

PASUGO

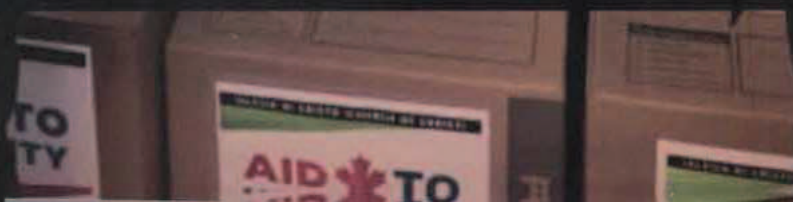
FEBRUARY 2021

# GOD'S MESSAGE

The Magazine of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ)



**Showing our love  
for our fellowmen**



# Be still, my soul

A pall of gloom has descended on the horizon,  
Yet the brave stared death in the eye,  
As we cling to the promises of the Almighty.  
Even if we have to go through the eye of the needle,  
With Him, we can make it.  
So when fear comes and attempts to grab us,  
We are unmoved in our indestructible fortress—  
God in Whom we take refuge.

We come to Him in fervent prayers.  
He embraces us with His grace and mercy  
And assures us not to worry  
Because He is right here with us.  
He is our beacon in a pitch-black night,  
Our hearts' gladness when grief engulfs us,  
Our steadfast anchor when harsh waves come,  
And our sure hope amid hopelessness.

When we are under siege,  
He is our song of deliverance,  
Our full armor when arrows of agony rain down.  
He turns the rising tide of desperateness,  
For we have known Him since childhood—  
Worshiped and sang hymns to Him.  
His love and compassion never fail.  
Across time, we shall continually be His.

Though we hear more drumbeats of battles ahead,  
We fear not because the Creator of heaven and earth  
Is always ahead of us  
As if they were His fight.  
Hence, be still, my soul.  
Remain strong and rock-solid in His presence,  
As you wait for the smoke of misery to clear,  
And give glory to your LORD, enduringly!

LEVI M. CASTRO  
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES





## IN THIS ISSUE

# February 2021

VOLUME 73 • NUMBER 02  
ISSN 0116-1636

### OUR COVER

The *Iglesia Ni Cristo* (Church Of Christ) continues to fulfill God's command to love our fellowmen and give aid to those in need.

Photo by Jan Ryb Pascua



**The Felix Y. Manalo (FYM) Foundation, Inc.** For 10 years, the FYM Foundation has been a reliable charitable arm of the Church in conducting socio-civic activities for the benefit of humanity (Story on p. 52)

### FAQs

- 2 If the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) is God's nation in these last days, why do its members also experience sufferings?

### EDITORIAL

- 3 Showing our love for our fellowmen

### CHURCH BULLETIN

### EXECUTIVE NEWS

ORDENASYON AT PAGGUNITA SA MGA ANIBERSARYO NG MGA LOKAL

- 8 Gawin kung ano ang mabuti sa paningin ng Diyos

COMMEMORATION OF MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES OF 25 LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND 1 GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE

- 16 Enduring triumphantly with firm faith

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AND MINISTERIAL WORKERS JANUARY 12, 2021, QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

- 23 Intensifying further the works of propagation amid the pandemic

### RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

- 24 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself'  
By ROMMEL T. SANVICTORES

- 27 The 'Good Samaritan' and the Samaritan woman at the well  
By JENSEN DG. MAÑEBOG

### STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

- 29 Jesus feeds thousands of people

### FEATURES

- 31 Pasugo at 82: Remaining relevant amid fast-changing times  
By MARK ANDRO T. MILAN

### RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

- 33 The Lord will solve the problems of the righteous  
By KENNETH A. OUANO

- 36 Where man's service is acceptable to God  
By JOEL A. MANINGDING

### FEATURES

- 38 SCAN INTERNATIONAL 32 years of serving others for God's glory  
By FELGEM EDWARD J. ELEVADO

### PANGULONG TUDLING

- 42 Ang pagpapadama ng pag-ibig sa kapuwa tao

### RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

- 44 Patakaran ng Diyos na ibukod at ihahal ang mga maglilingkod sa Kaniya (Ikalawang bahagi)  
Ni DENNIS C. LOVENDINO

- 47 Diyos o tao? Ang paniniwala ng mga unang Cristiano tungkol kay Cristo  
Ni MICHAEL M. SANDOVAL

### CHRISTIAN ACHIEVERS

- 50 A nurse is recognized for her compassion and commitment

### INFOCUS

- 52 FYM FOUNDATION, INC. A decade of sharing love and compassion



## If the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) is God's nation in these last days, why do its members also experience sufferings?

**A**S ATTESTED to by the fulfillment of God's prophecies in the Bible, the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* members firmly believe that this Church is, indeed, God's nation in these last days (Isa. 43:5-6; 62:11-12 Modern English Version; Acts 20:28 Lamsa Translation).

Being in God's nation, however, does not necessarily exempt a person from experiencing sufferings in this world. Even the first-century Christians suffered from severe troubles (II Cor. 1:8-9). All people living in this world, as foretold in the Bible, would certainly suffer from despair and troubles (Job 5:7; Ezek. 7:25-26).

The apostles also forewarned "that in the last days it is going to be very difficult to be a Christian" (II Tim. 3:1 Living Bible). The worsening problems in this world, such as poverty, disease pandemic, armed conflicts, widespread violence, and destructive calamities all indicate that we are now in the last days—the end of the world or the Day of Judgment is truly near (Ezek. 7:5-7, 10-12; Matt. 24:6-8). Difficulties brought about by these events are also experienced by Church Of Christ members.

The apostles taught that true Christians "must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22 New International Version). God's purpose for allowing His servants to experience difficulties is to test their faith:

"Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so

your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed." (I Pet. 1:6-7 Good News Bible)

By remaining firm in their faith despite their troubles and sufferings, they will be counted worthy of God's kingdom:

"So that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, *which is* manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer." (II Thess. 1:4-5 New King James Version)

Although members of the Church Of Christ in these last days are certain of facing tests in life, they will be heard by God when they call to Him for help (Zech. 13:9). God promised them, as they are His chosen nation, that He would give them strength, bless them with peace, and not abandon them as long as they remain obedient to Him (Ps. 29:11; I Sam. 12:22, 24).

True Christians also understand that "the fiery ordeals which come to test [their] faith" mean "that [they] are called to share Christ's sufferings." The apostles taught the Church members "not to be unduly alarmed," but instead "be glad," because on the day of Christ's return, they "will be filled with the most tremendous joy" (I Pet. 4:12-13 Phillips). For, they will be deemed worthy to dwell in the Holy City where sufferings and hardships will be no more (Rev. 21:1-4). ●

**PUBLISHER**  
IGLESIA NI CRISTO

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Dennis C. Lovendino

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
Bienvenido A. Santiago Jr.

**SENIOR EDITORS**  
Rene J. Panoncillo • Greg F. Nonato  
Celerino G. Baclaan

**EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES**  
Roland A. Aguirre • Marlex C. Cantor  
Lloyd I. Castro • Siegfred T. Gollayan  
Jensen DG. Mañebog

**WRITERS**  
Arnel M. Armenia • Mandy A. Nepomuceno  
Gerson S. Nonato • Kenneth A. Ouano  
Alejandro R. Sino Cruz Jr.  
Pedrito B. Placio • Marie F. Ruiz

**GRAPHIC ARTISTS**  
Samuel T. Solano  
Regina B. Burguillos • Sylvia N. Dreo

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Glady C. Gaddi

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Samuel P. de Leon • John P. Borg

**E-MAIL**

[pasugo@iglesianicristo.org.ph](mailto:pasugo@iglesianicristo.org.ph)

**EDITORIAL OFFICE**

2nd Floor, Pilar Manalo-Danao Multimedia Center,  
No. 1 Central Avenue, New Era, Quezon City  
1107 Philippines

TELEPHONE	FAX
(632) 981-4311/981-1111/719-7800	(632) 981-4333

Letters with complete name and address may also be sent to any of the following offices: **AFRICA** 2 Alphen Farm, Free State Province, Ladybrand, South Africa 9745 | **AUSTRALIA** 3 Ross St., North Parramatta, NSW 2151 Australia. Fax: (612) 9630-5058 | **EUROPE** UK: 79 Staines Road West, Sunbury-on-Thames TW16 7AH, United Kingdom, Fax: (0044-193) 275-5467 • ITALY: Via Ceresole Real, 9, 00166 Rome, Italy | **NORTH AMERICA** US EAST OFFICE: 4125 16th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20011 • US WEST OFFICE: 770 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame CA 94010 USA. Fax: (650) 548-1128 | **NORTHEAST ASIA** 2 Chome 14-2, Kita-Magome Otaku, Tokyo T143-0021 Japan. Telefax: (81-03) 6303-7874

PASUGO: GOD'S MESSAGE is published monthly by the Iglesia Ni Cristo. Entered as second-class mail matter at the Central Post Office in Manila on February 13, 1979. Published under PCPM Certificate of Registration No. Sp. 237. All manuscripts and photographs submitted for editorial consideration must be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope and return postage. PASUGO: GOD'S MESSAGE assumes no responsibility to return unsolicited materials. Copyright © 1986 by Iglesia Ni Cristo.



## Showing our love for our fellowmen

**G**OD'S COMMAND to love our fellowmen is what we, members of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* (Church Of Christ), fulfill in our charity works and willingness to help those in need. By helping and caring for our fellowmen, we show our love for them and, above all, for God.

A shining example of extending charity to our fellowmen was set by the Christians in the province of Macedonia in the first century. Upon learning that they had brethren in the faith who were in dire need, they took the initiative to plead with the apostles to let them give monetary contributions to the Church for the relief and support of their fellow Christians in Jerusalem. They did so joyfully and generously (II Cor. 8:1-9; Rom. 15:26).

They were able to do this not because they were rich—in fact, they were very poor, which was a severe test for them—but because of the grace of God given to them. Despite their poverty, they gave as much as they could—even more than they could.

Instead of spending what little they had only for themselves, they still used it to help others. They did this without any reservation whatsoever because they had given themselves completely to the Lord and to the apostles who administered them.

These Christians in Macedonia did prove that true servants of God can overcome great obstacles to fulfill His commands. They were willing to make a sacrifice to do so.

This is also what we, members of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo*, are striving to fulfill now although, like the Christians in Macedonia then, we are also going through severe hardships and trials. But, despite all these, we joyfully strive to express our love for our fellowmen through beneficent works to help them in their needs.

We are also willing to put aside our personal welfare so that we can put the welfare of others ahead of our own. We fulfill this to the best of our ability so that no matter what the situation of the world may be, we will not be hindered from fulfilling God's commandments written in the Bible.

It is only right that we uphold our love for our fellowmen and our high regard for charitable works, because these are what our Lord Jesus Christ taught by setting an example. When He was still on earth, He performed many miracles to help the sick and the afflicted. On one occasion, when He was healing the sick by the Sea of Galilee, He worked a miracle to feed 4,000



hungry people. He did this out of mercy and compassion for them because they had been with Him three days and had nothing left to eat (Matt. 15:29–38 Living Bible).

Our Lord Jesus Christ showed the greatest expression of love when He gave His life to redeem and save His flock or the Church Of Christ from punishment on Judgment Day (John 15:13; Eph. 5:29, 25; Rom. 5:6–9; Acts 20:28 Lamsa Translation; II Pet. 3:7, 10).

We should imitate Christ in showing compassion and love for our fellowmen by helping them in their time of need and, most importantly, by guiding them to salvation.

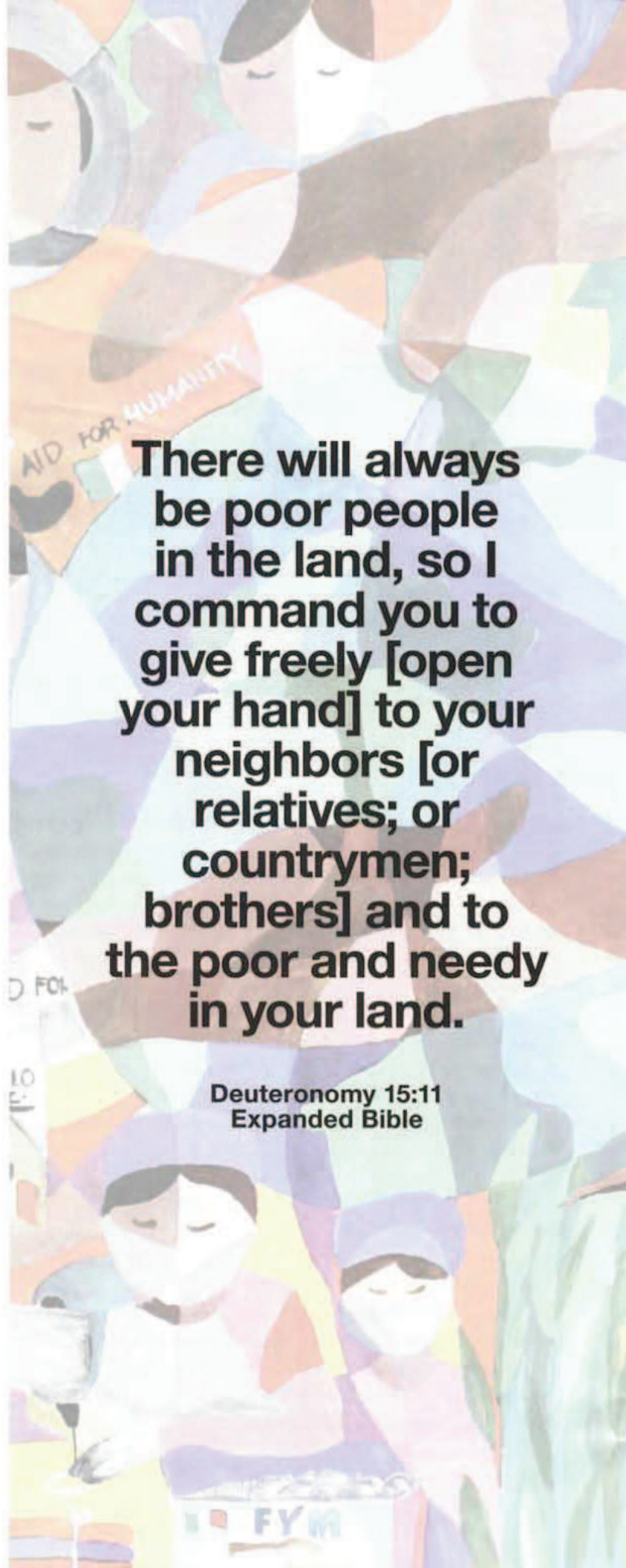
Although we give material things to those in need—so that, in our own little way, we can help alleviate some of the hardships they are facing—the most important thing we strive to share with them is the pure gospel, which is the righteousness and power of God for the salvation of every one who believes (Rom. 1:16–17).

Members of the Church Of Christ have this righteousness because this is what God's Messenger in the last days, Brother Felix Y. Manalo, brought or preached to us (Isa. 46:11–13).

Thus, we must continue participating in our propagational activities that are being further intensified by the current Administration of the Iglesia Ni Cristo. There are many ways by which we can fulfill this. Let us invite our fellowmen to our evangelical missions, as well as to tune in to our religious programs on radio, television, and internet. Let us give them our religious reading materials that discuss our beliefs.

Let us share the gospel with our fellowmen who are not yet members of the Church Of Christ so that they, too, may have a firm hope of receiving salvation when Judgment Day comes. That is a noble expression of our great love for our fellowmen and the most important help we can give to them. ●

**Bienvenido A. Santiago Jr.**  
Associate Editor



**There will always  
be poor people  
in the land, so I  
command you to  
give freely [open  
your hand] to your  
neighbors [or  
relatives; or  
countrymen;  
brothers] and to  
the poor and needy  
in your land.**

**Deuteronomy 15:11  
Expanded Bible**



# Church Bulletin

## Married brethren in New Jersey enjoy Buklod Night

In commemoration of the *Buklod's* 58th anniversary, the Ecclesiastical District of New Jersey held a *Buklod Night* on December 27, 2020.

Married brethren from various local congregations in the district participated in the program through videoconferencing.

Brother Alex Reyes, district supervising minister, led the activity with the help of the ministers, ministerial workers, and the Christian Family Organizations (CFO) district officers.

Due to safety protocols for Covid-19, the opportunities for couples to go out for dinner together have been limited. But because of the Church Administration's love and concern, they came up with an activity such as this for husbands and wives to be able to spend quality time with one another along with



their fellow Christian couples even from the comfort of their homes.

Every couple set up their respective venues with the theme of their choice. They were also the ones who prepared their dinner.

With the happiness the occasion brought them, the brethren were inspired and uplifted, ready to face another year with hope and strong faith. (G. Evangelista and A. Cañaverol Jr.)



## La Paz Congregation in Tarlac celebrates 90th anniversary

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Local Congregation of La Paz, Ecclesiastical District of Capas, Tarlac in the Philippines, its members engaged in a series of activities that ran from January 9 to 15, 2021.

The highlight of the weeklong celebration was their attendance of the special worship service officiated by the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, on January 9. It was livestreamed from the Central Temple in Quezon City and viewed in their house of worship. The dis-



strict supervising minister, Brother Mauro D. Balintag, was with them.

In the morning of January 11, the brethren held physical fitness activities at the Macabulos Park in La Paz. Led by the congregation's *Buklod* president, Brother Harold V. Mañebog, the Christian Family Organizations (CFO) officers ensured that safety and health protocols were observed.

More than 100 brethren donated blood on the next day at the San Isidro Covered Court, Belmonte Subdivision. Members of the Chris-

tian Medical Dental and Paramedical Society (CMDPS) spearheaded this blood donation activity in collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross-Tarlac Chapter.

On January 13, the Church members conducted a clean-up drive. The resident minister, Brother James Christian G. Trinidad, led the cleaning of the Church's compound and the town's creek.

The weeklong celebration concluded on January 15 with still more activities. First, was the orientation of the 68 new doctrinal instruct-

ees conducted by Brother Efren F. Manalo, the district Light of Salvation overseer.

Then the brethren held a special gathering officiated by the assistant district supervising minister, Brother Joselito Canlas. It was livestreamed from the congregation's house of worship to seven other sites and a number of brethren's homes.

Afterwards, a video presentation about the local congregation and video greetings of previous resident ministers and ministerial workers were shown. A picture gallery depicting the history of the Church in the town of La Paz was also prepared.

Rufina Mañebog, one of the elderly deaconesses, ardently expressed, "We've been through severe trials and persecutions, but, by God's grace, we have lived to tell the stories. We promise to remain one with the Church Administration He placed to lovingly lead us in our journey towards the promised salvation." (*J. Mañebog, G. Discipulo, and N. Flora*)



### More people in Taiwan join the Church Of Christ

Difficult times and the pandemic did not hinder the brethren in Taiwan Ecclesiastical District from uniting with the Church Administration in spreading the Good News of salvation.

On January 17, 2021, a baptism of new members was conducted at the house of worship of the Local Congregation of Chungli City.

During the homily, the candidates for baptism attentively listened to God's words preached by the assistant district supervising minister, Brother Ranilo Borrero.

Their oath-taking followed, which was led by Brother Ricardo Baltazar Jr., a minister of the gospel.





Health and safety protocols, like wearing face masks and observing social distancing, were strictly observed. Thankful to the Almighty God for calling them into the true Church, the newly baptized members were inspired to diligently share the hope of salvation with other people.

Currently, the Church has two ecclesiastical districts in Taiwan, a total of 20 local congregations, three Group Worship Services (GWS), and one extension. (K. Abalos) 📷

### New officers in Iloilo South sworn in

Additional officers from the Ecclesiastical District of Iloilo South in the Philippines took their oath of office to help in caring for the brethren in various congregations.

This was during a special gathering of Church officers on January 24, 2021.

Brother Samson Otero, district supervising minister, officiated from the house of worship of the Local Congregation of Iloilo City, which served as the main site, and was witnessed by brethren in other congregations in the district through videoconferencing.

In his homily, he emphasized the importance of the Church

duties given by God and the unity with the Church Administration in all the works and activities they are launching.

The brethren said that they would continue fulfilling their Church duties all for the glory of the Almighty God. (A. Vitales and V. Basco)



### Regina Congregation unites in spreading the truth

With the aim and hope that more people will come to the knowledge of the truth, that is, God's words written in the Bible regarding salvation, the Church members from the Local Congregation of Regina, Ecclesiastical District of Manitoba conducted an evangelical mission on January 24, 2021.

Preaching at their house of worship, the resident minister, Brother Felman Espinosa, taught the biblical teaching on how to attain salvation on the nearing Judgment Day, which is by joining the Church Of Christ.

Due to government-imposed restrictions concerning religious



assembly, the brethren and their guests witnessed the activity from the confines of their homes through videoconferencing.

Many of the guests expressed their intent to learn more about the teachings upheld in

the Church by attending worship services and Bible studies.

The brethren affirmed that they will continue to unite in fulfilling God's command to share their faith, knowing that this is part of His work of salvation in these last days. (L. Garcia and R. Mutya)

For more Church news around the globe, visit [www.pasugo.com.ph](http://www.pasugo.com.ph)





**GAWIN**  
kung ano ang

**Mabuti**

sa **PANINGIN** ng **DIYOS**

**ORDENASYON AT PAGGUNITA SA MGA  
ANIBERSARYO NG MGA LOKAL**

**S**A HALOS BAWAT SITWASYON, gumagawa ng desisyon ang tao batay sa kung ano ang inaakala niyang mabuti o kaya ay kung ano ang sina-sabi ng iba na mabuti. Ngunit, ano ba ang tunay na mabuti na dapat gawin ng tao?

Maliwanag sa mga kaanib ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* na ang mabuti na siyang dapat gawin ng tao ay ang mabuti sa paningin ng Diyos. Ito ay ang pagsunod sa Kaniyang mga utos at kalooban na nasusulat sa Biblia. Sumasampalataya sila na sa pamamagitan nito'y pagpapalain Niya sila sa buhay na ito at mananatili sila sa pag-asa sa pagtatamo ng kaligtasan sa pagbabalik ng Panginoong Jesucristo o sa Araw ng Paghuhukom. Ito ang dahilan kaya anuman ang kanilang sitwasyon, ipinagpapauna ng mga tunay na kaanib ng *Iglesia* kung ano ang nakapagbibigay-kasiyahan sa Panginoong Diyos.

Ito ang mensaheng binigyang-diin ng Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan, ang Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo, sa pagsambang kanilang pinangasiwaan noong Disyembre 26, 2020 sa Lokal ng Templo Central, Distrito Eklesiyastiko ng Central. Kasamang dumalo, sa pamamagitan ng *livestreaming*, ang 20 lokal na nagdiwang at magdiriwang ng kanilang *milestone anniversaries*. Sa okasyon ding iyon, inordenahan ng Namamahala ang 26 na regular na manggagawa upang maging mga ministro sa *Iglesia*.

Ang sumusunod ay ilan sa mga karanasang ibinahagi ng mga kapatid mula sa mga lokal na nagdiwang ng anibersaryo tungkol sa kung paano nila ipinagpapauna ang paggawa ng mabuti sa paningin ng Diyos ayon sa natutuhan nila sa pagtuturo ng Pamamahala ng Kaniyang mga aral:



DISYEMBRE

26

2020

TEMPLO  
CENTRAL  
QUEZON CITY



90  
TAON **Aranguren**  
Capas, Tarlac

90  
TAON **Sabang**  
Cavite South

85  
TAON **Asingan**  
Urdaneta City, Pangasinan

85  
TAON **Tayug**  
Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan

80  
TAON **Naujan**  
Mindoro Oriental

75  
TAON **Beneg**  
Zambales North

70  
TAON **Bambanin**  
Mindoro Oriental

70  
TAON **Igang**  
Iloilo South

70  
TAON **Malbog**  
Aiboy

70  
TAON **Natividad**  
Pampanga West

70  
TAON **Palpal**  
Negros del Norte

65  
TAON **Anquiray**  
Cagayan South

65  
TAON **Bad-as**  
Surigao del Norte

65  
TAON **Batitang**  
Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija

65  
TAON **Pagkakaisa**  
Mindoro Oriental

60  
TAON **Carabalan**  
Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental

55  
TAON **Macalang**  
Alaminos City, Pangasinan

55  
TAON **Puncan**  
San Jose City, Nueva Ecija

50  
TAON **Artadi**  
Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental

50  
TAON **San Roque**  
Quezon South

**D**ALAWANG DAAN at apatnapung kilometro sa kabuuan ang halos araw-araw na binabagtas noon ni Kapatid na Godofredo Briones, taga-Capas, Tarlac, upang patuloy niyang magampanan ang kaniyang tungkulin sa kanilang lokal. Ito'y sa gitna ng pagsubok na naranasan ng kaniyang sambahayan. Taong 2003, nang siya'y 60 taong gulang

na, nang matuklasan nilang may sakit sa puso ang kaniyang asawa.

Kinailangang dalhin ni Kapatid na Godofredo ang kaniyang maybahay sa Philippine Heart Center sa Quezon City, Metro Manila. Pahayag niya, "Malaking halaga ang kinailangan namin para sa operasyon sa puso ng aking asawa.



Nagtulung-tulong na lamang kami ng aking mga anak. Lahat ay ginawa namin dahil nais naming makasama pa ang ina ng aming sambahayan.”

Sa kabila ng gayong sitwasyon ay hindi nahadlangan si Kapatid na Godofredo sa pagtupad ng kaniyang tungkulin. “Umuuwi ako mula sa ospital sa mga araw ng mga pagpupulong at pagtupad. Nagtataka ang iba dahil napakalayo pa ng aking pinanggagalingan ngunit di ako pumapalya sa pagtupad ng tungkulin,” pahayag niya.

Puyat, pagod, at pag-aalala ang noo’y mada-las na nararanasan ni Kapatid na Godofredo sa bawat pagkakataong pansamantala niyang iniwan ang kaniyang asawa sa pagamutan. Gayunman, iyon ay buong katatagan niyang tiniis. Ang kaniyang pag-asa: “Kapag sa Diyos tayo nagtiwala, hindi Niya tayo pababayaan lalo na kung isinasabuhay natin ang Kaniyang mga utos. Siya lamang ang makatutulong sa atin sa panahon ng mga pagsubok.”

Dininig ng Panginoong Diyos ang dalangin ni Kapatid na Godofredo at ng kaniyang pamilya. Nabuhay pa ng 12 taon ang kaniyang asawa na si Kapatid na Marina matapos itong maoperahan. Bukod doon, ang kanilang pamilya ay pinagpala rin ng Panginoong Diyos nang higit pa sa dati nilang kalagayan sa buhay.



## Aranguren

CAPAS,  
TARLAC

Si Kapatid na Godofredo ngayon ay 77 taong gulang na at isang pangulong diakono sa Lokal ng Aranguren, Distrito Eklesiastiko ng Capas, Tarlac. Sa piling ng kaniyang tungkulin, masaya niyang inaakay ang kaniyang sambahayan sa masiglang paglilingkod sa Diyos, na tunay na nagdulot sa kanila ng ligaya at kapayapaan. Lahat ng kaniyang mga anak ay mga maytungkulin sa Iglesia. Ngayong maraming taon na ang lumipas sa buhay niya, namamalagi pa rin ang alab ng pananampalataya niya. Pangako niya, “Ako at ang aking buong angkan ay patuloy na maglilingkod sa Diyos at pasasakop sa Kaniyang Pamamahala.”

Sinulat ni Elvie Dimatulac



Aranguren, Capas, Tarlac

**S**I KAPATID NA GIBSON CAMPO ay isang maytungkulin sa Lokal ng Sabang, Distrito Eklesiastiko ng Cavite South.

“Bilang isang maytungkulin sa Iglesia, *priority* ko ang pagtupad ng aking tungkulin. Ipinagpapauna ko iyon at lagi kong panalangin sa Panginoong Diyos na patnubayan Niya ako at loobin Niyang walang maging hadlang sa aking pagtupad,” pahayag niya. “Nagpapapalit ako ng *schedule* sa trabaho—nagpapalipat ng *shift*—upang lagi kong magampanan ang mga tungkulin ko sa Iglesia.”

Sa ganito niyang sitwasyon, dumating ang pagkakataong sinubok ang pananampalataya ni Kapatid na Gibson. Pahayag niya, “Tinanong ako





ng isa sa mga nakatataas sa akin sa trabaho kung bakit daw ako naglalaan ng malaking oras sa Iglesia. Pinapili niya ako kung alin sa akin ang higit na mahalaga—trabaho ba raw o Iglesia. Pinili ko ang Iglesia.”

Mula noon, ani Kapatid na Gibson, tila hinahadlangan na siya sa bawat pagkakataong siya ay sasamba. Kapag pupunta na siya sa pagsamba, inatasan siyang mag-*overtime* sa trabaho bagaman natapos na niya ang mga pananagutan niya para sa araw na iyon. Ang ginagawa niya’y nakikiusap na lamang nang maayos na hindi muna mag-*overtime* upang makadalo ng pagsamba. Ngunit, dumating ang pagkakataong sinabihan siya ng nakatataas sa kaniya na, ‘Sige, pero huling araw mo na ito sa trabaho.’”

Sa tagpong iyon, nalungkot nang husto si Kapatid na Gibson sapagkat mawawalan siya ng panustos sa pang-araw-araw niyang pangangailangan. Gayunman, ang sabi niya, “Higit na nakalulungkot kung di ako makatutupad, kung di ako makasasamba.” Pinili niya ang pagdalo sa pagsamba.

Ayon sa kaniya, noong araw na iyon, inihibik na lamang niya sa Panginoong Diyos ang lahat ng kaniyang mga alalahanin. “Nanalangin ako. Lahat ay sinabi ko sa Diyos sapagkat bigat na bigat na ako,” sabi niya.

Hindi naman siya binigo ng Panginoong Diyos. Isinalaysay ni Kapatid na Gibson na, “Sa sumunod na araw, pumasok ako upang kunin na ang mga gamit ko sa trabaho. Sa pagpasok ko, may nakasabay ako

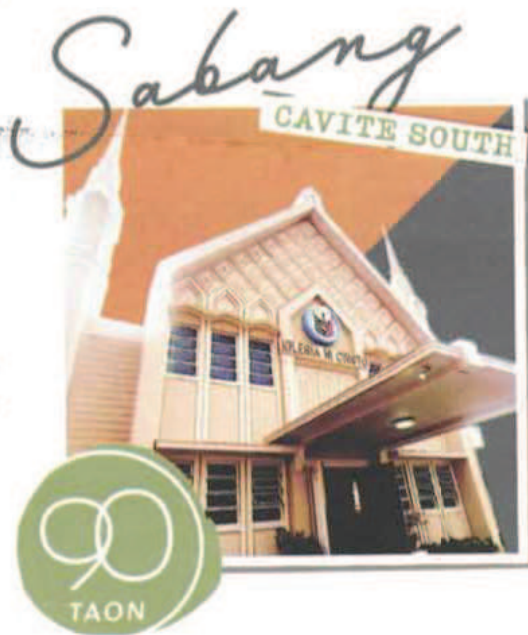
na may kapansanan na papasok din noon sa gusali ng kumpanya. Inalalayan ko siya. Pagkatapos noon, nagpakilala siya sa akin. Hindi ko inatasan, siya pala ang may-ari ng kumpanyang aking pinapasukan.”

Sa halip na maalís, “Natuwa ang may-ari ng kumpanya. Ginawa niya akong regular sa aking trabaho,” pahayag ni Kapatid na Gibson. “Sumasampalataya akong tulong iyon ng Panginoong Diyos. Lalo po akong naging matibay sa pananampalataya.”

Sa kasalukuyan, si Kapatid na Gibson ang pangulo ng kapisanang *KADIWA* at kalihim sa Ilaw ng Kaligtasan sa kanilang lokal. Ang

pagsubok na kaniyang naranasan ay nagpatibay sa kaniyang pananalig na hindi isang kalugihan ang magtanggap ng sarili at magsakripisyo alang-alang sa pagsunod sa kalooban ng Panginoong Diyos. Ang paninindigan ni Kapatid na Gibson: “Anuman ang mang-yari, mamamalagi akong nagtitiwala at sumusunod sa Panginoong Diyos. Tutulong ako sa lahat ng aktibidad ng Iglesia.”

Sinulat ni Irish Gail Santiago







**P**AWANG IKABUBUTI NG ANAK ang tanging hangad ng isang magulang. Gagawin niya ang buo niyang makakaya, mamuhunan man siya ng hirap, pagod, at maging ng buhay, matiyak lamang na ang kaniyang anak ay magkaroon ng isang maayos at masayang kinabukasan. Gaano katinding sakit at pag-aalala ang mararamdaman ng isang magulang kung biglang makaranas ng isang trahedyang ang kaniyang anak?

Gayon ang naramdaman ni Kapatid na Tony Olipas, isang mang-aawit, at ng kaniyang maybahay, noong taong 2001. Paglalahad niya, “Panahon iyon ng aking pagtupad. Nasa koro ako nang magawi ang aking paningin sa aking asawa na nasa kapuluhan. Nakita kong balisang-balisa at umiiyak [siya]. Ang lakas ng kutob ko na may nangyaring masama sa aming anak.”

Bagaman nag-alala si Kapatid na Tony sa pagkakataong iyon, tiniyak niyang maitalaga

pa rin ang sarili sa kaniyang ginagawang pagtupad. “Anuman ang mangyari, talagang tutupad pa rin ako ng tungkulin. Tuluy-tuloy lang sa pagtupad,” pahayag niya. “Sinabi ko na lang sa sarili ko na anuman ang nangyari, tutulongan kami ng Panginoong Diyos.”

Nang matapos ang pagsamba, sinabi sa kaniya ng kaniyang asawa na nabundol ng sasakyan ang

**K**ALIGAYAHAN SA BUHAY ni Kapatid na Girlie Malaza ang pagtupad ng kaniyang tungkulin, lalo na sa panahon ng mga pagsamba. Ayon sa kaniya, napakahalaga ng kaniyang tungkulin na anupa’t kailanman ay hindi niya ito pababayaang.

Mula sa kaniyang kabataan ay iminulat na siya ng kaniyang mga magulang sa pagtatalaga sa pagtupad ng kaniyang mga pananagutan sa Diyos. “Sinanay ako ng aking mga magulang na maglaan ng panahon at magsakripisyo alang-alang sa tungkulin. Sila ay diakono at diakonesa sa Iglesia,” wika niya. Siya naman ay isang organista noon.

Malayo man ang gusaling sambahan sa kanilang tahanan, subalit pinagtatalagahan pa rin nila ang pagtupad ng kanilang mga pananagutan bunsod ng kanilang pananampalataya. “Sinisikap pa rin naming makapunta sa kapilya. Noong

kami ay bata pa, alas-tres pa lang ng madaling araw ay gumagayak na kami at naghahanda ng sulo. Iyon ang nagbibigay sa amin ng liwanag sa limang kilometrong madilim na daang nilalakad namin patungo sa kapilya,” pahayag niya.

Ayon kay Kapatid na Girlie, payapa ang kaniyang damdamin sa tuwing siya ay nasa pagsamba. Dahil dito, mahirap man ang kalagayan ng kanilang buhay, taglay pa rin nila ang ligaya at pagiging kuntento. Nang siya’y magkaroon ng sariling





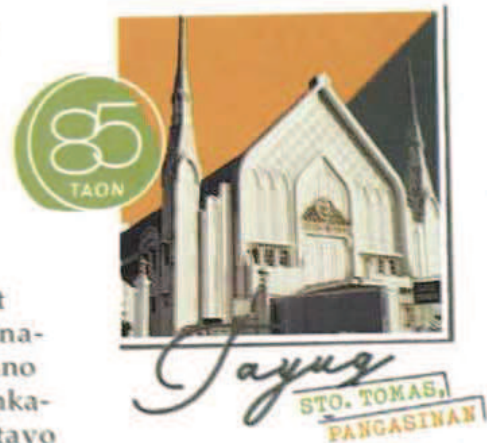
kanilang anak na si Kapatid na Mary Ann, 19 taong gulang noon. Agad pumunta ang mag-asawa sa isang ospital sa Urdaneta City na kinaroroonan ng kanilang anak. Pahayag ni Kapatid na Tony, "Hindi namin alam noon kung buhay pa ba ang anak namin." Kaya naman, inihanda na lamang nila ang kanilang damdamin sa maaaring mangyari. Gayunman, namalagi silang umaasa sa tulong ng Diyos. Pahayag ni Kapatid na Tony, "Nanalangin kami nang taimtim sa Panginoong Diyos."

Sa tulong at awa ng Diyos, buhay si Kapatid na Mary Ann. Bagaman nasugatan at halos maputulan ng paa, wala na siya sa bingit ng kamatayan nang madatnan nila. Ang pananampalataya ni Kapatid na Tony: "Pag-ibig iyon ng Panginoong Diyos. Himala iyon. Talagang Siya lamang ang may gawa noon." Pagkalipas ng ilang panahon, nakalakad na nang maayos si Kapatid na Mary Ann.

Sa kasalukuyan, si Kapatid na Tony ay 72 taong gulang na at humigit-kumulang 60 taon na sa kaniyang tungkulin bilang mang-aawit sa Lokal ng Tayug, Distrito Eklesiastiko ng Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan. Ang kaniyang buong

pamilya ay mga maytungkulin sa Iglesia at nakapagpapatulo sa masiglang paglilingkod sa Diyos. Handa nilang harapin anumang pagsubok pa ang dumating sa kanilang buhay sapagkat ang kanilang pananalig. "Kahit na ano ang mangyari, makapagtatagumpay tayo kapag kasama natin ang Panginoong Diyos. Magtiwala tayo sa Kaniya at gawin ang mabuti na inaasahan Niya sa atin," pahayag ni Kapatid na Tony.

Sinulat ni Junabelle Manaot



pamilya, sa pagtupad rin ng tungkulin iminulat niya ang kaniyang mga anak.

Panatag man ang kanilang buhay, gayunman, nauunawaan niyang makararanas pa rin sila ng malulungkot na pangyayari. Ang kaniyang mga magulang ay kapuwa pumanaw noong taong 2015 dahil sa karamdaman. Ang kanilang pagkawala ay labis na nagdulot sa kaniya ng kalungkutan. Nakapagdagdag pa sa kaniyang lungkot ang kasunod niyang nararanas sa taon ding iyon: "Ako ay na-stroke," pahayag niya.

Siya ay 54 taong gulang noon, at halos hindi makalakad dahil sa naging karamdaman. Ngunit sa kabila nito, hindi siya pinanghinaan ng loob. "Ang totoo, dahil sa mga pagsubok, lalo akong tumatag at tumibay."

Sa halip na sumuko, lalong nanghawak si Kapatid na Girlie sa magagawa ng Panginoong Diyos. Pahayag niya, "Inilapit ko sa Ama na sana ay patuloy niya kaming ingatan at tulu-

ngan upang patuloy kaming makatupad ng tungkulin. Lalo akong sumampalataya sa bisa ng pananalangin sa Kaniya."

Sa awa at tulong ng Panginoong Diyos, makalipas ang isang taon mula nang siya ay ma-stroke, bumalik ang dating lusog ng kaniyang pangangatawan. Ngayon, isa na siyang diakonesa at maytungkulin sa pananalapi sa Lokal ng Bad-as, Distrito Eklesiastiko ng Surigao del Norte.

Sa kabila ng mabibigat na karanasan sa buhay, ganito ang namamalaging paninindigan niya bilang isang maytungkulin sa Iglesia: "Kailanman ay hinding-hindi ko bibitiwan ang aking tungkulin at ang aking kahalalan. Nangangako kami ng aking sambahayan na patuloy kaming maglilingkod sa Diyos makararanas man kami ng mga pagsubok. Lagi naming gagawin kung ano ang mabuti sa Kaniyang paningin."

Sinulat ni Krizza Myka F. Malaza



# Carabalan

**M**ALAYO ANG gusaling sambahan mula sa tahanan nina Kapatid na Joan Arceño at walang masasakyan sa kanilang lugar, kaya naglalakad lamang siya patungo roon. Masukal at mabato ang daan, at bukod dito, ang sabi niya, "Kinakailangan ko pang lumusong sa isang ilog upang makarating sa gusaling sambahan." Si Kapatid na Joan ay isang mang-aawit sa Lokal ng Carabalan, Distrito Eklesiastiko ng Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental.

Ayon sa kaniya, may mga pagkakataong tumataas ang tubig sa ilog na kaniyang tinatawid, lalo na kung may malakas na bagyo. Gayunman, hindi kailan-



man sumagi sa isip niya na huwag nang tumuloy sa pagpunta sa gusaling sambahan sa tuwing may mga pagsamba. Pahayag niya, "Mahal ko ang aking tungkulin."

Sa tuwing umaawit siya ng mga awit ng pagpuri sa Panginoon sa panahon ng pagsamba, nakadarama siya ng kaligayahan at lalong tumitibay ang kaniyang pananalig sa Diyos. Kaya, hindi niya





kailanman tatalikuran ang sinumpaang niyang tungkulin. Ang kaniyang pinanghahawakan sa harap ng mga kahadlangan ay ang magagawa ng Diyos sa kaniyang buhay, kaya hindi siya bumibitiw sa pananalangin: “Panata. Iyan ang aking ginagawa upang mapagtagumpayan ang mga hadlang,” pahayag niya.

Hindi siya nabibigo sa kaniyang mga pananalangin sapagkat nararanasan niya sa kaniyang buhay ang pagtulong ng Diyos. “Delikado ang dinadaan ko patungo sa kapilya, lalo na kapag bumabagyo. May pagkakataon pang muntik na akong maanod ng tubig sa ilog na tinatawid ko. Ngunit, sa tulong at awa ng Diyos, hindi ako napapahamak. Nakatatawid akong ligtas,” pagsalaysay ni Kapatid na Joan.

Ayon pa rin sa kaniya, patuloy niyang nararanasan ang pagliligtas ng Diyos sa lahat ng pagkakataon. Kaya naman buo ang kaniyang loob na mamalagi sa pagtupad ng kaniyang tungkulin at hindi niya iiwan ang Iglesia.

Pahayag niya, “Hindi ako titigil sa paglilingkod. Iiwan ko kahit pa ang aking trabaho kung ito’y hahadlang sa aking pagtupad. Kahit malayo sa kapilya ang aming tahanan, kahit mainit, kahit maulan, at kahit datnan pa ako ng bagyo sa ilog na aking dinadaan ay lalakad pa rin ako patungo sa kapilya upang makatupad ng tungkulin hanggang sa wakas upang makatiyak ako ng kaligtasan sa Araw ng Paghuhukom.” ☺

Sinulat ni Rochelle Dalanangbayan



- |                             |                                      |                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ancheta, Mark Deo M.     | 10. Figuracion, Froilan Joy S.       | 19. Macaspac, Jommar T.    |
| 2. Angeles, Mark Gil H.     | 11. Flores, Amiel Jun N.             | 20. Magbanua, Roldan T.    |
| 3. Arcilla, Mark Vic G.     | 12. Fortaleza, Erman John Raimart M. | 21. Mangubat, Neil D.      |
| 4. Bellen, Reudel P.        | 13. Galace, Alger Larsam M.          | 22. Pastor, Jan Melvin A.  |
| 5. Berdin, Jim Jefferson A. | 14. Garcia, Joseph M.                | 23. Terrago, Daniel Jr. L. |
| 6. Crystal, Jezreel Jer C.  | 15. Gavino, Ryan C.                  | 24. Tuden, Hermie B.       |
| 7. Deazeta, Dariel Jay G.   | 16. Geonzon, Llumel L.               | 25. Valencia, Joseph S.    |
| 8. Duldulao, Edward D.      | 17. Hina, Dandy M.                   | 26. Yumul, Jeff Cary N.    |
| 9. Fabreag, Eduardo F.      | 18. Llamelo, Ernie II C.             |                            |

**Research Assistant:** Johnes R. Maghuyop Jr.  
**Layout Artists:** Ramfel Serreno, Rushier Ivan Cervantes,  
 and Carmie Cleofas

**Contributing Photographers:** Lester John Garcia, Petronilo Cotama III, Argel Mañebog, Bonjovi Castarico, Erlita Fonacier,  
 and Fame Palacios



ENDURING

TRIUMPHANTLY

WITH

FIRM FAITH

COMMEMORATION OF MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES  
OF 25 LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND 1 GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE

**A**LTHOUGH MEMBERS of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* (Church Of Christ), as anyone else in this troublous world, also go through adversities in life, they do not allow themselves to despair and lose heart. Thanks be to God, they are constantly guided by the Administration He placed in the Church on how they can carry on with their service of the Lord and uphold their Church membership. Especially during worship services, they are being taught the words of God that serve as guiding light as they journey through this difficult world for them to attain salvation in the end.

On January 9, 2021, the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, officiated at a worship service at the Central Temple in Quezon City,

Philippines, which was streamed live to local congregations and a Group Worship Service (GWS) that commemorated their respective milestone anniversaries this month. In the worship service, the Executive Minister taught, through the Bible, that with firm and steadfast faith, members of the Church will be able to endure triumphantly over life's tests and difficulties, more so to attain the everlasting peace that God has promised them.

Solemnly reflecting on the biblical lesson, brethren from the celebrating congregations shared their memorable experiences of how, through God's help and mercy, they were able to bear grueling trials in life as they fulfill the sacred duties He gifted them.





JANUARY  
**9**  
 2021

**TEMPLO CENTRAL  
 QUEZON CITY**

**90 YEARS** **La Paz**  
 Capas, Tarlac

**85 YEARS** **Maharlika**  
 Quezon

**85 YEARS** **Palangue**  
 Cavite

**80 YEARS** **San Isidro**  
 Carcar City, Cebu

**75 YEARS** **Bacarra**  
 Loodag City, Ilocos Norte

**75 YEARS** **Nagrumbuan**  
 Isabela East

**70 YEARS** **Bayawas**  
 San Carlos City, Pangasinan

**70 YEARS** **Binuangan**  
 Bulacan South

**70 YEARS** **Canarem**  
 Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan

**70 YEARS** **Padre Diaz**  
 Sorsogon

**70 YEARS** **San Mariano**  
 Isabela East

**70 YEARS** **San Teodoro**  
 Mindoro Oriental

**65 YEARS** **Ipil**  
 Zamboanga City

**65 YEARS** **Narra**  
 Palawan South

**65 YEARS** **Panay**  
 Capiz

**60 YEARS** **F. Manalo – Sta. Cruz**  
 Zambales North

**60 YEARS** **La Paz**  
 Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan

**55 YEARS** **Lun Masla**  
 General Santos City, South Cotabato

**55 YEARS** **San Juan**  
 Palawan South

**50 YEARS** **Julita**  
 Leyte East

**50 YEARS** **Luna**  
 Palayan City, Nueva Ecija

**50 YEARS** **Palali**  
 Camarines Norte

**50 YEARS** **Rosario Heights**  
 Lanao

**50 YEARS** **Straight Line**  
 Negros Oriental

**40 YEARS** **Diego Garcia**  
 Malaysia

**40 YEARS** **Hobart GWS**  
 Australia West

SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG, Sister Judith Bisda has held an office in the Church. She recalled, "I was eight years old when I started as a choir member in the Children's Worship Service (CWS). Later on, when I was baptized, I became a CWS officer. And in my college years, I became a CWS president." When she got married, Sister Judith became

a deaconess in the Local Congregation of La Paz, Ecclesiastical District of Capas, Tarlac.

Having understood the importance of performing her Church duties, Sister Judith has continued to fulfill them despite what she has gone through. Sharing what she recently experienced, she said, "It was last December when my father just noticed



and told me that my complexion seemed different. He advised me to have a checkup." Blood samples were taken from her and when the results came out, she said, "It was found out that my hemoglobin level had become significantly low, that I needed to be admitted and undergo blood transfusion."

Her condition made her feel tired and weak most of the time and she needed to undergo the treatment immediately. However, she said, "I decided to postpone being admitted to the hospital because that time was our preparation for the Holy Supper, which we long awaited because of the pandemic." For her, she added, "If we put first in our life the things for God, He will make a way for us."



*La Paz* CAPAS, TARLAC

She also saw how her children worried because of her condition. "It was painful for me to see them worry," she said. But what she made her children understand is to trust in what God can do for them. "I told them that whenever they get sick, they should always pray to God first and be anointed with oil, as what we did. Then God will do the rest," she said.

With firm faith, Sister Judith was able to fulfill her duty at the Holy Supper. After that, she underwent the necessary procedures for her treatment and eventually recovered. She said, "In accordance to what our Executive Minister preached, we should have steadfast faith. We should calm ourselves by putting all our trust in God, and that is what I said to myself. He will surely work for our good and He will not forsake us whatever trials may come into our life."

Written by Argel Mañebog

"BEFORE THE PANDEMIC, the amount we earn as market vendors are sufficient for our family. But when the pandemic came and restrictions were set and implemented by the local government, what we were earning has truly lessened. As human beings, my family was saddened, for it is our only source of living and it is what we use for our daily needs and, most of all, to continue fulfilling our duties to God," Brother Edwin Baquiran

shared. Indeed, the ongoing pandemic has affected in many ways the lives of many people around the world.

Church Of Christ members, however, have the hope of being able to surmount life's problems. "If many people of this world lose hope because they do not know who to lean on and turn to when problems come, we, Church Of Christ members are different. The Church Administration constantly teaches us through the words of God that we have the hope of receiving God's promised help to be able to endure trials and, above all, receive the eternal life in the Holy City," Brother Edwin expressed.

Firmly holding on to God's power, Brother Edwin and his family did not lose hope. Instead, they entrusted themselves to God through prayers. He said, "What we, together with my family, did was continue conducting our devo-





tional prayers. We knelt down every night in our prayers, asking for God's help, for we firmly believe that it is only He who can truly help the ones in need."

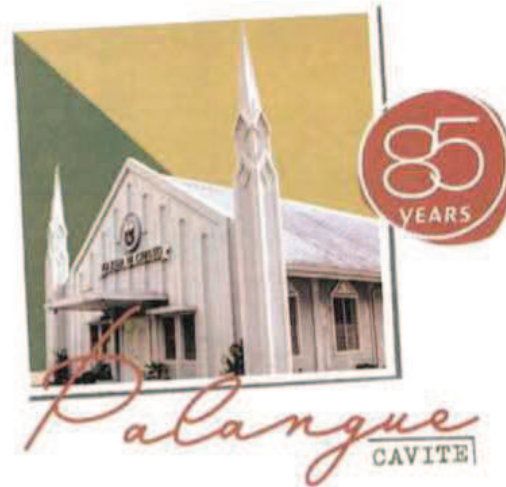
Moreover, Brother Edwin and his family did not forsake their duties to God. He said, "Despite the difficulties, we never faltered in performing our obligations in the Church, for we know that it will make us all the more worthy of receiving God's promises." He is currently a deacon and the Light of Salvation overseer in the Local Congregation of Palangue, Ecclesiastical District of Cavite.

Although what they have been earning since the pandemic's onset are far from what they were earning before, Brother Edwin and his family were able to carry on. "God is truly good to His people. We were able to sustain our daily needs, as well as our children's studies. Our son is now a ministerial student and we were also able to

have our daughter finish her studies in college. She is currently in Japan for a month now to continue her studies there and work at the same time," Brother Edwin said.

God, indeed, does not fail the hopes of His people who will devote themselves in performing their sacred obligations and have confident trust in Him. He certainly gives them the strength they need for them to endure what they are going through in this life.

Written by Melqui Reyes



FOR MOST PARENTS, their joy are the children they were blessed with. They would want what is best for them and strive to give all that they need. That is why they would do everything they can for their children's welfare.

Concerned with her son's health, Sister Ma. Fe Intong said, "Since my son was three months old, his fever had always been on and off. The doctor said that it was not just an ordinary fever, but my son was diagnosed with typhoid fever." Since then, her son has become sickly. However, that did not weaken Sister Ma. Fe's faith to God. Firmly entrusting their child's health to the Father Almighty, she said, "Before going to the hospital for the checkups, my husband and I would have our son be prayed for and anointed with oil first."

When their son was three years old, Sister Ma. Fe and his husband were awakened as they were sleeping. "It was 2:00 o'clock in the morning when we were awakened and noticed something wrong about our son. He had difficulty in breathing so he was rushed to the hospital," Sister Ma. Fe stated.





While they knew that their son's life was in danger, they did not lose hope. Instead, they continued to trust in what God can do for their son. "We did not stop praying to God for Him to save our son," she said. And with God's grace, their son was able to survive.

Truly, God heeds the prayers of His faithful servants who will entrust themselves to Him even in unfavorable situations. Church members who actively perform

their duties unto Him will certainly receive His promised help whenever they call upon Him in times of need. Sister Ma. Fe, who is an organist in the Local Congregation of San Isidro, Ecclesiastical District of Carcar City, Cebu, promised, "As long as we live, my family and I will remain strong in our Church membership. We will never abandon our duties and our faith and trust in God will never weaken no matter what happens."

Written by Esperlinda Balata



REMINISCING ABOUT how her journey on becoming a Church Of Christ member began, Sister Myrna shared, "I admit that, at first, I thought that it was just a burden and a waste of time to be in this Church. Whenever I was invited, I would do all sorts of avoidance just to make the Church members leave me, as I was busy then." However, after a few months of skepticism, she accepted the invitation of the brethren as they were persistent. Upon examining and coming to the realization that this is the only true Church, she said, "All my doubts, questions, and hesitations were gone, as the lessons and doctrines presented were all based on the Bible."

Embracing her Church membership, she accepted an office in the Church. At present, Sister Myrna performs as a deaconess in the Local Congregation of Nagrumbuan, Ecclesiastical District of Isabela East.

Because it is a Church member's duty to share the true faith, Sister Myrna actively helps in the work of propagation. However, challenging times had also come her way as she fulfilled this duty of hers. "I had experienced being thrown with stones while persuading people to listen to the doctrines we believe in. There were also times that the place of missionary activities we were in were stoned while conducting evan-

gelical missions and Bible studies on doctrines," Sister Myrna shared. She was also persecuted by her family members, especially when she invites them to join the Church. She further stated, "My loved ones were initially against my becoming a member of the Church. There were times that they mock me, as they were devoted Catholics."

But with perseverance and through her devotional prayers, she was able to bear fruits. "With God's help, I was able to bear fruits—including my father, my siblings, as well as my in-laws and other relatives, are now active members of the Church. We just need to trust in God and never give up in fulfilling this duty of ours."

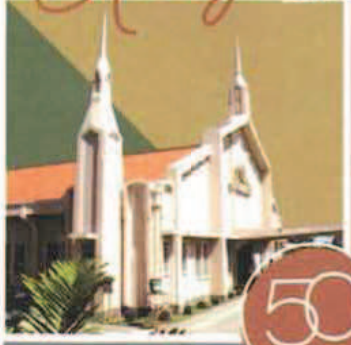
Written by Marvin Villaquidan





# Rosario Heights

LANAO



"I WAS WORKING in Marawi City when the siege broke out. Our employer told us to remain inside because the militants are already outside our work area. Gunfires were so near. Loud explosions were so terrifying," Brother Mark Quinain reminisced.

What Brother Mark said was about the five-month-long armed conflict between the Philippine government security forces and some militant groups in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. The cost of the "Battle of Marawi" was truly huge. The mass destruction of the infrastructures flattened the entire city and left it devastated. A lot of people were injured and lost their lives. Many were also left homeless.

Despite the situation he was in at that time, he did not lose hope and entrusted himself to God. He said, "While in hiding, I knelt and sincerely prayed to God to keep me safe. I fervently prayed for His protection. I took refuge in Him."



It took five days before Brother Mark was rescued and evacuated to safety, but he was unharmed. Confidently believing that it was God Who kept him safe, Brother Mark expressed, "That terrifying incident in my life is a manifestation that God hears the call of His faithful servants."

Brother Mark continues to fulfill his duty as the chairperson of the Social Development and Services committee of the *KADIWA* organization in the Local Congregation of Rosario Heights, Ecclesiastical District of Lanao. It is his endeavor to guide the *KADIWA* members of their local congregation to actively participate in the Church's socio-civic activities.

Forever thankful for God's unfailing protection and care, Brother Mark promised, "I will always fulfill my duty in the Church and safeguard my divine election."

Written by Wilmie Villena

A 2016 CENSUS shows that about 40% of the people in Greater Hobart in the island of Tasmania do not have any religious affiliations ([quickstats.census-data.abs.gov.au](http://quickstats.census-data.abs.gov.au)). "People here are not that religious. There are times that when we invite people, it is difficult to get them to come to religious gatherings and listen to God's words," said Sister Crescenciana Connolly, a finance officer in Hobart GWS, Ecclesiastical District of Australia West.

Sister Crescenciana, fondly called Sister Chresing, is one of the pioneering members of the Hobart GWS. Despite the fact that many people in their area are not interested in religion, Sister Chresing did not allow herself and her family to be swayed

away from the truth by the wrong notion that many people believe in—to prioritize the things that are of this world only. She said, "With God's grace, we are able to uphold God's teachings which keep our faith strong."

To be able to remain fulfilling what God seeks from His chosen servants, Church members are always reminded with the words of God, primarily during the worship service. That is why Sister Chresing gives utmost importance to these sacred gatherings above anything else. She said, "The worship services that we hold are very important. God's words that we receive during our worship services strengthen our resolve to prioritize and





*Heart*  
*EMS*  
AUSTRALIA WEST

never neglect our duties to Him and to continue fulfilling His will.” Church Of Christ members may be surrounded by people who are preoccupied with the things in this life only, but true and faithful Church members will

always remain devoted to giving utmost importance to what matters the most—their services to God. “I promise the Almighty God that I will continue to uphold my duties and always obey His teachings, happen what may in my life,” Sister Chresing said. Firmly believing that her salvation truly lies on her divine calling and not on the things of this world, she further stated, “If we remain within the true Church and always uphold the commandments of God, we will receive the eternal reward when our Lord Jesus Christ returns.”

Written by Mikaela Buenagua

WORKING AWAY from one’s family is never easy. A father who works in a foreign land, like Brother Mayorico Pascua, “Rick” for short, endures a lot for his family’s sake. However, as a Church Of Christ member, not only does Brother Rick make sure to provide for the needs of his family, but above all, he makes sure that they do not forsake their Church membership. He said, “I always find time to communicate with them daily to ensure that they are attending the worship services to God and are active *Iglesia Ni Cristo* members.” At present, Brother Rick is the choir leader and a finance officer in the Local Congregation of Diego Garcia, Ecclesiastical District of Malaysia.

He works at the Diego Garcia US Navy Base Support Facility. His working away from his homeland at first was not always smooth sailing. He shared, “I was served

a notice of termination of my employment contract because of reduction in workforce.” But as a Church member who firmly believes that God always provides solutions for the problems of His faithful servants, Brother Rick

entrusted everything to the Father in heaven. When he learned that he was about to be terminated from work, he said, “I went to the house of worship and prayed to the Lord God and asked Him to help me overcome uncertainties.”

The morning when he was about to leave the island, instead of preparing to go back to his home country, he was able to continue working. Brother Rick shared, “My prayer was immediately answered by the Almighty God. He truly showed the work of His mighty hands in providing blessings to His people.” He added, “I was hired by another department. From there, with the help of the Lord God, I was blessed to continue sustaining the needs of my loved ones.”

Having experienced God’s loving-kindness, Brother Rick promised with conviction, “I will always worship the Lord God with solemnity and thankfulness and will never slide back in serving Him.”

Written by Karizza Nyzelle Quiroz

Research Assistant: Felgem Edward Elevado

Layout Artists: Ramfel Serreno, Jan Melvin Pastor, and Carmie Cleofas

Contributing Photographers: Lexter John Garcia, Ramiro Bernardo Jr, Renz Michael Coro, Claer Quijano, Phoebe Falame, Christopher Enriquez, Carol Medina, Ryan Christopher Flores, and Paolo Quimpo

*Diego Garcia*  
MALAYSIA





# Intensifying Further the Works of Propagation Amid the Pandemic

**O**N JANUARY 12, 2021, the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, led this year's first International Conference of Ministers and Ministerial Workers held at the Central Temple in Quezon City, Philippines. Observing health and safety protocols, the ministers, ministerial workers, and ministerial students of the Church Of Christ witnessed the sacred occasion in their respective ecclesiastical districts around the world through videoconferencing.

Citing examples from the Bible, the Executive Minister underscored that amid these difficult times, Church members, especially ministers and ministerial workers, should all the more have an immovable faith and be active in fulfilling God's commandments.

"The Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo Manalo, exhorted us to all the more intensify the works of propagating God's words even amid the pandemic," recalled Brother Jun Nabos, a minister of the gospel who was instrumental in the baptism into the Church of 107 people in 2020 and the establishment of the Calanay Group Worship Service in Aroroy, Masbate late last year. Currently assigned in the Local Congregation of Zabarte, Quezon City, he added, "We must have a strong faith

for us to be victorious and, with the help of our Lord God, overcome the growing number of challenges that people now face."

After the opening remarks of Brother Rene Panoncillo, an oath-taking of five district supervising ministers, five assistant district supervising ministers, and 13 pastors of local congregations in Metro Manila followed. Brother Artemio Pilon Jr. led the opening prayer, while Brother Romer Galang led the closing prayer after the insightful and heartwarming lecture of the Executive Minister.

Greatly moved and inspired by God's words preached by the Executive Minister, the ministers and ministerial workers who attended expressed their renewed commitment and dedication to the holy ministry.

"I will remain active and zealous in fulfilling our duties in the ministry with the help and guidance of our Lord God through the leadership of the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo Manalo," said Brother Jun Nabos. ●

Written by Michael Angelo Gallego  
with research assistance from Alejandro Sino Cruz Jr.

Layout Artists:  
Rushier Ivan Cervantes and Frances Nicole Sanchez



—IGLESIA NI CRISTO (CHURCH OF CHRIST)

AID  TO  
HUMANITY

## ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself’

By ROMMEL T. SANVICTORES

THERE ARE VARYING and even opposing views as to how one should express concern or care about others. For instance, some people consider a particular undertaking noble and altruistic, whereas others look at it as a way to brag or show off. Some endeavors are regarded as beneficial to humanity, but deemed by some people to only promote laziness and mendicancy, hence, unnecessary, a waste of time and money. For this reason, they choose to do nothing. And though they say they care, their indifference

to the predicament of those in need reveals their lost sense of responsibility to their fellowmen.

For the true Christians, their belief and motive in caring for others are anchored in the very teaching of the Savior:

“The second most important commandment is this: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’” (Mark 12:31 Good News Bible)

No philosophy or ideology, however popular, can be greater than this divine principle taught by the Savior Himself on how we should care

about others—we should love our fellowmen as we love ourselves.

### Putting into practice the Christian principle

It is commendable to hear people utter consoling words for those in dire situations, like those severely affected by a calamity or those living in a poverty-stricken community. However, Apostle John taught that love should not be proved merely by lip service:

“My children, our love should not be only words and talk. No! Our love must be true love. We should



show our love by the things we do.” (I John 3:18 Easy-to-Read Version)

True Christians are commanded to show their love toward others not by mere words and talk but by the things they do; otherwise, such is not true love. One of the actions that should be carried out as proof of one’s love of fellowmen is mentioned in Deuteronomy 15:11:

“There will always be poor people in the land, so I command you to give freely [open your hand] to your neighbors [or relatives; or countrymen; brothers] and to the poor and needy in your land.” (Expanded Bible)

Extending help to the poor and those in need is expected of God’s people since the earliest times. For, if one’s love toward others is not coupled with such charitable action, Apostle James taught, thus:

“Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don’t have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, ‘God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!’—if you don’t give them the necessities of life?” (James 2:15–16 GNB)

Thus, for one’s love of fellowmen to be meaningful, it must be translated into action—kindness and generosity to those in need.

**Now is the time when help is needed most**

Apostle Paul foretold, “Remember that there will be difficult times in the last days” (II Tim. 3:1 GNB).

No doubt, this prophetic pronouncement of Apostle Paul has been fulfilled in our time. The world today is being plagued with poverty, further aggravated by the onslaught of calamities and deadly disease. As projected by the World Bank, the Covid-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 150 million people into extreme poverty by 2021 ([worldbank.org](http://worldbank.org)), increasing further the already huge number of people who are suffering.

So, now, more than ever, is the time to help those in need. Ever since the time of God’s Messenger in the last days, Brother Felix Y. Manalo, the Church Of Christ has been united in giving aid to those in need. And when Brother Eraño G. Manalo, the then Executive Minister, formally launched in 1981 the Church’s outreach program dubbed *Lingap Sa Mamamayan* (Aid to Humanity), the Church has become even more zealous in carrying out humanitarian activities. This is in accordance with what God Himself says:

“I want you to share your food with the hungry people. I want you to find poor people that don’t have homes, and I want you to bring them into your own homes. When you see a man that has no clothes—give him your clothes! Don’t hide from helping those people; they are just like you.” (Isa. 58:7 ETRV)

Now that it has reached 158 countries and territories worldwide, the Church Of Christ, under the stew-

**“The second most important commandment is this: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’”**

Mark 12:31  
Good News Bible

ardship of Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, the present Executive Minister, has further intensified its efforts to reach out even to those in remote places of the world. This is in keeping with what is written in Proverbs 3:27: “Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act” (New International Version).

Thus, through its socio-civic arm, the Felix Y. Manalo Founda-



**“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.”**

Proverbs 3:27  
New International Version

tion, Inc., the Church Of Christ regularly conducts the International Aid to Humanity in various parts of the globe. The Church’s aid in such activity includes not only care packages that contain food, clothing, hygiene kits, and other essentials, but also medical and laboratory services.

The Church also launches training programs and livelihood projects such as eco-farming, livestock production, home industry, garment factories, and others. Those projects aim to provide the recipients of the Church’s aid with the needed skills in acquiring a sustainable and decent means of living.

Furthermore, an essential part of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo’s* humanitarian assistance is providing shelter to those who have lost their homes because of disasters. As calamities today are getting worse and occurring more frequently, the Church’s housing and resettlement projects have also become more extensive, catering to members and nonmembers.

This is in line with what Apostle Paul taught, “Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good

to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters” (Gal. 6:10 New Living Translation).

**What the Church Of Christ all the more strives to share**

More than the material provisions that the Church Of Christ strives to share is God’s message that will lead people toward the attainment of eternal life. This is what Apostle Jude Thaddeus pointed out:

“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.” (Jude 1:21-23 New King James Version)

True Christians have been commanded to show compassion to others by snatching them out of the fire. The fire being referred to is the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14) into which those who will not be saved on Judgment Day will be thrown and tormented forever.

As proof of their concern for their fellowmen, Church Of Christ members exhaust all possible means to share the message of salvation. Even during this time of the pandemic, they never stop sharing their faith. They make use of modern technology and various social media platforms so that more people may come to know the truth and be saved on Judgment Day (I Tim.

2:3–4). This is the most important aid that the Church Of Christ members could ever give to their fellowmen and the noblest expression of their love toward others.

**Their hope and inspiration in doing good works**

Church Of Christ members never consider the work of giving aid to their fellowmen as a waste of time and money, much less as something to brag about. They are certain that it is the Lord’s work, and nothing they do for the work of the Lord is ever useless, as proven by Apostle Paul:

“So then, my dear friends, stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever useless.” (I Cor. 15:58 GNB)

The reason their labors in the works for the Lord are never useless is that the time will come when they will reap the harvest (Gal. 6:9–10), which is the eternal life, as attested to by Apostle Paul (I Tim. 6:18–19).

This is why the enthusiasm of the brethren in the Church Of Christ in expressing their love for their fellowmen never diminishes, but is kept even more aflame. It is their firm faith and hope that, in doing so, God is glorified and at the same time, they are storing up for themselves a good foundation for receiving salvation. 🌟



---

# The ‘Good Samaritan’ and the Samaritan woman at the well

By JENSEN DG. MAÑEBOG

**R**ECORDED IN THE GOSPEL according to Luke, the parable of our Lord Jesus Christ about the “Good Samaritan” is one of the well-known Gospel stories. It is about a man attacked by robbers and the Samaritan who helped him after.

Meanwhile, the story of the Samaritan woman at the well is told in the Gospel according to John. It tells how the Lord Jesus, journeying through Samaria on His way to Galilee, sat down by Jacob’s well and met there the woman when she came to draw water.

Jesus asked her for a drink of water, and from there their conversation took off, eventually leading to Jesus revealing Himself as the Messiah (John 4:7, 24–26). The woman was unnamed, yet she

became instrumental in leading many people to have faith in the God-appointed Savior.

What should Christians learn from the ‘Good Samaritan’ and the Samaritan woman at the well?

## **The parable**

As recorded in Luke 10:25–37, Christ presents the parable of the Good Samaritan after a teacher of the Law tries to trap Him, asking Him how he can receive eternal life. The man already knows that the Holy Scriptures require a person to love God and his neighbor as he loves himself. But he nonetheless asks Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?”

So, Jesus replies by telling the parable about a man who, on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho, falls

into the hands of thieves who strip him, beat him, leaving him half dead. A priest, and then a Levite, pass by without helping him. But a Samaritan—i.e., someone from a race detested by Jews especially back then—sees the man and has pity on him.

He treats the victim’s wounds, puts him on his animal, and takes him to an inn to look after him. The next day, he pays the innkeeper, saying, “Take care of him and ... when I come again, I will repay you” (Luke 10:35 New King James Version).

## **Lessons from the parable**

Through the parable, Jesus teaches that in order to be saved, a person does need to love his neighbor—that is, anyone in need. Referencing the



## “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”

Matthew 5:6  
New King James Version

Samaritan’s showing of mercy, Christ clearly teaches: “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:37 NKJV).

The parable also teaches that even those from various nations can prove to be neighbors, that sympathy should have no cultural boundaries, and that racial discrimination must have no place in charity. To love a neighbor, as shown by the Samaritan, is to act with compassion and generosity.

### The Church’s humanitarian missions

In obedience to biblical teachings, the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* (Church Of Christ) has been conducting charitable missions and socio-civic activities. Through its *Lingap sa Mamamayan* (Aid to Humanity) projects, it extends help to those who are in need, Church members and nonmembers alike, especially the victims of disasters and calamities. Throughout the years, it has benefited millions worldwide.

Through the Felix Y. Manalo Foundation, Inc. and various humanitarian programs, the Church Of Christ has provided resettlement and livelihood projects for the victims of misfortunes and self-sustainable means of livelihood for poverty-stricken communities, such as the eco-farms it established in various

places like Africa. The Church also has programs that help and reach out to the disabled and even the indigenous peoples. These, and many more, are the Church’s humble way of choosing to obey Christ’s teaching to love one’s neighbor through action, rather than apathetically “walk away.”

### Those also in need

The people who should be helped are not just those who lack in their needs in life. Christ teaches:

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.” (Matt. 5:6 NKJV)

There are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, which refers to God’s commandments or teachings (Ps. 119:172). The people of the world, as described by the apostles, are in “the bondage of corruption” (Rom. 8:21 NKJV), and therefore are in real danger, for they are condemned to die in the lake of fire which is the second death (Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:14).

Those who want to be saved thus thirst for “the knowledge of the truth” (I Tim. 2:3-4)—the words of God (John 17:17) written in the Holy Scriptures (II Tim. 3:15-17) as preached by those commissioned by God (Rom. 10:15; II Cor. 5:18-20).

### Like the Samaritan woman

Made by Christ as “light of the world” tasked to “shine before men” by doing “good works” to others (Matt. 5:13-14, 16 NKJV), Church Of Christ members are given the virtuous calling to be instrumental in the saving function of Christ (Jude 1:23). Their vital part in this God-given mission is to guide people to listen to righteousness or God’s truths.

In this endeavor, they are encouraged to do what the Samaritan woman earnestly did:

“The woman then left her water-pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I ever did.’

“And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe ... we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world’.” (John 4:28-30, 39, 41-42 NKJV)

What she did may seem to be simple, but considering what it essentially brought to those who heeded her invitation, it was in no way less than noble. Hence, today’s faithful Church members dedicatedly give their full support to various missionary activities, knowing that by sharing their faith, they win people back to the Lord.

The parable of the “Good Samaritan” and the story of the Samaritan woman at the well are among the inspirations of the Church Of Christ in conducting many activities, such as the outreach-evangelical missions or *Lingap-Pamamahayag*. Through this program, it compassionately extends immediate material needs to those in need, and more importantly, invites many people to listen to God’s words, for them to receive also the far greater benefits—salvation and everlasting life. ●

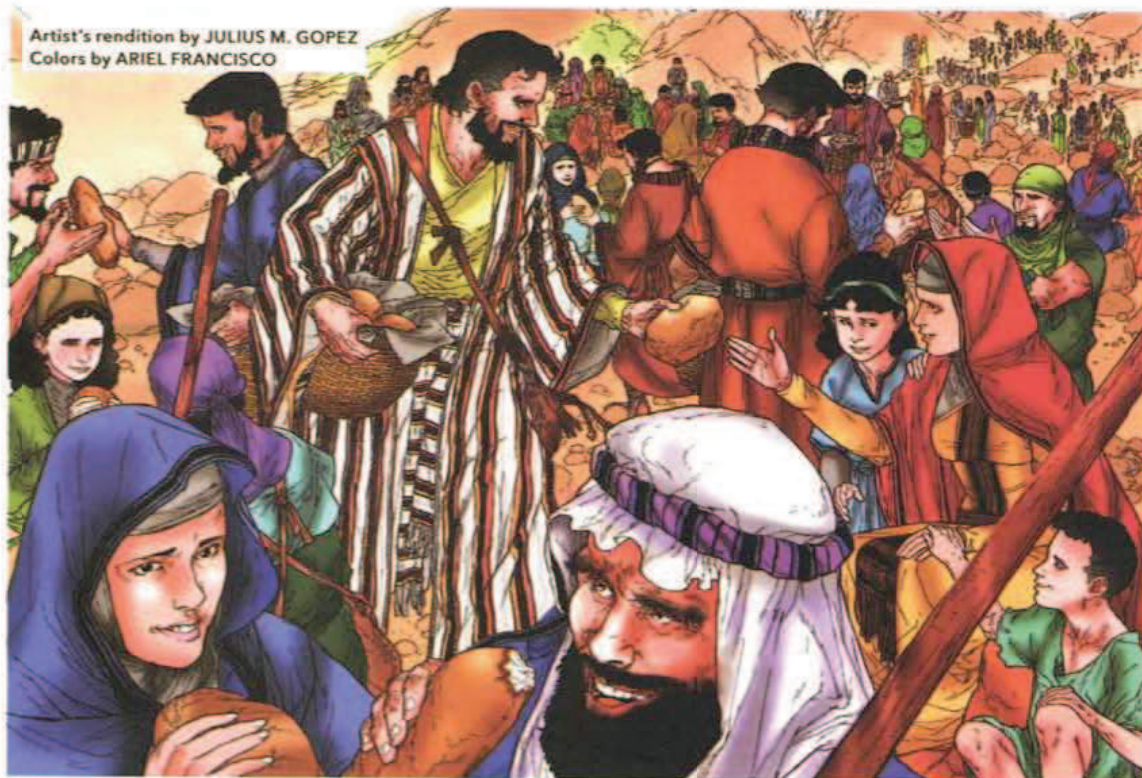


# Stories from the Bible

## Jesus feeds thousands of people

Out of His compassion, Jesus, by the power God bestowed on Him, performed a miracle to feed thousands of people.

Upon returning from the mission on which Jesus had sent them, the apostles told Him everything they had done and taught. Afterwards, Jesus took them with Him on a boat across the Sea of Galilee to a place where they could be alone and get some rest. However, when many people learned that Jesus was near their area, they ran to see Him, together with their friends and relatives who were sick. (Mark 6:30-33)



**W**HEN JESUS GOT OUT of the boat, he saw the large crowd that was like sheep without a shepherd. He felt sorry for the people and started teaching them many things.

That evening the disciples came to Jesus and said, "This place is like a desert, and it is already late. Let the

crowds leave, so they can go to the farms and villages near here and buy something to eat."

Jesus replied, "You give them something to eat."

But they asked him, "Don't you know that it would take almost a year's wages to buy all of these people something to eat?"



Then Jesus said, "How much bread do you have? Go and see!"

They found out and answered, "We have five small loaves of bread and two fish." Jesus told his disciples to have the people sit down on the green grass. They sat down in groups of a hundred and groups of fifty.

Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish. He looked up toward heaven and blessed the food. Then he broke the bread and handed it to his disciples to give to the people. He also divided the two fish, so that everyone could have some.

After everyone had eaten all they wanted, Jesus' disciples picked up twelve large baskets of leftover bread and fish.

There were five thousand men who ate the food.

One day another large crowd gathered around Jesus. They had not brought along anything to eat. So Jesus called his disciples together and said, "I feel sorry for these people. They have been with me for three days, and they don't have anything to eat. Some of them live a long way from here. If I send them away hungry, they might faint on their way home."

The disciples said, "This place is like a desert. Where can we find enough food to feed such a crowd?"

Jesus asked them how much food they had. They replied, "Seven small loaves of bread."

After Jesus told the crowd to sit down, he took the seven loaves and blessed them. He then broke the loaves and handed them to his disciples, who passed them out to the crowd. They also had a few little fish, and after Jesus had blessed these, he told the disciples to pass them around.

The crowd of about four thousand people ate all they wanted, and the leftovers filled seven large baskets.

As soon as Jesus had sent the people away, he got into the boat with the disciples and crossed to the territory near Dalmanutha. 🌟

(Quoted from Mark 6:34–44; 8:1–10  
Contemporary English Version)

## Iglesia Ni Cristo Church makes large food bank donation

By Josh Hall, Oct. 31, 2020

The local congregation of the Iglesia Ni Cristo Church made another huge donation on Saturday to the Red Deer Food Bank.

The donation is part of the church's Aid to Humanity initiative, which they also used to help the food bank in Red Deer last spring.

"We believe that the best way to show our love for our fellow men, especially in these difficult times, due to COVID-19 pandemic and worsening economic recession, is to unite in helping one another, to heal as one, and make kindness contagious to inspire more and more people in doing good works," said Brother Roland Gaviola, District Minister of Calgary.

"Every family in Iglesia Ni Cristo – Church Of Christ in Red Deer prepared boxes of food to donate to the Red Deer Food Bank."

Members from congregations in Ponoka, Lacombe, Olds and Rocky Mountain House also contributed.

"With its Aid to Humanity program, the Iglesia Ni Cristo embraces the teaching of the Bible to love neighbours, countrymen, and brethren," Gaviola added. "The Iglesia Ni Cristo delivers humanitarian aid all over the world, especially in calamity hit areas, and is committed to aiding communities by providing immediate and long-term solutions in its campaign to fight poverty. The INC's projects include programs that provide livelihood and education."

In all on Saturday, the group dropped off close to 350 boxes full of various non-perishable food items to the Red Deer Food Bank.

Food bank Deputy Director, Alice Kolisnyk, says the donation will have a huge impact on their operations, literally and figuratively.

"It's going to fill our shelves which will need extra filling this year because of the situation everybody's in," says Kolisnyk. "We're in a good place even compared to last year. In light of the pandemic, people have been super supportive. Our shelves are well stocked and we're getting geared up for the holiday season and the extra help that will be needed." 🌟

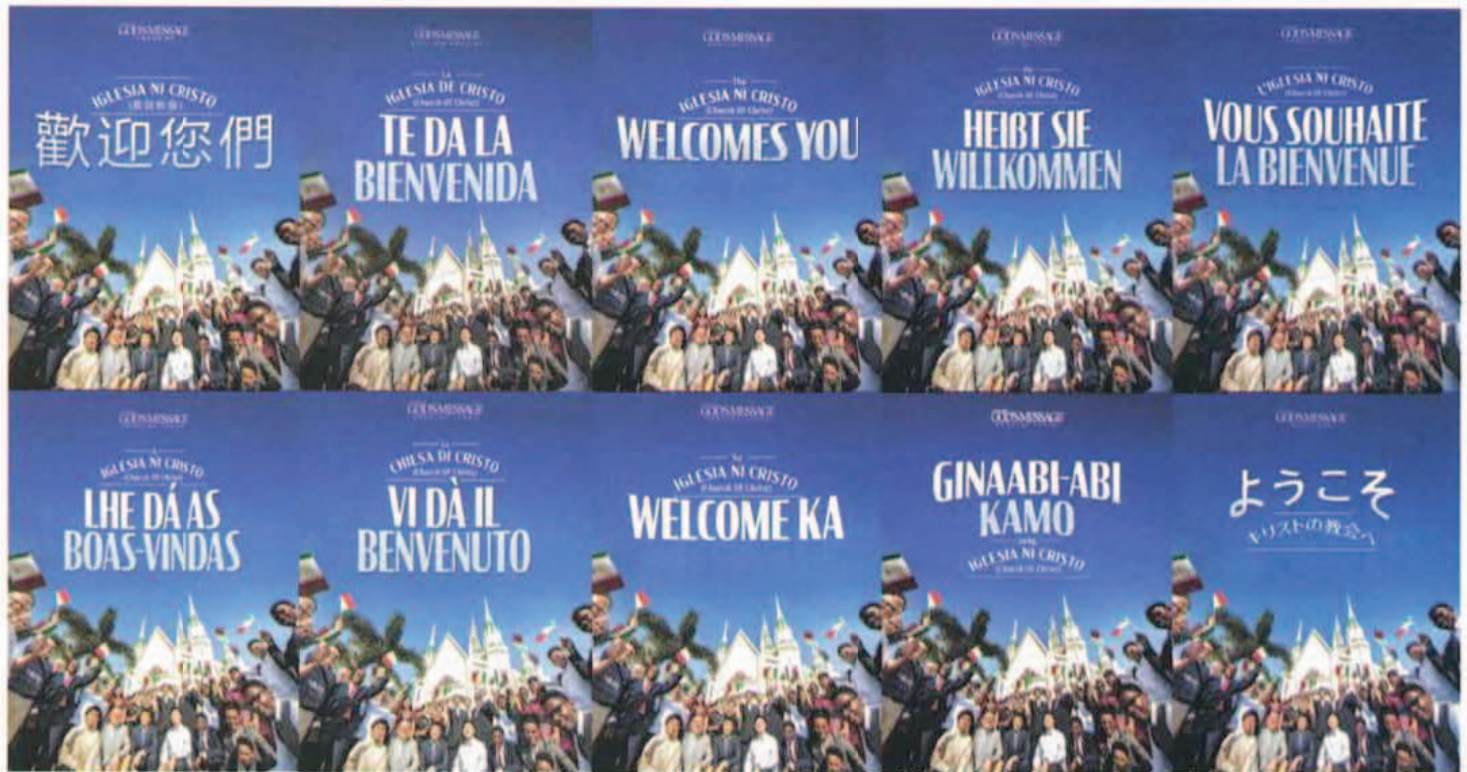
(Source: <https://rdnewsnow.com/2020/10/31/iglesia-ni-cristo-church-makes-large-food-bank-donation/>)



# Features

## Pasugo at 82: Remaining relevant amid fast-changing times

By MARK ANDRO T. MILAN



Pasugo: God's Message Special Issue in different languages and Philippine dialects

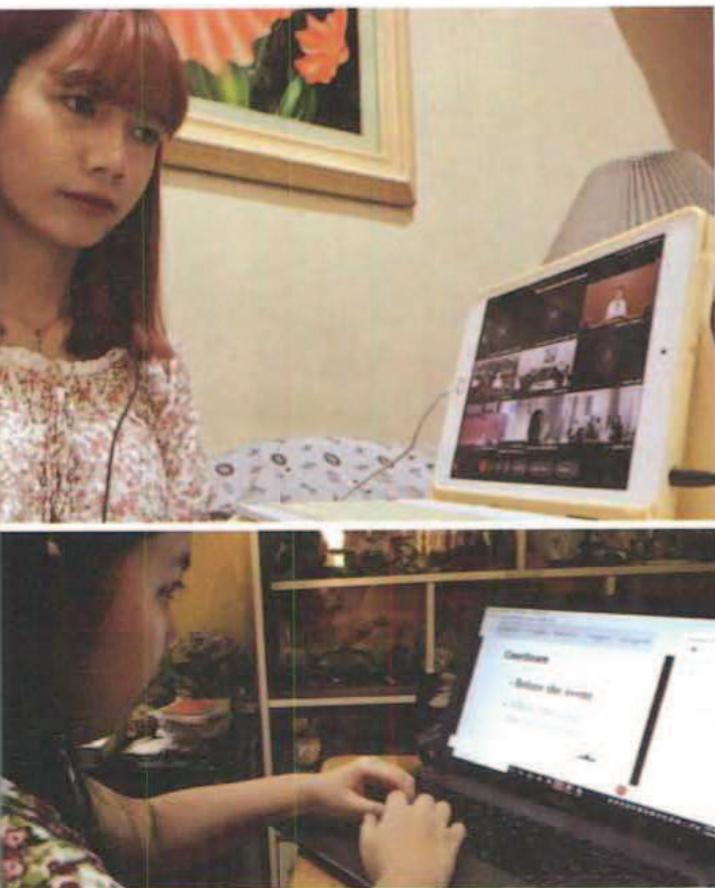
**C**ELEBRATING ITS 82ND anniversary this February, the *Pasugo: God's Message* magazine, the official magazine of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ), has gone a long way. With God's help, it has stood the tests of time and the current pandemic crisis in being an effective tool in propagating the faith and in edifying the brethren, which has been the aim of the Church leaders, particularly the Messenger of God in these last days, Brother Felix Y. Manalo.

Being the first Editor-in-Chief of the *Pasugo*, Brother Felix Manalo encouraged all Church members to allot time in reading its articles to strengthen their faith. And that,

upon reading, they must share with their fellowmen copies of the magazine so that they, too, will know and understand the right way of serving the Lord God.

To reach a wider readership, the *Pasugo* has been utilizing its online medium: the *pasugo.com.ph*. The Church's fundamental doctrines, among other religious and feature articles, could be read there. The Executive News, which highlights the pastoral visitations of the present Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, are also featured there. Church news, featuring the activities held by ecclesiastical districts and local congregations worldwide, are being uploaded daily.





PASUGO  
GOD'S MESSAGE

# INsCribE!

for PGM Contributors 2021

“Develop writing skills that are beneficial to the Church’s works”

Indeed, instead of being hindered, the *Pasugo* copes with the new normal. The *Pasugo*'s special issue “The Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) Welcomes You” had undergone printing even before the pandemic. Translated into ten major languages and three Philippine dialects, it is being used to unite with the intensified propagation of the faith. Thus, even when the production and shipping of its print copies were affected at the start of the current crisis, the magazine’s relevance continues to be felt online.

Furthermore, the *pasugo.com.ph* has had religious articles translated to different languages, such as Spanish, German, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Italian, Korean, and Chinese. By sharing these articles via their social media accounts, Church

members are able to share their faith not only with their loved ones and friends but also with as many people they could contact online wherever they may be in the world.

From May 10 to 15, 2020, brethren around the world simultaneously united in an online *Pasugo* drive. Through this, the teachings upheld by the Church was introduced to more places. Indeed, despite the pandemic, the *Pasugo*'s readership has multiplied. With its increasing number of online readers, the demand for printed copies of the magazine is expected to also rise.

Prior to its 82nd anniversary, the *Pasugo: God’s Message* Editorial Office conducted a four-day webinar dubbed INsCribE for PGM Contributors 2021, which was attended by the District Multimedia officers

from 22 ecclesiastical districts in Luzon, Philippines on January 19, 20, 26, and 27, 2021. Its theme, “Develop writing skills that are beneficial to the Church’s works,” reinforced the interest for writing of aspiring brethren. With the *Pasugo* being one of the Church’s ways of disseminating God’s truth written in the Bible, the webinar was conducted in line with the current Church campaign of intensifying the work of propagation, along with the unabated efforts of brethren around the world in giving their fellowmen copies of the *Pasugo* magazine, even in this time of the pandemic.

With God’s hand at work, the *Pasugo* does not show even a little sign of decline, but progress in every step of the way—all for His honor and glory. 🙏



---

# The Lord will solve the problems of the righteous

By KENNETH A. OUANO

THE BIBLE STATES that troubles come to people like a bad storm: “Great trouble will come to you like a bad storm. Problems will hit you like a strong wind. Your troubles and sadness will be a very great burden on you.” (Prov. 1:27 Easy-to-Read Version)

Many can relate to this verse as their lives suddenly changed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has brought anxiety and worries; for others, loneliness, fear, and depression.

What makes the situation worse is when people do not know who to turn to for help. This was the condition of the crowd of people who once came to listen to the Lord Jesus Christ, as written in Matthew 9:36, thus:

“And what pity he felt for the crowds that came, because their problems were so great and they

didn't know what to do or where to go for help. They were like sheep without a shepherd.” (Living Bible)

Some of those whose problems become so severe resort to desperate measures. They turn to alcohol, drugs, or crime, inviting even more problems to their life.

A true servant of God reacts quite differently. He knows exactly whom to turn to for help—none other than the Almighty God. He has been taught that his life in this world is just a journey towards his true home—the heavenly kingdom that God has prepared for him. Having learned that problems and sufferings cannot be avoided as he sojourns in this life, he also heeds this biblical advice: “Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions” (Prov. 4:25 The Message).

But some may think that human as they are, people will always be

susceptible to the distractions in this life, such as troubles, trials, and difficulties. However, is it true that people cannot help but be distracted or hindered by life's troubles?

## **Whom God saves from all problems**

The Holy Scriptures teach that “People who do what is right may [are righteous] have many problems [afflictions], but the LORD will solve them [saves them from them] all” (Ps. 34:19 Expanded Bible). Yes, it is true that no one is exempt from going through problems, with some of these more arduous than others. By themselves, people do not have the power to solve the afflictions life throws at them. The Almighty God is the One Who has the power to do so. Nothing is impossible with Him.

Who are those whose problems will surely be solved by the Lord?



They are the people who do what is good or who are righteous in the sight of God. The people whom God has made righteous in His sight are those who “are now justified (acquitted, made righteous, and brought into right relationship with God) by Christ’s blood,” thus, they will certainly be “saved by Him from the indignation *and* wrath of God” (Rom. 5:9 Amplified Bible).

Not just anyone can be considered righteous or among those referred to as having the right relationship with God. The truly righteous do not merely claim to be so but have been made righteous by God through the blood of Christ. The Bible teaches who those people are in Acts 20:28, thus:

“Take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to feed the church of Christ which he has purchased with his blood.” (Lamsa Translation)

Therefore, to be righteous in the sight of God, a person should first become a member of the Church Of Christ. This is also a reason Church Of Christ members are always thankful despite the morbid condition of the world—they have received God’s mercy by being called into the Church purchased with Christ’s blood.

## “Worship GOD if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness.”

Psalm 34:9 The Message

### The qualities of God’s righteous servants

Amid the worsening poverty in many parts of the world, righteous servants of God firmly believe that He will supply all that they need and the solutions to their problems:

“So never allow yourselves to get uptight and anxiously concerned about anything. But in every situation, you must earnestly continue to plead with God in prayer about your problem and the needs you have. And be sure to thank Him for the way He will work everything out, for His great interest in you, and for His many blessings of both the past and present. ... *And because of your generosity*, my God will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which are available to you thru Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:6, 19 Last Days Bible)

God has great interest or concern for His righteous ones and He will

supply all their needs from His glorious riches. Thus, God’s righteous servants can confidently expect Him to help them solve their troubles.

Faithful Church Of Christ members are not distracted by what the world is going through. Instead, they fervently approach God through prayers about their problems and needs. It is their solid conviction that God will work everything out by providing them their needs through the Lord Jesus Christ.

And since it is Christ through Whom God will supply the needs of His righteous servants, the Bible teaches them to trust in Christ:

“And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust him, too, for each day’s problems; live in vital union with him.” (Col. 2:6 Living Bible)

God’s righteous servants who trust in Christ “draw up nourish-



ment" from Him by being "strong and vigorous in the truth" that was taught to them (Col. 2:7 LB). The truth refers to God's words written in the Bible which are being taught to the members of the Church Of Christ during their worship services. Exhorted by the Church Administration, they remain strong and vigorous in obeying God's commandments, such as leading a renewed way of life, sharing their faith to many people, showing their love for the brotherhood and for their fellowmen, and zealously participating in all the activities of the Church.

#### **The firm conviction of the righteous**

For God's righteous servants, praying always to the Lord God is an integral part of their life. The Bible teaches what quality they ought to have in praying to God so that they will certainly receive what they ask for:

"But when you ask God, you must believe [ask with faith] and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down [driven and tossed] by the wind. [For] Such doubters are thinking two different things at the same time [double-minded], and they cannot decide about anything they do [are unstable in all they do]. They should not think [expect] they will receive anything from the Lord." (James 1:6-8 EXB)

God will hear the prayers of the faithful but will ignore the prayers of the doubter. Thus, the doubter will never receive anything from God. Aside from the doubter, those who practice evil will also not receive what they pray for because God is against them (1 Pet. 3:12 Amplified Bible 2015). Thus, consistently doing

**"But when you ask God, you must believe [ask with faith] and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down [driven and tossed] by the wind. [For] Such doubters are thinking two different things at the same time [double-minded], and they cannot decide about anything they do [are unstable in all they do]. They should not think [expect] they will receive anything from the Lord."**

James 1:6-8 Expanded Bible

what is right before God's sight is important, for the Lord will surely hear their cries for help:

"When the *righteous* cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their distress *and* troubles... Many evils confront the [consistently] righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." (Ps. 34:17, 19 AMP)

There will always be distractions in this life and troubles are ever-present. But the Lord God will never allow His righteous servants to be hindered by these things. He rescues them when they cry for help and frees them from all their fears (Ps. 34:10, 4, 8 LB). To His servants who fully trust in Him, the Almighty Father showers down His mercy especially during the worship services. Church Of Christ members firmly believe in what the Bible says about the worship services:

"Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness." (Ps. 34:9 MSG) ●



# Where man's service is acceptable to God

By JOEL A. MANINGDING

THERE ARE PEOPLE who believe that all religions or churches are the same, that is, they all belong to God. They claim that God readily accepts all kinds of services rendered to Him so it doesn't matter which religion one belongs to. They suppose that, what all people need to do is be dedicated to serving God in the religion of their own choice.

But that is not what the Bible, the repository of God's truth, teaches. What others fail to understand is the biblical truth that there are services rendered to God that are not accepted by Him and are, thus, in vain.

## God's policy on worshipping Him

When is worship of God in vain or useless? According to God Himself as quoted by the Lord Jesus Christ, when it is based on the commandments of men:

"And in vain they worship Me, Teaching *as* doctrines the command-

ments of men." (Matt. 15:9 New King James Version)

In rendering worship to God, one must make sure that his basis for doing so is not the commandments or teachings of men. God does not want and will never accept any worship which is based on man-made doctrines.

## The sole basis for serving God

Man must obey God's pristine commandments as proof of his faith. If this is how one serves God, then he truly knows or recognizes Him (I John 2:3 Good News Bible). On the other hand, one who claims to know God, but does not obey Him is a liar and cannot truly please Him for "there is no truth" in such person (I John 2:4 GNB).

Such person, like the others, has fallen on the wrong way of recognizing and serving God because he has "not submitted to the righteousness

of God" or the gospel (Rom. 10:2-3; 1:16-17 NKJV). Hence, any recognition or service accorded to God that is not based on His words recorded in the Bible is worthless before Him.

There are those who claim that their basis of faith and service is none other than the Holy Bible, the Word of God. However, they fail to comply with the policy of God regarding His commands. He says:

"Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it." (Deut. 12:32 NKJV)

When a person serving God adds to or takes away from His commands, he is not observing them carefully. Such kind of worship and service is also not acceptable to God.

## Where the Almighty should be worshiped

One of the commandments of God that must be observed by anyone



**“Out of the territory of all your tribes the LORD will choose the one place where the people are to come into his presence and worship him.”**

Deuteronomy 12:5  
Good News Bible

who wishes to perform true service to Him concerns the specific place that the Lord God has chosen where His people should perform their services to Him—where they could rightfully obey God’s commandments (Deut. 12:5, 13–14 GNB). Thus, services performed by man that are not in the place chosen by God are unacceptable and worthless before His sight.

It is, therefore, necessary for one to examine first if his services to God are based on His commands and if he is in the place chosen by Him where He promised to accept them.

#### **Those with right to serve God**

The ones who truly serve God have been appointed or chosen and given the right to perform the true service to Him:

“I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength for my work. I thank him for considering me worthy and appointing me to serve him.” (1 Tim. 1:12 GNB)

They are taken out of darkness and brought to the kingdom of Christ where there is redemption through His blood and forgiveness of sins, thus:

“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col. 1:12–14 NKJV)

Ever since man committed sin, he has lost his right to serve and worship God (Isa. 59:2). Hence, there is a need for him to be forgiven of his sins to gain the right and privilege to serve God, which is through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:14).

The apostles testify that it is the Church Of Christ which was redeemed or purchased with the blood of Christ:

“Take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to feed the church of Christ which he has purchased with his blood.” (Acts 20:28 Lamsa Translation)

Thus, the Church Of Christ is the kingdom of the Son where redemption is found. It is where people can render true and acceptable worship to God. To be able to perform a valid and acceptable service to God, one must make sure first that he is among the ones appointed, chosen or elected by God by becoming a member, not of just any religion, but of the one redeemed or purchased with Christ’s blood—the Church Of Christ. ●



# SCAN International

## 32 years of serving others for God's glory

By FELGEM EDWARD J. ELEVADO

FOR 32 YEARS, since it was established by its founding chairman, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, the Executive Minister of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* (Church Of Christ), the Society of Communicators and Networkers (SCAN) International has been supporting the Church in its many endeavors such as, but not exclusive to, socio-civic events and relief operations, in particular, and thus serving society, in general.

Established on February 6, 1989, SCAN International was recognized by the National Telecommunications Commission as an amateur radio group, aiming to provide communications and assistance, especially in times of emergencies. It is composed of Church Of Christ members who, at first, are inclined to radio communications and more so to using such

in service to their fellowmen, be they Church members or not, during emergencies and calamities.

SCAN members also assist in keeping the orderliness and ensuring the safety of the Church members during worship services. In this time of pandemic, they help in making sure that health and safety protocols are implemented in such occasions. And they are always ready to lend a hand in contact tracing and in the sanitation and disinfection of the house of worship and its compound.

Ever-ready to respond during times of distress, SCAN International continuously conducts seminars and trainings to its members in different parts of the world. They undergo trainings in communications, emergency response, and disaster preparedness to be able

to respond quickly and effectively in adverse situations, such as vehicular accidents, medical emergencies, typhoons and flash-floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, among others.

Always guided and reminded by the Church Administration of the nobleness of their tasks, members of SCAN International volunteer their services to help other people, not for personal honor but for the sake of the Church's work, ultimately, for God's glory. Exemplifying the true meaning of loving their fellowmen and the Lord God, they are willing to offer their time and effort, and even risk their own lives when necessary for the sake of others. As the organization's slogan goes, "Saving lives is our priority." ●



### Bro. Dario V. Medrana

*Minister of the Gospel  
Chairman, SCAN International*

"As explained by Brother Eduardo Manalo, the motto of SCAN International—'Saving lives is our priority'—means two things: the first one is to save people from calamities and disasters and the second one is to save people from the biggest tragedy that will come upon this world, that is the Day of Judgment. Through the guidance of the Executive Minister, as well as the care and concern of the Christian Family Organizations (CFO) Office led by the CFO

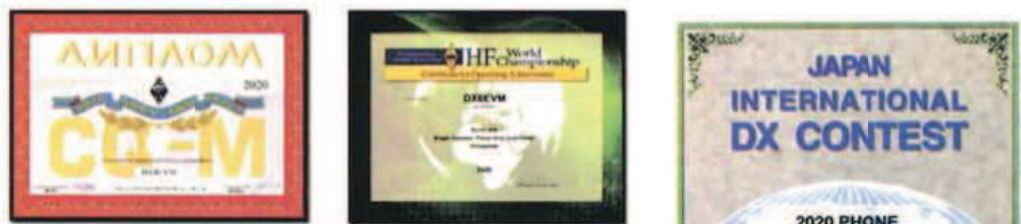
Coordinator, Brother Angelo Eraño V. Manalo, SCAN members undauntedly fulfill their duty to serve others. While the SCAN International, as a group and its individual members, continue to receive awards and recognitions, we firmly believe that such accomplishments are not only because of the members' dedication to fulfilling their duties, but, above all, because of the help of the Almighty God. All praise and glory be unto Him!"





## Awards and Recognitions

SCAN International has received various awards in different categories of international amateur radio contests and recognitions from international amateur radio associations because of its members' dedication to fulfilling their duties. Aside from the ones given to individual members, the following are the accomplishments of the organization and its clubs:



- DX1EVM won 1st in the Philippines (Multi-Operator, Single-Transmitter)
- SCAN International (DX1EVM) won the 2019 Marcos T. Yñiguez Jr. (DU3MY) Memorial Contest in 2019
- 2019 PARA VHF-UHF Round-Up Contest; DX1EVM won 1st place (Multi-Operator Fixed)
- Certificate of Merit awarded to SCAN International (DX1EVM and DX3EVM) during the 2019 VHF-UHF Round-Up Contest
- 2019 World-Wide DX Contest SSB
- YB DX Contest 2021; DX2EVM won 5th place in Oceania and 6th in the world, DX4EVM won 2nd in Oceania and 3rd in the world (Single-Op Low Power)
- PARA-HERO Award given to SCAN International (DX3EVM) in 2019 for exemplary volunteer activities and adherence to the best practices of the amateur radio service, even risking personal safety, if only to extend viable communications right after the April 22, 2019 M6.1 earthquake in Castillejos, Zambales and other similar dedication in response to various natural calamities during the year
- Philippine Amateur Radio Association, Inc.-Ham Emergency Radio Operations (PARA-HERO) Award given to SCAN International (DX2EVM and DX3EVM) in 2018 for exemplary voluntary service and devotion to the highest ideals of the amateur radio service, even to the extent of risking personal safety to provide emergency communications and other admirable acts of public service in response to various natural calamities during the year
- DX4EVM won 4th place in the Philippines and 7th place in Oceania (Multi-Operator, Single-Transmitter, Low Power)
- Worked All Germany Contest 2020; DX4EVM won 2nd place in the Philippines and Oceania (Single Operator, SSB, Low Power)
- CQ-M International DX Contest 2020; DX4EVM won 2nd place in Oceania (Single Operator, All SSB, Low Power)
- HF World Championship 2020; Certificate for Operating Achievement given to SCAN International (DX6EVM) for the Single Operator, Phone Only, Low Power category
- Japan International DX Contest 2020; DX7EVM won 1st in Oceania and in the world (Phone Low Power)
- HF World Championship 2019; DX7EVM won 1st in the Philippines and Oceania
- DX7EVM won 3rd in the Philippines and 5th in Oceania (Multioperator, Single Transmitter, High Power)





**Edwin Nasol**  
SCAN Vice President for Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response

"Aside from trainings in radio communication, SCAN members undergo trainings in First Aid, Basic Life Support, and Water Search and Rescue as Emergency First Responders (EFR). There are also those who belong to the SCAN Special Response Unit. The ones, who have completed the EFR training, are trained and licensed in amateur radio communication, and have undergone Confined Space and Urban Search and Rescue trainings. Such trainings are essential for them to have the capability to respond in times of different kinds of disasters and emergencies."



**Elvin Apostol Jr.**  
SCAN congregation president San Jose, Antipolo City, Rizal

"Having received various individual awards in different amateur radio competitions is a manifestation of God's help. If it was not because of His help, it would not have been possible. It is only right to dedicate to Him the honor and glory for the awards I have received. It is also God Who provides us, SCAN members, the strength we need for us to be able to help other people in times of calamities and emergencies."



**Melvin Tagalicud**  
SCAN district assistant vice president for communication Cauayan City, Isabela

"There have already been many times when I have been part of rescue operations in road accidents and calamities. The most recent where I took part in was here in Isabela because of Typhoon Vamco (local name: Ulysses) that had caused widespread floods in our province and in the neighboring provinces. Whenever we are about to conduct rescue operations, we never forget to pray to God for His help and protection."



**Ireneo Ledesma**  
SCAN district president, DX9EVM Region president Davao City

"Helping in rescue operations is never easy. Our very lives are sometimes put in danger. I remember our recent rescue operations because of the flashfloods here in Davao City when the 200-meter lifeline rope I was holding onto broke and I was trapped in the rushing stream of water. But with God's mercy, I was able to come out to safety. We have also helped in huge rescue operations during the consecutive devastating earthquakes that hit Mindanao in 2019. With the SCAN members' commitment in helping others in times of need, we were given awards and recognitions by amateur radio associations. All these are for the glory of God."



2019 World Wide Digi DX Contest; DX7EVM won 1st place in the Philippines and Oceania and 3rd in the world (Single Operator, QRP-40 Meters)



YB DX Contest 2019; DX7EVM won 2nd place in Oceania and 14th in the world (Single Operator Low Power)



DX9EVM won 1st in Oceania and 5th in the world (Multi-Operator High Power)



PARA-HERO Award given to SCAN International (DX9EVM) in 2019 for exemplary volunteer activities and adherence to the best practices of the amateur radio service, even risking personal safety, if only to extend viable communications right after the October 16 and 29, 2019 M6.3 and M6.6 earthquakes in Mindanao and during the series of strong aftershocks and other similar dedication in response to various natural calamities during the year





**Alvin Diego Sr.**  
SCAN congregation president  
Tayuman, Manila

"Because it is our duty as members of the Church Of Christ to bear fruit and in line with SCAN International's slogan, SCAN members in our local congregation actively participate in the work of propagation. Not only do we help people during calamities and emergencies but we also help in sharing with them the true faith that will save them from eternal damnation on Christ's Second Advent. Even in this time of pandemic, we do not stop in inviting others to listen to the teachings we uphold in the Church."



**Mark Fajardo**  
SCAN district president  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

"It is a great honor to be able to help in ensuring the safety of the Church members during the worship services, as well as our fellowmen during emergencies and tragic circumstances. Above all, we are able to glorify God as we serve other people. As the SCAN district president, it is my promise to Him that I will continue to set a good example in leading my fellow SCAN members in performing our duties. I also promise to wholeheartedly fulfill my duty to be of help to others when calamities and emergencies come."



**Elle Aguilar**  
district SCAN secretary  
New Jersey, USA

"Communication is truly essential in performing our duties as SCAN members. We relay messages to the brethren in our district to give them a heads-up if there are unfavorable situations, such as impending storms, for them to take the necessary precautions to ensure their safety. We also coordinate with different government agencies during emergencies. It is truly humbling on our part to be able to perform our duties and to be of help to others."



**Nelson Olazo**  
SCAN Officer  
Lae City, Papua New Guinea

"It is true that there will be times that our lives may be put in danger whenever we perform our duties as SCAN members. However, as we are always taught, God is on our side. That is why we entrust ourselves to Him through prayers, that He may protect us from harm. We do not ask anything from people in return for our services, for we firmly believe that God lays in store a greater reward for His faithful servants."



Russian DX Contest 2019; DX9EVM was awarded as the country winner (Philippines) and continental winner (Australia & Oceania) in Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter category.



2019 World-Wide DX Contest CW; DX9EVM won 1st in the Philippines and 4th in Oceania (Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter, Low Power)



UBA International Prefixhunt 2020 - HF; DX9EVM won 1st in the Philippines and Oceania and 2nd in the world (Multi-Operator Mixed Mode)



## Ang pagpapadama ng pag-ibig sa kapuwa tao

**P**AGSUNOD SA napakahalagang utos ng Diyos na ibigin ang ating kapuwa ang tinutupad nating mga kaanib ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* sa pagkakawanggawa nito at kahandaang tumulong sa mga nangangailangan. Sa pamamagitan ng pagtulong at paglingap sa ating kapuwa ay naipadarama natin ang ating pag-ibig sa kanila at, higit sa lahat, sa Diyos.

Ang isang maningning na halimbawa ng pagtulong sa kapuwa ay ang naipamalas ng mga Cristiano sa probinsiya ng Macedonia noong unang siglo (II Cor. 8:1-9; Roma 15:26). Nang malaman nilang may mga kapatid sila sa pananampalataya na nasa matinding pangangailangan, sila na ang nagkusang nakiusap sa mga apostol na payagan silang makapagbigay ng handog sa Iglesia upang magamit sa paglingap at pagtulong sa kanilang mga kapuwa Cristiano sa Jerusalem. Ginawa nila iyon nang masayang-masaya at bukás ang palad.

Nagawa nila iyon hindi dahil sa mayayaman sila—ang totoo’y nagdaranas sila noon ng matinding kahirapan, na isang mahigpit na pagsubok sa kanila—kundi dahil sa biyaya ng Diyos na ipinagkaloob sa kanila. Sa kabila ng kanilang karukhaan, nakapagbigay sila—hindi lamang sa abot ng kanilang makakaya, kundi higit pa.

Sa halip na gugulin para sa kanilang sarili ang kaunting mayroon sila, ginamit pa nila iyon upang ipantulong sa iba. Nagawa nila iyon nang walang anumang

reserbasyon sapagkat ibinigay na nila nang lubusan ang kanilang sarili sa Panginoon at sa mga apostol na namahala sa kanila.

Napatunayan ng mga kapatid sa Macedonia na makakayang pagtagumpayan ng mga tunay na Cristiano ang kahit gaano kalaking hadlang matupad lamang ang mga kautusan ng Diyos. Handa silang magsakripisyo upang magawa ito.

Ganito rin ang pinagsisikapang gawin natin na mga kaanib ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* ngayon bagaman, tulad ng mga Cristiano sa Macedonia noon, nagdaraan din tayo sa matinding kahirapan at mga pagsubok. Ngunit, sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, buong kagalakan pa rin tayong nagsisikap na maipadama ang ating pag-ibig sa ating kapuwa sa pamamagitan ng pagkakawanggawa upang matulungan sila sa kanilang mga pangangailangan.

Nakahanda rin tayong isaisantabi ang pansarili nating kapakanan para maipagpauna ang kapakanan ng iba. Ginagawa natin ang buo nating makakaya upang anuman ang maging sitwasyon ng mundo ay hindi tayo mahadlangan sa pagtupad sa mga kautusan ng Diyos na nakasulat sa Biblia.

Makatuwiran lamang na itaguyod natin ang pag-ibig sa ating kapuwa at ang ating mataas na pagpapahalaga sa pagkakawanggawa, sapagkat ito ang itinuro ng ating Panginoong Jesucristo sa pamamagitan ng halimbawa na Kaniyang iniwan. Noong Siya ay narito pa sa lupa, gumawa Siya ng napakaraming himala upang tulungan



ang mga maysakit at mga nahihirapan. Sa isang pagkakataon, nang Siya ay nagpapagaling sa mga may sakit sa tabi ng lawa ng Galilea, gumawa Siya ng himala upang mapakain ang apat na libong tao na nagugutom. Ginawa Niya ito sapagkat nahabag Siya sa kanila dahil tatlong araw na silang sumasama sa Kaniya at wala na silang pagkain (Mat. 15:29-38).

Ang pinakadakilang kahayagan ng habag at pag-ibig ng ating Panginoong Jesucristo ay nang ibigay Niya ang Kaniyang buhay upang ang Kaniyang kawan o ang *Iglesia Ni Cristo* ay matubos at mailigtas mula sa parusa sa Araw ng Paghuhukom (Juan 15:13; Efe. 5:29, 25; Roma 5:6-9; Gawa 20:28 Lamsa Translation; II Ped. 3:7, 10).

Dapat din nating tularan si Cristo sa pagpapadama ng habag at pag-ibig sa ating kapuwa sa pamamagitan ng pagtulong sa kanila sa panahon ng pangangailangan at, higit sa lahat, paggabay sa kanila tungo sa kaligtasan.

Bagaman nagkakaloob tayo ng materyal na bagay sa ating kapuwa-tao na nangangailangan—upang kahit bahagya ay maibsan ang hirap na kanilang nararansan—ngunit ang pinakamahalagang bagay na sinisikap nating maibahagi sa kanila ay ang dalisay na ebanghelyo na siyang katuwiran at kapangyarihan ng Diyos sa ikaligtas ng bawat sumasampalataya rito (Roma 1:16-17).

Ang katuwirang ito ay nasa mga kaanib ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* sapagkat ito ang inilapit o ipinangaral sa atin ng Sugo ng Diyos sa mga huling araw, ang Kapatid na Felix Y. Manalo (Isa. 46:11-13).

Dahil dito, patuloy tayong makilahok sa ating mga gawaing pagpapalaganap na lalo pang pinaiigting ng kasalukuyang Pamamahala ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo*. Maraming paraan upang magawa natin ito. Anyayahan natin ang ating kapuwa na dumalo sa ating mga pamamahayag ng mga salita ng Diyos, at sumubaybay sa mga programang panrelihiyon natin sa radyo, telebisyon, at *internet*. Mamahagi tayo ng ating mga babasahin na tumatalakay sa mga aral na ating sinasampalatayanan.

Ibahagi natin ang ebanghelyo sa ating kapuwa na hindi pa kaanib ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* upang magkaroon din sila ng matibay na pag-asa sa pagtatamo ng kaligtasan pagdating ng Araw ng Paghuhukom. Iyon ay kahayagan ng ating malaking pag-ibig at ang pinakamahalagang tulong na maibibigay natin sa ating kapuwa. ●

**Bienvenido A. Santiago Jr.**  
Associate Editor

## Ikaw noon at ikaw ngayon

Dating ikaw noon nalimot mo na ba?  
Sa'yong pagsuway, ang Diyos ay nagpasiya,  
Madilim na bukas, naglahong pag-asa,  
Ikaw iyan noon, may takdang parusa.

Ngunit sa pag-irog, at habag Niyang taos.  
Hirang kang tinubos ng dugo ni Jesus,  
Nakamta'y paglaya sa salang gumapos,  
Ikaw iyan ngayon, binago nang lubos.

Sinusunod ngayon, di na ang sarili  
Hindi na nga ikaw, gaya pa ng dati.  
Lubos nang hinubad buhay na marumi  
Ikaw iyan ngayon, matuwid at mabuti!

Ang payo ko ngayon, kapatid na mahal,  
Sa puso itanim, sa isip ikintal  
Dalawang bagay lang, iyong pagpilian  
Isiping maigi, bulaying mainam.

Ang ikaw "noon" ba'y iyong babalikan?  
H'wag aking kapatid, iya'y kasawian.  
Ang ikaw "ngayon" ang piliin mong tunay,  
Pagsunod mo'y buhay, iyong kaligtasan!

BUEN C. BAITAN  
RIZAL, PHILIPPINES



# Patakararan ng Diyos na ibukod at ihalal ang mga maglilingkod sa Kaniya

Ang walang hanggang tipan (Ikalawang bahagi)

NI DENNIS C. LOVENDINO

**T**INALAKAY NATIN sa unang bahagi ng seryeng ito ang aral ng Biblia na hindi lahat ng pagsamba at paglilingkod na ipinatutungkol ng tao sa Diyos ay tinatanggap Niya. Bagama't totoo na ang lahat ng tao ay nilalang ng iisang Diyos at katutubong pananagutan ng tao ang maglilingkod sa Kaniya, gayunma'y hindi ito nangangahulugang taglay na ng lahat ang katutubong karapatan (*inherent right*) na dumiyos sa Kaniya.

Dahil sa kasalanan, naputol ang kaugnayan ng tao sa Lumikha sa kaniya—nahiwalay siya sa Diyos (Isa. 59:2) at itinuring pang kaaway (Col. 1:21). Kaya, upang makapagsagawa ang tao ng pagsambang katanggap-tanggap sa Diyos at dinggin sa kaniyang pagtawag, kailangan muna niyang manumbalik at siya ay ibukod o ihalal ng Diyos (Awit 4:3). Mula pa nang una, naging patakararan na ng Diyos ang pagbubukod at pagpili ng mga maglilingkod sa Kaniya.

Sa panahon ng anak nina Adan at Eva na si Set, ang kaniyang lahi ang kinilalang mga "anak ng Dios,"

samantalang ang lahi naman ni Cain ay tinawag na "anak ng mga tao" (Gen. 4:26; 6:2). Subalit nang mahaluan ang mga anak ng Diyos ng lahi ng mga anak ng mga tao dahil sa pag-aasawa sa mga ito, ang lupa ay napuno ng karahasan at kasamaan (Gen. 6:11-12). Upang hatulan ang masamang lahi ng mga tao, ipinasiya ng Panginoon na lipulin sila sa pamamagitan ng bahang-gunaw. Ang tanging naligtas ay ang sambahayan ng patriarkang si Noe, at sa kanila nagmula ang mga taong kasunod na binigyan ng karapatang maglilingkod sa Diyos.

Subalit sa halip na sundin ang utos ng Diyos na sila ay magsipangalat o kalatan ang lupa, nagpasiya ang lahi ni Noe na magtayo ng isang "lunsod na may toreng abot sa mga langit" upang sila ay "di na mangangalat sa buong daigdig" (Gen. 11 New Pilipino Version). Dahil dito, ginulo ng Diyos ang kanilang wika upang hindi sila magkaintindihan, at sa gayo'y napilitan silang magsipangalat sa buong daigdig. Doon

nagwakas ang kasaysayan ng lahi ni Noe bilang mga taong hinirang o inihalal ng Diyos.

## Nakipagtipan kay Abraham

Pagkatapos ng lahi ni Noe, tinawag ng Diyos si Abram, na sa kalaunan ay pinangalanang Abraham:

"Sinabi ng PANGINOON kay Abram, 'Iwan mo ang iyong bayan, ang tahanan ng iyong ama at mga kamag-anak at pumunta ka sa lupaing ituturo ko sa iyo. Gagawin kitang isang dakilang bansa at pagpapalain kita. Gagawin ko ring dakila ang iyong pangalan at magiging pagpapala ka. Pagpapalain ko ang magpapala sa iyo at sinumang sumusumpa sa iyo ay susumpain ko; at ang lahat ng tao sa daigdig ay pagpapalain sa pamamagitan mo.'" (Gen. 12:1-3 NPV)

Dapat nating mapansin na ang Diyos ang tumawag o pumili kay Abraham. Hindi nagprisinta lang si Abraham sa Diyos upang maglilingkod sa Kaniya. Bagkus, inutusan siya ng Panginoon na iwan ang kaniyang bayan at magtungo sa lupaing



**“Ang tipang gagawin ko sa iyo at sa magiging lahi mo ay walang hanggan, at ako’y magiging Dios ninyo. Ibibigay ko sa iyo at sa lahing susunod sa iyo ang buong lupain ng Canaan, na ngayon ay tinitirhan ninyo. Magiging inyo ito magpakailanman; at ako’y magiging Dios nila.”**

Genesis 17:1-2, 7-8  
New Pilipino Version

ituturo sa kaniya. Samakatuwid, ibinukod si Abraham mula sa kalipunan ng mga tao at sa kaniya nakipagtipan ang Diyos:

“Nang 99 na taon si Abram, napakita sa kanya ang PANGINOON. Sinabi sa kanya, ‘Ako ang Dios na Makapangyarihan sa lahat; sumunod ka sa akin at ingatan mong walang dungis ang iyong sarili. Pagtitibayin ko ang aking tipan sa iyo at para-ramihin ko kayo.

‘Ang tipang gagawin ko sa iyo at sa magiging lahi mo ay walang hanggan, at ako’y magiging Dios ninyo. Ibibigay ko sa iyo at sa lahing susunod sa iyo ang buong lupain ng Canaan, na ngayon ay tinitirhan ninyo. Magiging inyo ito magpakailanman; at ako’y magiging Dios nila.’” (Gen. 17:1-2, 7-8 NPV)

Ang tipang ginawa ng Diyos kay Abraham at sa kaniyang lahi ay pangwalang hanggan. Kaya, ang sinumang nais na magkaroon ng karapatang

maglingkod sa Diyos ay kailangang may kaugnayan sa tipang ito, na pinagtibay ng Diyos sa sali’t saling lahi ni Abraham:

“Ang tipang ginawa niya kay Abraham, ang pangakong sinumpaan niya kay Isaac. Pinagtibay niya ito kay Jacob bilang isang utos, at bilang isang walang hanggang tipan para sa Israel.” (Awit 105:9-10 NPV)

Nagpatuloy ang tipang ginawa ng Diyos kay Abraham sa kaniyang anak na si Isaac hanggang sa anak ni Isaac na si Jacob, na tinawag na Israel (Gen. 32:28). Ang 12 angkan ni Jacob ang siyang naging bayang Israel—ang unang bayan ng Diyos.

### **Pinili upang maging bayang pag-aari ng Diyos**

Ano ang pinagbatayan ng Diyos sa pagbubukod at paghahalal sa bayang Israel noon? Pinili ba sila ng Diyos dahil sila ang pinakamalaki o pinakamakapangyarihan sa mga bansa noon? Ganito ang ipinaunawa ni Moises sa kanila:

“Sapagka’t ikaw ay isang banal na bayan sa Panginoon mong Dios; pinili ka ng Panginoon mong Dios upang maging bayan sa kaniyang sariling pagaari, na higit sa lahat ng mga bayan na nasa ibabaw ng balat ng lupa. Hindi kayo inibig ng Panginoon, ni pinili kayo ng dahil sa kayo’y marami sa bilang kay sa alin mang bayan; sapagka’t kayo ang pinakamaliit sa lahat ng mga bayan: Kundi dahil sa inibig kayo ng Panginoon, at dahil sa kaniyang tinupad ang sumpa na kaniyang isinumpa sa inyong mga magulang, ay inilabas kayo ng Panginoon sa pamamagitan ng makapangyarihang kamay at tinubos kayo sa bahay ng pagkaalipin, mula sa kamay ni Faraon na hari sa Egipto.” (Deut. 7:6-8)

Mula sa lahat ng bansa sa balat ng lupa, ibinukod ng Diyos ang Israel upang “maging bayan sa kaniyang sariling pag-aari.” Hindi ibinatay ng Diyos ang Kaniyang pasiyang piliin ang Israel sa kanilang bilang. Bagkus, hinirang Niya sila bilang pagtupad sa Kaniyang sumpa o tipan sa kanilang mga magulang o mga ninuno na sina Abraham, Isaac, at Jacob. Kaya, sa dinami-rami ng mga bansa noon, tanging ang mga Israelita lamang ang may kahalalang mula sa Diyos:

“Walang bansang maitutulad sa Israel. Ito’y hinango ninyo sa pagkaalipin upang maging inyong bayan. Ito lamang ang bansang pinagpakitaan ninyo ng mga kaka-kilabot at dakilang bagay para sila’y matulungan. Itinaboy ninyo ang ibang mga bansa at inalis ang kanilang mga diyus-diyusan pagdating nila. Yahweh, itinatag ninyo ang bansang Israel upang maging inyo magpakailanman at kayo nama’y maging Diyos nila.” (II Sam. 7:23-24 Magandang Balita Biblia)

### **Ang kahigitan ng Israel sa ibang mga bansa**

Anu-ano ang mga bentaha ng mga Israelita noon sa mga taong hindi lahing Judio? Ipinaliwanag ito ni Apostol Pablo:

“Ano ang kahigitan ng Judio sa hindi Judio? ... Napakarami. Una sa lahat, ang mga Judio ang pinagkatiwalaan ng mga pahayag ng Diyos.” (Roma 3:1-2 MB)

Nang makabalik sa Judea ang mga Israelitang dinalang-bihag noon sa Babilonia ay tinawag silang mga Judio sapagkat ang karamihan sa mga nakabalik ay nagmula sa lahi ng Juda. Marami nang mga bansa noong panahong iyon at may kani-kaniyang



## “Ano ang kahigitan ng Judio sa hindi Judio? Napakarami. Una sa lahat, ang mga Judio ang pinagkatiwalaan ng mga pahayag ng Diyos.”

Roma 3:1-2  
Magandang Balita Biblia

kinikilala at pinaglilingkuran na diyos o diyus-diyusan. Pare-pareho lang ba ang mga bansa noon at ang relihiyong kanilang itinatanguyod? Hindi. Maliwanag ang pahayag ni Apostol Pablo: napakarami ng kahigitan ng mga Judio sa hindi Judio at ang isa sa mga ito ay sa kanila itiniwala ang mga pahayag ng Diyos.

Anu-ano pa ang mga karapatan ng Israel na wala sa ibang mga bansa noon? Ganito pa ang itinuro ni Apostol Pablo:

“Sila’y mga Israelita at itinuring ng Diyos na mga anak niya. Nakita nila ang maliwanag na tanda na nagpapakilalang siya’y kasama nila. Sa kanila nakipagtipan ang Diyos; sa kanila rin ibinigay ang Kautusan, ang tunay na pagsamba, at ang mga pangako.” (Roma 9:4 MB)

Ang mga Judio o mga Israelita ang itinuring ng Diyos na mga anak Niya. Ang Diyos ay kasama nila at pinatunayan iyon sa kanila at nakita nila sa pamamagitan ng mga tandang ginawa ng Diyos para sa kanila. Sa kanila nakipagtipan ang Diyos at sa kanila ibinigay ang Kautusan, ang tunay na pagsamba, at ang mga pangako.

Dahil ang Israel ang hinirang ng Diyos, ano naman ang kanilang naging kahigitan sa iba kung ang

pag-uusapan ay ang kaugnayan ng tao sa Diyos?

“Sapagka’t anong dakilang bansa nga ang may dios na napakalapit sa kanila, na gaya ng Panginoon nating Dios kailan man tayo’y tumawag sa kaniya? At anong dakilang bansa nga, ang may mga palatuntunan at mga kahatulang napaka-tuwid na gaya ng buong kautusang ito, na aking inilalagda sa harap ninyo sa araw na ito?” (Deut. 4:7-8)

Paano pa ipinakilala ng Biblia ang kaibahan ng Israel kay sa ibang mga tao?

“Si Naaman at ang kanyang mga kasama ay nagbalik kay Eliseo. Sinabi niya, ‘Ngayo’y napatunayan kong walang ibang diyos sa ibabaw ng lupa kundi ang Diyos ng Israel. Narito, pagdamutan ninyo itong maliit kong nakayanan.’” (II Hari 5:15 MB)

Kaya, kung ang mga tao man noon sa ibang mga bansa ay may mga relihiyon din at sumasamba sa kinikilala nilang diyos, ang tanging may karapatan na magsagawa ng tunay na pagsamba sa tunay na Diyos ay ang Israel sapagkat sila lamang ang may kahalalang mula sa Diyos sa panahon ng Matandang Tipan.

### Tumalikod ang Israel

Subalit, ano ang naging kasalanan at kapintasan ng Israel, kaya nawala ang kanilang kahalalan bilang bayang pag-aari ng Diyos?

“Datapwat sinabi niya tungkol sa Israel, ‘Sa buong maghapon, ako’y nanawagan sa isang bayang matigas ang ulo at mapaghimagsik!’” (Roma 10:21 MB)

Sa halip na sundin ng Israel ang bilin ng Diyos na sila ay lumakip sa Kaniya at sumunod sa Kaniyang mga utos at mga tuntunin, naging matigas ang kanilang ulo at sila ay naghimagsik:

“Nagbalik na sila sa mga kasalanan ng kanilang mga ninunong hindi sumunod sa aking mga salita. Sumunod sila at naglingkod sa ibang mga dios. Ang sambahayan ni Israel at ang sambahayan ni Juda ay parehong sumira sa tipang ginawa ko sa kanilang mga ninuno. Kaya nga, ito ang sinasabi ng PANGINOON: ‘Padadalhan ko sila ng kapahamakang hindi nila matatakas. Kahit na sila dumaing sa akin, hindi ko sila pakikickingan. Ang mga bayan ng Juda at ang mga taga-Jerusalem ay dudulog at dadaing sa mga dios na pinagsusunugan nila ng kamanyang, ngunit hindi sila matutulungan nito pagdating ng kapahamakan. Juda, kung gaano karami ng bayan mo ay gayon din karami ang iyong mga dios, at ang mga dambanang itinayo mo upang pagsunugan ng kamanyang para sa nakahihiyang dios na si Baal ay kasindami ng mga lansangan ng Jerusalem.’” (Jer. 11:10-13 NPV)

Nagtaksil ang Israel sa Diyos at sinira ang Kaniyang tipan sa kanila nang sila ay sumunod at maglingkod sa ibang mga dios. Sumamba sila sa mga diyus-diyusan at tinalikuran ang pagsamba sa tunay na Diyos. Kaya nagpahayag ang Diyos na kahit pa dumaing ang mga Israelita sa Kaniya ay hindi na Niya sila pakikickingan. Dahil sa kanilang pagtalikod, itinulot sila ng Diyos sa pagkawasak at kadustaan:

“Kaya nga, ipapahiya ko ang matataas na tao sa iyong templo, at itatakda ko sa pagkawasak ang Jacob, at sa kadustaan ang Israel.” (Isa. 43:28 NPV)

Pagkatapos tumalikod ng bayang Israel sa Diyos, sino ang Kaniyang ipinalit sa mga taong binigyan Niya ng karapatang magsagawa ng tunay na paglilingkod sa Kaniya? (Itutuloy) ●



# Diyos o tao?

## Ang paniniwala ng mga unang Cristiano tungkol kay Cristo

NI MICHAEL M. SANDOVAL

ANG ISA SA MGA ikinatatangi ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* sa ibang mga relihiyon ay ang aral na itinataguyod nito tungkol sa tunay na Diyos at sa likas na kalagayan ni Cristo. Kinikilala ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* ang mga katangian at karangalang taglay ni Cristo: Siya ay Panginoon (Gawa 2:36), Tagapagligtas (Gawa 5:31), Tagapamagitan (I Tim. 2:5), Pangulo ng Iglesia (Efe. 5:23), at Anak ng Diyos (Mat. 3:17). Kaya, mataas ang pagkakilala at pagpapahalaga ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* kay Cristo dahil kinikilala at pinahahalagahan nito si Cristo kung paano Siya ipinakilala ng Biblia.

Ngunit sa kabila ng mga kataangiang taglay ni Cristo, hindi Siya ang tunay na Diyos. Ito ay hindi matanggap ng iba dahil inaakala nila na ang paniniwala ng mga unang Cristiano ay tunay raw na Diyos si Cristo na nagkatawang-tao. Kaya, kapag ipinangangaral ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* na si Cristo ay hindi Diyos, nagkakaroon agad ng maling isipan ang ibang tao na ang ganitong aral

ay ibang-iba sa pinaniwalaan ng mga unang Cristiano sa panahong nabubuhay pa ang mga apostol.

Kung susuriin lamang nang mabuti ang Biblia, maging ang mga natala sa iba't ibang aklat-kasaysayan, ay mauunawaan na ang itinuturo ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo*—na si Cristo ay tao at hindi Diyos—ang siyang paniniwala ng mga unang Cristiano na natutuhan nila mula sa Panginoong Jesucristo Mismo. Ang katotohanang ang Ama ang kaisa-isang tunay na Diyos ang Siyang itinuturo ng Biblia. Ganito ang mababasa sa Juan 17:1, 3:

“Pagkasabi ni Jesus nito, tumingala Siya sa langit at nagsabi, ‘Ama, dumating na ang oras. Luwalhatiin Mo ang Iyong Anak, upang luwalhatiin Ka rin ng Iyong Anak ... At ito ang buhay na walang hanggan—ang makilala Ka nila, Ikaw na kaisa-isang tunay na Dios, at si Jesu-Cristong sinugo Mo.’” (Salita ng Buhay)

Malinaw ang pahayag ng ating Panginoong Jesucristo na ang Ama ang dapat kilalaning kaisa-isang tunay na Diyos. Ang

marapat namang pagkilala sa Anak ay sinugo Siya ng Diyos, hindi karagdagang Diyos.

Kaya, ayon sa isang aklat-kasaysayan, ano ang paniniwala ng mga unang Cristiano tungkol sa likas na kalagayan ni Cristo? Ganito ang pahayag sa aklat na *The Young Church*:

“... Ang kaisipan ng mga unang Cristiano tungkol kay Jesus ay Siya ay tao na binigyan ng kapangyarihan ng Espiritu ng Diyos.” (p. 48)\*

Bakit tinatanggap ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* na totoo ang mga pahayag na ito? Sapagkat ayon Mismo kay Cristo, Siya ay tao:

“Datapuwa’t ngayo’y pinag-sisikapan ninyo akong patayin, na taong sa inyo’y nagsaysay ng katotohanan, na aking narinig sa Dios ...” (Juan 8:40)

Hindi ba’t walang ibang tao na higit na nakaaalam ng tunay na likas na kalagayan ni Cristo kundi Siya Mismo?

Kaya, sa I Timoteo 2:5 ay ito rin ang itinuro ni Apostol Pablo:



**“Datapuwa’t ngayo’y pinagsisikapan ninyo akong patayin, na taong sa inyo’y nagsaysay ng katotohanan, na aking narinig sa Dios.”**

Juan 8:40

“Sapagkat may isang Dios at may isang Tagapamagitan sa Dios at sa mga tao, ang taong si Cristo Jesus.”

Kung gayon, ang paniniwalang si Cristo ay tao ang siyang paniniwala ng mga unang Cristiano sapagkat ito ang itinuro ni Cristo Mismo at ng Kaniyang mga apostol. Samakatuwid, itinataguyod lamang ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* ang katotohanang itinuro ni Cristo at ng mga apostol.

**Patotoo ng mga nagsuri**

Sinasang-ayunan ba ng mga awtoridad Katolika ang katotohanan na hindi tinawag na Diyos si Cristo noong una? Sa *Ang Kabanalbanalang Isangtallo: Ang Diyos ng mga Kristiano*, na sinulat ni Pedro C. Sevilla, isang paring Katoliko, ay ipinahayag niya:

“Kaya’t hindi maaaring sabihin na tinatawag nang Diyos si Jesus noong mga kaunaunahang araw ng kristiyanismo ...” (p. 32)

Ayon sa pari, hindi maaaring sabihin na tinatawag nang Diyos si Jesus noong mga kaunauna-

hang araw ng Cristianismo. Pinatutunayan din ng ibang nagsuri na hindi inisip ni Jesus na Siya ay Diyos, gaya ng nakasulat sa *The First Coming: How The Kingdom of God Became Christianity*:

“Ang krisis ay nabuo buhat sa katotohanang malaya na ngayong tinatanggap kapuwa ng mga Protestante at Katolikong teologo at tagapagpaliwanag ng doktrina: na batay sa nakakalap na pangkasaysayang impormasyon, hindi inisip ni Jesus na taga-Nazaret na Siya’y Diyos ...” (p. 5)\*

Ayon sa mga teologong Katoliko at Protestante, hindi inisip ni Cristo na Siya’y Diyos. Kung gayon, paano nagkaroon ng paniniwala na si Cristo raw ay tunay na Diyos? Ayon kay Sevilla, ito ay utay-utay o unti-unting binalangkas ng Simbahang Katolika sa paglipas ng mga taon sa impluwensiya ng ibang relihiyon. Ganito ang patotoo niya sa kaniyang aklat na *At Nagsalita Ang Diyos Sa Pamamagitan Ng Kaniyang Anak*:

“Ipinahahayag ng ilang dalubhasa na utay-utay na binalangkas ng Simbahan ang pananampalataya sa pagka-Diyos ni Jesus sa impluho ng mga ibang relihiyon.” (p. 181)

Ayon naman sa ibang mga historyador: “Noong ang Cristianismo, ay lumaganap sa daigdig ng mga pagano, ay saka bumangon ang ideyang si Jesus ay Diyos na Tagapagligtas” (*The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, p. 90).\*

Alinsunod sa patotoo ng kasaysayan, ang unang nagturo na si Cristo raw ay tunay na Diyos ay si Ignacio ng Antioquia—isa sa mga tinatawag na *apostolic fathers* ng Iglesia Katolika:

“Ipinagpatuloy ng pinakaunang mga manunulat pagkatapos ng panahon ng Bagong Tipan, kilala sa tawag na ‘Apostolic Fathers,’ ang pagbuo ng paniniwala na umiral sa huling bahagi ng panahon ng Bagong Tipan na nagpapahayag na si Jesus ay Diyos. Sa kaniyang sulat sa mga taga-Efeso noong ikalawang siglo, ipinahayag ni Ignacio ng Antioquia na, ‘si Jesucristo na ating Diyos ay ipinagligtas ni Maria’ at, ‘ang Diyos ay nahahayag ngayon sa anyong tao.’” (*Word Become Flesh*, pp. 161–162)\*

Hindi ito tinanggap agad ng mga unang Cristiano. Ganito naman ang patotoo mula sa aklat na sinulat ng isang historyador ng relihiyon:

“... Ang aral na si Jesus ay Diyos na nasa anyong tao ay hindi naging pinal o ganap hanggang sa ika-apat na siglo. Ang pagbuo ng paniniwalang Cristiano sa Ingkarnasyon (pagkakatawang-tao ng Diyos) ay isang mabagal at masalimuot na proseso. Si Jesus mismo ay hindi nag-angkin na siya’y Diyos.” (*A History of God: 4000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*, p. 81)\*

Ang nakialam upang sapilitang maipatanggap sa mga tao ang paniniwalang si Cristo ay tunay na Diyos ay ang pinuno noon ng estado o gobyerno na si Emperador Constantino:

“... Nagsimulang makialam si Constantino sa mga bagay ukol sa Iglesia. Sinaklaw ng mga nangauna sa kaniya ang mga relihiyong Romano. Kaya ito’y sinundan ni Constantino sa pagtatangkang pangunahan ang Iglesia. Pagkalipas ng isang taon na siya ang naging iisang pinuno rito, ipinatawag ni Constantino ang mga obispo sa isang



**“Ngunit ako’y natatakot, baka sa anomang paraan, kung paanong si Eva ay nadaya ng ahas sa kaniyang katusuhan, ang inyong walang malay at malinis na mga pagiisip na kay Cristo ay pasamain. Sapagka’t kung yaong paririto ay mangaral ng ibang Jesus, na hindi namin ipinangaral, o kung kayo’y nagsisitanggap ng ibang espiritu na hindi ninyo tinanggap, o ibang evangelio na hindi ninyo tinanggap ay mabuting pagtiisan ninyo.”**

II Corinto 11:3-4

konsilyo upang talakayin ang isang suliranin na nagbubunsod sa pagkahati ng mga Cristiano at lalong

nakapagpapagulo sa Silangan.” (*The Catholic Church: Our Mission in History*, p. 99)\*

Upang matiyak ni Emperador Constantino ang pagdalo sa konsilyo o pulong ng mga obispo, sila ay kaniyang pinadalhan ng mga regalo ngunit may kasamang pananakot:

“...Tinawag ang Konsilyong ito ng Emperador Constantino sa pamamagitan ng mga sulat na may kasamang regalo, ngunit mga sulat na naglalaman din ng pananakot.” (*Ang Kabanalbanalang Isangtalo*, p. 107)

Nang isagawa na ang pagpupulong, walang nauunawaan si Constantino sa paksang pinag-uusapan sa Konsilyo. Sa aklat na isinulat ni Bernard Lohse, pinamagatang *A Short History of Christian Doctrine*, ay ganito ang mababasa:

“Si Constantino na siyang naging unang emperador na naging Cristiano ay walang anumang pagkaunawa sa mga katanungang pinag-uusapan sa teolohiyang Griego.” (p. 51)\*

Samakatuwid, sa isang napakahalaga at napakaselang paksa tungkol sa doktrina ng Iglesia, ang nakialam ay isang Emperador na wala namang naiintindihan sa pinagtatalunan ng mga obispo.

Kung gayon, hindi nakapagtataka na lumaganap ang paniniwalang si Cristo ay Diyos at kinamulatan na ng marami sa atin.

#### **Ang ipinagpauna ng mga apostol**

Hindi dapat ipagtaka kung may lumitaw na paniniwala tungkol sa Panginoong Jesucristo na ibang-iba naman sa ipinangaral ng mga apostol sapagkat ito’y ipinagpauna ni

Apostol Pablo. Ganito ang mababasa sa II Corinto 11:3-4:

“Ngunit ako’y natatakot, baka sa anomang paraan, kung paanong si Eva ay nadaya ng ahas sa kaniyang katusuhan, ang inyong walang malay at malinis na mga pagiisip na kay Cristo ay pasamain. Sapagka’t kung yaong paririto ay mangaral ng ibang Jesus, na hindi namin ipinangaral, o kung kayo’y nagsisitanggap ng ibang espiritu na hindi ninyo tinanggap, o ibang evangelio na hindi ninyo tinanggap, ay mabuting pagtiisan ninyo.”

Ang gayong aral ay hidwang pananampalataya at ito ay hindi ikaliligtas (Gal. 5:19-21). Bagaman sa pananaw ng marami ay ibang-iba raw ang paniniwala ng *Iglesia Ni Cristo* tungkol kay Cristo—na Siya’y tao sa likas na kalagayan, ay hindi ito naiiba sa Biblia. Ang pagtuturong si Cristo ay tao at hindi Diyos ang siyang orihinal na paniniwala ng mga unang Cristiano dahil ito ang katotohanang itinuro ni Cristo Mismo at ng Kaniyang mga apostol. ●

\* Isinalin mula sa Ingles

#### **Mga referencia:**

*The Young Church.*  
*Ang Kabanalbanalang Isangtalo: Ang Diyos ng mga Kristiano.* Ni Pedro C. Sevilla.  
*The First Coming: How The Kingdom of God Became Christianity.* Ni Thomas Sheehan.  
*At Nagsalita Ang Diyos Sa Pamamagitan Ng Kaniyang Anak.*  
*The Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls.* Ni Davies Powell.  
*Word Become Flesh.* Ni Brian O. McDermott.  
*A History of God: 4000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.*  
*The Catholic Church: Our Mission in History.*  
*A Short History of Christian Doctrine.* Ni Bernard Lohse.



# Christian Achievers

---

## A nurse is recognized for her compassion and commitment

By SARAH HERNANDEZ and KENNETH OUANO

2020 WAS UNDOUBTEDLY a year filled with anxiety and uncertainty. For the members of the Church Of Christ who serve their communities as health professionals and essential workers, it was a year when their faith and conviction were tested beyond measure.

Sister Ivory Evariz Quimba, from the Local Congregation of Norval, Ecclesiastical District of Southern Ontario, Canada, is a registered practical nurse. She is no stranger to difficulties, as someone whose faith proved time and again that in order to overcome hardships, she must completely trust in God. Even as the pandemic has been bringing about so

much sorrow in the world, she continues fulfilling her duties and finds success in her profession.

Sister Ivy, as she is fondly called, served as a health and nutrition program coordinator for a non-governmental organization in the Philippines for 20 years. In 2009, she and her husband made the decision to migrate to Canada when a window of opportunity to better practice her, as well as her husband's, profession opened itself for them. Armed with their hope and faith that God guide and protect them, the family of three migrated to Brampton, Ontario.

In order to work as a nurse in Canada, Sister Ivy had to undergo a

rigorous skills assessment and many examinations. While she waited for her assessment results, she worked two jobs to help her family. She said, "For a year and a half, I worked as a cashier and as a customer service representative, commuting by bus to work during harsh winter months." It was in those moments of difficulties when doubt and sadness would lead her to question why she left a comfortable life in the Philippines.

Despite their hardships, Sister Ivy and her family became all the more active in the Church Of Christ. It was in their faith, and in the bond they made with fellow brethren, that they found comfort in their new



home. She and her husband found a sense of belonging and camaraderie in the *Buklod* organization with their fellow married members. She said, "*Buklod* members helped keep our faith strong; they would pray for us and give much encouragement to our family."

With God's help, Sister Ivy passed her assessment. She undertook three exams and became a registered practical nurse in Ontario. She found a stable job, and often has been receiving accolades in her workplace. When asked what the proudest moment in her career is, she replied, "Being awarded as the 'Best Nurse of the Year' in 2016 among my 300 plus peers." She was also recognized as 'Best Nurse of the Month' on separate occasions.

In May 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, she received recognition from the Philippine Advancement Through Arts and Culture (PATAC) organization by being featured online in "Larawan 2020: A Spotlight on Filipinos on the Frontlines" (a social media regular feature) for being a community health worker who risks her own life to save others.

Sister Ivy and her family happily fulfill their Church duties. Her husband is a deacon and a group overseer, while her daughter is a group secretary and a choir member. Sister Ivy is a *Buklod* assistant secretary, as well as a group assistant overseer. In addition, motivated

Dental, and Paramedical Society (CMDPS). She is also a blood donation coordinator representing the Felix Y. Manalo (FYM) Foundation, Inc. In her four years of fulfilling this duty, her congregation has received recognition from the Canadian Blood Services for voluntarily donating several bags of blood in a single time every year.

"Not even the pandemic has hindered the activeness of the Christian Family Organizations. We conduct meetings and activities online in order to help strengthen the love of the brotherhood. Our faith has become all the more strengthened," Sister Ivy said. As she continues to fulfill her duty representing the FYM Foundation during blood donation drives, she continued, "It is important that we are united with the goal of the Church Administration to share our faith through acts of kindness."

When asked what advice she would give to professionals who want to succeed in their career, she said, "Don't lose hope. Trust completely in our Lord God, seek His guidance, and do your part by working hard. Always pray to Him and persevere in your faith. God will be with you and keep you strong in the face of hardships." ●



Sister Ivy Quimba

to use her skills as a nurse, she has volunteered to be an emergency first responder for the Society of Communicators and Networkers International (SCAN), and has been a member of the Christian Medical,

to use her skills as a nurse, she has volunteered to be an emergency first responder for the Society of Communicators and Networkers International (SCAN), and has been a member of the Christian Medical,





# A decade of sharing love and compassion

By KENNETH A. OUANO

**W**ITHIN THE LAST ten years, millions of people have benefited from the humanitarian aid given by the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* (Church Of Christ) in different parts of the world through its Felix Y. Manalo (FYM) Foundation, Inc.

Aiming to promote socio-economic well-being, education, environmental awareness, and health improvement for everyone, the FYM Foundation serves as the reliable arm of the Church Of Christ in conducting activities such as the Aid to Humanity (*Lingap sa Mamamayan*) and the My Countrymen, My Brethren (*Kabayang Ko, Kapatid Ko*) programs among its other community outreach projects. It has also been supporting several socio-economic development projects such as eco-farms and garment factories.

## Formation and growth

To further systematize and consolidate efforts for the immensely growing humanitarian and social welfare

programs of the Church, the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, moved by his concern for the people in need, approved the establishment of the FYM Foundation. It was formally registered in the Philippines on February 4, 2011, in the United States on May 17, 2012, and subsequently in other countries.

Since its establishment, the FYM Foundation has been a strong partner of the Church where it is officially recognized in helping people, such as the USA, Japan, South Korea, Spain, and Russia. The Church's charitable arm also extends aid and services to those in need in countries such as Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, India, the United Kingdom, and in several countries in the African continent.

On July 7, 2012, a colossal Aid to Humanity event was conducted by the Church through the FYM Foundation in Tondo, Manila, Philippines. More than 200,000 people benefited from this project and three Guinness World





Records were broken that day, namely: world's largest dental health check in eight hours, the biggest number of blood pressure readings in eight hours, and the most number of blood glucose level tests in eight hours.

In April 2013, the *Kabayan Ko, Kapatid Ko* program, an evangelical and service-oriented outreach mission of the Church, was launched in Binondo, Manila. Brethren invited more than 500,000 guests and accompanied them in availing themselves of the free medical and dental services, relief bags, and, most importantly, in listening to the words of God. Since then, *Kabayan Ko, Kapatid Ko* has been conducted by *Iglesia Ni Cristo* ecclesiastical districts around the world. It has been instrumental in giving aid to those in need and in bringing thousands of people to become members of the Church Of Christ.

### Softening the blow of calamities

The strongest and most destructive hurricane of 2012, Hurricane Sandy, swept through the US West Coast in October 2012, claiming more than 200 lives and resulting in nearly US\$70 billion in damages. The Church, through the FYM Foundation, conducted an International Aid to Humanity event in November that year by giving relief packages to more than 10,000 affected residents. The FYM Foundation also donated \$150,000 in total to the New York City Police Department (NYPD) Foundation, the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) Foundation, the Bellevue Hospital Center, and the Coney Island Hospital in aid of their rescue and health care activities to help the respective communities they serve stand on their feet again.

Many can still remember the havoc wreaked by Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) that plowed

through the Visayas Islands of the Philippines in 2013. Immediate relief efforts were done by the Church through the FYM Foundation, which quickly mobilized volunteers to ensure aid would reach the victims immediately. The assistance given to the victims was not a "one-time deal" assistance, as the Church Of Christ, through the FYM Foundation, organized the charity event "Worldwide Walk for those Affected by Typhoon Yolanda" on February 15, 2014, where Church members from all over the world participated. As intended, this humanitarian movement yielded long-term benefits for the recipients—the housing and livelihood project in New Era, Alangalang, Leyte, which was inaugurated on January 23, 2015.

When a series of earthquakes shook Kumamoto, Japan in April 2016, one of the first to help those affected were *Iglesia Ni Cristo* volunteers who were mobilized by the FYM Foundation to hand out food, water, and other provisions.

In the last decade, wildfires have become unusually more common and more dangerous, burning millions of acres of forests, as well as thousands of homes and claiming the lives of man and animals. In Australia alone, so much death and destruction was brought about by the bushfires from 2019 to 2020 that many have referred to that period as the "Black Summer." The FYM Foundation promptly responded by conducting a series of Aid to Humanity events in different regions in the land down under, providing food parcels to the affected residents and the families of the rescue volunteers. Financial assistance was also given to local foundations that helped during the crisis.





As the world grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic, the FYM Foundation has stepped up efforts to help those in need. On October 31, 2020, almost all ecclesiastical districts of the Church around the world simultaneously held Aid to Humanity events. Thousands of food packages were delivered to the doorsteps of residents, especially those whose jobs were affected by the pandemic. In countries with stricter health protocols, the FYM Foundation gave hefty donations to food banks, local government units, and humanitarian institutions, including medical supplies and cash donations, to help frontliners in the fight against the virus.

### The fight against poverty

The FYM Foundation aims to help in alleviating the plight of many people wallowing in poverty. The concern of the millions of Church Of Christ members around the world for them was put into action when they participated in the Worldwide Walk to fight poverty in May 2018.

One of the ways the FYM Foundation battles this problem is by conducting crowd-drawing Aid to Humanity events in depressed areas of different countries around the world. The proceeds of the Worldwide Walk to fight poverty were then used to conduct these said events, wherein the biggest of these were done in Africa, Brazil, and India.

In September 2019, more than 30,000 residents in Visakhapatnam, India received food packages in a three-day Aid to Humanity event. Financial donations were also given to several charitable institutions. This was thus far the largest outreach program in India led by a religious organization.

Poverty and unemployment also burden the people living in the densely populated *favelas* (slum settlements) of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Despite the poverty, *favelados* (*favela* dwellers) are still hopeful that their way of living will eventually be alleviated. To help them uplift their own community, in June 2017, an Aid to Humanity event was held for four consecutive days in four different areas, with more than 20,000 people receiving food parcels. Brazilians who helped organize the event were indeed motivated, saying that never had they witnessed such a great act of kindness from any religious organization.

The Africans have been the frequent recipients of aid from the Church through the FYM Foundation



### Mr. Michael Moody, parish priest, Catholic Parish of Melton, Australia

"On behalf of the Catholic Parish of Melton and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Melton, I would like to take this opportunity to express to you and your community of Iglesia Ni Cristo special thanks for your continued support of those in need in the Melton area. Your community's generous assistance through the donation of food and supplies will ensure that families will be provided for during this time."(Quoted from his letter sent to the Church Administration)

in the past six years. On August 30, 2014, the first Aid to Humanity in the African continent was held in King William's Town, helping more than 10,000 people by giving them food parcels and clothing. In the following years, thousands upon thousands more have received help through Aid to Humanity events held in QwaQwa, Ladybrand, and Manyatseng in South Africa; Maseru and Semongkong in Lesotho; Blantyre City and Salima in Malawi; Nairobi, Kibera, and Kawangware in Kenya; Bugiri in Uganda; Lusaka in Zambia; and many other African countries that the Church has reached.

Poverty has affected so many people, not just in developing countries but in developed ones as well.





Thus, the FYM Foundation has also brought its activities to the residents in these countries who are in need. In May 2019, an Aid to Humanity tour was held in 36 locations in Canada, giving out relief packages to individuals and cash donations to the community. Later that year, the USA leg of the tour commenced with bigger charity events held in 10 states in less than a month.

In December 2020, an Aid to Humanity event was held in Melton, Australia wherein the Catholic parish priest of Melton expressed his gratitude to the Church Of Christ for this generous gesture. It was also in that month when the Church Of Christ responded to a request letter to Brother Eduardo Manalo sent by an Orthodox priest in Rizal, Philippines, asking the Church Of Christ to give aid to the residents whose livelihoods were impacted by the pandemic. The Church Administration then instructed the FYM Foundation to send truckloads of food packs, which were then distributed to the residents in need.

#### **In it for the long haul**

To benefit people on a long-term basis, the FYM Foundation has been providing jobs, teaching livelihood skills, and giving opportunities for better living conditions through proper housing.

Among the livelihood opportunities that have been generated through the FYM Foundation in its close partnership with the Unified Livelihood and Advocacy for Development International, Inc. (UNLAD *Kabuhayan*) are eco-farming projects, food production, and garment factories. In the Philippines, large tracts



### **Mr. Yitzhak Pascual Monsanto, archpriest Antiochian Orthodox Church, Baras, Rizal**

*"We're happy that [the Executive Minister] opened his arms to us. I would like to express our deep gratitude for this unexpected assistance ... showing love for our fellowmen, not because of our religion but of the intention to help others." (Translated from Filipino)*

of land were bought and transformed into eco-farms, particularly in Leyte, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Cavite, and Rizal. In Africa, there are now three eco-farms: 459 hectares in Salima, 508 hectares in Ladybrand, and the 2,800-hectare farm in Petrusburg. Also, the Church has built a garments factory in QwaQwa in 2019, and a home industry in Ladybrand, bringing much-needed job opportunities and skills training to the residents of the said areas.

In January 2020, the Church inaugurated the first eco-farming project in the US—the 163-acre mushroom factory in Shoshoni, Wyoming. The first to benefit from this livelihood project are the Church members, doctrinal instructees, and the nonmember residents of the small town, including a nearby Native American reservation. With the help of consultants and agriculturists, the food produced by this factory will help ease hunger and provide jobs for the community and beyond. This is already what is happening in areas where eco-farming projects are situated.

"What Brother Eduardo Manalo wants is to help [people], not only through short-term aid but also to help them in the long run. An example of this is when we conduct Aid to Humanity events, wherein we help by giving them food and their other needs. That, however, is just short-term aid. The long-term aid that the Church Of Christ does [for people] is to provide them with jobs and also housing. We do this not just because the Executive Minister wants it, but, most of



---

all, this is the will of God,” said Brother Glicerio B. Santos Jr., the General Auditor of the Church Of Christ.

“Deuteronomy 15:11 teaches us that whenever there are poor in the land, be open-handed and help them, as what God says. So, this is the right time to help our fellowmen. We also would like to remind them that the things happening in the world—terrible disasters, grim events, the onslaught of poverty—are God’s warning to people, and should not be ignored. This is God’s

warning that Judgment Day is truly near. Hence, the Church Of Christ is intensifying its work, not only in helping our fellowmen but, most importantly, in teaching people how to be saved on Judgment Day, which is the most important aid we can give,” he added.

The FYM Foundation will continue being the reliable charitable arm of the Church Of Christ by fulfilling its pledge of extending help through giving aid, especially to those who truly need it the most. ●

---



**Brother Arnie Limpin,**  
Minister of the gospel, UNLAD, Inc.  
*Quezon City, Philippines*

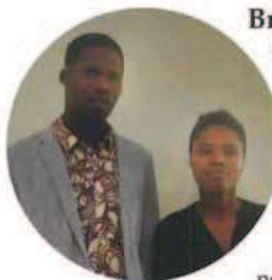
“This project of the Church is an effective way of letting people feel our care and concern for them. Most of all, this is in accordance to the commandment of our Lord God to love our fellowmen. Through this, we are also able to introduce the Church Of Christ to more people and they will be able to know the true worship of God and the way to salvation come Judgment Day.”

---



**Brother Neil Patrick Lladop,**  
Volunteer worker,  
UNLAD food products  
*Quezon City, Philippines*

“The projects of the FYM Foundation and UNLAD, Inc. have provided us with jobs and skills that will surely help us in this time of great need. I see it as a great blessing from God and a wonderful privilege for me to become a volunteer worker. I promise to strive hard in fulfilling my work here and, most importantly, in serving and worshipping the Lord God.”(translated from Filipino)



**Brother Itumeleng Jan Mokae and  
Sister Francina Mothata Mokae**  
Volunteer workers, Petrusburg  
eco-farming project  
*Free State, South Africa*

“We would like to thank the Church Administration for the help that they gave to us here in Africa. My wife and I can now provide for our daily needs that we can use in order to fulfill our Church duties and to worship God, which nurture our spiritual needs. We thank God, most of all, for this wonderful blessing that He gave to us.”

---



**Brother Ramil Gatchalian,**  
Volunteer worker,  
mushroom factory  
*Shoshoni, Wyoming, USA*

“The most positive impact that the mushroom factory has had on the town of Shoshoni is the Church’s involvement within the lives of the community members. We have established a Group Worship Service and with the help of our Almighty God, our works of propagation is flourishing with employees and town residents alike, signing up to become doctrinal instructees. I truly believe that the existence of the eco-farm here in Shoshoni will change the lives of our workers and the community.”



**Brother Robert Fernandez,**  
Volunteer worker,  
mushroom factory  
*Shoshoni, Wyoming, USA*

“The eco-farm here in Shoshoni has already helped brethren from different parts of the United States and local residents of Fremont County by providing much needed jobs. The town of Shoshoni has been in much need of such activities to stimulate the economic growth of the community. The eco-farming project has been greatly received and appreciated by the local government. The Mayor and city council have been very accommodating and supportive of the project.”



# Lingap sa Mamamayan

Lahat ng tao'y nangangailangan ng kalinga at pagmamahal.  
*Iglesia Ni Cristo* sa Pilipinas, noon pa man ay nagpapagal  
Na lingapin ang mga taong nasasadlak sa dusa't kahirapan,  
Gawing pagtulong at paggabay—tinaguriang Lingap sa Mamamayan.  
Ang gawaing paglingap ay di lamang sa bansang Pilipinas  
Pati na sa ibayong dagat kung saan ang paghihirap ay dinaranas.  
Sakuna at panganib, dulot ng lindol at bagyong malalakas  
Ang SCAN International ay laging handang tumulong sa paglikas.  
Mamamaya'y marapat din na magsuri at palaging pakinggan  
Ang pangangaral na siyang saligan sa pagtatamo ng kaligtasan  
Mga salita ng Panginoong Diyos siyang pinaiiral at maaasahan  
Ang lahat ng mga tao'y dapat magsiyasat upang mabautismuhan.  
Malapit nang magwakas itong ating ginagalawang mundo  
Ang mga palatandaa'y nagbabadya't nagsasaad nito  
Yamang ang mga pangyayari'y di pangkaraniwa't di ordinaryo  
Ang lahat ay maghanda sa nalalapit nang pagparito  
Ng ating Panginoong Jesucristo, magdiwang at magalak 'pagkat ligtas na tayo.

ANTONIO G. PAPA  
CAVITE, PHILIPPINES



# CARE TO KNOW ABOUT THE *IGLESIA NI CRISTO* (CHURCH OF CHRIST)



## WORSHIP SERVICES

You are welcome to attend the worship services of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* (Church Of Christ). You may inquire about the schedule of worship services through our congregation near your place or visit our website at [www.iglesianicristo.net](http://www.iglesianicristo.net).



## BIBLE STUDIES AND EVANGELICAL MISSIONS

Feel free to attend our Bible studies on doctrines and evangelical missions held regularly in every congregation. They help you examine the teachings of the Bible upheld by the *Iglesia Ni Cristo*.



## INC PUBLICATIONS

Read our magazine, *Pasugo: God's Message*, and our pamphlets. For inquiries, visit the official website of the *Pasugo: God's Message* at [www.pasugo.com.ph](http://www.pasugo.com.ph) or email us at [pasugo@iglesianicristo.org.ph](mailto:pasugo@iglesianicristo.org.ph) or [pasugo@inc.org.ph](mailto:pasugo@inc.org.ph).

## MOBILE APPLICATIONS

Download the official Church Of Christ applications [incmedia](#), [inctv](#), and [incradio](#) from the App Store or the Google Play Store. There's something for everyone, featuring quality shows, programs, and music about Christian family and values.



## INCTV

Tune in to our television channel, INCTV, and watch our religious programs, convert stories, documentaries, and educational programs.



## INC RADIO - DZEM 954 KHz

Tune in to DZEM 954 KHz (Philippines) or stream us live at [iglesianicristo.net/incradio](http://iglesianicristo.net/incradio) and catch round-the-clock interviews, live features, and Christian family programs. The station also airs *Iglesia Ni Cristo* original music.



## IGLESIA NI CRISTO OFFICIAL WEBSITES

Visit our official websites [www.iglesianicristo.net](http://www.iglesianicristo.net), [www.incmedia.org](http://www.incmedia.org), and [www.pasugo.com.ph](http://www.pasugo.com.ph).

To be updated of the recent activities of the Church, follow us in our Facebook page, *Iglesia Ni Cristo* News and Updates.



This is good, and it pleases God our Savior.  
He wants all people to be saved.  
He wants them to come to know the truth.