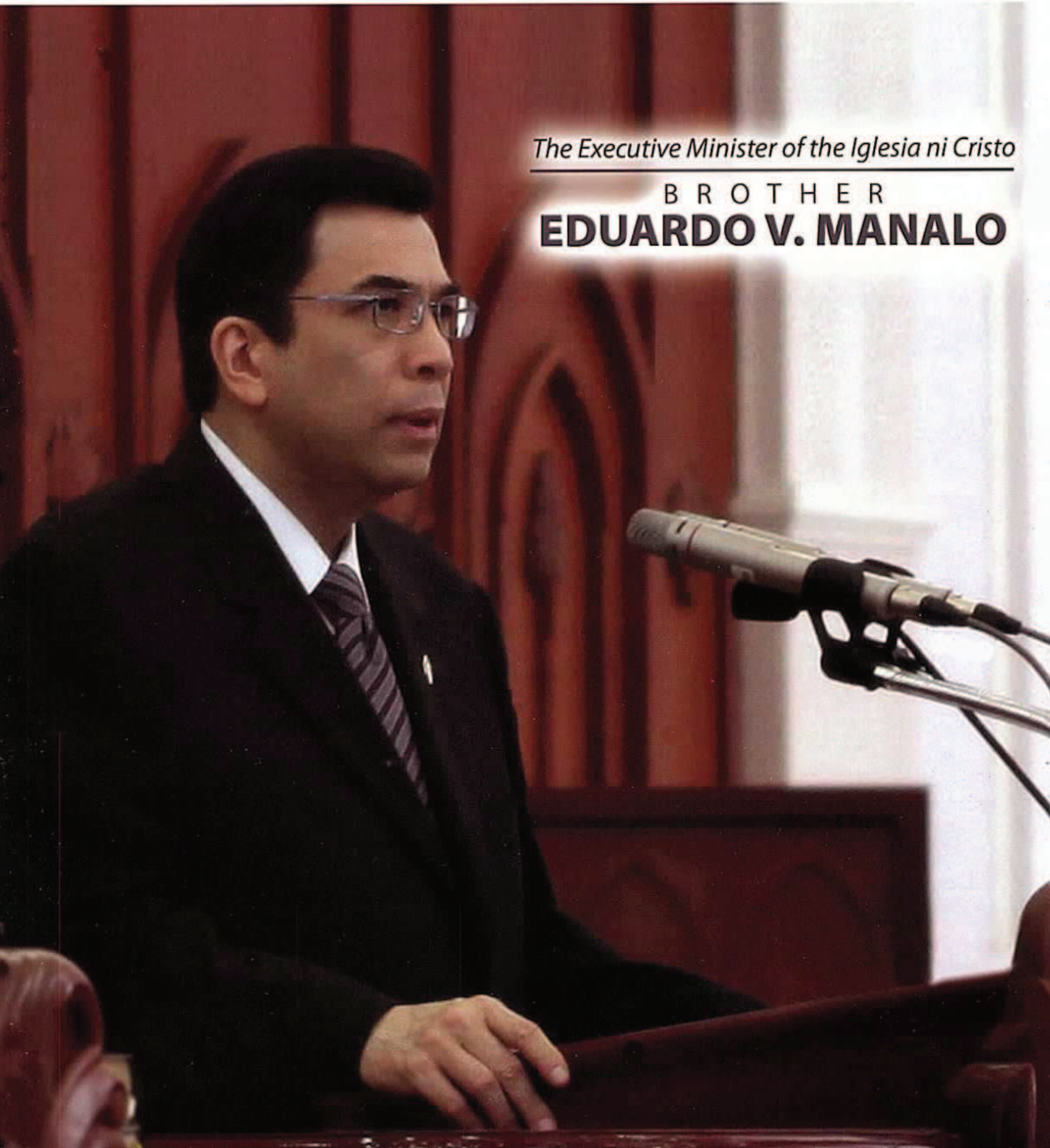


PASUGO  
**GOD'S MESSAGE**

OCTOBER 2009 • VOLUME 61 • NUMBER 10 • ISSN 0116-1636

*The Executive Minister of the Iglesia ni Cristo*

**BROTHER  
EDUARDO V. MANALO**





"BY YOUR WORDS I CAN SEE WHERE I'M GOING; THEY THROW A

# BEAM OF LIGHT

O N M Y D A R K P A T H ."

**"GOD,**  
LET YOUR  
**LIGHT AND TRUTH**  
SHINE ON ME.  
YOUR LIGHT AND TRUTH  
WILL **GUIDE ME.**  
THEY WILL LEAD  
ME TO YOUR  
HOLY MOUNTAIN.  
THEY WILL  
**LEAD ME**  
TO YOUR  
**HOME."**

(TEXT EXCERPTED FROM  
PSALMS 119:105, *THE MESSAGE*;  
PSALMS 43:3, *EASY-TO-READ VERSION*)

Times can be as tough as tunneling out a long, dark cave. So as not to get lost and find ourselves facing a dead end, we need the light of the gospel to brighten our spiritual path. Seek out the light to guide your soul. Watch . . .

*The Light of Salvation* airs on the GEM channel via Direct TV and is seen in the Philippines via UHF TV and local cable stations.



# Light of Salvation



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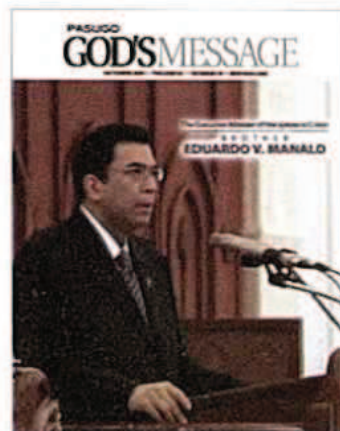
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*Our Cover: Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, the Executive Minister of the Iglesia ni Cristo preaches during a worship service. (See cover story on page 11)*





## The passing of the torch

WITH THE PASSING AWAY of the much beloved and respected Executive Minister, Brother Eraño G. Manalo, the cumbersome task of administering to the spiritual needs of millions of faithful members of the *Iglesia ni Cristo* (Church of Christ) must be continued. A spiritual task that is both demanding and challenging, to say the least, considering that the Church today has gained solid foothold in 92 countries and territories in six continents with membership consisting of 106 nationalities, speaking all the major languages of the world.

As it was during the time of Israel, after the death of Moses whom God chose to lead His people of old out of bondage in Egypt, He didn't want that the hope of the Israelites would perish with Moses' death. So He instructed Joshua, thus: "My servant Moses is dead. Now you must lead Israel across the Jordan River into the land ..." (Josh. 1:2, *Contemporary English Version*) of Canaan, a land He had promised their forebears. Joshua, beforehand, had undergone a rigorous training under the tutelage of Moses himself as one of those he sent to explore the land of Canaan (Num. 13:16-17, *Ibid.*), as his aide (Exod. 24:13; 33:11; Num. 11:28, *NIV*), and as his successor (Deut. 31:14, 23, *Ibid.*).

The same thing is true with Brother Eduardo V. Manalo who has taken the reins of administering the

spiritual needs of the members of the Church after the death of Brother Eraño Manalo. Even prior to his official oath taking as Deputy Executive Minister of the Church in 1994 which coincided with the ordination of 54 ministers in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Church in a worship service at Central Temple officiated by Brother Eraño Manalo, he had held various offices in the Church some of which are: Dean of the College of Evangelical Ministry (formerly Institute of Evangelical Ministry), Metro Manila Coordinator (with Brothers Benjamin J. Santiago Sr. and Pedro D. Almedina), in charge of ministering to the various needs of brethren and local congregation activities under their district. This he held from the early 80's until his official designation as Deputy Executive Minister of the Church.

After his oath taking in 1994, he was tasked by Brother Eraño Manalo with the assistance of Brothers Romualdo M. Alcantara (then the dean of the College of Evangelical Ministry and currently Assistant Director), Joven V. Rosquites (then the Corporate Secretary for Foreign Congregations) from the US Main Office and Rizalino Santos (Europe District Minister then) to handle the preparatory steps for the registration of the Church with the *Tribunale civile di Roma Cancelleria Provvedimenti Speciali* of the Italian government prior to the arrival of Brother Eraño Manalo for the official registration of

the Church of Christ in Italy in July 26, 1994.

On March 30, 1996, he along with 11 other ministers, assisted the then Executive Minister Brother Eraño Manalo in the official registration of the Church of Christ as an "*amulah*" in Jerusalem, Israel—thereby marking the return of the true Church in the city of King David where it was originally established by our Lord Jesus Christ. This date coincidentally is also the 3,000th founding anniversary of Jerusalem.

The year after, on May 10, 1997, he again accompanied the late Executive Minister in the city of Athens for the official registration of the Church of Christ in historic Greece, symbolizing the extension of the Church's mission of salvation to the Gentile lands that began in the first century.

He was again tasked by the then Church Administrator to officiate at the special gathering in Neal Blaisdell Center Hall in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 27, 1998 for the 30th anniversary of the Church of Christ in the West. Four days earlier, he conducted the unveiling of the marker of the historic property and site museum at 1782 Bond Street, Ewa, Oahu, Hawaii which is where the first worship service outside the Philippines was officiated by Brother Eraño Manalo that signaled the start of the gathering of God's people in the Far West (Isa. 43:5-6, *Moffatt*). Thereafter, he went to San Jose (California) Arena in the mainland to officiate at the special



worship service on August 2, 1998 and other festivities for the Church's 30th anniversary in the West. He also conducted the Ministers' Conference afterwards.

In 2000, he was given instruction by the late Executive Minister to make pastoral visitations of the various districts of the Church in the United States. His trip, by air and land, brought him to 16 local congregations in 10 different states in six out of eight districts of the United States. Along the way, he also presided over three conferences of ministers and evangelical workers.

In 2006, he was commissioned by the late Executive Minister to make pastoral visitations so as to see personally the condition of the Church in the countries of the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, and Germany, all in the continent of Europe. He officiated at the worship services in all of those places and on his trip back home he visited the brethren in Dubai (one of the seven emirates that comprised the United Arab Emirates) and then in Bangkok, Thailand in Asia. He strengthened the faith of the brethren through all the worship services he officiated in the said places.

The succeeding years proved even more hectic for Brother Eduardo Manalo because the immense load of the everyday administration of the Church was increasingly being delegated to him. We did not know then, but God had allowed all these things to happen to prepare him

ultimately for the delicate task of ministering to the spiritual welfare of the Church in the event that our dear Brother Eraño Manalo passes away.

The world at large will inevitably experience more calamities, great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, fearful events, great signs from heaven and men will faint from terror before Judgment Day comes as decreed by God (Luke 21:11, 25-26, NIV), but we, the

children of God in these last days under the able leadership of the present Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo Manalo, will remain zealously obedient to all of God's commands and religiously prayerful so as to prepare for our ultimate entrance in the promised heavenly kingdom. ☺

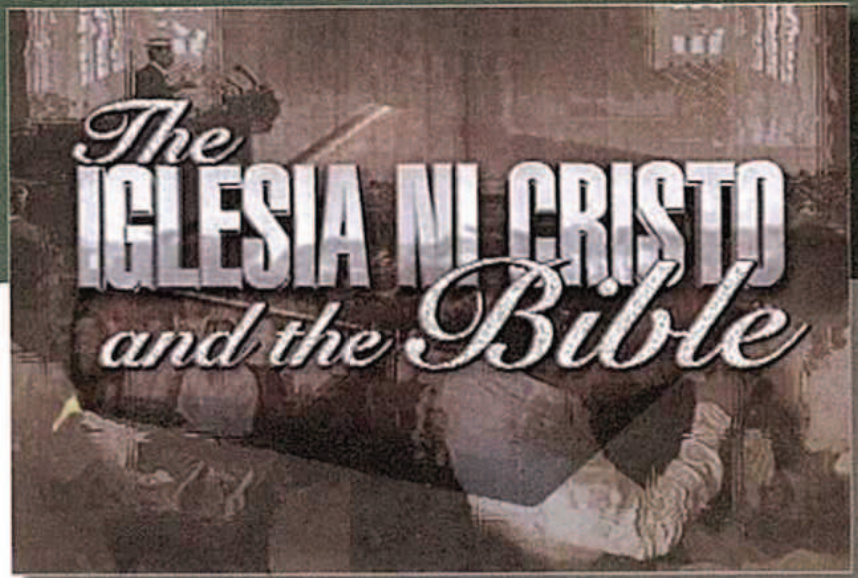
— RICHARD J. RODAS  
Editor-in-Chief

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SPECIAL REPORT

## Brother Eduardo V. Manalo to ministers and evangelical workers: *'We must lead the Church across the afflictions'*

By MARLEX C. CANTOR

**A**DDRESSING THE attendees of the recent International Video-conference of Ministers for the first time as Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo stressed the need for renewed diligence and dedication to divine duty.

"A matter of utmost importance with which we should concern ourselves right now is securing the salvation of the Church," said the Church Administrator, taking into account the recent spate of calamities affecting many people's lives, not to mention the profound grief felt by the whole Church upon the passing of the late Brother Eraño G. Manalo.

Brother Eduardo reached out to the ministers and evangelical workers who were gathered at the Session Hall and Sanctuary of the Central Temple in Quezon City, Philippines, and in two other venues overseas, namely, at the United States Main Office (USMO) in Daly City, California USA and the District Office in Sydney, Australia.

In his lecture entitled, *We Must Lead the Church Across the Afflictions for Every Member to Receive the*



*Promised Salvation*, Brother Eduardo compared the present difficult situation faced by the Church to what the Israelites had to deal with after the death of Moses when they were poised to enter the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership. Citing Joshua 1:2, he emphasized the part

in which God instructed Joshua to "lead Israel across the Jordan River into the land I'm giving to all of you" (*Contemporary English Version*).

Brother Eduardo further expounded on what it was like to cross the Jordan River—as it was surrounded by slopes and its waters

were characterized by circuitous rapids and whirls.

"Before we can enter the Holy City," he emphatically said, "we also must fully prepare ourselves to cross these Jordanic, whirling times."

In the course of his lecture, the Executive Minister also stressed the value of prayer, righteous way of life, and devotion to one's Christian duties especially among the ranks of ministers, evangelical workers, and Church officers. In view of the increasing hardships and ravaging calamities that have come and still threaten to strike, he called upon his fellow workers to see to it that the brethren are caringly encouraged and strengthened in their faith so as to remain true to their calling until the very end.

Brother Eduardo ended his homily by first imparting the empowering thought that no matter how difficult life may be, God the Almighty is always there for His faithful servants to fill them with strength and inspiration to carry out their sacred duties. He then went on to ask the assembly of ministers and Church workers to implore





God for His constant blessings to enable the Church to succeed in all its endeavors.

Prior to the lecture, an oath-taking of ministers took place, five of whom were sworn in as district supervising ministers, one as district edification overseer, and 16 others as pastors. Present as witnesses were the supervising ministers of all the 90 ecclesiastical districts in the Philippines, joined by district ministers of Northern Europe, Southern Europe, Middle East, and Saudi Arabia. Resident ministers from Japan, Kowloon, and several countries in Southeast Asia, among others, were also with them at the session hall of the Central Temple, while the other ministers and workers assigned in the Central Office and the rest of Metro Manila occupied the Sanctuary.

Brother Manuel D. Andaya, US Main Office supervising minister, led the opening prayer after the oath-taking. Brother Armando F. Ernie, Metro Manila East district minister, on the other hand, led the prayer after the lecture of the Executive Minister. *(With assistance from Arnel Armenia)*

#### PHILIPPINES

## Aid to typhoon victims to continue, says Church Administration

WITH THE ONSLAUGHT of typhoons *Ondoy* (international codename: *Ketsana*) and *Pepeng* (*Parma*) in the Philippines, the *Iglesia ni Cristo* (Church of Christ) has given much-needed support to the victims through its *Lingap sa Mamamayan* relief operations. Hundreds of thousands of relief packs have been distributed to calamity victims from Metro

Manila to Central, Southern, and Northern Luzon. Still, such an outpour of support from the Church and its members around the world shows no sign of petering out anytime soon.

"As long as our help is needed by our fellowmen in these times of calamity, the Church of Christ shall continue to lend a helping hand," assures Brother

Glicerio Santos Jr., the Church's general auditor.

Brother Santos also said that no sooner had the first super typhoon hit the country by surprise than the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, ordered that relief operations be conducted in all the affected areas.

The two recent typhoons by far have been

**IN OUR OWN SIMPLE WAY:**  
Orderliness marked the Church's relief operations in various calamity-stricken areas. Photos above show Brother Angelo V. Manalo helping distribute the goods with Brother Glicerio Santos Jr., General Auditor.





the most devastating ones to hit the country, claiming hundreds of lives, rendering thousands homeless, and destroying billions worth of properties in an instant.

The relief operations were initially conducted by the *Iglesia ni Cristo* in the hardest hit communities in Metro Manila, Rizal, and in 10 other provinces including Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, and Batangas.

As people in queues received their relief bags containing rice, noodles, sardines, and coffee, many of them not only thanked the Church but also commended it for coming up with an orderly manner of distributing the relief goods.

As one beneficiary from Cainta, Rizal remarked,

"Thank you! You are all so kind and you don't give us a hard time [in giving out your donations]."

Among the other places in Rizal where relief goods were distributed were San Mateo (in the town proper and in Sta. Ana) and Rodriguez. In Metro Manila, relief operations were held in Marikina City (in the city proper and in Bayanbayan-an), Pasig City, Taguig City (and its neighboring town of Pateros), Muntinlupa City (particularly in Alabang), and Quezon City (particularly in Bagong Silangan, Novaliches, and Cubao).

Thousands upon thousands also benefited from the food and clothes distributed through the relief operation in Pampanga (in the towns of Guagua, Sas-

muan, San Simon, Candaba, and Masantol); in Bulacan (Marilao and Lambakin); and in Laguna (Calamba, Dela Paz, San Pedro, and Sta. Cruz).

Medical missions are also being conducted alongside the distribution of relief goods such as that which was held in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Christian doctors, nurses, and other medical practitioners volunteered their services, conducting free consultations and giving out complimentary medicines and food supplements to the needy.

Of late, the *Lingap sa Mamamayan* caravan

from the Church's Central Office has also gone to the Northern Luzon provinces of Pangasinan (Lingayen, Carmen, Villasis, and three other municipalities), La Union, and Benguet. This is aside from the relief operations conducted separately by the ecclesiastical districts. (*Marlex Cantor*)







**WHEN HELP IS NEEDED MOST:**  
Disaster victims—Church members and nonmembers alike—received relief goods through the *Lingap sa Mamamayan* missions throughout Metro Manila and provinces in Central and Northern Luzon



The Church's mission continues to extend from St. George, Bermuda in the North Atlantic (above) to Lima, Peru in South America (below).

## Church reaches Peru, Bermuda; spreads further in Canada, New Zealand

FROM THE SOUTH American country of Peru to the Northern American nation of Canada, down to the Pacific island-country of New Zealand, and across the Atlantic in Bermuda, the Church of Christ continues to establish congregations and missions.

Through the pioneering efforts of a handful of brethren working in Peru, a new group worship service (GWS) was established in its capital and largest city, Lima. The first worship service in Peru was held months back at the Pampa Melchorita CB&I Labor Camp.

In Canada, a congregation was also recently established—the Edmonton West Congregation. Brother Dyland Ramos, Pacific Northwest district minister, officiated at the inaugural worship service. Brother Edgar Allan Hale now serves as its resident evangelical worker.

Over at New Zealand, a group worship service was formed at Whangarei. Its first worship service was held at Cafler Suite, Unit 1, Forum North Community Hall along Rust Avenue. Brethren from North Shore Congregation also attended the occasion wherein Brother Filerano Lamajan, resident minister of New Zealand, officiated. They now regularly conduct their worship services at 4 Gorrie Road, Whangarei, New Zealand.

Crossing the Atlantic Ocean, a group worship

service was also established in St. George, Bermuda. The brethren from the place are holding their gatherings in # 7 Naval Tank Hill. Brother Rico del Rosario, resident minister of Long Island City, New York, officiated at their first worship service a few months ago.

Significantly, these congregations are among the last ones to be established under the administration of the late Executive Minister, Brother Eraño G. Manalo. (Siegfred T. Gollayan)







## Choir members receive spiritual nourishment

ABOUT 2,000 CHOIR members attended the special gatherings held in the ecclesiastical districts of Pacific Northwest, Australia, and Northern California.

In the Pacific Northwest Ecclesiastical District, *Pasugo* correspondent Kathryn de Leon reported that

250 choir members from the congregations of Edmonton West, Edmonton South, Edmonton North, Calgary Centre, and Calgary North, and Grande Prairie and Saskatoon Group Worship Services gathered at the house of worship of Edmonton North Congregation to attend a special

worship service which was officiated by their district minister, Brother Dyland Ramos. The significance of exalting our Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ through joyful songs of praises and thanksgiving during worship services was emphasized by Brother Ramos during the event.

Over in "The Land Down Under", the special gathering of more than a hundred choir members of the Brimbank, Dandenong, Wyndham, and Melbourne Local Congregations was held at the latter's house of worship.

In his account, correspondent Brother John

**WITH GRACEFULNESS AND ENTHUSIASM:** Choir members from the Northern California District, mindful that their efforts in performing their duties will not be in vain, beam with renewed hope (above) after receiving God's assurance of His promises in the special gathering (right).





## CHRONICLES

Compiled by the Pasugo: God's Message News Bureau



BELLMORE, NEW YORK: Evangelical mission

### NORTHEASTERN SEABOARD

## Evangelizing the hearing impaired

AN EVANGELICAL MISSION specifically intended for the hearing impaired was held recently in Bellmore, New York, the first of its kind in the history of the ecclesiastical district of Northeastern Seaboard. A total of 133 guests attended, 80 of whom are hearing impaired. The guests included a member of the Philippine consulate in New York City and the town clerk of Hempstead, Long Island, who presented to the local congregation the civic award for their outstanding service to the community in view of Bellmore Congregation's 15th anniversary. The event was officiated by Brother Gregory Worthen, the district supervising minister, while Brother Roy del Rosario, a minister of the gospel, interpreted the hymns and the lesson through sign language.

With reports from Noreen M. Sumague and Lani E. Blanco

Villanueva recalled how Brother Agapito de Guzman, resident minister of Melbourne Congregation, reminded the choir members in the Metro Melbourne area of the oath they took before God. He also stressed the importance of the choir in rendering true and acceptable

worship and their commitment to perform humbly and faithfully their duties before the Lord.

Meanwhile, in the ecclesiastical district of Northern California—where the special gathering of choir members is done yearly—the event was conducted in two batches this year, a day after

the other, in the San Jose Congregation house of worship. A total of 1,500 choir members from the district's 32 local congregations attended as reported by Correspondent Brother Gene Abella. In both gatherings, Brother Richard Rodas, the supervising minister of the Church's US Main Office,

encouraged the choir members to sing spiritual songs to the Lord with thankful hearts, grace, reverence, and enthusiasm. "God promised never to forsake His people who fear Him and serve Him in truth such that nothing they do for Him is ever in vain," he stated further. (Eduardo D. Manzano)



AUSTRALIA:  
Choir members from the local congregations of Brimbank, Dandenong, Melbourne, and Wyndham gathered for a special worship service at Melbourne house of worship.









# A Biographical Account on BROTHER Eduardo V. Manalo

By GEMMA MINNA V. MANALO

**B**ROTHER EDUARDO VILLANUEVA MANALO was born in Manila, Philippines on October 31, 1955. He is the eldest son of Brother Eraño G. Manalo, who was Executive Minister of the *Iglesia ni Cristo* (Church of Christ) from 1963 to 2009, and of Sister Cristina Villanueva. It was his grandfather, Brother Felix Y. Manalo, the *Sugo* or God's Messenger in these last days, who named him "Eduardo," which means "guardian."

## Childhood

Brother Felix was already on his sickbed when one day he sent for his grandson, "Eddie," who was barely seven years old and at the time, was playing in the yard. When Eddie entered the room, Brother Felix asked his grandson to kneel, and then he placed his hands over the child's head and blessed him in front of several witnesses. Afterwards, he had his grandson rise and allowed him to return outside to play.

Eddie's grandmother, Sister Honorata Manalo, whom he called "Lola Ata," would constantly teach him and his cousins to kneel while praying, and never to waste any of God's blessings.

As a young boy, Eddie would get Brother Eraño's books, bring them to his own room, arrange them on one side of the table and begin preaching. Only later did he realize that his father was actually listening through an intercom system. So precocious was Eddie that his father trained him to type his worship service lessons for him with an italicized typewriter.

He started his elementary education in Jose Rizal College (now Jose Rizal University) along Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, and transferred during his fourth grade to Jose Abad Santos Memorial School (JASMS) in Quezon City.

## Adolescence

He continued his high school in JASMS, wherein he had the opportunity to dabble in all sorts of fields, including Citizen's Military Training. He was also the guitarist of a singing group in his school and was active in dramatics.

He held the office of row leader in the *Pagsamba ng Kabataan* (PNK) or children's worship service (CWS) before he began attending classes for PNK *Guro* or CWS Teachers under Brother Benjamin Santiago Sr., a senior minister of the gospel. Inheriting the *Sugo's* passion for photography, he would contribute pictures for the *Pasugo*, the Church's official magazine, and at age 16 began submitting articles to it, the first of which was en-





titled *"Ang Mga Kagutom, ang Bagyo, at Sumpa"* ("The Famines, the Storm, and the Curse," September 1972). Having a natural love for books, he started his own library, most notable being his still-growing collection of Bibles, since Brother Eraño once told him, *"Ang pinakamabuting collection ng manggagawa ay mga Biblia"* (The best

collection that a Minister should have is a collection of Bibles).

### **Young adulthood**

It was the wish of the *Sugo* for Brother Eduardo to study philosophy in college and so he majored in it as an undergraduate and continued studying it at the graduate level, both at the Uni-

versity of the Philippines—Diliman, Quezon City. As an undergraduate, he joined the UP Christian Brotherhood (UPCB), the Church's official student organization for brethren enrolled in UP. He became its vice president for external affairs prior to becoming its president in his sophomore year. As his contemporaries would recall,





CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: Brother Eduardo V. Manalo (above) while delivering the message of salvation in one of the recent worship services he officiated (left).

academic year, he completed courses for both the fourth and fifth years of the program. He graduated from UP in 1978, and from EVCO in 1980.

### Early Ministry

After graduating from EVCO, Brother Eduardo's first *destino* or area of assignment was in the local congregation of Cubao in Quezon City whose pastor at the time was Brother Cesar Pedrozo. Brother Eduardo was ordained as a minister on May 9, 1980 at the *Iglesia ni Cristo* house of worship in Tondo, Manila. After a week of being assigned to the local congregation of Project 4, he was assigned as a *Tagapagturo* or Instructor of Evangelical Studies and as Assistant Dean of EVCO. He would bring along evangelical students from outside the Philippines, like Brothers Steven Kroll and Edward Maranan, to different provinces, especially in propagating God's words, to supplement their experiences in the ministry.

He was also assigned by Brother Eraño to host a religious radio program in DZEC and to be one of the first panelists on the TV program *Ang Iglesia Ni Cristo*. As a panelist, he would receive advice and constant

guidance from the Executive Minister, which he would also share with his students.

### As Coordinator of Metro Manila

In 1984, Brother Eduardo was designated as a Coordinator at the Metro Manila Office of the Church, where he served with pioneering ministers, such as Brothers Benjamin Santiago Sr., Aniceto Bunag Sr., and Pedro Almedina. He was involved in numerous projects, the most notable being *Project Tambalan*, which was initiated for the Sugo's Centennial. *Project Tambalan*, a brainchild of Brother Pedro Jaraza, also a senior minister of the gospel, was a system of inviting non-members that yielded an unmatched record number of converts into the Church.

In order to document the worship services being officiated by the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo initiated the use of sound and video facilities. He also founded the Society of Communicators and Networkers (SCAN) for brethren with a common interest in radio communication. Because the Internet was technically non-existent in the Philippines during that time, he began and maintained a

Brother Eduardo was not unaccustomed to debating with members of other religious organizations, speaking either in Filipino or English, as the situation necessitated.

While pursuing his undergraduate studies in UP, he undertook his ministerial studies at the Evangelical College (EVCO), where in a single



popular Bulletin Board System (BBS) and further developed his skills in computer programming. He organized the Data and Network Management (DNM), which allowed computerization of the entire Central Office. He also sponsored Internet seminars for ministers in various ecclesiastical districts of the Church. Based on an article entitled "RP marks 7th year on the Internet", printed in the magazine *Computerworld Philippines* in March 2001, Brother Eduardo is recognized by Filipino information technology enthusiasts as belonging to the "group of pioneers that brought the nation into the Internet Age."

### As Deputy Executive Minister

A day after Brother Eduardo was elected unanimously by the Church's Executive Council, he was sworn in as Deputy Executive Minister by Brother Eraño on May 7, 1994. That blessed and historic occasion was witnessed by brethren all over the world by means of videoconferencing technology.

In 1994, he was entrusted by the Executive Minister with the historic task of registering the Church officially in Rome, Italy. Two years later, he along with 11 ministers, joined Brother Eraño in restoring the Church in Jerusalem, Israel. In 1997, he accompanied the Executive Minister in a pastoral visit to Athens, Greece.

In 1998, he was tasked by the Executive Minister to make a pastoral visit to the United States, specifically in the states of Hawaii and California, for the 30th anniversary of the Church of Christ's establishment in the West. He officiated at special worship services at the Neal Blaisdell Hall in Hawaii and San Jose Arena in California, both of which were filled to capacity. In his homilies, he preached not only in Filipino but also in English for the benefit of all the brethren.

In the year 2000, Brother Eraño once again sent Brother Eduardo on a pastoral visit to 10 US states and Washington, D.C. In 2006, he was sent by the Executive Minister to visit brethren in countries in the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.

Brother Eraño took every opportunity to hold *klase* with his son. Even simple moments like taking a brisk walk would turn into precious mentoring sessions. Advice and guidance from the Executive Minister were extremely important to Brother Eduardo that during pastoral visits outside the Philippines, he always made sure his line of communication was always open to and for the Executive Minister. In fact, each time the plane he boarded had barely landed, Brother Eduardo would already be reaching for his phone to report his whereabouts to Brother Eraño. It had always been very characteristic of Brother Eduardo to consult constantly with the Executive Minister.

The ideals of the Executive Minister have always been the inspiration of Brother Eduardo's projects. He sponsored workshops in writing and translations and seminars for ministerial students, as Brother Eraño wanted ministers trained in all fields beneficial to the Church. Such learning activities culminated in projects like the Eye N' See Life photo exhibit and Christian Music Video Festival (CMVFest), which were under not only Brother Eduardo's sponsorship but also his artistic direction, given his knowledge of photography, filming, and video editing.

Because Brother Eraño wanted good values to be prompted especially among the youth of the Church, Brother Eduardo launched a children's exhibit entitled "Values 101." He also released animated documentaries about the *Sugo* and Brother Eraño to help the youth understand

and value their compassionate labors for the Church. In addition, he initiated the digital restoration of older issues of the *Pasugo*.

As a composer and arranger himself, Brother Eduardo has continuously encouraged brethren to compose music for the Church. He has produced and released CDs of contemporary Christian music and "audio books" featuring Bible-verse reading paired with original INC hymns, which are all based on the books and lessons of the Executive Minister.

### Family life

Brother Eduardo met his wife, Sister Lynn Ventura, when as a minister, he officiated a committee prayer of the UPCB. They were married on January 2, 1982, the 57th birthday of the Executive Minister. That was also the year when Brother Eraño devised the *Gabay sa Pagkakasal*, a minister's manual in counseling couples to be married and in solemnizing the wedding service.

Brother Eduardo and Sister Lynn molded their children early in their youth to value Church offices, which, up to now they fulfill faithfully. Brother Eduardo's constant advice to them is "Don't let the world influence you, you should influence the world," for by doing good, others will do the same. They also instilled in their children the value of studying hard so that they can use their God-given gifts in the service of the Church.

Their three children began studies at New Era University (NEU) before matriculating at UP. Dorothy Kristine graduated from UP with Bachelor's degrees in Philosophy and Law and has been teaching at NEU since 2005. Gemma Minna, having graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and currently pursuing a



second degree in Choral Conducting, teaches music at NEU and is a choir member. Angelo Eraño is a senior majoring in European Languages and is also a fifth-year Bachelor of Evangelical Ministry (BEM) student at the College of Evangelical Ministry (CEM).

### **Radio communication and other current hobbies and interests**

In his early teenage years, Brother Eduardo became interested in radio communication when he began tinkering with his father's unused ham radio units and antenna, eventually becoming a regular Short Wave Listener (SWL). He formed the Citizen's Band Radio Group (Special Forces), and later on progressed to become a licensed amateur radio operator. He learned the Morse code, and has used voice, RTTY, and various other radio communication modes, which have afforded him the chance to communicate with people all over the world. Along with computer technology, he is currently interested in astronomy and astrophotography.

Brother Eduardo is also fond of animals as he has had dogs for pets and currently owns cats. He enjoys witty jokes, especially those that involve puns and wordplay. He is an *aficionado* of good movies and appreciates them not just because they are entertaining but they can also be instructive.

### **Principle of Leadership and Administration**

Elder ministers have described Brother Eduardo as humble. According to them, although he is the son of the Executive Minister, he has always been respectful of other ministers, especially those older than he. When it comes to the Executive Minister's instructions, his principle is to "always obey and never complain" even if it entails sacrifice, no matter how great, since such directives are biblical.

To Brother Eduardo, most prominent among the many advices his father imparted to him is to have selfless love and concern for the Church. For this reason, he has also been described as "compassionate" and a "good listener," although very firm and meticulous in implementing Church rules and discipline.

Now that the mantle of over-all Church administration rests on Brother Eduardo, he himself has emphasized: "*Wala akong iibahin sa sinimulan ng Sugo at itinaguyod ng Tatay* (I will not change anything from what the Sugo began and what my father continued to uphold)," because all that they laid down for the Church have always been based on Church doctrines and regulations, in accordance with God's teachings written in the Bible. ☺

**BROTHER EDUARDO V. MANALO**

### ***As you take the mantle of leadership***

*In silence deep, we bow our heads  
In reverence, we sing our praise  
For once again God's holy Church  
Received His love and boundless grace.*

*Indeed it was with a purpose  
The Almighty chose you beforehand  
To continue leading the Lord's flock  
Till we all reach the promised land.*

*The path is fraught with hardship  
For the journey's not without strife  
But we all vow to travel alongside you  
Till we all gain eternal life*

*There may be storms along the way  
Not surprising, as there were before  
They are there, for God allows them  
So we will cling to Him even more.*

*We are truly thankful to the Most High  
For entrusting you His Church—to oversee  
To guide us on our earthly sojourn  
On our way to eternity.*

*The legacy your beloved father left  
And which God's Last Messenger did start  
We vow to you, our dear Brother  
In our hearts, we will never part.*

*Truly great is the task at hand  
And time is of the essence  
For pretty soon comes the day  
When we all stand before God's presence.*

*Now as you take the mantle of leadership  
Our fervent prayer goes with you  
That the Almighty Father in heaven  
Continues to bless, keep, and see you through.*

**Nicanor P. Tiosen**  
**Quezon City, Philippines**





# For the Lord Looks at the Heart

By NICANOR P. TIOSEN

ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2009, a special worship service was conducted to commemorate the 35th founding anniversary of the College of Evangelical Ministry, the school where *Iglesia ni Cristo* would-be-ministers are being taught and trained. In his homily, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, who took over the mantle of leadership after his father, Brother Eraño G. Manalo, passed away on August 31, 2009, intimated that the future of the Church can somehow be seen through the kind of ministers that the College of Evangelical Ministry produces.

Through the years since its inauguration on September 16, 1974, the school has produced ministers and evangelical workers who have dedicated their lives in the service of God Almighty. The school for ministers is, in fact, an instrument—the anvil upon which men who respond to God’s call are shaped into what He desires them to be. God is truly the one who calls laborers into His vineyard—men tasked with divine responsibilities. This is attested to in Apostle Paul’s letter to the Hebrew Christians, thus:

“And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, as Aaron *was*.” (Heb. 5:4, *New King James Version*)

Aaron, the brother of Moses, assumed his priestly duties among the Israelites, God’s people of old, and went about fulfilling his functions in compliance to his calling. In the same manner, ministers in the Church of Christ, God’s people in these last days, are also expected to fulfill their obligations in complete obedience to their divine calling.

## God’s basis for calling men

As in any undertaking, an applicant or participant is expected to meet some standards to qualify for the position sought. First and foremost, the candidate must be able-bodied in order to effectively and efficiently discharge his functions. But rather than the physical requirements of age, height, personality, and other bodily attributes that admission officers of organizations on earth include in a person’s *vitae*, God looks at the heart of the would-be servant, the future minister whom He calls to look after the welfare of His nation someday, thus:

“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man



looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart'." (I Sam. 16:7, *Ibid.*)

The above mentioned incident happened after King Saul, the first king of Israel, earned God's displeasure for having gravely transgressed His command, and the prophet Samuel was tasked with looking for the king's replacement. "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him," God so warned. And rightly so, for there was not a more handsome person than Saul among the children of Israel (I Sam. 9:2, *Ibid.*).

Saul was succeeded by David who *was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking*. But certainly, these were not what the prophet Samuel looked for and wanted to find in David, as he was specifically bidden by God not to look at the appearance or physical stature of the one whom he was going to anoint.

### **None is hidden from His sight**

Not a few people are good at making a camouflage. Looks can be disguised, and a lot have mastered the art. Likewise, manners could easily be assumed to deceive other people. But God is not one to be deceived:

"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must* give account." (Heb. 4:13, *Ibid.*)

The truth is, God can bring to light the dark secrets and expose the hidden purposes of people's mind, which made the apostle Paul to caution Christians, thus:

"So you should not pass judgment on anyone before the right time comes. Final judgment must wait until the Lord comes; he will bring to light the dark secrets and expose the hidden purposes of people's minds. And then all will receive from God

the praise they deserve." (I Cor. 4:5, *Today's English Version*)

And God can easily do this for accordingly:

"Not even the world of the dead can keep the LORD from knowing what is there; how then can we hide our thoughts from God?" (Prov. 15:11, *Ibid.*)

It is clear therefore that if man can pretend and hide his real intentions before the eyes of men (and there are those who are even proud of it), he can not do so before the sight of God. The all-seeing God looks at the heart of men!

### **God tests the hearts of men**

Why does God look at the heart of the men whom He calls to His service? God said:

"I, the LORD, search the minds and test the hearts of people. I treat each of them according to the way they live, according to what they do." (Jer. 17:10, *Ibid.*)

There is nothing that man can hide from God. Even his "*inmost thoughts*" (*Knox Translation*) is very much transparent or open to Him. God can easily see what's inside a man's heart. Hence he can determine the real intention or motive, as well as the interest of anyone who desires to be in His service.

It behooves then for anyone who wants to be a true minister in the Church of Christ in these last days to examine and lay bare the contents of his heart before joining God's holy ministry.

### **What comes from the heart**

During His ministry on earth, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself forewarned His disciples, thus:

"But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts,

murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." (Matt. 15:18-19, *New International Version*)

We learned that from the heart ensues all the things that make a man ritually "unclean" (*TEV*). Hence, one must really keep tab or track of his heart, morally and spiritually so. For "Who can bring a clean *thing* out of an unclean? No one!" (Job 14:4, *NKJV*) This is more than rhetoric! God so requires His servants, those who will minister to His people, to maintain a high standard of morality and spirituality.

### **Who has no part in God's work**

In the course of their ministry, the apostles Peter and John had truly been endowed with the Holy Spirit, such that those whom they laid their hands on received it. It was thus that a man named Simon, who lived in Samaria, who for sometime astounded the Samaritans with his magic (Acts 8:9, *TEV*), saw that the Spirit had been given to the believers when the apostles laid their hands on them. So he offered money to Peter and John, and said, "Give this power to me too, so that anyone I place my hands on will receive the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:18-19).

Apostle Peter's answer was:

"... May you and your money go to hell, for thinking that you can buy God's gift with money! You have no part or share in our work, because your heart is not right in God's sight." (Acts 8:20-21, *Ibid.*)

Clearly then, God discerns the heart of men. An unclean heart, manifesting in an unclean desire, has no part in His ministry. Such heart is unworthy before God's sight.

### **Serving with a loyal heart and with a willing mind**

Going back to the time of King Solomon who succeeded his father,



David, as king of Israel, the learned king was divinely bidden, thus:

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever." (I Chr. 28:9, NKJV)

King Solomon wanted this loyalty of heart to be found also among the Israelites as he stood and blessed the assembly of Israel during one instance after he prayed to God, thus:

"Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day." (I Kings 8:61, *Ibid.*)

Ministers of the Church of Christ in these last days are also expected to serve God with a loyal heart and a willing mind. They, too, ought to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments as proof of their loyalty. Truly so for only those with loyal hearts can do what is good in the sight of God, as King Hezekiah, one of the righteous kings of Israel, said in his prayer even while he wept, thus:

"Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what was* good in Your sight." (II Kings 20:3, *Ibid.*)

King Hezekiah was rewarded for his loyalty. He was healed of his sickness (though a terminal one) and was given a 15-year lease on life (II Kings 20:4-6).

### Love from a pure heart

Different eras notwithstanding, what is expected of God's servants remains constant. He wants to see the same commendable qualities among His servants. Hence, reaching out to Timothy, a co-worker in the Church, Apostle Paul wrote to him, thus:

"Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith." (I Tim. 1:5, *Ibid.*)

A pure heart. A good conscience. Sincere faith. Traits that Apostle Paul had every right to remind Timothy of, and all ministers in the Church of Christ in these last days for that matter, as these aptly defined Paul's ministry, and for him to honestly declare, thus:

"So today I can tell you one thing that I am sure of: God will not blame me if some of you are not saved! I can say this because I know that I told you everything that God wants you to know ... When I was with you, I never wanted anyone's money or fine clothes." (Acts 20:26-27, 33, *Easy-to-Read Version*)

Concerned as he was for the welfare of the Church, Apostle Paul taught all that the members of the Church of Christ needed to know. And he did not exact any fee, not even in kind. If this does not come from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith, what does?

### In doing the assigned task

The College of Evangelical Ministry, now on its 35th year of existence, as envisioned by the late Executive Minister of the Church, Brother Eraño G. Manalo, is truly assured of continued success until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. From its portals shall continue to emerge dedicated men with a calling through God's guidance and inspiration. Ministers and workers in the Church of Christ in these last days should do well to emulate Apostle Paul, and with all humility, also say with a heart full of devotion, thus:

"But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God's mighty kindness and love." (Acts 20:24, *Living Bible*) ☺

## CEM Facts & Highlights

### September 16, 1974

Inauguration of the Ministerial Institute for Development, precursor to the New Era Evangelical College (EVCO, 1977) and Institute of Evangelical Ministry (IEM, 1979)

### 1975

Launching of the Intensive Training Program, currently ASFOM (Advanced Studies for Overseas Missions)

### June 2009

Master of Evangelical Ministry program is launched

### 2,508

CEM ordained ministers

### 229

Ministers, regular workers, and current students from outside the Philippines



## Sa pagpapatuloy ng gawain

**N**ANG PAPAGPAHINGAHIN NG DIYOS ang pinakamamahal at iginagalang na Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan, ang Kapatid na Eraño G. Manalo, ay hindi natuldukan ang maselang gampaning pagkakaloob ng pangangailangang espirituwal sa milyon-milyong kaanib ng *Iglesia ni Cristo*. Ito ay isang napakadakila at napakalawak na pananagutan, lalo pa't ang Iglesia ngayon ay nakarating na sa 92 bansa at teritoryo sa anim na kontinente, at may mga kaanib mula sa 106 iba't ibang lahi't nasyonalidad, na nagsasalita ng iba't ibang wika.

Sa panahon ng Bayang Israel, nang mamatay si Moises na siyang isinugo ng Diyos upang palayain mula sa pagkaalipin sa Egipto ang Kaniyang mga hinirang, hindi pumayag ang Diyos na mamatay din ang pag-asa ng mga Israelita. Kaya, tinagubilinan Niya si Josue: "Patay na ang lingkod kong si Moises. Pahandain mo ang buong Israel at tumawid kayo ng Ilog Jordan, patungo sa lupaing ipinagkakaloob ko sa inyo." (Jos. 1:2, *Magandang Balita Biblia*). Bago pa ito, si Josue ay sumailalim sa isang matinding pagsasanay sa pamamagitan ni Moises bilang isa sa mga tiktik na isinugo sa lupain ng Canaan (Blg. 13:16-17), bilang isang tagapangasiwa (Exo. 24:13; 33:11; Blg. 11:28), at bilang kahalili (Deut. 31:14, 23).

Katulad din ito ng naging paghahanda kay Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo na siyang nagpapatuloy ngayon ng gampaning pangalagaan at patnubayan ang mga kaanib ng *Iglesia ni Cristo* sa pagpanaw ni Kapatid na Eraño Manalo. Bago pa man siya mahalal at manumpa bilang Pangalawang Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan noong 1994 sa isang pagtitipon bilang paggunita sa ika-80 anibersaryo ng Iglesia na roon ay kasabay na inordenahan ang 54 ministro, ay humawak na siya ng iba't ibang mahahalagang pananagutan sa Iglesia.

Ang ilan sa mga ito, noong dekada 80, si Kapatid na Eduardo mula sa pagiging Dekano ng College of Evangelical Ministry (dating Institute of Evangelical

Ministry) ay itinalaga bilang Tagapag-ugnay ng Metro Manila (kasama nina Kapatid na Benjamin J. Santiago Sr. at Kapatid na Pedro D. Almedina). Hinihingi ng panahon na siya ay agad maatangan ng ganitong gampanin bilang paghahanda sa mas malaking pananagutan sa hinaharap.

Pagkatapos niyang manumpa bilang Pangalawang Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan noong 1994, inatasan siya ni Kapatid na Eraño Manalo na pangasiwaan ang paghahanda sa pagpaparehistro ng Iglesia sa *Tribunale civile di Roma Cancelleria Provvedimenti Speciali* ng pamahalaang Italyano. Kasama niya rito sina Kapatid na Romualdo M. Alcantara (na noo'y dekanong ng College of Evangelical Ministry), Kapatid na Joven V. Rosquites (na noo'y *Corporate Secretary for Foreign Congregations*), at Kapatid na Rizalino Santos (dating tagapangasiwa ng distrito ng Europa). Ang Iglesia ay opisyal na narehistro sa Italya noong Hulyo 26, 1994.

Noong Marso 30, 1996, sinamahan ng Kapatid na Eduardo ang Kapatid na Eraño Manalo kasama ng 11 pang ministro sa opisyal na pagpaparehistro ng Iglesia bilang isang "*amutah*" sa Jerusalem, Israel. Sa pangyayaring ito ay natupad ang makasaysayang pagbabalik ng tunay na Iglesia sa lungsod ni David kung saan ito unang itinayo ng Panginoong Jesucristo, bagama't natalikod pagkamatay ng mga apostol. Ang petsa ring ito ang sinasabing ika-3,000 anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag ng lungsod ng Jerusalem.

Nang sumunod na taon, May 10, 1997, kasama rin siya ng yumaong Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan sa pagtungo sa lungsod ng Atenas para sa opisyal na pagtatatag ng *Iglesia ni Cristo* sa bansang Gresya. Ang pangyayaring ito ay kumakatawan sa pagpapatuloy sa ating panahon ng gawaing pagpapalaganap ng Iglesia sa lupain ng mga Gentil noong panahon ng mga apostol.

Nang ang Iglesia sa kanluran ay sumapit sa kaniyang ika-30 taong anibersaryo, si Kapatid na Eduardo Manalo ang isinugo ng Pamamahala upang pangasiwaan ang



mga tanging pagtitipon ukol dito. Noong Hulyo 27, 1998, pinangasiwaan niya ang pagsamba na isinagawa sa Neal Blaisdell Center Hall sa Honolulu, Hawaii. Nauna pa rito ay pinangunahan niya ang pagpapasinaya sa *historical marker* at museo ng Iglesia na nasa 1782 Bond Street, Ewa, Oahu, Hawaii—na siya ring dako kung saan pinangasiwaan ni Kapatid na Eraño Manalo ang unang pagsamba ng Iglesia sa labas ng Pilipinas noong 1968—bilang katuparan ng mga hula ukol sa pagtipon sa mga lingkod ng Diyos sa Malayong Kanluran (Isa. 43:5-6).

Pagkatapos, nagtungo ang Kapatid na Eduardo sa California kung saan nagdaos ng malaking pagdiriwang ang Iglesia sa San Jose Arena noong Agosto 2, 1998.

### *Patuloy ang panawagan*

*Puso nila'y nagmatigas  
Sa panawagang pagliligtas;  
Pagka't ang gustong masunod,  
Sariling paraan ng paglilingkod.*

*Sa mahalay na pakinabang  
Dulot ng sanlibutan;  
Tuluyang nalimutan  
Ang sa kanila'y lumalang.*

*Kahirapan ay tumindi,  
Sumama pa kaysa rati;  
Kaguluhan ay dumami,  
Dumami rin ang naapi.*

*Nang ang kalamidad at salot,  
Dumating nang abut-abot;  
Ang panaghoy nilang tanong:  
"Nasaan Ka, Panginoon?"*

*Patuloy ang panawagan  
Bago magsara ang pintuan;  
Keyo nga'y mangagbalik-loob  
Upang ang Diyos ay malugod.*

*At sa araw ng katubusan,  
Sa Bayang Banal maninirahan ...  
Doon—luha'y di na dadaloy  
Wala nang dusa't panaghoy.*

**Armando L. Alpay**  
*Metro Manila, Philippines*

Pinangasiwaan niya ang tanging pagtitipon ng halos 25,000 mga kaanib, at pagkatapos ay pinulong ang mga ministro't manggagawa sa buong Estados Unidos at Canada.

Noong taong 2000, inatasan siya ng Kapatid na Eraño na magsagawa ng *pastoral visit* sa iba't ibang distrito at lokal ng Iglesia sa Estados Unidos. Labing-anim na lokal sa anim na distrito sa 10 estado ng America ang nagkapalad na mahatiran ng biyayang espirituwal ng sinasanay na kahalili ng Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan. Nakapangasiwa rin siya ng tatlong pagpupulong ng mga ministro't manggagawa ng Iglesia sa pagkakataong iyon.

Ang mga lokal ng *Iglesia ni Cristo* naman sa Europa ang dinalaw ni Kapatid na Eduardo noong 2006. Dito ay personal niyang nakita ang kalagayan ng mga Cristiano na nasa Inglatera, Pransiya, Espanya, Italya, Alemanya, at iba pang bahagi ng kontinente. Pinangasiwaan niya ang pagsamba sa mga nabanggit na bansa, at sa paglalakbay pauwi sa Pilipinas ay dumaan din sa Dubai (isa sa pitong *emirates* na bahagi ng United Arab Emirates) at sa Bangkok, Thailand. Pinatibay niya ang pananampalataya ng mga Cristiano na naninirahan sa mga nabanggit na dako.

Sa mga sumunod na taon ay lalong naging malawak ang pananagutan ni Kapatid na Eduardo sa Iglesia, sapagkat ang iba't ibang gampanin ukol sa pamamahala sa Iglesia ay unti-unting isinasalin sa kaniya. Maaaring noo'y lingid pa ito sa ating kaalaman, subalit ngayo'y nauunawaan nating niloob ng Panginoong Diyos na siya'y dumaan sa ganitong pagsasanay upang maging handa sa pamamahala at pangunguna sa Iglesia sa sandaling ang Kapatid na Eraño Manalo ay papagpahingahin na ng Panginoong Diyos.

Ang daigdig ay patuloy na magdaranas ng mga kalamidad, matitinding lindol, kagutom, at salot sa iba't ibang dako; ang tao'y masisindak sa mga malalagim na pangyayari bilang katuparan ng mga hula na malapit na ang Araw ng Paghuhukom na itinakda ng Dakilang Diyos (Lucas 21:11, 25-26). Subalit sa harap ng ganitong mga kaganapan, ang mga anak ng Diyos sa mga huling araw na ito—sa pangunguna at patnubay ng kasalukuyang Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan, ang Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo—ay magpapatuloy sa masiglang pagsunod sa mga utos ng Diyos at magtatalaga sa pananalangin upang makatawid sa yugtong ito ng paglalakbay at maigayak ang kanilang sarili sa pagpasok sa pangakong kaharian ng langit. ☺

—RICHARD J. RODAS  
Editor-in-Chief



# Ang Aming Pagkilala sa Namamahala

Sinulat ni REMUEL V. CASIPIT

*Sa kahit anong panahon, ang pagkilala ng mga kaanib sa Iglesia sa Namamahala rito ay pagkilala sa banal na karapatang kaloob ng Diyos sa kaniya.*

**N**ANG PAPAGPAHINGAHIN na ng Diyos ang Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan ng *Iglesia ni Cristo*, ang Kapatid na Eraño G. Manalo, nakatatawag-pansin at marahil ay ipinagtataka pa ng iba ang nakikita nilang walang pasubaling pagsunod at pagpapasakop ng mga kaanib sa humalili sa kaniya sa pamamahala rito, ang Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo. Palibhasa, mula pa nang una, ang pagkilala ng mga kaanib sa *Iglesia ni Cristo* sa Namamahala sa Iglesia ay hindi tulad ng karaniwang pagkilalang iniuukol ng ibang tao patungkol sa kanilang namiminuno, na nababatay lamang sa katangiang panlabas, impluwensiya, o popularidad—mga katangiang maaaring makamit ng sinuman sa sariling pagsisikap. Ang pagkilala ng mga kaanib sa Iglesia sa Namamahala rito ay pagkilala sa banal na karapatang kaloob ng Diyos sa kaniya. Tulad ng ipinagunita ni Apostol Pablo kay Timoteo nang sabihin niyang, "... yamang kilala mo ang nagturo nito sa iyo" (II Tim. 3:14, *Magandang Balita Biblia*), taglay din ng mga kaanib sa *Iglesia ni Cristo* ang gayong pagkilala sa Namamahala sa kahit anong panahon.

## **Kinasangkapan para mapabilang sa mga tinawag ng Diyos**

Kinikilala ng mga kaanib sa Iglesia na ang karapatang tinaglay ng sugo ng Diyos sa mga huling araw, ang Kapatid na Felix Y. Manalo, ay tinaglay rin ng humalili sa kaniya, si Kapatid na Eraño Manalo, at ngayon ay ipinagkaloob din sa bagong Namamahala, si Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo. Sila ang naging kasangkapan upang mapabilang ang mga tao sa mga tinawag ng Diyos sa tunay na Iglesia. Ang pangangaral ng salita ng Diyos ay karapatang kaloob sa mga sinugo Niya (Roma 10:15) at ang kanilang pangangaral ay ang paraan ng pagtawag ng Diyos sa mga tao (II Tes. 2:15, 14, *New Pilipino Version*). Ang mga tinawag ng Diyos ay nagiging bahagi ng iisang katawan o *Iglesia ni Cristo* (Col. 3:15, 18, *MB*; I Cor. 12:28; Roma 16:16, *NPV*). Pansinin

na ang mga kinakasangkapan sa pagtawag o pangangaral tulad ng mga apostol at mga guro o tagapagturo noon, ay nanggagaling sa tunay na Iglesia at dito rin inilalagay ang mga bunga ng kanilang pangangaral na siya ring mga ililigtas ng Panginoong Diyos (Gawa 2:47).

## **Upang manatiling kaisa ng Diyos at ni Cristo**

Hanggang ngayon, sa ilalim ng bagong Namamahala, ang Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo, ay patuloy na nakararating ang pangangaral ng mga salita ng Diyos sa *Iglesia ni Cristo*. Ang mga aral ng Diyos na itinuro ng Sugo at itinaguyod ng Kapatid na Eraño Manalo nang siya'y nabubuhay pa ang patuloy niyang inihahatid sa Iglesia lalo na sa panahon ng mga pagsamba. Tunay nga, hindi hahayaang maputol o malagot ang kaugnayan ng mga miyembro ng *Iglesia ni Cristo* sa Pamamahala. Sinisikap ng mga ulirang kaanib na makapamalagi sa biyayang natamo nila—ang pagiging sa Diyos at kay Cristo (Juan 17:9-10), sa paraang itinataguyod nila ang turo ng Biblia upang magkaroon ng pakikisama o pakikipagkaisa sa Ama at sa Kaniyang Anak na si Jesus ay dapat silang makipagkaisa o makisama sa Namamahala na nagpapahayag ng mga salita ng Diyos:

"Ipinahahayag nga namin sa inyo ang aming nakita't narinig, upang makasama namin kayo sa pakikiisa sa Ama at sa kanyang Anak na si Jesu-Cristo." (I Juan 1:3, *MB*)

## **Sa ikabubuti, ikatitibay, at ikaliligtas**

Lubusan ang pagpapasakop ng mga kaanib sa Namamahala ng *Iglesia ni Cristo* magpahanggang ngayon sapagkat ang Namamahala ang pinagkatiwalaan ng Diyos na mangalaga sa Iglesia:

"Sa matatandang namamahala sa inyo, nananawagan ako bilang isa ring matandang tulad ninyo. Nasaksihan ko ang mga paghihirap ni Cristo at makakahati naman ako sa karangalang nalalapit nang ipahayag. Ipinamamanhik kong alagaan ninyo ang kawang ipinagkatiwala sa inyo



ng Diyos. Pamahalaan ninyo ito nang maluwag sa loob, hindi napipilitan lamang, sapagkat iyan ang ibig ng Diyos. Gampanan ninyo ang inyong tungkulin, hindi dahil sa masakim na paghahangad ng pansariling kapakinabangan, kundi sa katuwaang maglingkod." (I Ped. 5:1-2, MB)

Sinasampalatayanan din ng mga kaanib sa Iglesia na sa kanilang ikabubuti at ikatitibay ang pagpapasakop sa Namamahala:

"Pasakop kayo sa mga nangangasiwa sa inyo. Sila'y may pananagutang magbantay sa inyo, at magbibigay-sulit sila sa Diyos ukol dito. Kung sila'y susundin ninyo, magagalak sila sa pagtupad ng kanilang tungkulin. Kung hindi, sila'y mahahapis, at hindi ito makabubuti sa inyo." (Heb. 13:17, *Ibid.*)

"Sapagka't bagaman ako ay magmapuri ng marami tungkol sa aming kapamahalaan (na ibinigay ng Panginoon sa ikapagtibay sa inyo, at hindi sa ikagigiba ninyo) ay hindi ako mapapahiya." (II Cor. 10:8)

Kung papaano noon, gayundin naman ngayon ay dama ng mga kaanib ang malaking paghahangad ng kasalukuyang Pamamahala na sila ay maligtas kung kaya ang Iglesia ay patuloy na iginagayak sa nalalapit na pagsalubong sa Panginoon. Natutupad sa Namamahala ang sinabi ni Apostol Pablo:

"Pinagtitiisan ko ang lahat ng bagay alang-alang sa mga hinirang ng Diyos upang magtamo rin sila ng kaligtasang mula kay Cristo Jesus, at ng walang hanggang kaluwalhatian." (II Tim. 2:10, MB)

### **Aming nakita ang mabuting halimbawa**

Ang pangangaral ng Namamahala na inilagay ng Diyos sa Iglesia ay may kapangyarihan at patotoo ng Espiritu Santo na nagpapalakas ng loob at umaaliw sa mga nawawalan ng pag-asa. Kaya naman tinatanggap ng mga kaanib ang kaniyang pangangaral bilang tunay na salita ng Diyos. Ang bisa ng kaniyang ipinangangaral ay unang-unang nakikita sa kanilang pamumuhay. Kapag sinabi niyang pagbutihin ng mga kaanib ang kanilang pamumuhay nang maging kalugud-lugod sa Diyos ay gayon ang matututunan mula sa kaniyang halimbawa. Nakikita ng mga kaanib kung paano siya namumuhay sa piling ng mga hinirang

ng Diyos. Hindi siya gumagamit ng pakunwaring papuri. Hindi siya naghahangad ng kapurihan. Nagpapagal at gumagawa siya araw at gabi para sa kapakanan ng Iglesia. Huwaran siya sa katapatan sa pagtupad ng tungkulin at ganap sa pakikitungo sa mga kapatid. Naririnig ng mga kaanib na kasama silang lagi sa kaniyang pananalangin. Sinasabi rin niya ang sinabi ni Apostol Pablo sa unang Iglesia:

"Lagi kaming nagpapasalamat sa Diyos dahil sa inyo at tuwina'y isinasama namin kayo sa aming dalangin.

"Ang Mabuting Balita na lubos naming pinaniniwalaan ay ipinahayag namin sa inyo hindi sa salita lamang. Ito'y may kapangyarihan at patotoo ng Espiritu Santo. Nakita ninyo kung paano kami namuhay sa inyong piling—ito'y ginawa namin para sa inyong kabutihan.

"Alam ng Diyos at alam din ninyo na sa aming pangangaral ay hindi kami gumamit ng pakunwaring papuri o ng mga salitang nagkukubli ng masakim na hangarin. Hindi kami naghahangad ng papuri ninyo o ninuman, bagamat may katwiran kaming maghintay niyon bilang mga apostol ni Cristo. Naging magiliw kami sa inyo tulad ng isang mapagkalingang ina sa kanyang mga anak. Dahil sa laki ng aming pagmamahal sa inyo, itinalaga namin ang aming sarili sa pangangaral sa inyo ng Mabuting Balita. Hindi lamang iyan, pati na aming buhay ay ihahandog namin, kung kakailanganin. Lubusan na kayong napamahal sa amin. Tiyak na natatandaan pa ninyo, mga kapatid, kung paano kami gumawa at nagpagal araw-gabi para hindi kami maging pasanin ninuman samantalang ipinahahayag namin sa inyo ang Mabuting Balita. Saksi namin kayo at gayon din ang Diyos na kami ay tapat, mabuti, at ganap sa pakikitungo sa inyo na mga sumasampalataya. Tulad ng alam ninyo, kami'y naging parang ama ng bawat isa sa inyo. Pinalakas namin ang inyong loob, inaliw kayo at hinimok na mamuhay nang tapat sa paningin ng Diyos na humirang sa inyo upang makahati sa kanyang kaharian at kaluwalhatian. Ito pa ang lagi naming ipinagpapasalamat sa Diyos: nang ipangaral namin sa inyo ang kanyang salita, tinanggap ninyo ito bilang tunay na salita ng Diyos, at hindi ng tao. Anupat ang bisa nito'y nakikita sa buhay ninyong mga sumasampalataya.

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*Ang pangangaral ng Namamahala na inilagay ng Diyos sa Iglesia ay may kapangyarihan at patotoo ng Espiritu Santo na nagpapalakas ng loob at umaaliw sa mga nawawalan ng pag-asa.*

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“Mga kapatid, isa pang bagay ang ipinapayo namin sa inyo sa pangalan ng Panginoong Jesus. Sana’y lalo pang pagbutihin ninyo ang pamumuhay ninyo ngayon—pamumuhay na ayon sa inyong natutuhan sa amin—upang kayo’y maging kalugud-lugod sa Diyos.” (I Tes. 1:2, 5; 2:5-13; 4:1, *Ibid.*)

### Ibibigay ang sarili

Walang sukat maigaganti ang mga kaanib sa Namamahala sa kaniyang pagmamalasakit at pagmamahal kundi ang laging ilakip sa mga panalangin ang Pamamahala, tulad ng itinuro ni Apostol Pablo:

“Na magsipanalangin kayo sa Espiritu ng lahat ng panalangin at daing sa boong panahon, at mangagpuyat sa boong katiyagaan at daing na patungkol sa lahat ng mga banal, At sa akin, upang ako’y pagkalooban ng pananalita sa pagbubuka ng aking bibig, upang ipakilalang may katapangan ang hiwaga ng evangelio, Na dahil dito ako’y isang sugong natatanikalaan; upang sa ganito ako’y magsalita na may katapangan gaya ng nararapat na aking salitain.” (Efe. 6:18-20)

Wala bang halimbawa sa Biblia na katangi-tanging pakikisama o pakikipagkaisa sa pangangasiwa? Kapanatikuhan ba na matatawag ang ganito?

“At ito, ay hindi ayon sa aming inasahan, kundi ibinigay muna nila ang kanilang sarili sa Panginoon, at sa amin sa pamamagitan ng kalooban ng Dios.” (II Cor. 8:5)

Hindi kapanatikuhan kung makita man ang mga kaanib ng *Iglesia ni Cristo* ngayon sa lubos at walang pasubaling pagpapasakop sa Namamahala sapagkat gaya ng nailahad na, aral ito ng Banal na Kasulatan. Mabuting tularan ang ipinakitang halimbawa ng mga unang Cristiano na ibinigay na ang kanilang sarili una sa Panginoon at sa Namamahala sa kanila, at ito ay ayon sa kalooban ng Diyos. 🕊

# Ang Pagsusugo: Hindi si Ciro ang ‘ibong mandaragit’ (Ikasiyam na Bahagi)

Sinulat ni GREG F. NONATO

**M**AY MGA MANGANGARAL na nagpapaliwanag na si Ciro ang “ibong mandaragit” na hinuhulaan sa Isaias 46:11. Isa na rito si Charles John Ellicott na ganito ang sinasabi sa kaniyang *Bible Commentary*:

“Tumatawag ng ibong mandaragit. Ganito inilarawan si Ciro katulad ni Nabucodonosor sa Jer. 49:22; Ezek. 17:3. Ang ganitong pag-lalarawan ay bunga ng katotohanang ang sagisag na ginamit ni Ciro at ng kaniyang mga kahalili ay isang gintong agila (Xen., *Cyrop.* 7:1, 4; *Anab.* 1:10, 12), (Ihambing din sa Mat. 24:28; Lucas 17:37.) Ang ‘sikatan ng araw’ ay kumakatawan sa Persia; ang ‘malayong lupain’ ay maaaring kumakatawan sa Media.” (p. 538)<sup>1</sup>

Halos ganito rin ang pagpapaliwanag ng mga Saksi ni Jehova:

“Tinawag niya si Ciro—‘mula sa sikatan ng araw,’ sa Persia (hanggang sa silangan ng Babilonia), at itinayo ang punong-lunsod na paborito ni Ciro: ang Pasargade, at si Ciro ay magiging tulad ng ‘ibong mandaragit’ sa mabilis na pagsakop niya sa Babilonia (Isa. 46:10, 11). Mapapansin na ayon sa *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1911, tomo 10, p. 454b), ang hukbong Persiano ay may taglay na agila sa dulo ng isang sibat, at ang araw, na kanilang sinasamba, ay naroon din sa kanilang bandila ... na mahigpit na binabantayan ng matatapang na kawal.” (*Aid to Bible Understanding*, p. 409)<sup>2</sup>

Kaya, ayon sa ibang mga tagapangaral, si Ciro ang hinuhulaang “ibong mandaragit” sa Isaias 46:11. Gayundin, ang Persia diumano ang tinutukoy na “sikatan ng araw” at ang Media naman daw ang “malayong lupain.”



## Walang pag-aangkin si Ciro

Bakit natin natitiyak na ang hula sa Isaias 46:11 ay hindi tumutukoy kay Ciro? Kung susuriin sa Biblia, nalalaman ng mga sinugo ng Diyos ang mga hulang tumutukoy sa kanilang pagkasugo. Halimbawa, alam ni Juan Bautista kung aling hula ang tumutukoy sa kaniya:

“Sinabi nga nila sa kaniya, Sino ka baga? upang ibigay namin ang kasagutan sa nangagsugo sa amin. Ano ang sinasabi mo tungkol sa iyong sarili?”

“Sinabi niya, Ako ang tinig ng isang humihyaw sa ilang. Tuwirin ninyo ang daan ng Panginoon, gaya ng sinabi ng propeta Isaias.” (Juan 1:22-23)

Ang isa pang halimbawa ng sinugo na alam niya ang hulang tumutukoy sa kaniyang pagkasugo ay si Apostol Pablo. Ganito ang kaniyang pahayag:

“Sapagka’t ganito ang ipinag-utos sa amin ng Panginoon, *na sinasabi*, ‘Inilagay kitang isang ilaw ng mga Gentil, upang ikaw ay maging sa ikaliligtas sa kahulihulihang hangganan ng lupa.’” (Gawa 13:47).

Ang Panginoong Jesucristo, sa maraming pagkakataon ay ipinakikita sa Biblia na alam Niya ang mga hulang tumutukoy sa Kaniyang pagkasugo. Ito ang isang halimbawa:

“At ibinigay sa kaniya ang aklat ng propeta Isaias. At binuklat niya ang aklat, na nasumpungan niya ang dakong kinasusulatan,

“Sumasa akin ang Espiritu ng Panginoon, Sapagka’t ako’y pinahiran niya upang ipangaral ang mabubuting balita sa mga dukha: Ako’y sinugo niya upang itanyag sa mga bihag ang pagkaligtas. At sa mga bulag ang pagkakita. Upang bigyan ng kalayaan ang nangaaapi.

“Upang itanyag ang kaayaayang taon ng Panginoon.

“At binalumbon niya ang aklat, at isinauli sa naglingkod, at naupo: at ang mga mata ng lahat ng nangasa sinagoga ay nangakatitig sa kaniya.

“At siya’y nagpasimulang magsabi sa kanila. Ngayo’y naganap ang kasulatang ito sa inyong mga pakinig.” (Lucas 4:17-21).

Samakatuwid, alam ng mga sinugo ng Diyos ang mga hula sa Banal na Kasulatan na sa kanila natupad. Alam ni Juan Bautista at siya mismo ang nagpaliwanag na siya ang tinutukoy na “tinig na sumisigaw” sa ilang (Isa. 40:3, *Magandang Balita Biblia*). Alam din ni Apostol Pablo na siya ang ilaw na inilagay sa dako ng mga Gentil (Isa. 49:6). Alam din ng Panginoong Jesucristo at Siya na mismo ang nagpaliwanag na Siya ang hinuhulaan sa Isaias 61:1 sa pagsasabing, “Ngayon ay naganap ang kasulatang ito sa inyong mga pakinig.” Kaya, kung ang “ibong mandaragit” na hinuhulaan sa Isaias 46:11 ay si Ciro ng Persia, dapat sana’y siya mismo ang

nagpahayag na siya ang tinutukoy ng hula. Subalit, hindi inangkin ni Ciro na sa kaniya natupad ang hulang binabanggit.

## Ang mga hulang natupad kay Ciro

Walang mababasa sa Biblia na itinuro ni Ciro na siya ang “ibong mandaragit” na hinuhulaan sa Isaias 46:11. Aling hula ang binanggit ni Ciro na siya ang kinatuparan? Ganito ang isinasaad sa II Cronica 36:23:

“Ganito ang sabi ni Ciro na hari sa Persia: Lahat ng kaharian sa lupa ay ibinigay sa akin ng Panginoon, ng Dios ng langit; at kaniyang binilinan ako na ipagtayo siya ng isang bahay sa Jerusalem, na nasa Juda. Sinomang mayroon sa inyo sa buong kaniyang bayan, sumakaniya nawa ang Panginoong niyang Dios, at umahon siya.”

Sa talatang ito ay walang sinabi si Ciro na siya ang hinuhulaang “ibong mandaragit”. Ang sinabi ni Ciro, “Lahat ng kaharian sa lupa ay ibinigay sa akin ng Panginoon.” Sapagkat hinulaan na si Ciro ay magpapasuko ng mga bansa:

“Ganito ang sabi ng Panginoon sa kaniyang pinahiran ng langis, kay Ciro, na ang kanang kamay ay aking hinawakan, upang magpasuko ng mga bansa sa harap niya; at aking kakalagan ang mga balakang ng mga hari; upang magbukas ng mga pintuan sa unahan niya, at ang mga pituang-bayan ay hindi masasarhan.” (Isa. 45:1)

Ayon sa hula kay Ciro, siya ay magpapasuko ng mga bansa—kung kaya’t sinabi na ang lahat ng kaharian ay ibinigay sa kaniya ng Panginoon. Ito ang hula na natupad kay Ciro.

Ang isa pang hula na nagkaroon ng katuparan kay Ciro ay ang sinabi niyang “kaniyang binilinan ako na ipagtayo siya ng bahay sa Jerusalem.” Mayroon nga bang hula kay Ciro tungkol sa pagtatayong muli ng templo sa Jerusalem? Mayroon, ang nasa Isaias 44:28:

“Na nagsasabi tungkol kay Ciro, *Siya’y* aking pastor, at isasagawa ang lahat kong kaligayahan; na nagsasabi nga rin tungkol sa Jerusalem, *Siya’y* matatayo; at sa templo, Ang iyong patibayan ay malalagay.”

Natupad kay Ciro ang hulang ito nang kaniyang saku-pin ang Babilonia at payagang makabalik ang mga Israelita sa Jerusalem upang itayong muli ang templo roon.

Sa harap ng mga hulang ito na natupad kay Ciro, wala siyang binanggit na siya ang katuparan ng “ibong mandaragit” na hinuhulaan sa Isaias 46:11.

## Ang pagmumulan ng ibong mandaragit

Ipinagkamali ng iba na si Ciro ang ibong mandaragit na hinuhulaan sa Isaias 46:11 sapagkat inakala nila na ang silangan na binabanggit sa talata ay tumutukoy sa Persia.



## *Ipinagkamali ng iba na si Ciro ang 'ibong mandaragit' na hinuhulaan sa Isaias 46:11 sapagkat inakala nila na ang 'silangan' na binabanggit sa hula ay ang Persia.*

Kung susuriin natin, ang silangan na binabanggit sa Isaias 46:11 ay katumbas ng salitang Hebreo na *mizrach* batay sa *Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary* ng *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (p. 84).<sup>3</sup> Ang isa sa mga kahulugan o tinutukoy ng *mizrach* ay Malayong Silangan:

“Muli, ang salitang *kedem* ay ginagamit upang maglarawan lamang ng isang dako o bansa na karatig sa gawing silangan ng isa pang dako; kaya nga, ang salitang silangan ay ginamit sa mga talatang Gen. 2:8, 3:24, 11:2, 13:11, 25:6 at kaya rin nga ginagamit ito bilang isang pangalang pantangi (Gen. 25:6, *pasilangan patungo sa lupain ng Kedem*), na tumutukoy sa lupaing karatig sa silangan Palestina, gaya ng Arabia, Mesopotamia, at Babilonia, sa kabilang dako, ang salitang *mizrach* ay ginagamit para sa *malayong* silangan ngunit hindi tiyak ang tinutukoy (Isa. 41:2, 43:5; 46:11).” (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*, p. 153)<sup>4</sup>

Maliwanag na ang salitang Hebreo na *mizrach* na siyang ginamit sa Isaias 46:11 ay katumbas ng Malayong Silangan. Hindi maaaring ang Persia ang tinutukoy sa Isaias 46:11 sapagkat ayon na rin sa *Aid to Bible Understanding*, ang salitang Hebreo na *kedem* ang ginagamit kapag ang tinutukoy ay ang Persia na pinagmulan ni Ciro, kasama ang Disyerto ng Arabia, Babilonia, Asiria, at Armenia.

“Kung magkaminsan ang salitang *qe'dhem* ay ginamit upang karaniwang tumukoy sa gawing silangan, gaya ng pagkakagamit sa Genesis 11:2. Sa ibang pagkakataon ito ay nangangahulugang 'silangan' kaugnay ng kinalalagyan ng iba pang bagay gaya naman ng pagkakagamit nito sa ekspresyong 'silanganan ng Ain' sa Bilang 34:11. At sa iba pang pagkakataon ito ay tumutukoy sa kalaparan ng lupa na nasa silangan at hilagang silangan ng Israel. Dito kasama ang mga lupain ng Moab, at Amon, ang Disyerto ng Arabia, Babilonia, Persia, Asiria, at Armenia.” (p.478)<sup>5</sup>

Natitiyak natin, kung gayon, na hindi si Ciro ang hinuhulaan na “ibong mandaragit” sa Isaias 46:11, sapagkat wala siyang pag-angkin na sa kaniya natupad ang hula at ang “ibong mandaragit” ay mula sa Malayong Silangan. Dahil dito, lalong nagtutumbabay ang katotohanang ang tinutukoy sa nabanggit na hula ay walang iba kundi ang Kapatid na Felix Manalo, ang Sugo ng Diyos sa mga huling araw. ☪

### Sanggunian

<sup>1</sup> “Calling a ravenous bird.—Cyrus is thus describe as Nebuchadnezzar is in Jer. xlix. 22; Ezek. xvii. 3. The image derives a special significance from the fact that the standard borne by Cyrus and his successors was a golden eagle (Xen., *Cyrop.* vii. 1. 4; *Anab.* i. 10, 12). (Comp. also Matt. xxiv. 28; Luke xvii. 37.) The ‘sun rising’ is, of course, Persia; the ‘far country’ probably represents Media.” (Elliott, Charles John, Ed. *Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1970.)

<sup>2</sup> “He had called Cyrus ‘from the sunrising,’ from Persia (to the E of Babylon), where Cyrus’ favorite capital of Pasargadae was built, and Cyrus was to be like a ‘bird of prey’ in swiftly pouncing down upon Babylon (Isa. 46:10, 11). It is of note that, according to the *The Encyclopedia Britannica* (1911, vol. 10, p. 454b), ‘the Persians bore an eagle fixed to the end of a lance, and the sun, as their divinity, was also represented upon their standards, which ... were guarded with the greatest jealousy by the bravest men of the army.’” (*Aid to Bible Understanding*. New York, USA: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, INC, 1971.)

<sup>3</sup> Strong, James, S.T.D., LL.D. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible with Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries*. Iowa Falls, Iowa: World Bible Publishers, Inc., 1986.

<sup>4</sup> “Again, *kedem* is used in a strictly geographical sense to describe a spot or country immediately before another in an easterly direction; hence it occurs in such passages as Gen. ii. 8, iii. 24, xi. 2, xiii. 11, xxv. 6; and hence the subsequent application of the term, as a proper name (Gen. xxv. 6, *eastward, unto the land of Kedem*), to the lands lying immediately eastward of Palestine, viz. Arabia, Mesopotamia, and Babilonia; on the other hand *mizrach* is used of the far east with a less definite signification (Is. xli. 2, 25, xliii. 5, xlvi. 11).” (Smith, William, LL.D. *Smith's Bible Dictionary*. Old Tappan, N.J.: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1979.)

<sup>5</sup> “Sometimes *qe'dhem* was used to mean a generally eastward direction as at Genesis 11:2. At other times it meant the ‘east’ in relation to something else, as at Numbers 34:11, where the expression ‘east of Ain’ is used. At still other times it referred to the area that lay E and NE of Israel. This included the lands of Moab and Ammon, the Arabian Desert, Babilonia, Persia, Assyria and Armenia.” (*Aid to Bible Understanding*.)





*Luchando  
por su Fe*

# Fighting for the Faith



**The brethren of Mexico City endure all for their service to God.**  
*Los hermanos de la Ciudad de México resisten todo por su servicio a Dios.*

**I**T WAS A LAZY AFTERNOON in Mexico City. A local woman was rocking her baby to sleep while simultaneously selling magazines. A few blocks away, at a *taquería* nearby, thin slices of fresh meat hit a grill, followed shortly by onions and corn tortillas. The sweet aroma lured a local football team in for a taste. And a few miles away, Alberto Robles stepped off a plane. He hadn't seen, smelled, nor tasted Mexico in over 18 years, and now he was home.

Home! He'd been gone so long and many things had changed. But the most recent change in Mexico was one he was most grateful for.

"I feel very proud that the Church finally got here to my country, my city," said Brother Alberto. "That is something I am very grateful to God for since I will now have the opportunity to share with my family and loved ones His true gospel."

Brother Alberto joined the Church of Christ while he was living in Livermore, California. His membership in the Church had changed his life so much that even his parents were proud of the man he had become in almost two decades away from home. It had definitely been a journey that led him to the truth. Coincidentally, not too long after he had left for America, the Church of Christ arrived in

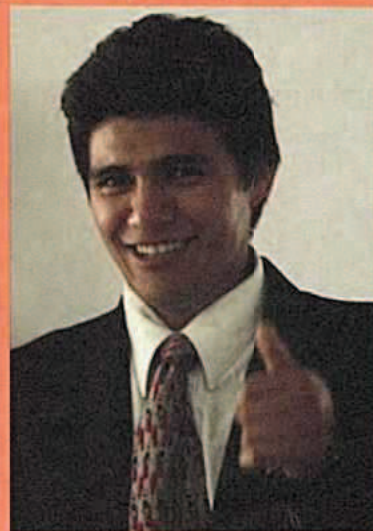
**E**RA UNA APACIBLE TARDE en la Ciudad de México. Una lugareña mecía a su infante para que durmiera y simultáneamente vendía revistas. A unas cuadras de allí, en una *taquería* cercana, delgadas rebanadas de carne fresca caían en la parrilla, seguidas por cebollas y tortillas. El agradable aroma atrajo a un equipo local de fútbol para probar. A unos kilómetros de distancia, Alberto Robles bajaba de un avión. No había visto, olido ni probado México en más de 18 años, y ahora estaba en casa.

¡Su hogar! Se había ido por tanto tiempo y muchas cosas habían cambiado. Pero el cambio más reciente en México era uno por el que él estaba mucho muy agradecido.

"Me siento muy orgulloso que la Iglesia finalmente ha llegado aquí a mi país, a mi ciudad," dijo el hermano Alberto. "Eso es algo por lo que le estoy muy agradecido a Dios ya que tendré la oportunidad de compartir con mi familia y seres queridos Su verdadero evangelio."

El hermano Alberto se unió a la Iglesia de Cristo cuando vivía en Livermore, California. Su afiliación en la Iglesia había cambiado tanto su vida que incluso sus padres estaban orgullosos del hombre en el que se había convertido en sus casi dos décadas de ausencia. Definitivamente fue un viaje que le guió a la verdad. Coincidentemente, no mucho tiempo después de su partida hacia los Estados Unidos, la Iglesia de Cristo llegó a México. Y él había





Photos by PRISCILLA SHELTON and BENJAMIN NOBELLO JR.

Mexico. And he had returned just in time to witness the dedication of the first *Iglesia ni Cristo* house of worship in the country of his birth.

### When the mission began

For Brother Hugo Becerril, who was also born and raised in Mexico, the Church's growth in Latin America comes as no surprise. "We never doubted that it will come," said Brother Hugo. "It is God's will for the gospel of salvation to be preached everywhere."

Brother Hugo also migrated from Mexico to the United States of America. In 1989, he moved to San Jose, California where his brother introduced him to the Church of Christ.

"When I heard the lesson about Brother Felix Y. Manalo," said Brother Hugo, "I thought this is it ... he has to be sent. He has to have the right to preach ... Not just anybody can teach, it has to be somebody with authority."

Although he had been born and raised as a Catholic, he'd often questioned the authority of the teachings and of the leaders in the Catholic Church. But after listening to the doctrines in the *Iglesia ni Cristo*, he was convinced that Brother Felix Manalo was God's true messenger in these last days. He joined the Church of Christ and he soon

*regresado justo a tiempo para estar presente en la dedicación de la primera casa de adoración de la Iglesia de Cristo en el país que lo vio nacer.*

### Quando la misión empezó

*Para el hermano Hugo Becerril, quien también nació y se crió en México, el crecimiento de la Iglesia en Latinoamérica no viene como una sorpresa. "Nunca dudamos que vendría," dijo el hermano Hugo. "Es la voluntad de Dios que el evangelio de la salvación se predicara en todas partes."*

*El hermano Hugo Becerril también se aventuró de México hacia los Estados Unidos de América. En 1989 se mudó en San José, California donde su hermano le introdujo la Iglesia de Cristo.*

*"Cuando oí la lección acerca del Hermano Félix Manalo," dijo el hermano Hugo, "pensé aquí es ... tiene que ser enviado. Tiene que tener el derecho de predicar ... No simplemente cualquiera puede enseñar, tiene que ser alguien con autoridad."*

*Aunque nació y creció como católico, siempre había cuestionado la autoridad de las enseñanzas y líderes de la iglesia católica. Pero después de escuchar las doctrinas de la Iglesia de Cristo estuvo convencido que el Hermano Félix Manalo era el verdadero mensajero de Dios en estos últimos días. Se unió a la Iglesia de Cristo y luego soñó en compartir su fe con su familia en*





dreamed of sharing his faith with his family back home in Mexico. When his parents came to visit him a year later, he immediately began bringing them to worship services. But when they returned to Mexico, Brother Hugo's father asked him, "Even if we get converted, there is no church in Mexico. Everybody over there is Catholic; how can [we] practice the Church of Christ if there is no Church of Christ over there?" Brother Hugo replied, "Well, you'll be one of the first ones to start; you are with God."

Because of his eagerness for his parents to be brought into the Church of Christ, Brother Hugo and the hispanic brethren in the local congregation of San Jose, California wrote the Church Administration asking if a minister could be sent to Mexico City to do some missionary work. In 1990, Brother Wilfredo Santos, then the resident minister of San Jose, California, was sent to Mexico City for a few days to preach the teachings being upheld in the *Iglesia ni Cristo*. Brothers Hugo, Juan Fisher, and Ricardo Henriquez accompanied Brother Wilfredo who recounted their missionary undertaking:

"We held the first missionary activity at the residence of Brother [Hugo] Becerril's parents. We introduced to them our purpose and the importance of knowing the true and proper way of serving God. We taught them why salvation can only be found in the one true Church of Christ ... During the missionary process, I was in tears when I saw the people so thirsty for the truth. Every single verse I read, they jotted down, making sure that they've got those verses of the Scriptures. They asked many questions after each missionary session."

According to Brother Willie, nearly 50 people signed up for Bible studies that night. Among them were Sister Lourdes Reyes and her late husband. They were also first introduced to the Church by relatives in National City, California.

"I didn't know how to pray [or] how to get close to God," said Sister Lourdes, "but in the Church of Christ, I learned how to get close to God."

Sister Lourdes finally discovered true relationship with God through the worship services and lessons in the Church of Christ. Both she and her husband wanted nothing more than to continue. But there was no Church of Christ back

*México. Cuando sus padres lo visitaban, inmediatamente comenzó a llevarlos a los servicios de adoración. Pero cuando regresaban a México, el padre del hermano Hugo le preguntó, "aunque nos convirtamos, no hay iglesia en México. Todo el mundo allá es católico, ¿cómo podemos practicar la Iglesia de Cristo si no hay Iglesia de Cristo allí?" El hermano Hugo respondió, "Bueno, tú serás uno de los primeros para iniciar, tú estás con Dios."*

*A causa de su entusiasmo para que sus padres entrasen a la Iglesia de Cristo, el hermano Hugo y los hermanos hispanos en la congregación de San José, California le escribieron a la Administración de la Iglesia pidiendo si un ministro pudiera ser enviado a la Ciudad de México a realizar algún trabajo misionero. En 1990, el hermano Wilfredo B. Santos, el entonces ministro de San José, California fue enviado por unos días a la Ciudad de México para predicar la enseñanza que sostiene la Iglesia de Cristo. Los hermanos Hugo, Juan Fisher, y Ricardo Henriquez le acompañaron al Hermano Wilfredo que recató su trabajo misionero:*

*"Tuvinos la primera actividad misionera en la residencia de los padres del hermano [Hugo] Becerril. Les presentamos nuestro propósito y la importancia de conocer la verdad y la manera apropiada de servir a Dios. Les enseñamos por qué la salvación puede ser hallada solo en la una verdadera Iglesia de Cristo ... Durante el proceso misionero, yo lloraba cuando veía a la gente tan sedienta de la verdad. Cada uno de los versículos que yo leía, lo anotaban asegurándose que han obtenido los versículos de las Escrituras. Hacían muchas preguntas después de cada sesión misionera."*

*Según el hermano Willie, esa noche, cerca de 50 personas se registraron para los estudios de la Biblia. Entre ellos estaban la hermana Lourdes Reyes y su finado esposo. Ellos también habían sido introducidos a la Iglesia por primera vez por sus parientes en National City, California.*

*"Yo no sabía cómo orar [o] cómo acercarme a Dios," dijo la hermana Lourdes, "pero en la Iglesia de Cristo, aprendí cómo acercarme a Dios."*

*La hermana Lourdes había descubierto finalmente una verdadera relación con Dios por medio de los servicios de adoración y las lecciones de la Iglesia de Cristo. Ella y su esposo ambos*



**ONWARDS:** (Left to far right) Some of the brethren on their way to the new house of worship.





home in Mexico since Catholicism dominates the Mexican landscape. So what did they do? They, along with Becerril's parents, became the "first ones to start."

### **As time went by**

Nearly five years after that first missionary trip, a minister was assigned to Mexico City. Sister Lourdes provided them with a place to hold their gatherings. It took time, patience, and prayer, but these two families, the Becerrils and the Medinas, continued working together in sharing their faith with others. But in order to succeed they had to overcome the odds brought forth by their native culture, tradition, and even by their own families. Salvador Reyes, sister Lourdes' brother, knows this firsthand, attesting that:

"Mexico is full of traditions, and my family was devoted to the Catholic Church ... At the beginning, I experienced persecution, much pressure from my family ..."

But despite the persecution, Brother Salvador and many other brethren in Mexico chose to break away from tradition and follow the truth. Some were even abandoned by their families for following the teachings of the Church of Christ. Nevertheless, they chose to live their lives by God's truth and not by culture or tradition.

It took years, but their work paid off. In 1996, Brother Hugo Becerril's parents who were already in their 70's, were finally baptized. Along with the Becerrils, the Medinas and a few others also emerged from the baptismal pool and became the first *Iglesia ni Cristo* members in Mexico City. Slowly but surely, Brother Hugo's dreams and all of God's plans were coming true. Today in Mexico, the Church of Christ continues to grow.

### **Dream home**

On April 5, 2009, choir members of Mexico City and some brethren from Southern California filled the newly renovated Mexico City chapel with the sound of *Iglesia ni Cristo* hymns translated into the Spanish language.

*deseaban nada más de que continuar. Pero no había Iglesia de Cristo en México, porque el catolicismo domina el panorama Mexicano. Entonces, ¿qué hicieron? Ellos, junto con la familia Becerril, llegaron a ser "los primeros en iniciar."*

### **Al pasar el tiempo**

*Casi cinco años después del primer viaje misionero, un ministro fue asignado a la ciudad de México. La hermana Lourdes les proveyó el lugar para celebrar las reuniones. Tomó tiempo, paciencia y oración, pero estas dos familias, Becerril y Medina, continuaron trabajando unidos compartiendo su fe con los demás. Pero para tener éxito tuvieron que vencer la cultura, la tradición, y aun sus propias familias. Salvador Reyes, el hermano de la hermana Lourdes, conoce todo esto por experiencia personal.*

*"México es lleno de tradiciones y mi familia era dedicada a la iglesia católica ... Al principio sufrí mucha persecución, mucha presión de mi familia ..."*

*Pero a pesar de la persecución, el hermano Salvador y muchos otros hermanos en México eligieron romper con la tradición y seguir la verdad. Algunos incluso fueron abandonados por sus familias por obedecer las enseñanzas de la Iglesia de Cristo. Sin embargo, eligieron conducir sus vidas por medio de la verdad de Dios y no por medio de la cultura o tradición.*

*Llevó años, pero su labor dio frutos. En 1996, los padres del hermano Hugo, cuyas edades ya oscilaban en los 70, finalmente recibieron el bautismo. Junto con la familia Becerril, la familia Medina y unos pocos más también emergieron de la piscina bautismal y se convirtieron en los primeros miembros de la Iglesia de Cristo en la Ciudad de México. Lentamente pero con seguridad, los sueños del hermano Hugo y todos los planes de Dios estaban haciéndose realidad. Hoy en México, la Iglesia de Cristo continúa floreciendo.*

### **El hogar de los sueños**

*El 5 de abril del 2009, los miembros del coro de la Ciudad de México y algunos hermanos del Sur de California llenaron la recientemente remodelada capilla de la Ciudad de México con el sonido de los himnos de la Iglesia de Cristo traducidos al idioma español.*







Brother Richard J. Rodas while delivering the homily (above) at the chapel dedication (above, right)

"This is ... the second part of a dream," said Brother Hugo. "When we came in 1990, we wanted everybody here to know the Church of Christ."

Nearly 20 years after the first missionary efforts in Mexico City, Brother Hugo and his father, sitting side by side during the chapel dedication, reminisced about how far the Church had come.

"The Church Administration said there would be a time when a minister would be sent. 'Keep on working and be strong in the faith for that time will come'," said Brother Hugo. "And now we have the whole thing, a chapel. Now we can worship God in order. So I think Mexico City Congregation is so blessed that they now have a place of their own," he added.

Having lived in California for many years, Brother Alberto Robles walked arm in arm with his parents down *Avenida Jardín*, hoping this would be a new beginning for them all. Instead of telling his parents about the Church of Christ all the way from California, he would finally be able to share his faith with them firsthand in their own country and in their own language.

"*Nuestro Padre ...*" Choir members praised and thanked God during chorus of the processional hymn as they marched down the aisles of the newly renovated Mexico City house of worship and up to the choir loft.

A deep sense of joy and the warmth of God's presence embraced the brethren during the dedication service. They were witnessing one of His long-awaited promises being fulfilled. Many were in tears. In the congregation were brethren who traveled miles for the occasion. Sister Marcela Ramírez Miguel came along with many other brethren by bus from a small town called San Miguel El Grande located in Oaxaca, Mexico. She hopes this dedication is only the first of many in her country.

*"Esta es la segunda parte de un sueño," dijo el hermano Hugo. "Cuando vinimos en 1990, queríamos que todos aquí conocieran la Iglesia de Cristo."*

*Casi 20 años después de los primeros esfuerzos misioneros en la Ciudad de México, el hermano Hugo y su padre, se sientan juntos durante la dedicación de la capilla, evocando como tan lejos ha llegado la Iglesia.*

*"La Administración de la Iglesia dijo que habría un tiempo en que un ministro sería enviado. 'Sigán laborando y manténganse fuertes en la fe porque llegará el tiempo,'" dijo el hermano Hugo. "Y ahora lo tenemos todo, una capilla. Ahora podemos adorar a Dios en orden. Y pienso que la congregación de la ciudad de México está tan bendecida porque tiene su propio lugar."*

*Habiendo vivido en California por muchos años, el hermano Alberto Robles caminó de bracero con sus padres por la Avenida Jardín, con la esperanza que esto sería un nuevo comienzo para ellos todos. En vez de decirles a sus padres acerca de la Iglesia de Cristo desde California, finalmente podría compartir su fe con ellos de primera mano en su propio país y en su propio idioma.*

*"Nuestro Padre ..." los miembros del coro alabaron y le agradecieron a Dios durante el estribillo del himno procesional mientras iban por los pasillos de la recién remodelada casa de adoración de la Ciudad de México hasta el altílo del coro.*

*Un profundo sentimiento de alegría y de la ternura de la presencia de Dios abrazo a los hermanos durante la dedicación. Estaban presenciando el cumplimiento de una de sus tan anheladas promesas. Muchos lloraban. Entre la congregación estaban los hermanos que habían viajado grandes distancias para esta ocasión. La hermana Marcela Ramírez Miguel vino con muchos otros hermanos en autobús desde un pequeño poblado llamado San Miguel El Grande, localizado en Oaxaca, México. Ella tiene esperanza que esta dedicación es únicamente la primera de muchas en su país.*





Brothers Ranniel Serreno, Richard Rodas, and Edwin Peralta with some of the brethren after the worship service.

"This is the first chapel that we have," said Sister Marcela, "and I'm very happy. I hope that from now on in the future the [congregation] of San Miguel El Grande will grow so we can also have a chapel there."

### The new sound in Mexico

Outside the house of worship in Mexico City, green Volkswagen taxis race down the street, many with crosses dangling from their rear-view mirrors, a constant reminder that Mexico is predominantly a Catholic country governed by tradition. But no matter how busy the drivers or the neighbors along the street are, they can't ignore the flood of brethren coming in and out of the house of worship. Nor can they ignore the sound of the hymns pouring out into the street. And they can't help but wonder what made their fellow Mexican citizens leave behind the Catholic faith to join the Church of Christ.

Sister Lourdes Reyes, a pioneering member, expressed:

"At this moment, my greatest wish is for the Church to grow here in Mexico. It is the only true one ... and most importantly because God gives us many blessings, protects us, and takes care of us. When one is not inside the Church of Christ, life has no color, life is sad ... And we think we are abandoned but we do nothing on our behalf to help ourselves. Being a member of the Church of Christ is helping ourselves."

There is a new sound in Mexico City, the words of truth ringing down *Avenida Jardín*. Here, the members of the Church of Christ are eager to share the gift they've received—the gift of salvation. Staying true to God in a country bound to its culture wasn't always easy. But they did it. And seeing their new house of worship gives them hope for more blessings to come. (*Priscilla Shelton*)

*"Esta es la primera capilla que tenemos," dijo la hermana Marcela, "y de siento muy feliz. Tengo esperanza que en adelante crezca la Iglesia en San Miguel para que podamos también tengamos una capilla allí."*

### El sonido nuevo en Mexico

*Fuera de la capilla en la Ciudad de México, taxis Volkswagen verdes transitan rápidamente abajo la calle, muchos con cruces balanceándose de sus espejos retrovisores, un constante recordatorio que México es predominantemente un país católico gobernado por la tradición. Pero no importa qué tan ocupados los conductores o vecinos sobre la calle, no pueden ignorar la oleada de hermanos saliendo de la casa de adoración. Ni pueden ignorar la melodía de los himnos vertiendo hacia la calle. Y no pueden evitar sino preguntarse qué ha atraído a estos conciudadanos Mexicanos a salir de la fe católica y entrar en la Iglesia de Cristo.*

*La hermana Lourdes Reyes, una miembro pionera, se expresó:*

*"En este momento mi deseo grande es que crezca la Iglesia aquí en México. Es la única una verdadera ... y más importantemente porque Dios nos da muchas bendiciones, nos protege, y nos cuida. Cuando uno no está en la Iglesia de Cristo, la vida no tiene color, la vida es triste ... Y pensamos que estamos abandonados pero no hacemos nada de nuestra parte para de ayudarnos. Ser un miembro de la Iglesia de Cristo es ayudarnos a nosotros mismos."*

*Hay una nueva melodía en la Ciudad de México, las palabras de verdad sonando por Avenida Jardín. Aquí, los miembros de la Iglesia de Cristo están ansiosos por compartir el don que han recibido—el don de la salvación. Mantenerse sinceros a Dios en medio de un país impuesto en la cultura no era siempre fácil. Pero lo lograron. Y viendo su nueva casa de adoración les da esperanza de más bendiciones venideras. (Lyndon A. Aguirre)*



# PLACES OF WORSHIP SERVICE AROUND THE GLOBE

\*This directory does not include places of worship service in the Philippines  
Source: INC Secretariat-Overseas Mission Section (Current As of September 15, 2009)



## AMERICAN SAMOA

**Pago Pago Group Worship Service**  
c/o American Samoa Community College  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799  
Tel. Nos. 1-684: 699-4143; 252-0471  
E-mail: rmcustaquin@yahoo.com

## ANGOLA

**Viana Group Worship Service**  
c/o Alex Malgajo  
Estrada De Calumbio, Jembas  
Camp III  
Viana, Republic of Angola  
Tel. No. (244) 261-8269  
Mobile No. (244) 9231 500-810  
E-mail: alex.malgajo@jembas.com

## ANGUILLA ISLAND

**Anguilla Island GWS**  
c/o Danilo Maario  
South Hill, Anguilla  
British West Indies, The Caribbean Sea  
Tel. No. (264) 498-4000  
Fax No. (264) 498-4010  
E-mail: madaiano@yahoo.com

## ARUBA

**Aruba Group Worship Service**  
c/o Teodorico K. Marcello  
Washington Street 414  
Aruba, Dutch Caribbean  
Tel. / Fax Nos. (011) 297 506-7000  
Mobile No. (011) 297 512-5607

## AUSTRALIA

**Adelaide Congregation**  
c/o Manuel Torres  
501 The Parade, Magill  
South Australia 5072 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (08) 0113-1411  
E-mail: mdm@yahoo.com.au

**Ayr Group Worship Service**  
B Anne Street, Ayr  
Queensland 4807 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (07) 4703-4017  
E-mail: groomsam2003@yahoo.com.au

**Bathurst Group Worship Service**  
c/o Peter Charles Brown  
14 Benson St., Kelso  
NSW 2795 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (012) 6134-1675

**Bendigo City (Brimsbank Extension)**  
c/o Raul Ierrardo  
229 Browning St., Kangaroo Flat  
Victoria 3555 Australia  
Mobile No. (0410) 083-961

**Brimbank Congregation**  
c/o Rose E. Lagasa Sr.  
Keele Dowers Community Centre  
70 Locks Rd., Keele Dowers  
Victoria 3038 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (03) 9307-0172  
Mobile No. 0433-543-779

**Brisbane Congregation**  
Coopers Plains School Hall  
65 Orange Grove Rd.  
Coopers Plains, QLD 4108 Australia  
Tel. No. (07) 4275-4484  
Fax No. (07) 4275-1991  
E-mail: jerry\_c.lagasa@yahoo.com

**Cairns Group Worship Service**  
c/o Nelly Klonek  
Unit 5, 21 Sperring Street, Manunda  
QLD 4870 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (07) 4053-1901  
E-mail: betty\_36@hotmail.com

**Canberra Group Worship Service**  
c/o Petros Maridaga

Belconnen Community Library Hall  
12 Chamillie St., Belconnen  
ACT 2617 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (012) 6258-9776

**Canterbury Congregation**  
c/o Bro. Edgardo Mafelbog  
Canterbury South Public School  
High Street, Canterbury  
New South Wales 2191  
Tel. No. (612) 9559-2344  
Fax No. (612) 9559-2345  
E-mail: pharrientos2@gmail.com

**Central Coast GWS**  
c/o James D. Rowe  
Wadialha Community School  
Orchidway Wadialha NSW 2259  
Tel. No. (61-41) 235-8378  
Fax No. (61-41) 9673-4848  
E-mail: jrowe@bmail.com.au

**Dandenong Congregation**  
c/o Imoco Velante  
Dowdton North Primary School Hall  
25 Rossan Drive Dowdton  
Victoria 3177 Australia  
Tel. No. (61-9) 702-4610; (0413) 601-004  
E-mail: imaac@promos.com.au

**Darwin Group Worship Service**  
c/o Fernando Villalosa  
44 Nelemus Circuit Gray  
Bulmerston, NT 0830 Australia  
Tel. No. (618) 8932-4237

**Devonport Group Worship Service**  
15 Gardema Grove  
Devonport, Tasmania 7310 Australia  
Tel. No. (613) 6424-2633  
E-mail: emanes99@gmail.com

**Eastern Sydney Congregation**  
Annville Primary School Hall  
Corney Arenal & Seprenhoe Sts.  
Annville, NSW 2205 Australia  
Tel. No. (612) 9559-1005  
Fax No. (612) 8870-1100  
E-mail: nial.abern@crowleokanlaton.org

**Fremantle Congregation**  
c/o Federico Beltran Jr.  
494 Morley Drive, Morley  
Western Australia 6062  
Tel./Fax No. (08) 9248-1618

**Gladstone Group Worship Service**  
46 Witney St., Gladstone  
QLD 4680 Australia  
Tel. No. (07) 4979-1307  
Fax No. (0433) 919-319

**Goldcoast Congregation**  
c/o Ricardo Javillonar  
48 Sunshine Boulevard  
Broadbeach Waters, Goldcoast  
Queensland 4218 Australia  
Tel. No. (07) 5578-6544  
Fax No. (07) 5578-6510  
E-mail: rick\_javillonar@yahoo.com.au

**Gunnedah Group Worship Service**  
161 View St., Gunnedah  
2100 Australia  
Tel. No. (02) 6742-1580

**Hobart Group Worship Service**  
60A Devines Road, West Moonah  
Tasmania 7009 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (613) 6273-2160  
E-mail: jetteconnolly23@hotmail.com

**Kalgoorlie GWS**  
66 Richardson Street  
Boulder, Western Australia 6432  
Tel. No. (61-8) 9275-8514  
Fax No. (61-8) 9275-8606  
E-mail: alex.kim@yahoo.com

**Kellyville Congregation**  
c/o Raul Caerio  
Kings Langley Public School  
68 Isaac Smith Parade  
2147 Kings Langley, NSW Australia  
Tel. No. (612) 9836-3595  
Mobile No. (61) 0414-873-964  
E-mail: rcaerio@hotmail.com

**Launceston Group Worship Service**  
c/o David Cox  
345 St. Leonards Rd., Saint Leonards  
Launceston, Tasmania  
7250 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (613) 6319-4507  
E-mail: davidcox10@bigpond.com

**Liverpool Congregation**  
Cabrattia High School Hall  
Alaborda St., Cabrattia  
NSW 2166 Australia  
Tel. No. (612) 9608-8215  
Fax Nos. (612) 9755-1094; 8781-5481  
E-mail: teddy.caramlang@gmail.com



**Mackay Group Worship Service**  
14 Oasis Drive  
North Mackay, Queensland  
4740 Australia  
Tel. No. (61-7) 4942-0681  
Fax No. (61-7) 5576-6510  
E-mail: argamart64@yahoo.com.au

**Melbourne Congregation**  
c/o Alfonso Oron Jr.  
241-243 Civic Parade  
Altona, Victoria 3018 Australia  
Tel. No. (613) 9398-2396  
Fax No. (613) 9398-1866  
E-mail: alocon@singdboxfamily.com.au

**Mount Isa Group Worship Service**  
Unit 1 25 Rebecca St.  
Mount Isa, Queensland  
4825 Australia  
Tel. No. (61-7) 5578-6544  
Cel No. (0417) 303-495  
Fax No. (61-7) 5576-6510  
E-mail: argamart64@yahoo.com.au

**Nambucca Heads GWS**  
184 Centenary Parade  
Nambucca Heads  
NSW 2448 Australia  
Tel. No. (612) 6508-7002

**North Sydney Congregation**  
c/o Daniel Dennis Parrero  
Ku-nng-gai Library (Meeting Room)

799 Pacific Highway, Gordon  
NSW 2072 Australia  
Tel. No. (02) 9634-4124  
E-mail: ddpareno@hotmail.com

**Noumea, New Caledonia Group Worship Service**  
Caledonia Camp Sodexho  
Nouvelles Caledonie, Australia  
BP 2409BB45 Noumea Cedex  
Mobile No. 0011-687-760-171  
E-mail: ssiguas@inro.com

**Penrith Congregation**  
c/o Ben Chua  
Lot 1 Mamre Road  
St. Marys NSW 1790 Australia  
Tel. No. (612) 9834-2843  
Mobile No. (61) 0416-158-492  
E-mail: bchua@bigpond.net.au

**Perth Congregation**  
496 Morley Drive (near Tamms St.)  
Morley, WA 6061 Australia  
Tel. No. (618) 9275-8514

Fax No. (618) 9275-8606  
E-mail: jch249@yahoo.com

**Port Hedland GWS**  
No. 3 Block 4 Woodman St.  
Port Hedland 6721 Australia  
Tel. No. (618) 9174-5652  
E-mail: edlyn1011@optusnet.com.au

**Sydney Congregation**  
201-203 Penant Hills Road  
Carlingford NSW 2118 Australia  
Tel. No. (612) 89736-3131  
Fax No. (612) 9873-4848  
E-mail: douypareno@bigpond.com

**Townsville Group Worship Service**  
9 Colby Court, Kelso, Townsville  
Queensland 4815 Australia  
Tel./Fax No. (617) 4789-2617  
E-mail: lesliemills@dodo.com.au

**Wangaratta Group Worship Service**  
c/o Liberato Mangubat  
1 Tavern Terrace, Wangaratta  
Victoria 3677 Australia  
Tel. No. (613) 9721-9433

**Whyalla Group Worship Service**  
c/o Andrew Smooker  
22 Carlson St., Whyalla Stuart  
South Australia 5608  
Tel. No. +614-2242-9349  
Fax No. +618-649-1402  
E-mail: andrew.smoker@compau.com.au

**Wiepa Group Worship Service**  
c/o Isidro Alcala  
1 Avram Court Wiepa QLD 4874  
Tel./Fax No. (017) 4069-7809  
E-mail: sidalcala@yahoo.com

**Western Sydney Congregation**  
c/o Jose A. Cabarrangan Jr.  
27 Eskdale St., Minchinbury  
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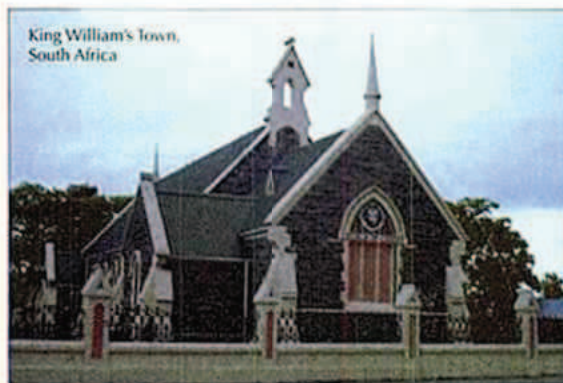
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**Riverbank Congregation**

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**Riverside Congregation**

3292 Locust St., Riverside  
CA 92501 USA  
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**Roseville Congregation**

Maidu Community Center  
1550 Maidu Drive  
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**Sacramento Congregation**

4909 42nd St., Sacramento  
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Tel./Fax No. (916) 452-7849

**Salinas Congregation**

221 California St., Salinas  
CA 93901 USA  
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**San Francisco Congregation**

2899 Clay Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115 USA  
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**San Gabriel Valley Congregation**

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**San Jose Congregation**

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**San Leandro Congregation**

c/o Ilro Armando Dumao  
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c/o Edwin Ramos  
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23710 Lyons Avenue  
Santa Clarita, CA 91321 USA  
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**Santa Rosa Congregation**

153 Stony Circle, Classroom A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401 USA  
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**South Lake Tahoe Congregation**

c/o Loreto Fajwan  
Quality Inn & Suites  
3838 Lake Tahoe Blvd.  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 USA  
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**South San Diego Congregation**

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**Santa Maria Congregation**

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**Watsonville Congregation**

c/o Arnel Lulu  
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**COLORADO****Colorado Springs Congregation**

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**GEORGIA****Brunswick Group Worship Service**

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Conference Room  
5308 New Jessup Highway  
Brunswick, Georgia, 31521  
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E-mail: dinofunag@yahoo.com

**Macon (South Atlanta Extension)**

Quality Inn (rented hall)  
4640 Chambers Rd  
Macon, GA 31206 USA  
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**North Atlanta Congregation**

International Business Center  
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6709 Peachtree Industrial Blvd Suite  
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**South Atlanta Congregation**

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Peachtree City, GA 30269 USA  
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**HAWAII****Honokaa Congregation (Big Is.)**

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Honokaa High & Intermediate School  
Honokaa, HI 96727 USA  
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Fax No. (808) 966-7098 (c/o Keauai)  
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**Honolulu Congregation (Oahu Is.)**

1021 Valley View Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 USA  
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**Kailua-Kona (Naalehu Ext., Big Is.)**

c/o Royal Kona Resort Hotel  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96772 USA  
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Fax No. (808) 929-7566

**Kalaheo Congregation (Kauai Is.)**

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Cor. Upio Road, Kalaheo  
Kauai, Hawaii 96741 USA  
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332-7922  
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**Kaneohe Congregation (Oahu Is.)**

45-697 Waianai St., Kaneohe HI 96744  
Tel. No. (808) 235-2491  
Fax No. (808) 235-5492

**Keaua Congregation (Big Is.)**

16-198 Pahoa Highway  
Keaua, Hawaii 96749 USA  
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**Lahaina Congregation (Maui Is.)**

1518 Malo St., Lahaina  
Hawaii 96761 USA  
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**Lanai City (Lahaina Ext., Lanai Is.)**

554 Nani St., Lanai City  
Hawaii 96763 USA  
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**Lihue Congregation (Kauai Is.)**

3-1875 Kaunahu Highway  
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**Mali Congregation (Oahu Is.)**

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**Naalehu Congregation (Big Is.)**

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**New Era Congregation (Oahu Is.)**

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Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706 USA  
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E-mail: barrony@aol.com  
Place of Worship:  
Pohakaea School  
91-750 Pratt Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706 USA

**Pearl Harbor (Honolulu Ext.)**

c/o Henry Pugh Sr.  
East Foster Village Community Assn.  
4341 Hakupapa St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818  
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**Wahiawa Congregation (Oahu Is.)**

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Hawaii 96788 USA  
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**Wailuku Congregation (Maui Is.)**

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Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 USA  
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**Waipahu Congregation (Oahu Is.)**

94-601 A. Kinney Place  
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797 USA  
Tel. No. (808) 677-8884  
Fax No. (808) 671-4679

**IDAHO****Boise Group Worship Service**

c/o Greg Garner  
3435 N. 33rd St., Boise, ID 83701  
Tel./Fax No. (208) 345-1800

**ILLINOIS****Bloomington Congregation**

2 N. 100 Bloomington Road  
Carol Stream, IL 60188 USA  
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**Chicago Congregation**

6233 W. Fullerton Ave.  
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**Great Lakes Congregation**

2112 N. Lewis Waukegan  
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Place of Worship:

2110 N. Lewis Avenue  
Waukegan, IL 60087 USA  
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**Park Ridge Congregation**

600 Talcott Road  
Park Ridge, IL 60068 USA  
Tel. No. (847) 518-1615  
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**Rockford Group Worship Service**

c/o Ador G. Gabatino  
1887 Barley Ridge Trail, Cherry Valley  
IL 61016-9722 USA  
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**Vienna Group Worship Service**

c/o Alberto Villanueva  
Vienna Public Library, 401 Poplar St.  
Vienna, IL 62995 USA  
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**INDIANA****Indianapolis Group Worship Service**

c/o Jovita Jordan Jr.  
15 N. Circle Drive  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47801 USA  
Tel. No. (812) 877-6041  
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Place of Worship:  
Claron Hotel & Waterfront Plaza  
2910 Waterfront Pkwy., West Drive  
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**Portage Group Worship Service**

3156 Willow Creek Road  
Portage, Indiana 46368 USA  
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**IOWA****Oskaloosa Group Worship Service**

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**KANSAS****Kansas City Congregation**

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**KENTUCKY****Louisville Group Worship Service**

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**MARYLAND****Baltimore Congregation**

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5255 Grand River Drive  
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**Warren (Detroit Extension)**

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**St. Louis Group Worship Service**

c/o Edmundo S. Dizon  
Ecno Lodge 3551 Pennridge Dr.  
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**MONTANA****Great Falls Group Worship Service**

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Great Falls, MT 95405 USA  
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**NEBRASKA**

Worship services for brethren in  
Nebraska and Iowa are jointly held at:

**Omaha Congregation**

2111 Kimberly Street  
Bellevue, NE 68005 USA  
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**NEVADA****Henderson Congregation**

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**Summerlin Congregation**

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE****Londonderry (Boston Extension)**

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**NEW JERSEY****Elizabeth Congregation**

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**Central New Jersey (Elizabeth Ext.)**

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801 S Washington Ave.

Piscataway, NJ 08854 USA

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**Jersey City Congregation**

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**Southern New Jersey Congregation**

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**Stewartville (Elizabeth Extension)**

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**Wrightstown Congregation**

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**NEW MEXICO****Albuquerque GWS**

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Ecologist Inn and Suites  
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**Gallup Group Worship Service**

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1509 Helena Drive, Gallup  
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**NEW YORK****Albany Group Worship Service**

c/o Wilfredo Cañ  
233 Park Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203 USA  
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**Bellmore Congregation**

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**Forest Hills Congregation**

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