most recent of which is *Shhh! Kinakausap Ka ni Lord*. (Visit www.kerygmabooks.com for orders.)



Email your questions to editsvp@shepherdsvoice.com.ph. Or if you need to talk to someone, call (632) 726-4709 or 726-6728 to contact a Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center counselor. Pastoral counseling by telephone is 24 hours from Monday to Friday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Face-to-face pastoral counseling is by appointment. For correspondence pastoral counseling, email lojcounseling@yahoo.com or go to www.kerygmfamily.com.

Or Call (632) 725-9999

Pregnant? Confused? Abortion is not the answer. Contact Grace to Be Born at 0917-816-4700 or email reylindo.ortega@gmail.com. You may also contact Pro-life Philippines at (632) 733-7027.



ORDER
NOW!

CALL OUR HOTLINE OR ORDER ONLINE

687-1010

CHOOKSTOGODELIVERY.COM.PH

Available within Metro Manila



EXPECT SOMETHING GOOD TO HAPPEN TO YOU AT THE FEAST STAR CITY

By Carlo Lorenzo



Performers in vibrant costumes.

Medleys for all ages. A lot of dancing, props and gimmicks. It's as if one walked into a musicale or concert of sorts. And on stage, the One True Star is Jesus at The Feast Star City, which was launched on February 7, 2015.

Carlo Lorenzo, JC Libiran and John-Ben Rodriguez led the energizing worship. The stage then transformed into scenes from some of the well-loved animated films. The Feast Star City's builder, Alvin Barcelona, sang songs from *Frozen*, *Aladdin*, *Mulan* and *Anastasia*. He then delivered his talk, incorporating songs and prayers.

The Feast Star City's Birth

The Feast Star City, officially called The Feast Pasay Star Theater, was born to accommodate the growing number of attendees at The Feast PICC. Every Sunday, about 15,000 attendees flock to

The Feast PICC's five sessions, and another venue near PICC was needed to give the attendees another option.

A Saturday 5:30 p.m. schedule was thought of to target attendees who may now opt for a Saturday anticipated Mass to give them a more relaxing Sunday with the family. The 5:30 p.m. schedule is not too early for those who still have work on a Saturday, and not too late to go home on a Saturday heavy-traffic day.

The Brand of Alvin Barcelona

Surprises, gimmicks, out-of-the-box delivery of messages, plus more songs, dances, skits and production numbers. That's what you can expect from Alvin's brand. After all, he's a teacher, educator, singer, songwriter, performer, concert/theater artist and director, and a seasoned preacher for decades now. Add these to his dynamic team and every Feast he holds becomes a fun, blessed and

memorable experience.

He delivers God's message in "Taglish" to communicate to a wider audience. His examples are often based on what he went through — a broken home, a heavy financial crisis, and a fatal illness. This inspired him to write the song "Mayroong Magandang Mangyayari sa 'Yo" (Something Good Will Happen to You) and this is sung in all of Alvin's Feasts to allow every attendee to find hope no matter what he or she is going through.

And that's what you can expect — something good will happen to you when you attend The Feast Star City where Jesus is the One True Star. **[K]**

Anticipated Mass is at 5.30 p.m. followed by worship and talk. Admission is free. The Feast Star City is located at the Star Theater behind Star City, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. See you there!

it Happened

Chef Jessie whipped up for the Kerygma shoot the pan-fried Chilean sea bass dish that she served Pope Francis.

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

When you find what God has created you to do, it's heaven

By Jessie Sincioco

As told to Rissa Singson Kawpeng

Hair and makeup by Moriel de Dios-Lim

Chef Jessie's passion, once unleashed, propelled her to greater heights — winning contests and establishing her own restaurants.



It's before 9 a.m. but my restaurant that overlooks the entire city from all sides is already teeming with people. This is not the breakfast crowd because we normally open for lunch and dinner only. But today, we have a corporate event complete with jumbo LCD displays.

100 is my newest restaurant that opened on July 27, 2014. Perched on the 33rd floor of the 100 MDC Building in Eastwood, it can seat up to 300 guests and is the only revolving restaurant in the Philippines. When the owners of this building conceptualized a revolving restaurant on top of their property, they wanted no one else but me to run it.

That in itself is a favor that I see as coming from the Lord, just like every other good thing that's happened in my life.

On the Road to Banking and Finance

When I was young, I would never have believed you if you told me that I'd own restaurants that would sit on the top floor of high-rise buildings. (My other restaurant

is Top of the Citi located on the 34th floor of the Citibank Tower in Makati.)

The skyscrapers on Ayala Avenue were something that awed me as a child. Coming from Bulacan, a rural area in those days, and hailing from a poor family with a farmer for a dad, the tall structures — many of them banks — gave me the sense of wealth and stability. So I dreamt of being a banker someday.

I was Aunt Lita's favorite niece and she promised my mom that when she had a stable job, she'd take care of me and put me through school.

That day came when I was eight years old. Dad and Mom took me to Manila to bring me to my aunt. Mom was in tears during the trip but I was giddy with excitement.

My aunt and her husband, Eduardo Dy, worked for his wealthy uncle, a man named Don Pedro who owned several companies that were into logging and plastics, among other things. Aunt Lita was an accountant there while my

uncle worked in the company that exported logs.

My aunt's influence plus my dream of being a banker landed me in a banking and finance course in college. By the time I graduated, logging had become illegal in the Philippines so my uncle started a business of exporting sawn lumber.

There were only three of us in the office: my uncle, my aunt and me. It was a tedious job where I'd have stacks of paper several inches high that I'd have to manually type every day. I enjoyed doing all that work even if I had to stay up till the wee hours of the morning banging on the typewriter. We ran the business for more than three years until the lumber ran out. Then my uncle shifted to the construction business.

That's when I began to get bored. Soon, I was looking for the next thing to do. I told my aunt, "I have to do something more challenging! I need to work!"

Thankfully, my aunt was a fantastic cook. She would enroll in all sorts of cooking classes offered by The Maya Kitchen. She taught me how to market, to cook and to keep a clean house. I have to confess that of all those tasks, it was cooking that I hated the most because of the way the smell of food would stick on me every time I sautéed garlic.

The Big Aha

In 1983, the Great Maya Cookfest with Nora Daza, a baking and cooking



The young Jessie, third from right, bagging the grand prize at The Great Maya Cookfest.



Above photos show how Jessie meticulously prepared her winning mango cake, which she named "My Tita's Special Treat."

contest, was underway. My aunt's teachers in Maya Kitchen were so impressed by her culinary skills that they were convincing her to join the contest. But Auntie was a nervous wreck when it came to facing crowds. So she told me, "You join instead." I argued, "But I don't like to cook." She countered, "No, you'll bake!"

So we tried baking and I fell in love with it. Everything in baking smells and tastes good — the cream, the chocolate, the fruits. Together, we worked on a mango cake recipe. We were a formidable team — Auntie was good with blending tastes while I had the artistic flair to decorate cakes. We perfected our recipe and I earned my place as the sixth finalist in the baking category.

The grand finals were held in Hotel Intercontinental Manila. After two hours of baking my perfect mango cake, which I called "My Tita's Special Treat," I bagged the grand prize! One of the judges was an expat who was the resident manager



of Intercon. I must have impressed him with my baking skills that out of all the winners, I was the only one offered a three-month training course in their pastry kitchen.

Two months later, I returned to Intercon to begin my training. Clad in a pink, pleated mini skirt outfit that my aunt had sewn for me, I walked into the kitchen with my three-inch wedge heels on my first day. I was clueless as to the kind of work I was getting into. The 6'3" German executive chef took a look at me and asked, "Are you ready to work today?" I eagerly said yes, and he handed me an apron. My eyes bulged at the various, beautifully made pastries I saw in the kitchen that day. I wanted to learn how to make each of them! By day's end, my back was hurting like hell, but I was in heaven. I had found my place in this world.

In a male-dominated world, I had to prove my mettle — that I was equally capable as they were, even if

they dwarfed my five-foot frame. Thank God He endowed me with physical strength. I would haul a sack of sugar by myself, just as the big, male chefs would. I'd carry a 60-quart mixing bowl filled with batter and not ask for help. I'd push heavy trolleys full of desserts from the kitchen to the ballroom.

My hard work didn't go unnoticed. Before my three-month training was over, a chef quit his job and I was offered a permanent position in the pastry kitchen.

The rest, they say, is history. I went on to become the first Filipina pastry chef in the Philippines, a position that was previously occupied only by men and ex-pats in the hotel industry.

Looking back, I can say without a doubt that everything that's happened in my life is God-led. When I get invited to speak at graduation rites, I tell the young graduates that it doesn't matter what you studied. It doesn't mean that what you studied will be your profession. What you have to do is find out why God created you. It's a different kind of happiness when you discover your God-given purpose. And if you'll be able to discover that, everything else will just flow. Even if you lack the know-how, God will add it unto you and He will provide the wisdom that you need.

The Pope's Chef

Since my first foray in the culinary world in 1983, I can say that I've earned the highest accolades in this industry. But nothing compares to the honor I received at the start of 2015 when I had the rare privilege of cooking for Pope Francis during his five-day visit to the Philippines.

I've been asked, "How do you

get chosen to cook for the Pope?" I reply by saying, "I just do what I'm supposed to do."

I cater for many private occasions and, in one of them, I met the Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Guiseppe Pinto. He got to know the kind of cuisine that we serve and, whenever he would have VIPs, he'd bring them to my restaurant in Rockwell.

Late last year, when preparations for the papal visit were underway, the topic of who would cater for the Pope came up. At the committee meeting, the Papal Nuncio floated my name and Cardinal Chito Tagle, who is like family to me, seconded his suggestion. That sealed the deal.

On the first week of September 2014, I received a text from Cardinal Chito saying, "Jessie, expect a call from the nunciature." That's all he said, but I already had an inkling. The next day, I was called to a meeting at the nunciature where I was asked to cater for the Pope.

When I got home, I knelt on the kneeler in my room and cried to the Lord in joy. "Dear God, Pa, after this I can already die!" I prayed.

It was five sleepless days in January but they were among the best days of my life. Early each morning, I'd bake seven kinds of bread in my Rockwell restaurant because the nunciature's kitchen didn't have sufficient equipment for baking. Then I'd transport them to the nuncio's residence



Chef Jessie's memorable encounter with the Holy Father.



Chef Jessie celebrated her recent birthday with Bishop Raul Martinez and fellow members of the Ladies of Charity. She is also a lector in Christ the King Parish in Greenmeadows, Quezon City.


on Taft Avenue in time for the Pope's breakfast. My car's windshield was studded with all kinds of passes and IDs, one of them printed straight from the Vatican. It was an amazing experience to get through all those security barriers and be under the same roof as the Pope.

I made it my goal to make him full at every meal so that he would have the physical strength for his hectic schedule. With every course that I served, I'd always ask the waiter to bring me back the Pope's plate so that I could check what he did and didn't eat. Each time, his plate would come back clean — except for the vegetables!

By the time Pope Francis left Manila on Monday morning, January 19, we were already getting inquiries in my restaurants if we were serving the Pope's menu. That night, we had two turnovers at Chef Jessie in Rockwell.

Inspired by this clamor, I put together Pope Francis' favorites dishes and called it the Holy Father's menu. No, it doesn't come with a plenary indulgence — only gastronomic indulgence. Fifty percent of the price of this menu will be donated to Tulay ng Kabataan, the orphanage where the Pope paid an unscheduled visit after his Mass with the religious at the Manila Cathedral. This is my small way of responding to the Holy Father's exhortation to "think, feel and act."

At this point in my life, I can't think of any more peaks to conquer, except for one. Recanting the prayer that I could already die after serving Pope Francis, the only dream I have left is to see the day when Cardinal Chito Tagle becomes pope. I also hope to cook for him.

After that, I think I've accomplished my mission on earth. 



*"My hair has made a
natural comeback."*

Abby Asistio
ABBY ASISTIO
Singer/Composer

NOVUHAIR® NATURE'S ANSWER TO HAIR LOSS

For more information, visit www.novuhair.com or contact hotlines at 413.6570 & 0922.883.0575.



Novuhair Official



@NovuhairNatural

Available at

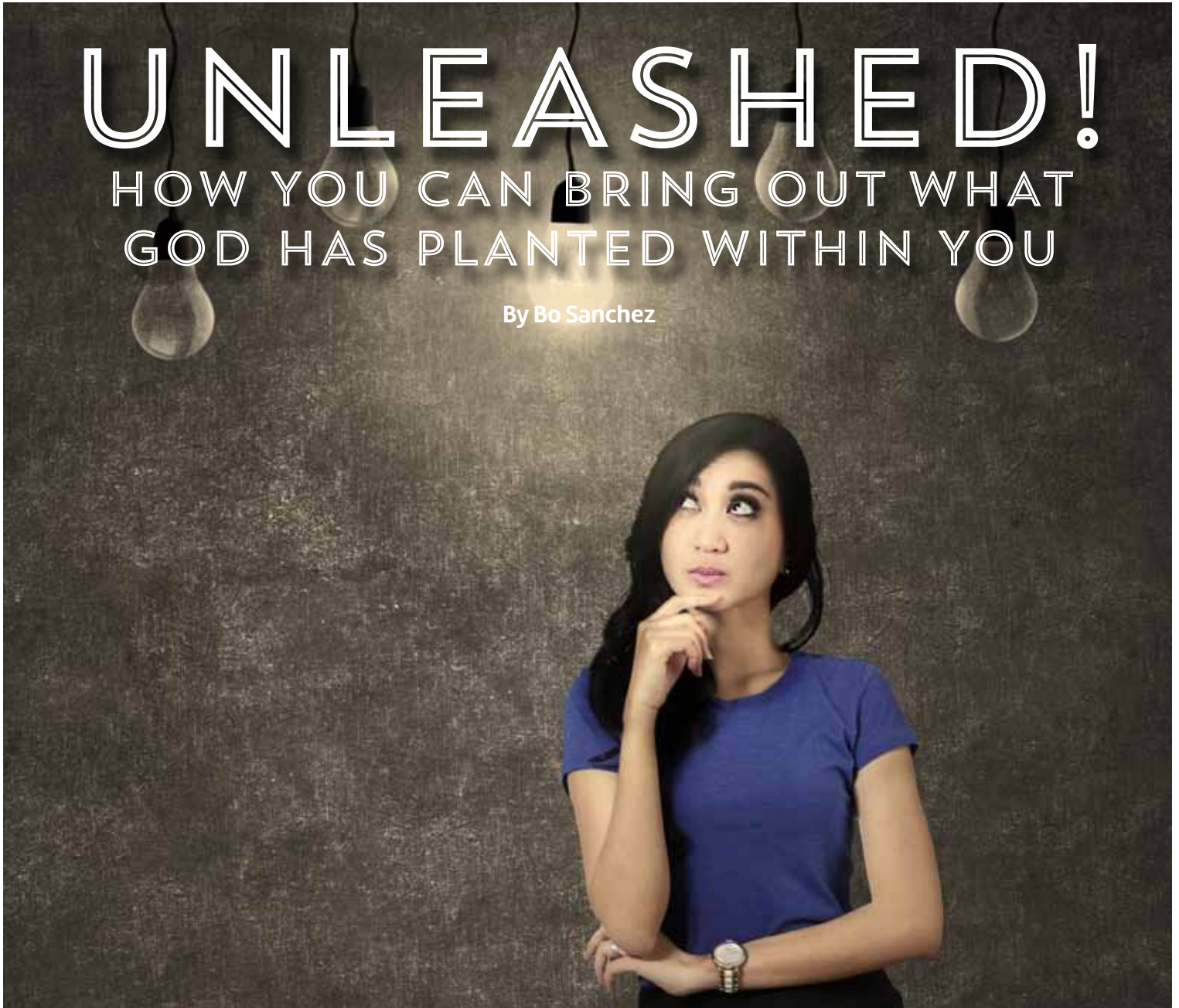


and other leading drugstores.

UNLEASHED!

HOW YOU CAN BRING OUT WHAT
GOD HAS PLANTED WITHIN YOU

By Bo Sanchez



When you see me on stage, preaching passionately to thousands of people complete with funny antics, you'd probably think that I'm always like that even in private.

Let me shatter that misconception.

The truth is, I enjoy listening to others more, picking their brains, laughing at their funny jokes and stories, absorbing their different personalities.

But that side of my personality vanishes whenever I'm on stage. My adrenaline soars and I feel propelled by a force bigger than myself – God – and I simply have to obey and throw all my limitations to the wind.

You can have that bigger and better version of yourself, too. Follow your God-given path and overcome whatever struggles you may encounter along the way.

Friend, make God smile today – unleash the best you! 🙌



By Bo Sanchez

Each shoe is different because each shoe has a different purpose. Leather shoes for formal events, sandals for the beach, casual rubber shoes for walking around the mall, and mountain climbing shoes for... well, mountain climbing.

In the same way that there are different kinds of shoes, God created you with a unique personality because you have a distinct purpose to fulfill.

Who are you? Are you a pair of shiny leather shoes or a pair of rugged mountain climbing shoes? A pair of simple sandals or a pair of all-purpose rubber shoes?

God designed every part of you — your intellect, your imagination, your emotions, your passions, your gifting, and your personality — so that you can do your sacred mission in life. In fact, the Bible says, “We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works” (Ephesians 2:10).

And by the way, God has no favorite personality.

Some people think God

prefers a specific type of personality.

Some people think that God prefers the personality of the character of Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music* — always cheerful, always smiling, always friendly, always twirling around and singing wherever she goes, “The hiiiiiiiills are aliiiiiiiive with the souuuuund of muuuuusic...”

Because people think that God favors a specific personality, they reject their own personality.

One day, a woman named Cely asked me, “Bo, is there anything wrong with me? I’m a quiet person. I’m shy. Compared to my friends, I’m very reserved and I’m almost dull. You see, I’m an accountant.”

I told her, “God loves your quiet personality! He created you to be you for a purpose.”

I told her that I have a fantastic accountant named Weng Cequeña. “Every day of my life, I thank God I have Weng in charge of all the accounting of my ministries and my businesses. Like you, she is very reserved and quiet. In fact, I’ll be very worried if one day, she comes into the office, twirling around and singing, “The hiiiiiiiills are aliiiiiiiive with the souuuuund of muuuuusic...””

Use Your Uniqueness

Remember: The most painful thing you can ever do in your life is to pretend to be someone you are not. Be faithful to the uniqueness of your personality and you’ll be happier.

Let me give you a controversial statement: Your life cannot be 100 percent for God if you’re not 100 percent you.

You have to be 100 percent you!

So accept the strengths of your personality. Embrace it. Celebrate it. Enjoy your personality!

Don’t be ashamed of your personality because your personality has wonderful strengths. Share your strengths. This is your special gift to the world.

Your personality is your voice, your power, your song, your presence in the world.

If you’re talkative, then talk so that people can sit at your feet and be inspired by your stories.

If you’re quiet, then offer a listening ear and let people cry and unburden themselves on your shoulders.

If you're a leader, then lead people closer to God.
If you're a follower, then support your leader and make it easier for him to lead.

If you're adventurous, then start new things – businesses, ministries, projects, friendships that will make this place a better world.

But if you're more cautious, then use your gift of analysis so that people can make better decisions.

But what should you do with your weaknesses?

Work Your Weaknesses

Allow God to transform your weaknesses. Surrender them to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to do a miracle in your life.

Remember that your strength is also your weakness.

Because your strength and weakness are simply two sides of the same coin.

I believe God can transform the weaknesses of our personalities. I've seen it happen.

God Doesn't Make a Big Deal Out of Your Weaknesses and Failures

Just a friendly warning: You might get so engrossed with fixing your personality weaknesses, you'll worsen the problem. (Anything that you focus on gets bigger.)

Here's the truth: God doesn't make a big deal out of your weaknesses and failures. He just doesn't!

Mothers, do you remember how you taught your babies to walk? You planted your knees on the floor, and with your most dazzling, most charming smile, you say, "Come, come, come!"

And your baby, with his fat, wobbly legs, holding the couch, finally stands... and does he walk? Of course not. He crawls to you like a puppy.

Mommy, do you make a big deal about his failure to walk?

Of course not. You laugh, carry him, blow on his stomach and make funny noises, kiss his cute face all over, and prop him near the couch again for another try.

Mommy, where did you get that attitude?

That didn't come from you. You got that from God.

God is like that. He knows you've got weaknesses in your personality. It's not a big deal for Him. Because He knows you'll be getting better and stronger and taller and wiser...

God can transform your weaknesses.

Don't Hide Who You Are

When a woman puts on blush on, mascara, eyebrow, eyeliner, eye shadow, eyelashes, lipstick, lip gloss, toner, powder and *then* turns to her husband and asks, "Honey, do I look *natural*?"

Now tell me, how does a husband answer that

without being hit on the head by inanimate flying objects?

Hey, I'm not against make-up.

I think it boils down to inner attitude: By putting on make-up, are you covering stuff that you're ashamed of? Or enhancing the beauty that you believe is *you*?

Now, before I give you advice on eyeliner techniques, how to highlight your cheekbones, and what various hues of blush on you can use for your skin color, let me tell you about my sister's wedding many years ago.

I was still in my twenties. I remember standing in front of the altar, beside her groom, eagerly waiting for his bride. When she finally appeared and started walking down the aisle, I noticed that my would-be brother-in-law suddenly entered into a catatonic state. His eyes had this blank stare, his mouth ajar, his body motionless, until I snapped my finger in front of his face.

Shaking off the shock, he swallowed hard and asked me a question I wished I recorded for his future children and grandchildren to hear.

He mumbled, "Is she... uh... your sister?"

I bit my lip. "I don't know. She has so much paint, er, I mean, make-up on..."

I finally shrugged and told him, "When she comes closer, just ask her name."

You may be wondering who among my sisters I'm referring to since I have five of them. For my personal safety, that information shall be kept in a secret vault that can only be opened after my death.

Can I now shift gears?

Sorry, I'm not writing about make-up techniques. (I'll reserve my eyeliner and blush-on techniques for another day.)

This is about enjoying who you are.

About being you and celebrating God's beautiful creation.

So what if you're too thin, too stout, too tall, too short, too round, too rectangular, too hexagonal?

When my wife was a child, her classmates teased her by calling her "headlights" because of her humongous eyes. And she would cry buckets of tears, wondering why God made her that way.

Twenty years later, in my office, a young woman came in. Immediately, I noticed her lovely round eyes. I was smitten. Thank God for headlights.

Don't hide. Don't pretend. Don't be someone else.

Surrender yourself to God today!

And may your purpose be fulfilled through your unique personality. 

Email me at bosanchez@kerygmfamily.com.

A full-page photograph of a woman with dark hair, smiling, standing on a wide staircase. She is wearing a vibrant red, strapless, floor-length gown with a lace bodice. Her hands are on her hips, and she is looking directly at the camera. The staircase has a polished metal railing and a large, cylindrical, metallic pillar in the background.

I AM BEAUTIFUL AND I AM LOVED

When I began to accept God's love, I learned to love myself

By Einj Santos

'm so weird. Complicated. And unlovable!

I'd often use these words to describe myself. Because this was how I saw myself growing up.

As a child and being the only girl of three siblings, I got to wear nice shoes, dainty clothes, and pretty hats. I thought of myself as a beautiful princess.

But things changed when my younger sister was born. She became the charming one – the favorite. I did not believe Mom and Dad when they told me they love us equally.

I eventually wore boys' clothes and grew up with a very low self-worth.

It did not help that I was good in school. I remember confronting my mom because she was

finishing my older brother's assignment.

"You never help me," I complained.

"You don't need help because you're doing well and can be trusted with your own homework," she said.

I didn't believe her. I felt I was no good and she just didn't have time for me.

Acting Like a Boy

Desperate for attention, I chased guys in my young adult life. Admitting my feelings to guys I liked was normal. I thought I was doing myself and the guys a favor by making the first move, but none of them reciprocated my feelings. Often, I'd get these responses: "You're not girlfriend material," "Girls like you are not my type," and "You're different."

Their rejections led me to believe I would never be good enough. I resented that I was not ladylike. I would often look at women who are effortlessly feminine and feel bad about myself. I hated that I don't carry myself as well as they do. I felt ugly. The more I put myself down, the more I felt unloved.

My insecure self told me every day that no one could love me. I was just too odd.

My Escape Route

I got addicted to alcohol in my early twenties. The first few times, I would only drink two bottles. I eventually lost count because extra fun nights meant shifting from liquor to beer to cocktails until the break of dawn. About twice or thrice, I woke up either outside our front door or on the floor, not remembering what had happened the previous night.

It was crazy but I enjoyed the thrill! It was a way to cover up my insecurities. When I got drunk, I forgot everything and just had fun.

I would get lonely when I became sober. I would find myself longing for someone to accept and love me. However, I feared rejection and getting hurt. It was simpler and less painful to accept that I was unlovable.

One Fateful Sunday

I was already a regular attendee and servant at The Feast, the weekly gathering of the Light of Jesus Family, when I found myself pleading to God for love. I got scared the moment I realized what I was asking for. I stopped and told Him, "Time out, wrong prayer!"

Surprisingly, I felt God telling me, "It's OK, My child. You can be honest with Me. Let Me love you. No matter how weird and complicated you think you are, I love you and you are always beautiful in My eyes."

I cried my heart out to God and admitted I wanted to love and be loved in return. I surrendered to Him and prayed, "Father, I am scared. Please heal me and change my heart that I may accept Your love."

I set aside that prayer, fully trusting God will keep His promises. I concentrated on becoming my best self.

My first task was to train myself to look in the mirror and to like what I see. Every day, I told my reflection, "You are beautiful." It started out as routine I did not believe in.

"You are beautiful."

"You are beautiful."

"You are beautiful."

One day, I mindlessly went in front of the mirror, flashed a grin, and shouted, "Thank You, Lord, I am beautiful!" That has been one of my favorite hobbies since then.

I Am Loved

As soon as I started loving myself, my wounds healed little by little. I became open to loving and being loved.

God was there to love me first. I am not perfect and I will never be, but I am assured God will continue to work in my life. I don't even need to do anything for Him to love me. He just does – no ifs, no buts, no whys.

In 2012, by His grace, I took conscious and deliberate efforts to get to know the God who loved me first.

I listened to worship songs that talk about devoting my life to God and worshipping Him while waiting for the fulfillment of my dreams.

I practiced being thankful for everything – from getting a cab quickly, to having food on the table, to waking up every day.

I said yes to serve Him more in various ministries and I worked on being kinder.

Today, praise the Lord for He is my Number One!

When I am sad, I run to Him. When I am happy, I share with Him my joy. When I am disappointed, I rant before Him and He listens. In my victory, He rejoices. During low times, He cheers me on. I am happily in love with God!

Knowing how lovable I am, I no longer think of myself as weird and complicated. I no longer feel insecure of women who are more feminine than I am. I just enjoy dressing up and taking care of myself. I know I am beautiful in my own way and there is no point in comparing myself with others.

I have learned to love my beautiful sister and realized having her as a sibling does not make me less of a person.

I appreciate how my parents trust me to make wise decisions. My mom would tell me she is proud of me and considers me a blessing to the family.

I have also given up drinking. Fun now means having friends gathered together in love and in the presence of God.

I am no longer scared to love. Instead, I am overflowing with the love that is Jesus Christ! 



One of Einj's happiest moments was when her younger sister gave birth in October 2012.



At the Feast Valle Verde Light of Jesus Encounter where Einj served as member of the secretariat.




Einj also served as emcee in Feast Alabang's Love Life Singles Retreat.



Einj's again served as emcee at St. Scholastica Manila's Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminar.

special section



YOU ARE MEANT FOR GREATNESS

Don't let your fears tell you otherwise

By the Kerygma Staff



One of the biblical characters who has unleashed tremendous greatness is a simple boy named David. I bet everyone knows him from the bedtime stories and children's books that we grew up with. But

his journey to greatness was long, action-filled, dramatic, and with so many twists and turns, you might think you're watching a telenovela.

David has beaten world records by slaying a giant named Goliath. He instantly rose to fame and if he were alive today, people would surely want to take a selfie with him just for bragging rights. He's a phenomenon! A shepherd boy turned celebrity without him even joining a talent search.

But his stint did not end there. He later entered politics as well. (Oops, for the record, David isn't a Filipino.) Wait, there's more! He wasn't just a king — he became known as the greatest king of Israel.

David leaped from being an obscure shepherd to a dynamic ruler — and an extraordinary one at that. On the contrary, Saul, the reigning king back then, ended

up failing as a leader. The difference lies in their capacity to overcome their limiting circumstances, which we ordinary humans also experience. While we can learn so much from victorious people like David, there are also chunks of wisdom that we can gain from the life of someone like Saul. He had his own share of struggles.

But let me show you how David, an unknown shepherd, powerfully met these crippling factors head-on in the reign and life of King Saul.

The same should inspire us to overcome our own struggles that limit us from being who we were created to be — children of God, created in His image and likeness. As St. Irenaeus said, "The glory of God is man fully alive."

Four Common Obstacles

Scripture tells us that when Goliath, a soldier who was 10 feet tall, armed with heavy bronze armor from head to foot, challenged the Israelite army, Saul and his men "were dismayed and terrified" (1 Samuel 17:11). For 40 days, nobody stood against Goliath. They were paralyzed by terror and could not think of ways to defeat the giant.

Meanwhile, David took the courage to fight Goliath. When he did so, he conquered four of the common obstacles that cripple us to be the best version of ourselves.

Fear of Judgment

David was the youngest son of Jesse. He tended the sheep while his three oldest brothers went to war. One day, Jesse asked him to bring food to his brothers. It was there that he heard Goliath mocking his people, so he inquired about the giant.

When Eliab, his eldest sibling, noticed him, he threw harsh judgments at David: “Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle” (1 Samuel 17:28).

David didn’t mind. Instead, he pushed through and asked Saul to allow him to face Goliath. Saul told him, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

Again, David didn’t let the words of another person discourage him. Had he listened to them, he would have never known what he was capable of.

The same is true with us. Many Eliabs roam around us, dragging us down with accusations and negative labels. There are Sauls, too — people who look down on us because of what they think we are and we are not.

But the good news is that our God isn’t like them.

When God chose David, He said to Samuel, “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

How many times have you allowed the opinion of other people stop you from being the person you were meant to be?

When you encounter people who belittle you, who think you’re no good and could not be trusted with bigger responsibilities, pause. Yes, pause. And then remember the God who created you and get courage from Him to face the Eliabs around you.

Friend, you have to believe — deep in your heart and in your gut — that God created you to be great. He has given you everything you need to unleash all the potentials that He has poured upon you. All you need to do is to not be afraid to be your best self. You were meant for greatness — that’s who you are!

Fear of Failure

David was not afraid to lose. Neither was he afraid to fail.

He sent this message clearly when he decided to fight against Goliath with just a sling, five stones, and a staff in his hands. Saul suggested that he put on armor and a bronze helmet, and go to the battle with a sword, but David refused. He knew his strength and he relied on it.

More importantly, he was confident that God would



see him through. He told Saul, “The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:37).

David had the choice not to go against Goliath. In fact, he was not asked to fight the giant. But had he not taken the chance, he would never know how much he could do, not only as a fighter but as king of Israel as well. It was his courage that day which led him to greater heights.

At first glance, David seemed to be a nobody compared to his enemy, but he embraced the challenge nonetheless. David knew there’s a reward waiting for whoever could defeat Goliath — he would be given great wealth by the king, an opportunity to wed one of the king’s daughters, and a tax exemption for the whole family.

But more than focusing on the prize, his determination was fueled by his desire to stand for the God of Israel.

When confronted by daunting circumstances while pursuing our goals, many of us shy away. We lose sight of what awaits us in the end.

We refuse to go on auditions for fear of being rejected.

We dread applying for our dream companies because we don’t want to hear the words, “We’ll just call you.”

We delay starting up our business because we worry if shelling out our savings will be worth it.

It happens in our relationships, too! We dream of harmonious communication with our family, healthy friendships and life-giving relationships, but we don’t want to take chances. We hold back from being the first to apologize, express affection, put our guards down. We are afraid of being shunned.

We fear getting our dreams shattered and our hearts broken. We try to stay clear from risks as much as we can.

As a result, we settle with what we have, how things are, and who we are. Mediocrity becomes our comfort zone, and we live each day wallowing in a string of what-ifs and what-could-have-beens.

Fear is a natural emotion. It is an instinctive response whenever we step on a new territory. Trouble comes in when fear overwhelms us that we choose to remain stagnant. We start living to please other people. We confine ourselves to a customary world of routines and opinions. Thus, we never grow. Our goals become wishful thinking.

As Paulo Coelho said in *The Alchemist*, “There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure.”

There is only a thin line that separates our comfort and courage zones, and it takes just one faith-filled step to cross that line. Faith in what we can do. Faith that we are not persevering alone. Faith that where God guides, He provides.

As God promised us in Isaiah 41:10, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”



Envy

After beating Goliath, David enjoyed the favor of the people. Saul, eaten up by jealousy and envy, began to plot evil schemes against David. By the way, the Bible described Saul as “handsome and taller than anyone else” (1 Samuel 9:2). He was granted the honor of being the first king of Israel. God chose him. Samuel anointed him. He had everything he needed to be a great king.

But when David stepped in the picture, he forgot all that he had and lived in delusion of what David might have. He saw David as an enemy instead of an ally, a threat instead of a helping hand.

Even after knowing who we are — our strengths and abilities — we still find ourselves inferior to other people at some point. We think they can perform, communicate, plan and lead better than us, until such comparison tramples the way we look at ourselves.

We compare even our physical attributes. This kind of thinking drives us to see ourselves as a lesser person, which is, almost always, not the case. Some are just gifted with

creative minds, some with excellent musical skills, some with analytical judgments, and some with interacting abilities. There are cases when people fail to appreciate the affirmations given to them because they are so busy counting the positive remarks awarded to their peers.

St. Paul reminds us that we may have varying talents, but each of us has an equal role to play as God’s people. He teaches us, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 27-30).

Friend, I invite you to honor the Jesus in other people, and recognize how Jesus is also working through your own giftedness.

Focus on what you have. Grow it. Develop it. Share it. Bless the world with whatever you have and whoever you are. Glorify the God who created you for something bigger, something greater.

Pride and Unworthiness

Sometimes, we are limited not by personal or emotional issues.

We know our potential. We are confident that we can deliver.

However, what stops us from stepping to greatness is our self-image due to the sins we have committed or the abuse that we experienced in the past. We carry with us either too much pride or too much sense of unworthiness.

Pride makes us so full of ourselves that we think there’s nothing left for us to know — we stop asking for help, we stop learning more. People who are too proud to admit their shortcomings and imperfections are consumed by their status rather than their improvement.

When God rejected Saul as king, he was more concerned with what the people would say. Saul pleaded to the prophet Samuel, “I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel” (1 Samuel 15:30). He didn’t think of ways to solve the issue, but thought of how he could cover up his flaw.

Instead of asking how God could possibly help him rectify his wrongdoing, he





assumed that as long as the people acknowledged his kingship, everything was fine. He denied his need for God and got stuck where he was.

David, on the contrary, didn't let his sins get between him and his God. He committed adultery, which led him to have Uriah, one of his soldiers, killed during a battle. Those were immoral, grave acts.

But David bounced back — he confessed and repented for his sins. God's favor remained upon him. He continued winning battles and he was called "a man after God's own heart."

Despite his weakness, he became the powerful king that he was because he sought God's mercy and guidance. And God's love is bigger than all of our sins combined.

God is a God of multiple chances.

When we fail as a disciple, get up. Jesus is reaching out His hand.

When we forget to see our worth, look up. Jesus died so we can experience life to the full.

When we fall into sin, open up. Receive God's unconditional and relentless love.

In God's eyes, who we really are is greater than all our deficiencies (be it physical, emotional, financial or spiritual), offenses, guilt, and shame — not the other way around.


Pope Francis beautifully summarized this in his homily at the Quirino Grandstand during his Papal visit to the Philippines, "That is sin: to forget at heart that we are children of God."

Friend, let God be your God. Just as He has unleashed David's greatness through humble beginnings, in spite of the challenging acts and notwithstanding David's frailties, He can also work His way through you.

Let your life be a reflection of Your Father's supremacy because you are born to continue His legacy.

To echo Jesus' words to His disciples, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).

Friend, let go of your fears. God is with you every step of the way — holding your hand, watching your baby steps toward greatness.

Make Him smile today. 



Miggy, despite his disability, has found his passion in life, thanks to his parents.



RAISING UP MIGGY

Finding his art and making a difference

By Mae M. Ignacio
Photos by Jap Tarectecan

When I was still single, I would always joke that when I have my own family, I will make sure that it will be an improvement of my race. That's why when my husband and I got confirmation that we were going to have a baby boy, we did not waste any time in securing his future. We were one in saying that our son deserves the best future; after all, he is the better version of his mom and dad.

Just like other parents, we had great dreams for Miggy. My husband and I would even kid around as to whose alma mater would be best for Miggy when he grows up. And being academic achievers ourselves, we were sure that Miggy would have no difficulty in becoming one, too. But our excitement waned when Miggy turned two.

Since he was our firstborn, I was very particular about his developmental milestones. I kept a journal of his first bath, first smile, his first solid food, and all the other firsts that only moms are obsessive enough to record. When Miggy's spoken vocabulary did not increase when it should, I started to be alarmed. He has a very talkative mom, so there was no way he could only speak so few words at his age. After talks with his pediatrician, we were able to set an appointment with a developmental pediatrician. After several tests, his developmental pediatrician told us that Miggy has autism.

Our world fell apart. Our baby boy will not grow up to be at the top of his class. Our firstborn will not be able to join contests that we, his parents, competed in and won. He would

not be able to do many of the things we dreamed for him.

My husband insisted on a second opinion, but again, we got the same diagnosis. Still, we were hoping that there was just a delay in his speech. Hearing it for the second time did not make the acceptance any easier.

But with the grace of God, that denial stage was short-lived. We cannot dwell on what Miggy's condition was, all we know was that he needed our love and support. He needed to get all the help at the earliest possible time. We had to put Miggy's well-being as our priority. After that realization, the journey became easier for us.

Blessings and Challenges Along the Way

Soon enough, we discovered that there was a therapy center close to our house. This gave us so much relief. We immediately got an occupational therapist (OT), Teacher Karen, who became instrumental in getting Miggy the support that he needs.

Miggy's nanny, *Nanay* Nida, who took care of him since birth, stood by him despite his special condition. The first few weeks of his occupational therapy were a challenge. *Nanay* Nida would tell me that Miggy would cry during sessions and it was an effort for her not to run and comfort him.

Speech therapy became even more challenging



because Miggy, like other kids with autism, did not welcome change and wanted to work only with his OT. Teacher Karen recommended another center and Miggy's speech therapy started along with swimming lessons, which he enjoys.

We discovered another activity, aside from swimming, that has a calming effect on Miggy: doodling. Our house is now full of doodles – even the floor is not spared. I am guilty of not being eco-friendly because I buy reams of paper so that Miggy could scribble during trips, gatherings and even when in church. Paper and pens have been Miggy's pacifiers, so to speak.

Verbal communication is difficult for Miggy. It is frustrating for us, the people around him, not to understand his wants and needs when he tries to verbalize them. The words do not come out of his mouth as he intends. So it was also a good thing that Miggy would scribble to me things that he cannot express verbally.

For example, he kept saying “pyayon” and we couldn't figure out what he meant. Then he drew lines with shaded black areas and only then did I understand that he meant “piano.”

Later, Teacher Karen encouraged me to put Miggy on a summer class on painting with another OT, Teacher Sheila. I agreed, and Miggy thoroughly enjoyed himself during the sessions.

The summer class introduced Miggy to acrylic painting. The painting class was not cheap, and so Miggy did not continue the painting therapy after that summer.

Chris, the owner of the therapy center, however told me that we should not only focus on helping Miggy on his weak areas but that we should also strengthen what he is good at. So we got Miggy back into painting and had to make adjustments on his other therapies while still managing the costs.

Unleashing Miggy's Art

One Christmas, I had one of Miggy's doodles transformed into embroidery for shirts that we gave out to family and his therapists as gifts. We acknowledged that painting is a talent that he can build up.

Miggy started to paint more and showed improvement in the length of time he was able to sit during therapy. The paintings started to fill our living room wall as well.

One time, Teacher Karen asked if Miggy's paintings can be featured, as one of two artists, in the pilot project of a non-governmental organization called “The Special Achievers Movement.” It was an event to recognize and celebrate the talents of kids with special needs. My husband and I were only too happy to be part of this initiative. And so the “Miggy eco bag,” as it is now called, was launched.

The proceeds of that project were meant to fund art programs for indigent special kids so that they, too, can hone their talents. One of my friends who purchased the

The love of his parents and sister helped Miggy find his place in the sun.



bag asked me to create a message to the family she was giving the bag to, as they also have a son who has autism. She wanted that family to know that they are not alone, that there are other families who have the same struggles as theirs, and that there is a bright future for their son as there is for every other child in the family.

Then came my dilemma. I was also asked if I was willing to sell some of Miggy's paintings. It was a difficult question to answer at that time because I felt like I was selling a piece of Miggy. He created those paintings based on his moods and he can never, even if he tried, replicate them.

But Sister Poyee, one of the organizers of the movement, told me that I should share Miggy with others and also allow him to inspire other people. I came to realize that Miggy can indeed help other children like him, as well as their families, in their own journey.

The owner of a pharmaceutical company, who happened to buy a bag with Miggy's painting on it, was so inspired by the painting that he asked the organizers of the movement if she could have kids with special needs create paintings that they could use for their 2015 calendar. Other kids with special needs also have their work featured in that calendar. I am sure the parents of all these kids are just as proud as my husband and I are. *(Check out more of Miggy's paintings and calendar at www.facebook.com/SpecialAchievers.)*

Communication is still a challenge for Miggy but discovering that he enjoys painting and excels in it has given him a venue to make a mark in the world even at the tender age of 10.

My baby boy will not be top of his class but he is in a class of his own.

Miggy will not be able to join contests that his dad and I used to participate in but he has his own challenges to conquer and win.

Miggy is God's masterpiece in progress, as all of us are.

Miggy is making a difference with what God has given him, just as we should.



special section

SAY YES

***And Unlock God's Hidden
Potential in You***

By the Kerygma Staff

Mama Mary in a camouflage uniform, Kevlar vest, helmet and boots. And throw in a pair of night-vision goggles.

Hard to imagine? Though a woman of a gentle and a quiet spirit, Mary was the ideal soldier. God's very own *mistah* (a nickname for graduates of the Philippine Military Academy). Her inherent obedience made her so. That was why God sent Angel Gabriel, His "recruitment officer," to deliver a message to and "enlist" her.

Here was the conversation between the recruiter and his recruit:

Angel Gabriel: *You are truly blessed! God is with you.*

Mary: *What do you mean?*

Angel Gabriel: *Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make Him King, as His ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and His Kingdom will never end.*

Mary: *How can this happen? I am not married!*

Angel Gabriel: *The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. Nothing is impossible for God!*

Mary: *I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said.*

- Luke 1:26-38 CEV

What do you notice about the Blessed Mother's responses to the angel's revelations? She posed questions to Angel Gabriel not because she doubted. She asked questions only to clarify what God wanted her to do.

After the recruiter said his spiel, the recruit humbly and obediently said, "I am a soldier. I accept the mission you give me."

Let me tell you the story of another young girl. Agnes was just like any other kid. She liked having fun, did the chores she was told to do, and never really thought of becoming a nun. But she did dream of going on mission around the world. When she turned 18 years old, God tugged at her heartstrings and asked her to follow Him. Agnes had an important choice to make. She could have ignored the gentle tugging at her heart and lived it up like any young adult would. She chose to listen more until finally God led Agnes to join the Sisters of Loreto in Dublin, Ireland.

For the next two months, Agnes learned to speak English (she was Albanian, by the way). Then she got on a boat and sailed for 37 days until she arrived at the shores of the busy, complicated country called India. There she took her final vows as a sister and took the name Teresa, after St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower.



For 15 years she taught little girls at a school and she loved being a teacher. Then she felt that familiar pull at her heartstrings once again. She saw the poor in the streets of Calcutta in a different light. She received a special calling to love them. She longed to embrace the little children, comfort and care for the sick, and give the dying a dignified death.

That was God's unique call for St. Teresa of Calcutta, who said "yes" to God and founded the Missionaries of Charity. And the legacy of this call to love lives on through the women who followed this humble and faithful servant, who inspired many to say "yes," too.

Mary was certain about her calling from God. By asking questions, she only sought to understand what was expected of her. Even if the details were a bit hazy, Mary uttered her *fiat* with all humility and complete trust in her Commander-in-Chief. And how bravely she marched towards the frontline of the battle for mankind's salvation.

We all know that God has a divine plan for each of us, His children. That plan, if we obey, is meant to bring us full life.

Let us dissect Mary's obedience to God's call for her and see how we can follow her example so that God's plans for our lives may be unleashed.

The Nature of Mary's Obedience

Have you ever wondered how obedience to God became second nature to Mama Mary?

It all began with the way Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, nurtured and raised her. Because Mary was God's wondrous gift to them, Joachim and Anne in turn offered their daughter to the Giver of the gift. When Mary was three years old, they brought her to the Temple and left her there to be brought up in the Jewish faith and tradition.

Mary's obedience flowed from the very obedience of Joachim and Anne. Childless for many years, the couple fervently prayed to God for a child and promised to dedicate the baby they will be blessed with. So when they were given Mary, Joachim and Anne kept their promise.

Joachim and Anne reaped what they sowed. They kept firm in their faith in God and were blessed with a faithful daughter in Mary.

Obedience Borne from Faith in the Lord

Remember the movie *Chariots of Fire*? It's about Eric Liddell, a devout Christian who competed in the 1924 Olympics. When he was told that one of the heats for his race was to be held on a Sunday, he was caught in a quandary. His choice was to run with the chance of winning and making his country proud – or not to run and keep the Sabbath holy.

Eric dropped out from the race and the British Olympic Committee did its best to convince him otherwise. But Eric was firm in his decision to obey even if it did not seem to matter to anyone but God. Now that is faithful obedience.

Mary had that same faithful obedience. The *Catechism for Filipino Catholics* describes Mary as a “truly an effective inspiration because she constantly exercised faith in all the realities of ordinary, daily living, even in family crises” (#157). She “perfectly exemplified the common definitions of faith as ‘full submission of intellect and will’ and the ‘obedience of faith’” (#156). Mary's obedience was an act of faith, and she was able to live out this faith by being open to the Holy Spirit and cooperating with the grace of God. She relied totally on the Lord and did not attempt to go on her own way.

We have been anointed with the same faith as Mary's. The question is, do we live out our faith the way she did?

Do we let the Holy Spirit have His way with us and allow ourselves to be carried wherever the wind blows? To obey even if it seems to matter only to God?

Obedience Borne from Humility and Simplicity

Fr. Thomas Philippe, OP, author of *The Contemplative Life*, meditated on Mama Mary's humility and described perfectly the way this virtue was manifested in her life:

“As soon as we begin to assert ourselves a little, we close ourselves to the gift of God. It is in proportion to our humility that God can love and sanctify us. The Blessed Virgin was perfectly humble and could, therefore, receive all the graces God wanted to give her. But in what did her humility consist? In Mary, humility had an absolute simplicity. She is the only saint who never looked at herself. She never appropriated any grace, but accepted everything as a gift; she made the most of God's gifts, not in order to enjoy them, but in order to draw closer to God.”

Mary's humility and simplicity kept her close to God, and sustained her life of obedience. How else could she have persevered through the difficulties and trials as she experienced the many sorrows that came with the passion and death of Jesus, her beloved Son? By grace,

she held on to her faith, continued to obey God's will and shared in the victory of the resurrection.

We, too, are called to follow God's will with humility and simplicity. At times we have to beg Him to show us the way, to lead us to the fulfillment of His plans for us. With humility, grace will flow unto us and help us find our path to a full life.

Obedience Borne from an Intimate Relationship

It was but natural for Mary to be close to Jesus – they were mother and Son after all. But their relationship had a different, deeper dimension than just between a parent and child.

Mary's spiritual bond to the Holy Trinity has made her an important part of and privy to the salvific plan of the Father. And this bond kept her grounded in living an obedient and surrendered life.

We will know better God's will for us if we remain close to Him. We will see His plans with eyes of faith, even if circumstances are not so clear to us.


“Do Whatever Jesus Tells You to Do”

Remember the Wedding at Cana? Mary, Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding feast. And since the celebration lasted over several days, the wine was running out fast. So she went to Jesus and simply told Him, “They don't have any more wine.” To this Jesus gave an answer that is unusual yet full of meaning: “Mother, My time hasn't yet come: You must not tell Me what to do.”

Was Mary asserting her authority as the mother of Jesus? No. In fact, Mary did the opposite. Because of her deep faith and intimate knowledge of the Father's will, she was certain Jesus' time to begin His mission had already come. She was sticking to the Father's plan, and by her obedience, she paved the way for Jesus to obey, too.

As Jesus instructed, servants filled the jars with water. Water was turned into wine. And the rest of the Father's divine plan unfolded and was fulfilled – all because a humble and simple girl said “yes.”

The same thing will happen to us if we continue to say “yes” to the Father's will. Our every “yes” becomes the key that will unlock the hidden potentials that God has planted in us.

So, friend, what are you waiting for? Say “yes” now to God and get ready for an avalanche of opportunities to be the best you! 



Coach Joel is now Teacher Dad to the students of Domuschola International School.



TRAINING CHAMPIONS

IN SPORTS, EDUCATION AND FAITH

Interviewed by Karren Renz Seña, Written by Maymay R. Salvosa, Photos by Jap Tarectecan

An air of excitement filled the venue. Balloons hang from both sides of the ceiling – their colors representing their respective teams – waiting on which group would be untied triumphantly. Every person in the coaching staff of the opposing teams was on their feet. All the viewers were holding their breath in anticipation. Only a few seconds were left before the champion would be known. It was a deadlock and I was holding the rubber. I dribbled past my guard, positioned myself in an open space, and released the ball with a calculated shot. Time had winded down to less than a second. The ball hit the ring, but it went in and out. I missed the shot. There's a need for overtime.

Pain gripped my chest for not making what could have been a winning shot.

Letting Go of My First Love

Such scene did not happen, but that was how I felt when basketball slipped from my hands in 1984. Back then, basketball was everything to me. It didn't only allow me to get free education, it also gave me the confidence that I never had while growing up. I used to feel inferior, but when I started playing and my talent was being recognized, my insecurities went away. I used to glorify basketball so much that when I was faced with a problem that could take it away from me, I got scared. Like losing a game that could either make or break my basketball career, I dreaded thinking what might happen next.

Incidentally, it was around that time when my mother and sisters became active attendees of a prayer meeting in Marikina. They were persistent in inviting me, and I was equally firm in declining. I was fine. I was a regular Mass goer. I was kind enough. I was OK.

We are a family of devout Catholics, but since they attended the prayer meeting, I sensed that their prayers became deeper, and somehow, alive. It impacted me so much that in my moment of trial, I turned to God. "Lord," I prayed, "if what my sisters and Mom were sharing with me are true, I want to know You. Please help me in basketball. This is very, very important to me."

I started looking for Him. I sought to know Him in a personal way. I started attending Bible studies until I found the Christian Life Fellowship. After a few years, Pastor Tom Hines, who later became a bishop, was led into a path that went back to sacramentals. It brought me back to Catholicism. It opened my mind. It's not really just about religion; it's your relationship with Christ. It was the turning point of my faith. From that moment on, my faith and basketball became most essential in my life. To me, they're intertwined. I cannot separate basketball from my faith and my faith from basketball.

In 1985, I got an Achilles tendon injury and had to undergo rehabilitation for a year. When I was about to return to the sport, my other foot was hurt as well. It was such a traumatic experience. My decision to give up basketball was not easy. I prayed about it and I knew I had to stop. In 1987, I got my last pay as a professional basketball

player. But I knew it wasn't over. I may have missed that career, but I was certain God was planning out a better play for me... in the overtime.

Coaching In and Out of the Court

Indeed, after five years of working for a local daily newspaper, I got back to the basketball scene – this time as a coach. I became the head coach of Mapua Cardinals in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Ateneo Blue Eagles in University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), and even Talk n' Text in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA). I believe it was God who helped my teams win the championship in all three leagues.

Coaching professionally is a job and a half. You can't rest when you're a coach in the PBA. You can't even sleep. You watch hours and hours of videos – your team's and those of other teams. But as a coach, my goal was to inspire people, not only to teach them or hone their skills. Because if they are inspired, they will continuously do what they're supposed to do, and in turn, they will inspire other people.

I'm so happy to hear that my former players are spiritually renewed and have stronger relationship with God. I'd like to think that I'm a part of that. Nothing makes me happier to believe that I was an instrument of God in their renewal.

Coaching Young Minds

One day, the leaders of the church we were attending invited all the parents for a meeting. They announced that they were putting up a school and they needed support. We sent our then just two boys to their school in Pasay even if we were residing in Pasig. Jenny, my wife, would always bring them to school and stay there the whole day. Her purpose was not only to save on gas, but also to make sure that they were learning the right things. Her passion caught the attention of Bishop Hines and asked if she could help in running the school. We prayed about it and she said yes. After five years, she felt she had done her job. She said it was time for her to move on and felt that the Lord was leading her to put up a school.

So, here we are now. What started as a preschool with 23 students in 2006 had already grown into Domuschola, an International Baccalaureate (IB) school that can house up to 800 students.

When people ask me, "Are you retired?" I say I'm heeding a higher calling from sports and entertainment to education and nation-building. We believe that if there's one instrument to raise up this nation, it's education. Through education, we can influence the children to call on God and to trust Him. Being educated is not only for themselves, but so they can be their best to help make the Philippines a better place. We can only do that when we are in Christ.

The Winning Formula

Bagging several championships and running a big school have been possible because of one formula: constantly reminding my team that if they limit themselves, they are

going to be limited. But if they believe that their potential is great, then they can do it. I believe everybody has a gift; it's just a matter of finding it.

It's important that they know what they're made of. They are created in the image and likeness of God – that's their full potential.

In basketball, not everybody can be a scorer. Even the littlest part has a purpose. I try to impart that in a team, all players – even the benchwarmers and the rookies – have a role to play. When they start believing that, then they contribute and they excel in what they are tasked to do.


I preach the same thing to our teachers now. There is no greater joy than a man who is happy in his labor. Get involved and do your role. If we know that, we go to work happy, inspired and early.

I also believe that faith comes by hearing and hearing. We have to keep on nurturing our faith. We have to keep hearing the Word and faith teachings, like at The Feast, where Bo Sanchez preaches about unleashing our potentials as persons. He preaches that God has a purpose for each of us. We keep on hearing that, and we believe it. We build on our faith. Words are powerful. And the coach's role is to explain to his mentees, make them understand, accept and believe that they have a role to play, and that they are important. If one can do that, then he unleashes other people's potential.

Jesus prayed, "Father, I pray that they may do more than what I've done. Because I go to the Father and the Holy Spirit will come." That's my prayer, too – that my children, players, teachers and students will do more than what I've done in my life, not only for themselves but also for other people.

The Coach's Coach

Players draw inspiration from their coach but the coach has no one to turn to. That's why we need to draw strength from Christ. And when we're drawing from no one, we have to draw from Christ. That's why I attend The Feast, then I share my learning. I think it's a preacher's principle. You have to be coached to be able to coach. You have to be filled up before you can fill other people. I also have mentors whom I go to when I have problems.

Everyone has a weakness, and I admit there are times when I want to give up on people. That's why I hold on to God to keep us going. To me, He is the greatest Coach. 

At Domuschola International School, teachers and students, including the employees, are taught that faith and excellence should go together.



HELP EACH OTHER GROW

By Allan and Maribel Dionisio

“How do I know that he/she is the right person for me?” This is often asked of us by singles who are in a relationship.

To this question, we offer some criteria:

Basic Compatibility

First, there has to be some basic compatibility between the two of you. You can have differences, but the differences must not be in the core values.

We met a couple who seemed perfect for each other except for one core value: the guy wanted to stay in the Philippines to serve his countrymen while the girl, who was very close to her family, wanted to migrate and join her parents and siblings in the United States. In the end, they had to part ways because neither one would have been happy with the other if forced to give up what each one saw as central to what gave meaning to their lives.

As a sidelight, this is why for someone who values his faith, marrying someone from a different religion leads to much conflict down the road. After all, if you truly believed that your spouse was wrong and, as a result, was not going to join you in heaven, then you will feel obligated to try all you can to convert your partner to what you think is right. And if your spouse feels the same way, then it doesn't take a genius to see that there will be a power struggle.

Sufficient Time to Get to Know Each Other

You can't make a judgment based on incomplete information, and this is what you have if you haven't had at least two years – preferably three – of constant interaction with this person in various situations and moods. It is best to wait for the second year when the euphoria dies down and you can see one another with greater objectivity.

In the course of the second year, you can better answer questions like: Do you really share the same core values? Are your differences minor ones or are they symptoms of deeper differences that require more intense negotiation? Can you really share your inner self with each other and not feel judged?

Since differences and quarrels are inevitable in any relationship, then you might as well use them to get better

information about the other person. If you are going to have a long-term relationship with this person, then you had better know how to “fight” productively.


Love Despite the Differences and Disappointments

Can you continue to love each other despite the differences and disappointments that you have experienced with one another? Can you move from love as emotion to love as decision? Is the other person's growth just as important to you as your own and are you willing – as the psychiatrist M. Scott Peck put it – “to extend yourself” for the sake of that person's growth, despite the differences?

Are You Growing in Your Relationship?

Finally, are you growing as a person within that relationship? Are you both becoming the best that you can be? Are you bringing out the best from each other? Are you unleashing each other's potential?

As a final note, as Jesuit priest Fr. Ruben Tanseco would say in his marriage preparation talks, husband and wife are called to be “co-creators” with God. Through their mutual authentic love for each other, they continue God's work of creation by helping one another reach their full potential to be the best that they can be.

If you have found such a person, then what a wonderful gift from God that would be. 

Email Allan and Maribel at love.institute@yahoo.com.ph.



KERYGMA MISSION PARTNER

25th Anniversary Raffle Promo

Subscribe to Kerygma Magazine and get a chance to win exciting prizes this 2015!

PRIZES:

Grand Prize for Silver, Gold and Platinum:

- Trip to Holy Land

Other Prizes:

- Trip to Coron, Palawan for 2
- Samsung Galaxy Tab Pro
- Coffee session with Bro. Bo Sanchez

HERE'S HOW:

1. Subscribe to *Kerygma* from March 1, 2015 to December 29, 2015.
2. To subscribe, tear off the subscription form from the magazine that will serve as your raffle coupon, fill out with your complete name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, mode of payment, affix signature, and mail to:

Shepherds Voice Publications Inc.,
c/o Back to School Promo
#60 Chicago St. Cubao Quezon City

3. Promo period is from March 1, 2015 to December 29, 2015.

Grand Prize: Trip to Holy Land

1. All Silver KMP, Gold KMP, and Platinum KMP subscribers qualify for the Trip to Holy Land raffle draw.
 - a. Silver KMP- P2,500.00
 - b. Gold KMP- P5,500.00
 - c. Platinum KMP- P10,000.00
2. Entries received from March 1, 2015 until December 29, 2015 qualify for the draw. Grand draw of Trip to Holy Land: January 10, 2016 at The Feast PICC, Pasay City, 10:30 a.m.
3. Trip to Holy Land prize inclusions: Round-trip airfare, hotel accommodation for 10 days with breakfast, airport transfers, tour in Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Nazareth, Mt. Carmel, Cana, Mt. Tabor, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Jordan River, Jericho, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ein Karem, Genesis, Land Qumran, Dead Sea, Emmaus.

Other Prizes:

Trip to Coron, Palawan for 2

1. All regular one-year subscribers qualify for the Trip to Coron, Palawan for 2.
 - Regular 1 Year: P800.00
2. Entries received from March 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015 qualify for the draw of Trip to Coron Palawan for 2. Draw: June 15, 2015 at 60 Chicago St., Cubao Quezon City, 4:00 p.m.
3. Prize inclusions: Round-trip airfare, hotel accommodation for 3 days, 2 nights with breakfast and airport transfers.
4. Non-winning entries will qualify for the Samsung Galaxy Tab Pro and Coffee with the BOss raffle draws.

Samsung Galaxy Tab Pro

1. All Regular one-year subscribers qualify for the draw of Samsung Galaxy Tab.
 - Regular 1 Year: P800.00
2. Entries received from June 1, 2015 to August 31, 2015 qualify for the Draw of Samsung Galaxy Tab Pro. Draw: September 14, 2015 at 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, 4:00 p.m.
3. Non-winning entries will qualify for the Coffee with the BOss raffle draw.

3rd Raffle: Coffee with the BOss

1. All Regular one-year subscribers qualify for the draw of Coffee with the BOss.
 - Regular 1 Year: P800.00
2. Entries received from October 1, 2015 to December 29, 2015 qualify for the draw of Coffee with the BOss. Draw: January 12, 2016, 4 p.m. at 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City.

GUIDELINES:

1. Lucky winners will be drawn. A participant can only win once.
2. A notification letter via registered mail will sent to winners for confirmation. Instructions on where to claim the prize will be detailed in the letter via registered mail.
3. The winner of the trip to Holy Land will secure his/her own passport.
4. Prizes are transferrable but not convertible to cash.
5. The winner of the trip to Holy Land shall shoulder all the taxes and documentations related to the trip, and the 20 percent tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.
6. Validity of international trips is within 6 months from claiming date.
7. The winner of Trip to Coron Palawan for 2 shall shoulder all the taxes and documentations related to the trip, and 20% tax of prizes exceeding P10,000.
8. Validity of domestic trips is within one year from claiming date.
9. The winner of the Samsung Galaxy Tab Pro will shoulder 20% tax if exceeding P10,000.
10. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification.
11. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of SVP with prior DTI approval.
12. Winners shall claim their prizes at the Shepherd's Voice office at 60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City. Winners must present the notification letter, official receipt of subscription and valid ID with photo (e.g. driver's license, company ID or passport). Winners may send a representative on their behalf provided they present the following:
 - a. Letter of authorization from the winner
 - b. Proper identification
 - c. Letter sent by SVP & official receipt of subscription payment
13. The promo organizer's decision is final with the concurrence of DTI representative.
14. All SVP employees are not eligible to join the raffle promo including their relatives up to the 3rd degree of consanguinity or affinity.
15. There will be a DTI representative to witness the draws on June 15, September 14, 2015, January 10 and January 12, 2016.
16. Per DTI FTEB SPD Permit No. 9473, Series of 2015.



THE KINGDOM OF GOD

By Edgardo C. de Vera

© Baldast 1950 | Dreamstime.com - Jesus Gives The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heavens

In the Gospels, Mark and Luke use the phrase *kingdom of God* while Matthew employs the term *kingdom of heaven*. Elsewhere in the New Testament are other variants: *kingdom of Christ and of God*, *kingdom of His Beloved Son*, *the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ*, *kingdom our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*, etc.

John the Baptist heralded its coming and Jesus talked about His Father's kingdom in parables, where He drew examples from everyday life familiar to His listeners, so they could grasp some insight of real life experience from them. He taught His disciples to seek the Kingdom and to pray in the Our Father: *Thy kingdom come...*

The Kingdom is an important theme in the Old Testament. It portrayed a realm where a monarch held absolute sway over his subjects, seen episodes about kings and their respective kingdoms. In the New Testament, the Kingdom is the sphere of God's authority, His sovereign rule, eternal Lordship, and power over Creation. The Church Fathers defined the Kingdom with three theological dimensions: Christological, Mystical and Ecclesiastical.

Christological: The Kingdom Is Christ Himself

In Gospel passages Jesus indicates the Kingdom present in Him: "If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Luke 11:20)... "The kingdom of God is in the midst of you" (Luke 17:21). "He is the treasure hidden in the field" (Matthew 13:44) and "pearl of great price" (Matthew 13:45-46). Origen called this reign of God in Christ, *autobasileia* (Greek).

Mystical: The Kingdom Is in the Heart


Christ as the King dwells in the Spirit in the heart of believers. "Behold the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). Benedict XVI aptly summarizes this

perspective in saying, "The kingdom of God is not to be found on any map... it is located in man's inner being."

Ecclesiological: The Kingdom Is the Church

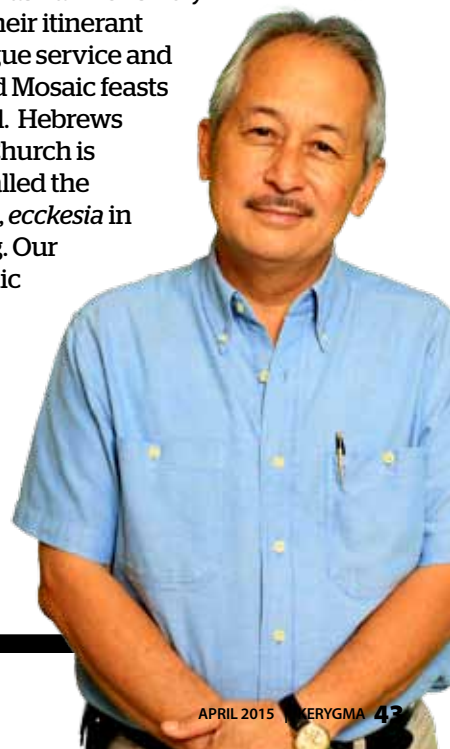
This relates to the previous two. The assembly of believers that we call Church is the Mystical Body of Christ who is both King and Kingdom. Parables in Matthew 13 convey this ecclesiastical aspect in: the field of wheat and weeds, and the net that catches both good and bad fish alike. This Mystical Body is the Church, comprised by the Church Triumphant (those in heaven), Church Militant (pilgrim church on earth), and Church Suffering (souls in purgatory undergoing purification).

The Militant Church is a visible kingdom on earth whose origins are not of this world, yet a present reality here and now. Christ reigns in this Pilgrim Church that forges on to its eschatological fulfilment in the heavenly New Jerusalem. The theologian Karl Rahner called this the "already-but-not-yet," the Church is already in the heavenly Kingdom but not yet there.

Old Testament people gathered as Yahweh's holy assembly in tent meetings during their itinerant desert trek, and in Sabbath synagogue service and temple gatherings for the mandated Mosaic feasts in Jerusalem when they had settled. Hebrews called this assemblage *qahal*. The Church is the New Covenant *qahal*. St. Paul called the Christian assembly *ekklesia* (Greek), *ecclesia* in Latin, *iglesia* in Spanish and Tagalog. Our English word comes from the archaic *church* derived from the Teutonic *kirsche* for assembly. 

*Christ inaugurated ...and revealed
for us the mystery of the kingdom.
— Lumen Gentium.*

Email Ed at catholicsoul@gmail.com.





STUDIO
XOXO
PHOTOGRAPHY

50% DISCOUNT
on PORTRAITS

Use this Ad as
a discount coupon
and e-mail us for
promo details
and booking.

● www.studioxoxophoto.com
carloandhyds@gmail.com

● 0917-8282275
622-2227

HAPPY TRAVELER

By George Tolentino Gabriel

“Man, I’m almost 40! I’m so old! I wish I never left 21...”

There are several ways to react when you stop and realize how old you are.

This month, I turn 39.

One more year and I hit the big 4-0.

I must admit, I’m sometimes tempted to sigh and say, “Where did my youth go?”

Or, “What did I do with my life?”

Or, “I wish I could go back and undo this and that...”

But then again, there’s also...

“I’ve done so much in my life.”

“I’ve had countless wonderful experiences.”

“I’ve served God more than anyone else I know.”

“God has used me in ways I never imagined.”

“Man, I never thought I’d be where I am today. God is so good.”

I have a theory: Many Christians are sad because they only see the cross.

And in truth, the cross is ugly. It’s bloody. It’s a picture of death. Desolation. Defeat.



Many Christians forget that three days later, Jesus rose in glory and won us the victory over all our “should’a, would’a, could’a’s.”

I believe life is a journey that should be enjoyed. It’s a matter of perspective.

You can focus on the trials, or you can focus on the triumph.

You can dwell on defeat or bask in the victory. It’s up to you.

Me, as I approach the fourth decade of my life, I choose to count my blessings.

I’m living my dream of serving God full-time.

I have a family that loves me unconditionally.

I work in a ministry that blesses thousands of lives.

I’m surrounded by friends that help me become the best I can be.

I’m married to the most wonderful woman in the world – my dream girl.

And in one month, I’ll be holding God’s promise to us, our little Anton.

Yes, there are many things that may not be going the way I wish they would, but there are infinitely more things going my way than I ever imagined.

And because of this, I choose to be a happy traveler.

So as far as growing old is concerned... 40, bring it on! 

George Tolentino Gabriel is the editor-in-chief of the award-winning youth magazine, FiSH, and author of Love Life and Live Life. He is also the creative director of Shepherd’s Voice Radio and TV Foundation. He also preaches with Bo Sanchez at The Feast Pasay (PICC) every Sunday (check out www.lightfam.com for the schedule and venues). Amidst his many roles in the ministry, he is most honored to be husband to his wife, Dinah, and most excited about being a soon-to-be father.



158 YEARS OF MISSIONARY COMMITMENT TO AFRICA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD (1856-2014)

**COME
TO
AFRICA**



*"My work will live
as long as there is a willingness
to continue it
and YOU will be this willingness..."*

BISHOP MELCHOIR DE MARION BRESILLAC
Founder of the Society of African Mission (SMA Fathers)

**If you would like to become a missionary priest
And work with us in AFRICA, please write or call:**

The VOCATION Promotion Team
Society of African Missions (SMA Fathers)
Bresillac House
97 Yale St., Brgy. E. Rodriguez Sr.
1109 Cubao, Quezon City

Tel nos.: (02) 401-9100 / (02) 994-3947
Mobile nos.: 0922-5443187 / 0915-4410345 / 0921-4165509
Facebook: SMA Family Crusade for Vocation Promotion
Email: smavoc.phdif@yahoo.com



HAVEN OF INFINITY MEMORIAL GARDEN



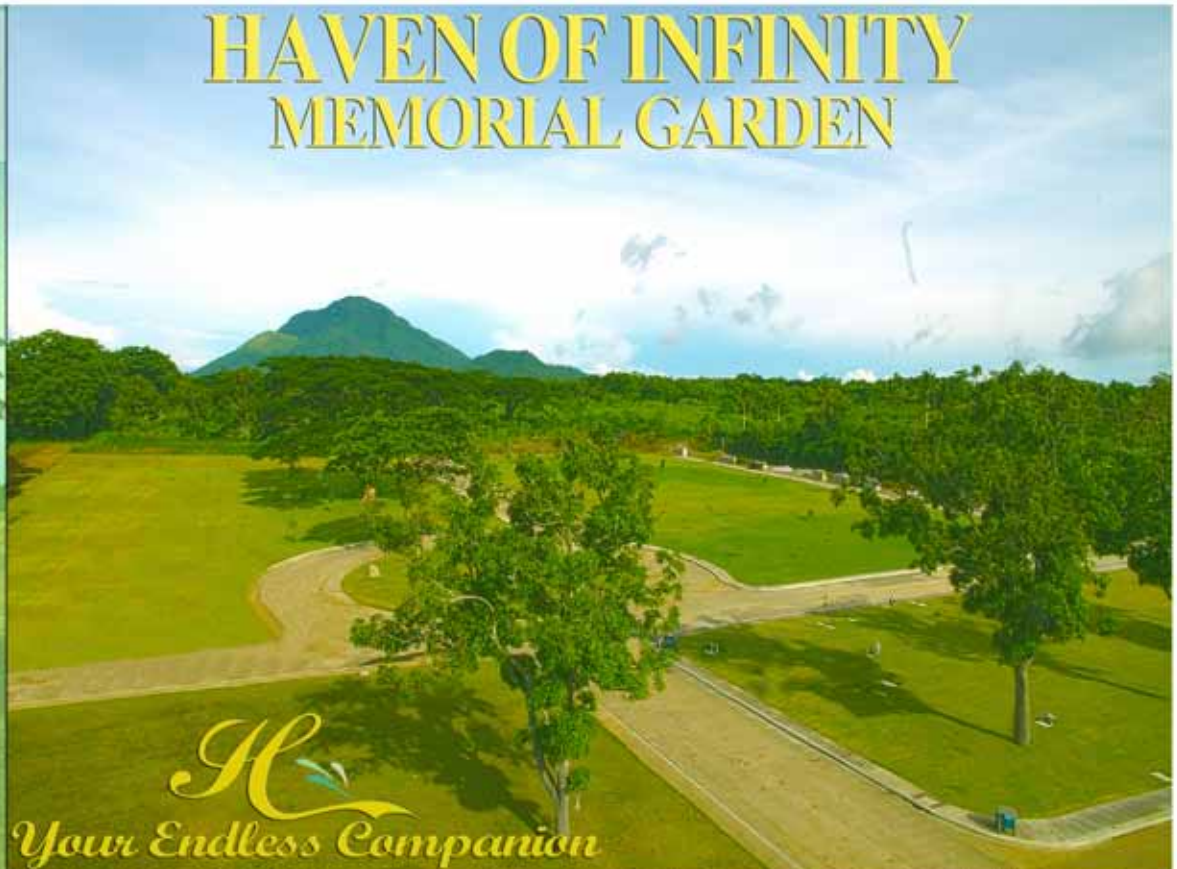
ENTRANCE GATE



CUSTOMER'S LOUNGE



ADMIN OFFICE



Your Endless Companion

NATVELAND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Banay-Banay, Lipa City

Contact No(s).

(043) 774 - 5407 ; 0998 - 510 - 4412 ;

0922 - 872 - 7209 ; 0917 - 830 - 4441

Julie Ann's faith brought miracles in her life — big and small alike.



ASK — THEN TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH

By Julie Ann Bernal

“Believe that God is bigger than your mountain!”

This was God’s message, which I heard through Bicutan Feast builder Velden Lim on the second talk of the “Power Up” series: “Are You Asking Enough?”

He said, “God is calling us to dream big in all areas of our lives and this includes our health.”

A few days after the talk, a big mountain suddenly appeared in my life. But I hung on to the words of our Feast builder. And true enough, the Lord proved His power and faithfulness in the face of my difficulties — financially and physically.

All I did was ask.

My Big Mountain

On November 9, 2013, a couple of weeks before the Kerygma Conference (KCon), I woke up and felt a lump on my left breast. It was big and painful. A new battle raged on in my mind: the battle with the Big C.

My doctor was alarmed and immediately scheduled me for ultrasound, mammogram, biopsy

and surgery for earlier detection and treatment, in case I had one.

Fear, sadness and anxiety engulfed me, especially that I may not make it to the KCon because of my condition. At the time, I was already enduring a chronic back ailment due to my dehydrating cervical discs, and now I had pain due to this mass on my chest. Besides, my budget for the KCon ticket was already spent for my check-up and I needed more money for medical tests.

Instead of worrying, I plugged into the Source of everything I needed and held on to the promise of God in Matthew 7:7: “Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, and the door will be opened to you.”

I prayed to my loving Daddy God, not only because I am His servant but more so because I am His child longing to be healed: “I believe, Lord, with my whole heart and soul that You want me to be in this year’s Kerygma Conference and You will make a way for me to attend it. I pray also that You will spare me from more medical expenses. This lump will just disappear and I won’t need biopsy and surgery. I will declare how great You are, my God, to Your people. But not my will but Yours be done. I surrender my life to you.”

Leap of Faith


In his “State of the Feast Address” for the servants’ assembly on November 13, 2013, Velden Lim’s big message was: “Leap of Faith!” Velden proclaimed how he continuously obeys the Lord in spite of the financial struggles and challenges of leading The Feast Bicutan. I was inspired by his deep trust in the Lord.

That day, I really saw Jesus in him. I am truly blessed to serve with this “big” man of God. During our assembly, God impressed upon me to make a weekly pledge to help our community. The Holy Spirit prompted me to write an amount higher than what I could afford weekly. With the medical tests that I needed to undergo, I was not sure if I could fulfil this pledge but I knew that my God is the God of miracles. I wrote beside my pledge, “Help me, Lord, to be faithful to my weekly pledge to bless Your people more.”

True enough, someone sponsored me to attend the KCon and I was immensely empowered through it. My best friend provided for my medical expenses in case I would need biopsy.

After enduring intense pain for almost two weeks, God delivered to me my miracle. The lump on my breast simply vanished! No more biopsy and surgery!

And to this day, I’ve been able to turn in my weekly pledge for The Feast Bicutan that’s even higher than what I wrote.

Indeed, there’s no harm in asking God for our needs. We have the power to ask! 

I PRAY THAT YOU RECEIVE YOUR MIRACLES IN JESUS' NAME!

I PRAY THAT GOD LIFT YOUR TRIALS, heal your diseases, bless your problems and direct you to the path He wants you to take. I pray that God remove your fears and give you the courage to surrender your burdens to Him.

So place your hand over my hand, and let's pray with trust, together with our prayer team of intercessors praying for you right now...

This page is our Point of Contact, our spiritual connection.
Say after me...

In the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, I surrender to You my worries and anxieties. I surrender to You my needs, my problems, my trials. I place them all in Your big hands. And I open myself to all that You want to give to me. On this day, I say yes to Your love, to Your blessings, to Your healing, to Your miracles. And Lord, specifically, I ask for the following miracles for my life...

I believe that You answer my prayer in the best way possible! And I thank You in advance for the perfect answers to my prayers. I also ask for the special intercession of Mama Mary. I pray all this in the Name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!



SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH:

Father, we thank You for the gifts You have blessed us with. We bring You back the glory for the intellect, talents and opportunities that You so generously give us. Thank You, Lord, for the unending grace that helps us to accept who we are, to overcome our personal battles, and to surrender to Your Divine plan for us.

We ask You to bless us with a discerning heart to know Your will. Empower us to live greater lives, not for selfish reasons but because of selfless love. May Your Spirit be our inspiration to step out of our comfort zone. We claim Your anointing as Your children, Your powerful champions. We pray all these in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

Praying for you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the letters 'Bo' in a stylized, cursive font.

Email your prayer requests to me at bosanchez@kerygmfamily.com or write to me at Shepherd's Voice Publications, #60 Chicago St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines 1109.