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Inspiring You To Live A Fantastic Life

WYGMMA

JULY 2016



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BIGGEST LESSONS
FROM BO SANCHEZ

DISCOVER THE CORE
OF LEADERSHIP AND
LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

2016:
AN EXTRAORDINARY
SEASON OF GRACE

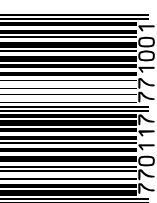
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Love

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ISSN 01170-7710



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Your Ultimate Survival Guide to Solo Parenting

Hey, solo parent! Are you about to lose your marbles? Do you want to shout at the top of your lungs and say: Give me a break!

Maybe you're a tired, battle-scarred single parent, juggling so many things at the same time. Maybe you're a new single parent, struggling to move on.

Here's your ultimate survival guide to solo parenting — to help you through the rough patches and bring you from a Pain Point to a Relief Peak with your humor and sanity intact.

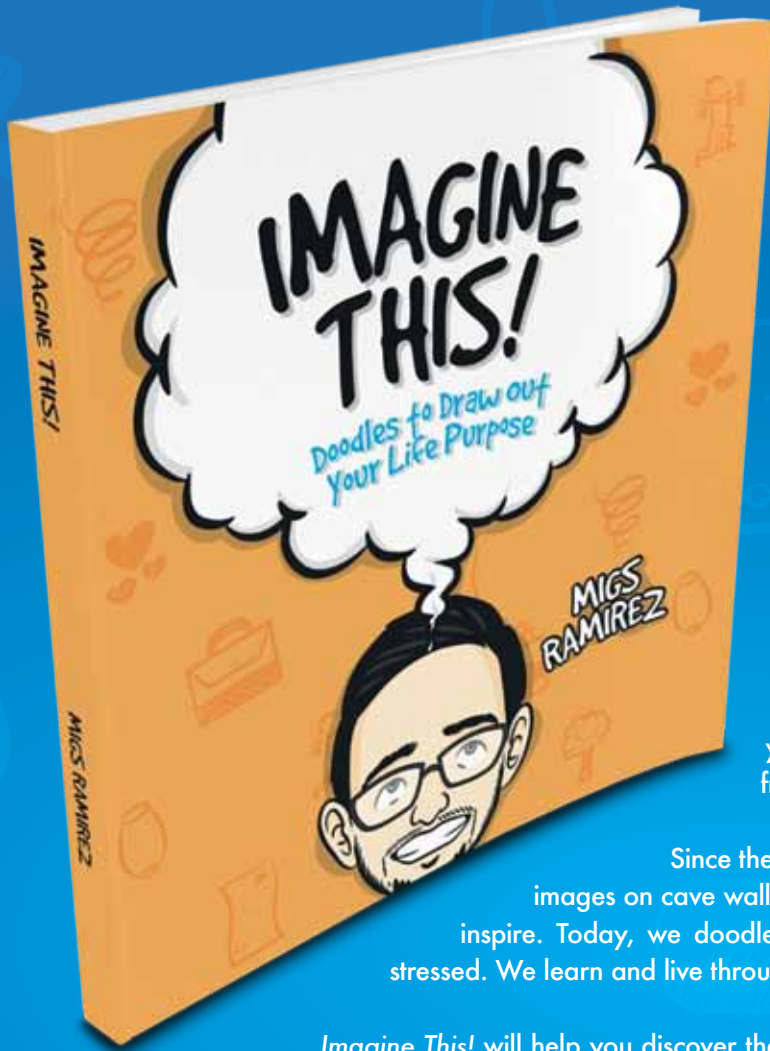
The Happy Solo Kit is here to help you:

- Overcome your grief and anger and help you find your peace.
- Journey from a low self-esteem to a healthy love of self.
- Conquer your fears and increase your faith in God who provides, protects and guides you along the way.

Hang in there! All shall be well.



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Discovering Your Self Has Never Been This Fun!

The book you are holding is a collection of images, all about your self. It is a creative toolbox containing symbols that will draw out the answers to your deepest questions: Who am I? How do I move on from my past? How do I make my dreams a reality?

Since the beginning of humanity, when our ancestors sketched images on cave walls, we have used pictures to communicate, create and inspire. Today, we doodle on the margins of pages when we are bored or stressed. We learn and live through images.

Imagine This! will help you discover the answers to your life questions on love, identity and success using your very own drawings. It will unleash your subconscious. Your doodles have the power to unlock the chains of insecurity, helplessness, anger, rejection and fear that have been holding you back from living the life you are meant to live. As you uncover yourself one layer at a time through your doodles, you will find out how beautiful it is to live, to learn and to love.

Migs guides you through this journey of discovery through each chapter's *Teach, Touch and Talk* sections, using his own experiences to illustrate valuable lessons along the way. You don't have to be an artist to use this book. *Imagine This!* will let out the creativity that's already within you.

Imagine This! is an effective icebreaker before meetings or as sharing starters for group gatherings. It is good for team-building sessions, classroom discussions, and interviews. It can also help you get to know your future spouse and deepen your family ties.

Best of all, *Imagine This!* will help you find the most powerful sketch in the world – You. Discovering yourself has never been this creative!

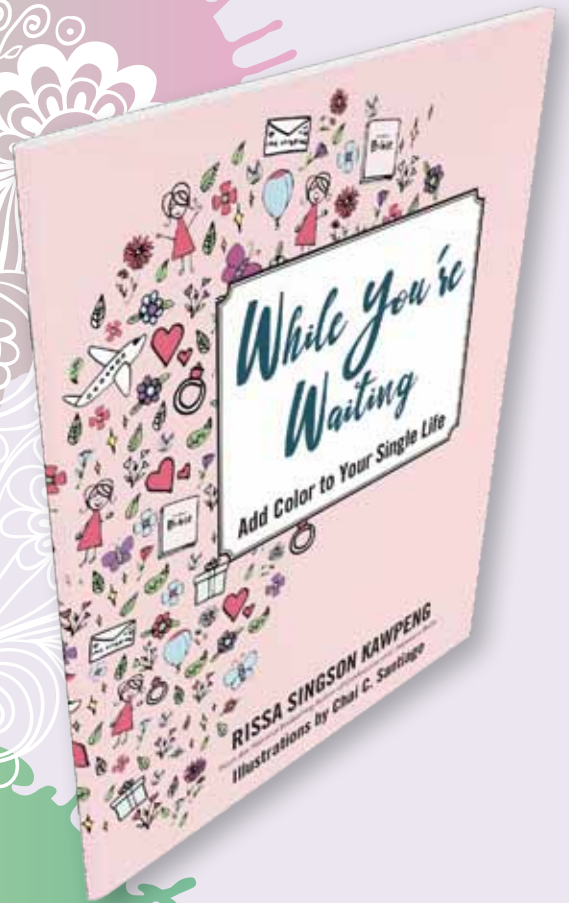
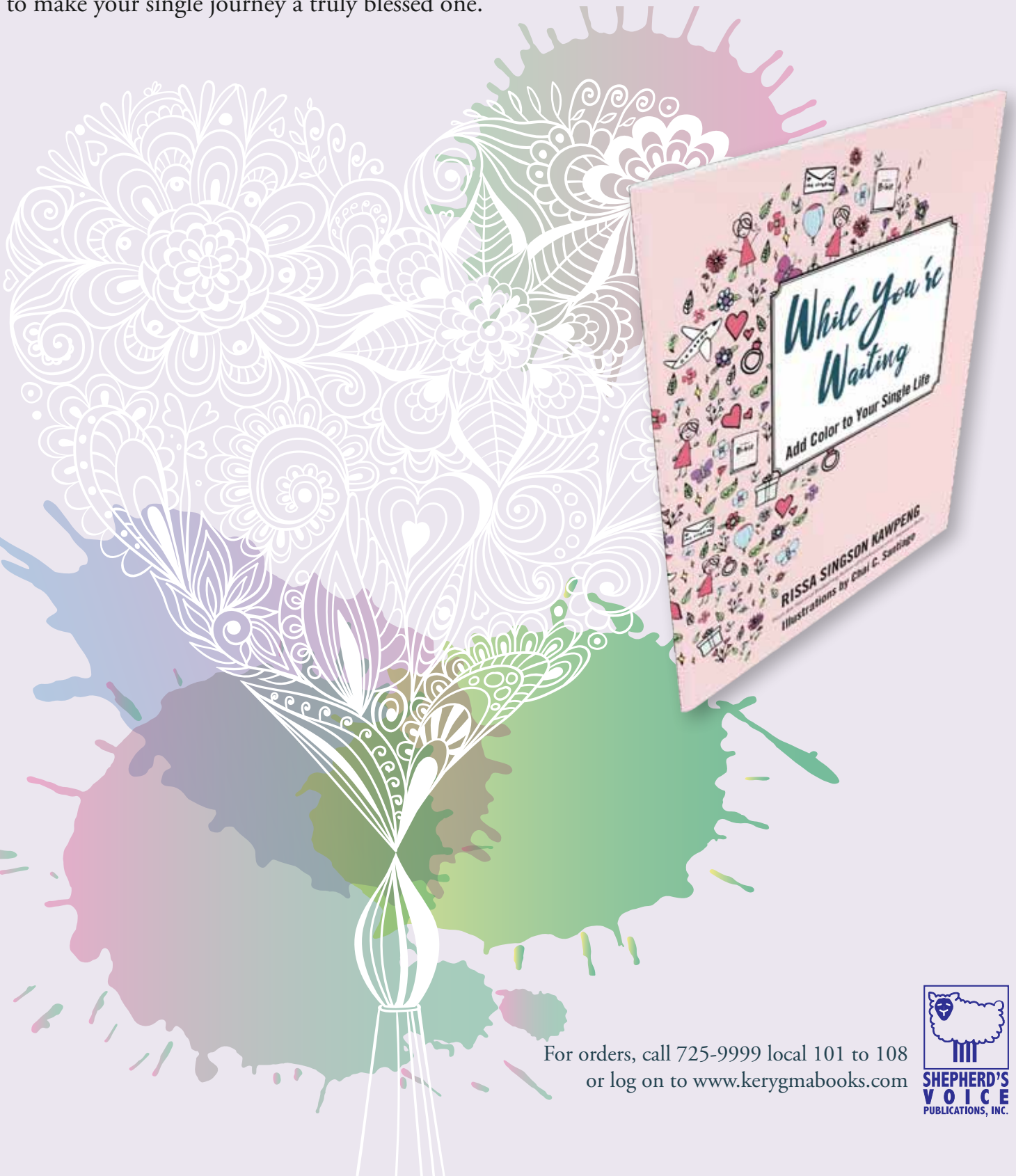
It's time to imagine and doodle your way to your life's purpose.



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While You Wait for Mr. Right...

You don't need to keep your life on hold just because you're longing to be married. This coloring book for the single person — based on the Little Book, *Oh God, I'm Still Single!* — will teach you how you can maximize this temporary season in your life and squeeze it of all that it offers. Aside from stimulating your creative flair, you'll also learn dating guidelines as well as spiritual and practical tips to make your single journey a truly blessed one.



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My Life at Half-time

by Bo Sanchez

This month, I'm 50.

The Bible says, "The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair" (Proverbs 20:29). That means if you have gray hair, you've got splendor. Now if you lost your gray hair, you've got *shiny* splendor.

Let me share with you my personal journey.

I had a midlife crisis in 2013 — and it was partially connected to growing old. I noted that aging was disturbing to me because the predominant question in my mind was, "What have I lost?"

It's scary to think about this list...

- I lost my boundless energy. I used to have eternal energy. But now when we have a four-day Kerygma Conference, I'd feel like a dried-up vegetable after preaching three times a day for four straight days. And all I want to do is lie on bed for four straight days to recover.
- I lost my youthful face. Every day, I get shocked by my wrinkles. I don't look like Tom Cruise anymore. (I now look like the older Tom Cruise.)
- I lost my six-pack abs. Just kidding. Never had them.
- I lost people. Friends and relatives are dying on me. My mother passed away. And my mentor, Mike Joseph, died at the young age of 61.

I'm not going to sugarcoat this experience. Aging is painful.

But one day, I read this passage: "Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). I realized I needed to change the question in my mind. Instead of asking "What have I lost?" I asked, "What have I gained?"

Here's my list, and the effect within me was electrifying:

- **Freedom.** I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do what I do because I love to do them. I pursue my dreams because I want to pursue them. And I work with people I want to work with. I should have done this a long time ago.
One time, a stranger walked up to me and said, "Bo, my friend used to read your books. But she doesn't like you anymore ever since you wrote your first financial book."
If she told me that a decade ago, I would have been crushed. But I just smiled and told her, "Please tell your friend I'll keep writing financial books because God told me to write financial books — to help people grow in their finances."
I now don't care what people say about me. I'll do what God wants me to do. Partly, this freedom comes with age.
- **Bliss.** I savor life more. I live more in the present moment. I have more joy because I have greater appreciation. Why? I know half of my life is over.
- **Tenderness.** As I get older, I cry more often. Why? People become more important than things. I put top priority to relationships more than anything else. I look forward to time spent with my wife, my kids, and my friends. I take more trips with people I love.
- **Compassion.** I have a bigger heart for those who are suffering. I want to do more things for those who don't enjoy what I enjoy. I have a bigger capacity to sacrifice.
- **Spiritual.** I pray more. I trust God more.

Yes, aging can be very disturbing. But with all the wonderful things that God has shown, taught and provided me in my first 50 years, I can't wait to enjoy another 50 years of God's love, grace and abundance.

I've been very blessed. (Thank You, Lord!) And it's just the first half.

Greater things are yet to come. 

May your dreams come true,




I am happy to read some of the inspirational messages and words in *Kerygma*. I learn a lot. I borrowed copies from some of my mentors and friends to get monthly dose of inspiration for my life. I appreciate the everyday lessons that enrich our mind and teach us how to open ourselves to receive more blessings.

I hope that more digital magazine formats will be available in the Kerygma Family website, including the latest and updated downloadable issues (from 1990-present).

May God bless your company as well as your magazine. I also thank this magazine for the wonderful columns that motivate me as a person. I am glad to share these to others for God's greater glory.

Andre Gere Adsuara
via e-mail

The articles that you write are very inspiring. They give hope and joy. More power and God bless.

Mary Grace Ofindo
via e-mail

Thank you for your enlightening articles and amazing testimonies. Reading your magazine has always been my booster since college. *Kerygma* opened my heart to see the great things that God can do. Indeed, nothing is impossible with Him. Continue blessing the world! God bless.

Seanly Buenafe
Marilao, Bulacan

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By Rissa Singson Kawpeng

Forgive Your Body, Forgive Yourself

Release your God-given power to self-heal

There are people who have a hard time forgiving others. I call them “agricultural people.” They’re good at nursing grudges or, in Filipino, “*nagtatanim ng sama ng loob*.” (Literally, “they plant resentment or offense.”)

It’s problematic to be a person of this kind because, just like any seed, a resentment you “plant” will surely grow. And when it yields its bitter fruit, we’re the ones who suffer its consequences, not the object of our resentment.

But there’s another kind of forgiveness that we need to learn to give. And that is forgiving ourselves. Sometimes, this is even tougher to do because oftentimes we’re not even aware that there’s something we have to forgive ourselves from.

In my years of serving the Lord and discipling others, I learned that many of our problems stem from our inability to forgive and accept ourselves. No wonder Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31).

But learning to love and accept ourselves is not easy to do. When we don’t have this acceptance, we seek it outside of ourselves and end up damaging our ego even more. We look to others to affirm us, to compliment us, to complete us. And because extrinsic approval can only add on to what we have intrinsically, it can never be enough.

After I had my lumpectomy in 2014 to remove cancer cells in my breast, I had to forgive and accept my body.

Before or after a shower, I would see the scar of my operation and talk to my body in front of the mirror.

“I love you. I forgive you. Please forgive me,” I would tell my reflection.

Why did I need to do that? Because I felt that my body had failed me.

I’ve always seen myself as a strong and healthy person. I took pride in what my mom used to say that the only time we were hospitalized was when we were born and when we’d give birth.

Among my sisters, I was the only one who didn’t abide by that record. But still, I considered myself strong and healthy.

So when the diagnosis of cancer came, I lost faith in my body. It had let me down.


It took a while before I recovered the confidence that my body could heal itself and it was strong. Forgiving my body played a part in that.

Through the years, I’ve learned how powerful self-acceptance is. It can destroy your self-esteem if you don’t give it to yourself. But, oh, how beautiful you become once you accept every bit of you.

Do this now. Speak to your body. Speak to yourself. Say, “I love you. I love every bit of you. I love that my (mention a body part that is infirmed or you don’t like about yourself) is just as it is. I accept you. I celebrate you. Please forgive me for the times I’ve rejected you. I thank God for you.”

Accepting yourself opens pathways to healing in your body that you are not aware of. It allows the power of God to course through your body and do its work of restoration.

You are being healed, not just in body, but more importantly in your spirit.

Do you feel it? 

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.
(3 John 1:2)

Email me at justbreatherissa@gmail.com or follow me on Facebook.

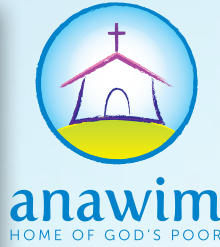


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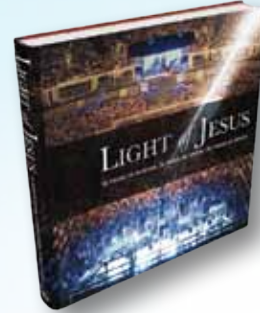
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5. Deadline for submission of entries is on December 29, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
6. Raffle draw for the *Kerygma* Conference VIP Tickets is on October 14, 2016 4 p.m. and the raffle draw for the Marian Pilgrimage is on January 12, 2017, 4 p.m.

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July 2016



It's Bo's golden year!

In this issue, Bo shares his most important beliefs that made him the man who he is today.

As a treat, get to know more about the man behind the preacher in this month's special *Bolletín* section. Read it straight from the people closest to him – his family, friends, mentors and co-servants.

We invite you to celebrate the BOs' birth month with us – with love!

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1

"In every moment of his earthly life, Jesus made mercy visible: meeting the crowds, announcing the Gospel, healing the sick, drawing close to the forgotten, pardoning sinners."

2

"A people with a youthful population is a people able to renew and transform itself."

3

"How worthwhile it would be for each of us to examine our conscience and learn to say, 'forgive me, forgive me, brothers and sisters!'"

7

"'Kindness-therapy' is so important! So essential! Sometimes a caress can greatly help the process of healing."

8

"A hope-filled future is forged in a present made up of men and women who are upright, honest and capable of working for the common good."

9

"How often – and it pains me to say it – have we been blind and impervious in failing to recognize our own and others' dignity?"

1 3

"We should, therefore, never fear to acknowledge and confess our sins, for the sacrament of reconciliation offers us the forgiveness which flows from the cross and which renews us in His grace."

1 4

"God's shrine is the life of His children, of everyone in whatever condition, especially of young people without a future who are exposed to endless painful and risky situations, and the elderly who are unacknowledged, forgotten and out of sight."

1 5

"The Eucharist is the love that becomes service."

1 9

"The only thing that we truly need in our life is that of being forgiven, freed from evil and from its consequence of death."

2 0

"We have chosen Jesus, not the evil one. We want to follow in Jesus' footsteps, even though we know that this is not easy."

2 1

"One must not succumb to desperation, but continue to be certain that good conquers evil and that the Lord will dry every tear and free us from all fear."

2 5

"His love is an ocean in which we can immerse ourselves without fear of being overcome: to God, forgiving means giving us the certainty that He never abandons us."

2 6

"We, forgiven sinners, who have received divine grace, can even teach others to sin no more. A new reality begins for us: a new heart, a new spirit, a new life."

2 7

"It is beautiful to be forgiven, but you, too, if you want to be forgiven, forgive in turn. Forgive!"

4

"If out of weakness you fall into sin, raise your hand: The Lord will take it and help you get up."

5

"The Lord asks us to be men and women who radiate the truth, beauty and the life-changing power of the Gospel."

6

"Prayer expands our heart and prepares it to receive God's gifts."

1 0

"Today's world, overcome by convenience, needs to learn anew the value of gratitude!"

1 1

"From the cross, Jesus shows us that no one is excluded from God's merciful love: 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34)."

1 2

"God is not absent, not even today in these tragic situations."

1 6

"To be merciful means to grow in a love which is courageous, generous and real."

1 7

"How much have we become accustomed to a lifestyle where we think that our source and life force lies only in wealth?"

1 8

"Prayer illuminates our eyes to be able to see others as God sees them, to love as God loves."

2 2

"God is greater than our sin. Let us not forget this: God is greater than our sin!"

2 3

"The shrine of God is the faces of the many people we encounter each day."

2 4

"Our Father, He is the Father of a great family; He is the God who is 'Our Father' not 'my father' or 'your stepfather.'"

2 8

"The love of God has no bounds. As St. Augustine often repeated, it is a love that goes 'to the end without end.'"

2 9

"Be my ambassador, Mary says to us, giving food to the hungry, drink to those who thirst, a refuge to those in need, clothe the naked, and visit the sick."

3 0

"God is waiting for us and wants to heal our hearts of all that tears us down."

3 1

"Unity is achieved by walking forward."

STAY HEALTHY THIS RAINY SEASON

The rainy season in the Philippines is here! But it is also the season where people are busy with work and studies. To make sure that we accomplish the things we have to do, we have to stay healthy despite the drizzles.

Here are some tips to stay healthy this season:

1. **Prepare and bring your rain gear always.** Some people think that bringing an umbrella is a hassle. But getting sick brings more hassle to your life. Getting wet from sudden rainfall can affect your body temperature that may lead to colds and fever. So make sure to bring an umbrella wherever you go. You can also invest on a good rain jacket and a pair of rain boots.
2. **Wash your hands.** Frequent hand washing, especially before and after eating, can help in getting rid of the bacteria and viruses that can cause colds, cough and flu. Wash your hands properly by lathering soap between your fingers, under your nails, and the top of your hands. Also, make sure to use clean water to rinse and clean towel to dry your hands thoroughly.
3. **Drink clean water.** Speaking of clean water, take note also of where your drinking water comes from. During the rainy season, water-borne diseases such as amoebiasis and cholera become very common. If you're not sure of the water supply, boil and cool it first or buy purified drinking water.
4. **Eat healthy.** Eating healthy food, especially those that are Vitamin C-rich, is the cheapest way to protect yourself from getting sick. Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly to keep them germ-free. Drinking hot herbal tea can also cure coughs, colds and sore throat.
5. **Keep your surroundings clean.** It can help keep mosquitoes and other virus carriers out. Dengue from mosquitoes and leptospirosis from animal urine are considered the most fatal and rampant diseases during the rainy season. Look through things like vases, pots, open water containers and others that may collect stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed. Either clean them out or cover them if needed. You can also use mosquito repellents especially when you go outdoors. Avoid wading in floodwater, too.

Sources:
<http://www.manilatimes.net>
<http://www.rappler.com/life-and-style>

Quick Health Tip

Sambong is a strongly aromatic herb that helps eliminate excess water and salt in the body, and aids in the treatment of kidney disorders. It also functions as an astringent and as an expectorant. As an astringent, sambong leaves may be used for wounds and cuts. As an expectorant, sambong tea may be used to treat colds. It is also found to be a cure for diarrhea and spasms.



SAMBONG

POPE FRANCIS SURPRISES TEENS IN ROME

Imagine Pope Francis himself seated beside you, hearing your confession and giving you absolution. What could be more amazing than that?

On April 23, 2016, Pope Francis made a surprise visit to the Jubilee for Teens in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The Jubilee for Teens was a whole-day event with the theme "Merciful like the Father."

Pope Giorgio Bergoglio or Pope Francis administered the sacrament of reconciliation to 16 male and female teenagers. His gentle and fatherly approach to these teens was seen through the photos and videos online.



He was with 150 other priests who heard confession for the participants aged 13 to 16 years old. The participants carried banners and rucksacks before proceeding to the Holy Door of Mercy.

Earlier this year, Pope Francis advised those going to Rome for this event, "Don't just prepare your rucksacks and your banners, but your hearts and your minds as well."

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

IGNACIO IS HERE THIS MONTH!

After the long wait and despite the tight budget, Jesuit Communications (JesCom) Films Philippines is proud to announce that *Ignacio de Loyola* will be showing in cinemas starting July 27, 2016.

The film is about the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola or Ignacio, founder of the Society of Jesus. It is narrated from the point of view of a young priest who was assigned to defend him before the Spanish Inquisition. It also depicts Ignacio's conversion from a self-obsessed sinner into a loyal and passionate soldier-saint.

Ignacio de Loyola was directed and produced by an all-Filipino group. It is directed and co-written by Paolo Dy with Ian Victoriano. The movie was shot in Spain and stars Andreas Muñoz as Iñigo/Ignacio and other Spanish actors.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/ignaciomovie/>

Saints-at-a-Glance

St. Bonaventure

Feast day: July 15

| Birth: 1221

| Death: 1274

Born in Italy, St. Bonaventure entered the Franciscan Order at the age of 22. He was sent to Paris to complete his studies and later on became a close friend of St. Thomas Aquinas. He was chosen as General of the Franciscans at the age of 35 and was known to bring peace where there was disturbance. He wrote *The Life of St. Francis* and translated the relics of St. Anthony of Padua. Although he was asked to be the Archbishop of York, he humbly declined and became the cardinal and bishop of Albano, Italy. He resigned from his post as General of the Franciscan Order until he died. He is known to be the "seraphic doctor" of the Church.



Source: www.catholic.org



REBORN: BY THE STARS, FOR THE STAR

By Maymay R. Salvosa

Ogie Alcasid. Regine Velasquez-Alcasid. Jaya. We all know them. They're some of the biggest names in the Philippine music industry. But as they develop a deeper personal relationship with God, they come to believe that there is a bigger Name that has to be known.

So along with their other musician friends, Ogie, Regine and Jaya formed the 1 Walker band and performed in *Reborn* — the first-ever worship concert starred by OPM celebrities.

Behind 1 Walker

In their journey to know God more, Ogie and Regine joined a weekly small-group prayer meeting facilitated by Bernard Marquez. They would feast on God's Word and exchange sharings that nourished their faith.

Eventually, Regine proposed the idea of establishing a worship band since most of the members in their group were music lovers. More friends joined in and they named the group 1 Walker, inspired by the place where their journey started. Aside from Ogie, Regine and Jaya, 1 Walker is composed of Eugene Cailao, Marnie Jereza, Jem Florendo, Zebedee Zuniga, JunJun Regalado, Criss Beunviaje, Nikko Rivera and Soc Mina.





The Birth of Reborn

Power Mornings, a group of corporate leaders and entrepreneurs, conceptualized *Reborn*. More than just being a prayer gathering over breakfast meetings, they wanted to reach out to those in need. They thought of Anawim, the home for the elderly established by Bo Sanchez. They collaborated with 1 Walker to come up with the perfect project and on April 3, 2016, *Reborn* came to life.

1 Walker opened the concert with their rendition of Clean Bandit's "Rather Be." The song didn't only showcase the members' vocal prowess and harmony, but captivated the very essence of why thousands of people gathered together that night — to celebrate God's presence. Ogie did a great job in engaging the crowd and leading them into impassioned worship. Song after song, the congregation poured their hearts out in adoration and thanksgiving to God.

Three special guests also graced the event: Angeline Quinto, Alden Richards and Sarah Geronimo. Angeline Quinto joined the brothers of 1 Walker as they sang "Hallelujah." Alden Richards, who shared how God always makes it possible for him to attend related events, serenaded the Lord with Chris Tomlin's "How Great Is Our God." Sarah Geronimo moved every heart with her original composition titled "Make Me Yours." She exhorted that the song


was inspired by her desire to be connected with God amidst the challenges in their line of work.

The Alcasid couple offered a stirring composition titled "The Lord Is Our Savior." Jaya filled SM MOA Arena with her soulful voice as she prayerfully sang "Radical Love."

Despite the fame of the people onstage, there were no celebrity performers that evening. 1 Walker served as lead worshipers who directed all applause, all glory to God.

Jesus Everywhere

Before the concert concluded, Bo Sanchez, founder of the Light of Jesus Family, expressed his gratitude to every person present in the arena. He pointed out how thankful he was to experience Jesus that evening. He saw Jesus in every face around him, especially to 1 Walker members who gave their time and talents for free. He encouraged the attendees to continue being Jesus everywhere, to continue loving God and others.

On that night where the love for God, for the elders of Anawim, and for music were celebrated, one thing is for sure: Jesus was reborn in the hearts of every person present therein. During the star-studded concert, the biggest Star radiated the most — Jesus. 



Special Feature

IGNACIO DE LOYOLA: JESCOM'S 'LEAP OF FAITH'

By Gracious B. Romero

"If something is worth doing, do it well."

This quote of St. Ignatius of Loyola holds true for Fr. Emmanuel "Nono" Alfonso, Jesuit Communications' (JesCom) executive director and executive producer of *Ignacio de Loyola*, in the course of their production of JesCom's full-length independent feature film about St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus.

With his noblest intentions in mind, Fr. Nono believes that *Ignacio de Loyola* is the best medium to convey the impact of St. Ignatius' life in the present time. It's a way for the youth to rediscover Ignacio's life, often called "The Saint of Second Chances." Aside from the lack of media material and very few feature films about St. Ignatius (the last Spanish movie on him was shot in black-and-white in the 1940s), Fr. Nono revealed that they were also motivated by the success of the historical biopic film *Heneral Luna*. "Currently, there is also a surge of interest in the life of the saint and his enduring legacy to the Church and the world — owing in large part, perhaps to the ascent to the papacy of the first Jesuit Pope, the endearing Pope Francis," he said. Fr. Nono is convinced that we need to have quality religious films to better educate the public and inspire the world.

The team struggled with a limited P50-million budget and heavily relied on donations. It also took them four years to finish the film. They went through many logistical trials and experiences on the road which demonstrated their potential in improvising.

Fr. Nono admitted that the project was "a leap of faith" and a highly ambitious move on their part but he couldn't think of any other way to showcase St. Ignatius' life but through a film. He himself became a Jesuit priest because of two movies involving Jesuits. "Movies inspire and impose great power upon one's life such as the classics *The Ten Commandments* and *Jesus of Nazareth*. We learned from Jesus, the greatest of communicators, that one's ideas and wonderful vision are best shared through parables and stories. Stories endure forever," he related.

The film, which is set to be shown in local cinemas on July 27, is the most expensive film ever made by JesCom after their production of *Maging Akin Muli* in 2005 with a P5-million budget.

Ignacio de Loyola's director, Paulo Dy, commended the Society of Jesus as the first mover of this project and specifically Fr. Nono for their dedication to communicate the Word of God to as many people as possible. *Ignacio de Loyola* is also Paulo's feature film directorial debut.

The Story

Ignacio de Loyola chronicles the life of a young soldier, Iñigo (Ignacio de Loyola), who was forced to give up his dreams of knighthood when he was crippled in battle. He started pursuing a wild desire to become a saint — only to realize, upon being arrested by the Spanish Inquisition for heresy, that he must pay the true price of sainthood: obedience to God's voice, even unto death.

Fr. Nono initially wanted to tell the whole life story of St. Ignatius, but eventually, the team decided to focus on the saint's conversion. "We wanted to portray a modern and very human take on the story of St. Ignatius of Loyola so that the young people can easily identify with him. In fact, do you know that St. Ignatius had a mother issue? He lost his mother early in his life. He also had a father issue which makes him very human," Fr. Nono shared.

"As a storyteller, what defines Ignatius would really be his journey from a man of violence and worldliness to becoming one of the greatest saints in the history of the Church. In the process, he discovered a style of prayer and a process of discernment that has become his legacy up to this day. The film focuses on the incidents which define who he was and what labelled him to his greatness," Paulo explained.

The Presence

Pauline Mangilog-Saltarin, JesCom's creative director, revealed that they felt God's providence and St. Ignatius' intervention and guidance when they were filming the movie. "There was definitely quite a number of times when we felt St. Ignatius actually helping us. A P50-million budget is not a big amount abroad where you have to pay for everything but there were times when things were just given to us for free," she narrated.

Most of the scenes in the movie were shot in Loyola, Spain where the important events in St. Ignatius' life actually happened. "Since St. Ignatius was their native saint, the people there were so happy to help us out. And as the director, I felt that there were some scenes where St. Ignatius had certain editorial control over the story," Paulo noted.

The Influence


Andreas Muñoz, the Spanish actor who plays Iñigo, said, "I learned a lot from portraying St. Ignatius, like how to listen much more to people. I found similarities with him. He was a really kind person, he loved the people and his family," he remarked. The production team also shared that they learned the values of patience and trust throughout the entire film. The film highlights a lot of St. Ignatius' values and qualities which are very relevant nowadays.

Fr. Nono emphasized that St. Ignatius teaches us where to find your balance. "St. Ignatius' personality is very extreme. When he wanted to do something, he did it to the maximum. Finding out balance that gives you peace is really needed nowadays. In today's world, there are so many voices. Just like what St. Ignatius did, we need to go back to reality and find the truth that is always rooted in love for other people.

Pauline pointed out that St. Ignatius taught us discernment in life, how to make the right choice and how to glorify Jesus through "spiritual exercises."

Fr. Nono added that when St. Ignatius asked himself, "What is the meaning of life?" God taught him that the answer is love. "If you find your true love, you would have found meaning in your life. His story is about that, he was a very ambitious individual like many of us and he found the answer in God. The world has become very secular nowadays and we want to put God again in the center of life in order to rediscover God. The story of Ignatius can be a light — a guide to a healthier life," he said.

JesCom also works with international distributors to make the film available worldwide. It was shown in Vatican last June 14 in front of the Pope's delegation and the Superior General of the Society of Jesus. Jesuit schools and universities also have scheduled tours for the movie.

Be mesmerized with the life story of Ignacio de Loyola and together "let us set the world on fire!" 



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life is about
investing.”**

**Magno Banganan, 41
Psychologist**

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Dear K



HOW DO I TRUST AGAIN?

I struggle with trusting others since I was a student. I was backstabbed by a friend before and it made me doubt other people's intentions. Now that I am working, I long for people whom I can talk to and vent out my emotions. I am doing fine alone, but I feel that I am missing a lot because I don't have true friends.

I am a devoted Catholic and one time at a mall, I was invited by a Born Again group to attend their service. I did, and I admit that I enjoyed their company. They seemed to be the kind of people that I was looking for as friends. But whenever we're together, I couldn't make the sign of the cross because they don't do that. I am hurt whenever they contradict my beliefs about Mama Mary but I couldn't defend her. I don't want to offend them.

This bothers me. I feel like I am betraying my faith just because I want to gain friends. Help me please.

Lost Lady

Dear Lost Lady,

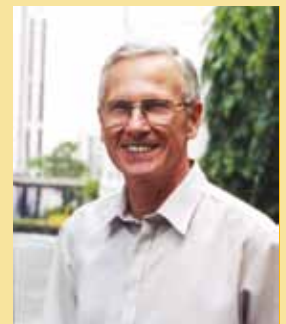
You had bad experiences and so it is understandable that you are careful with people. Surely you don't like to be disappointed again. On the other hand, you feel that you need friends with whom you can relax and share your feelings and thoughts.

You found nice company but it causes you to experience another problem, which I understand. As a devoted Catholic, you cannot express your faith because of your new "friends." After a while, this dilemma will cause you pain and suffering. I am convinced that you don't have to join companions in a Born Again group. Why don't you join a Catholic Charismatic group? There you can find the friends you are looking for and you don't have to hide your faith and convictions. I know very well the Light of Jesus Family and the open and welcoming spirit of this group. Try it!

I pray for you and a happy, faith-based companionship.

When Fr. Rudy Horst came to the Philippines in 1984, he was first assigned to the Immaculate Conception Parish in Cubao. It was where he came in contact with the still young Light of Jesus Family. In 1990, he moved to Christ the King Mission Seminary, where he now serves as head spiritual director of the seminarians and teaches Religious Education. He also teaches Holy Scriptures at the Maryhill School of Theology and the Divine Word School of Theology in Tagaytay.

Fr. Rudy



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

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TO HIDE OR TO LET GO?

By Jun del Campo



As a kid, I had a deep, dark secret that I couldn't tell anyone because of fear. I was afraid that if people knew about it, they would laugh at me, play pranks on me and would even reject me.

But now, I have learned through my spiritual community that my past does not define my future.

I am ready to let go and be a wounded healer to other people as well.

Secret Revealed

I was molested by my playmate when I was about nine years old.

Every time I finished my homework, I would go to his house to play computer games. Then we would play under the bed. One time, my playmate touched my private part. He thought I was gay since I was a bit gentle and acted feminine.

Then he did the unthinkable. I was a kid back then and I didn't know what's wrong and right. It happened several times. I never told my parents about it. I was scared. So I kept mum

from elementary to college. Even when I was already working, I never had the courage to open about it to anyone.

Then I thought that a community might help me let go of it.

Help from a Community

When an officemate introduced me to a Christian community, I got excited. I expected that it would free me from my past. It didn't help much, though.

As a community member for three years, I kept quiet about who I really was, in spite of learning how to be more engaging with others. The community molded me to be a better person. But it still wasn't enough to liberate me.

Until another friend invited me to attend The Feast Cebu.

A Listening Ear

The Feast boosted my confidence by meeting new friends, receiving and giving hugs (I wasn't really a hugger back then), listening to the talk series and even by serving in some ministries.

Eventually, I got curious about the "Love Someone Today" (LST) sessions so I decided to join one. It's a guided group discussion where we share about our life and faith-journey with each other. As my LST progressed, I just found myself opening up about my past to someone. A big part of my courage was inspired by Bo Sanchez's story of abuse.


As I recalled my hidden past to my friend from The Feast, he just listened. He listened down to the very last detail. What amazed me was that he understood me. He never judged me. He only asked me one question. "Have you told someone else about it?"

I replied, "No."

Then I realized that what happened in the past doesn't matter to me anymore. It's long done and I have to let go.

I did. And for what it's worth, letting go liberated me. I am at peace.

It's been a long journey to freedom, but I thank God for sending The Feast my way.

I've never been more free. 

For Feast schedules, visit www.lightfam.com

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The Salvane Family attributes the success of their business to God — humbly naming it GT which stands for “God’s Talent.”



GROWING IN GOD’S TALENT

By Engr. Leonora Salvane as told to Eleanore Teo

The landscape of business is in a state of constant evolution as our environment is influenced by the changing habits, priorities and personalities of consumers. The trends discovered today could bring in tremendous amounts of cash in the short term, but by tomorrow, 10 competitors could pop up next door and affect the dynamics of the industry. Entrepreneurs struggle every day to keep businesses afloat with ideas and perhaps the most difficult challenge that we face is how to succeed in this world without compromising our values. We often have to ask ourselves this question: *Is it truly possible to make an honest living doing what we love to do? Do we build a business based on what we think will make us the most amount of money or on a foundation of what we are passionate about and what we believe in?*



Engr. Leonora (center) considers their employees as extended family members.

As someone who has experienced the leap of faith from an entrepreneur seeking profit to where I am today – living a dream career with my conscience intact – I am convinced that accomplishing such a goal is possible. But you cannot do so with the values of entrepreneurship alone. I believe that every product you offer must be rooted in an act of stewardship as well – one that is responsible for the best interests of your customers and is made with a loving service to the Lord's will.

The Search for Cleaner Living

In 1994, I found myself facing a personal conflict. In an attempt to make ends meet, my husband and I sold pneumatic spare parts and industrial chemicals to big manufacturing companies in Liloan, Cebu for almost half a decade. It was a decent living but I was bothered by the fact that in order to close a sale, secret deals had to be made

under the table or off the record with company contacts before they would purchase our items. I didn't feel right about engaging in these private agreements but I also knew that our business would fail if we did not play by their rules. I prayed to God every day for some kind of repose from the dishonesty of our work and to help me find a better solution to our financial situation. All I needed was the chance for a cleaner life and I promised Him that I would not hesitate to leave all our unethical practices behind.

Eventually, God sent me a guardian angel. As a licensed chemical engineer, I had always dreamed of going back to my original profession because it was a career that I held very close to my heart. So it was an unexpected surprise when a man, whom I had never met before, came to visit me and offered me the opportunity to finally put my skills in chemical engineering to good use in the form of soap-making. I soon found out that he was also a chemist and

after introducing me to the cosmetics industry, he generously shared his time and knowledge to guide me about what products we could make from scratch and how to develop them.

To this day, I still don't know who asked him to see me and why he had been so kind to teach me about this business without asking for any compensation. He would conduct corporate seminars on manufacturing skincare products for easily more than P50,000 but he still made it a point to see me regularly so he could educate me about his craft for free. Regardless of his motives, he will always be my answered prayer for a career change. I could finally walk down a path I did not have to be ashamed of and would lead me back to my true passion. I was given my shot for a cleaner living – literally in the form of providing natural cleansing products to the public and figuratively as an entrepreneur who could maintain her integrity in the pursuit of health and wealth.



Knowing her mission makes Engr. Leonora joyful at work.



Bringing Forth “God’s Talent”

Taking the first step is always the hardest part. You cannot really determine what will happen, how far you will go and if you will really reach your destination. But you have to have faith that God will provide and that is what I chose to do. My husband and I left behind years of hard work to focus on a business that was fairly new to us. We had a startup capital of P500.00 and minimal experience but we were determined to work hard and persist in this dream. The way we built this business was also very personal to us because we started in the comforts of our own home. While my husband and I were in charge of brewing together natural and raw ingredients to form our soap base, my children would sit in

front of the television after finishing their assignments and wrap the freshly cut bars of soap into small, simple neat packages. Our family business was officially born and we named our company GT Cosmetics Manufacturing, Inc. – a fitting tribute to God’s Talent.

After offering samples of our papaya and carrot soaps to our friends and neighbors, the feedback was positive and encouraging.


We continued to experiment and test different methods to improve the quality of our products. People came back for more and once we became aware of the importance of branding and marketing, sales skyrocketed. We expanded beyond Cebu to large retailers like SM Stores and Gaisano Malls, and now we are slowly penetrating into international markets such as the United States. From a mere 50 bars of soap a day, our two manufacturing plants can now produce about 30,000 pieces of different varieties of soap in the same amount of time. We are no longer just a soap company. We have become a cosmetics and skincare brand that can deliver multiple products ranging

from beauty creams to lotions to facial cleansers and scrubs. From research and development to final sales, I am part of the process and I can say that I love every moment of this job. I believe that aside from the hard work and commitment that our employees and our team put into our company, we have been powered by God’s grace throughout this journey.

Give More, Receive More

Every day I make it a point to spend some time in silence to pray the rosary and give thanks to the Lord. I owe Him that act of reverence and I know that all He asks in return is that we be generous with what we receive.

A friend once asked me why we provide an “open kitchen” which serves unlimited food to the staff and employees in our office. I explained to her a quote which states, “Water, when it flows, let it flow free so that others may drink.” God has been so generous to our family and we cannot forget that we are simply the vehicle through which blessings could be shared with the rest of the world.

I learned that as you build a business rooted in your passion, be more than just an entrepreneur. Be a steward of our Father and of those you wish to touch with your life’s work. 



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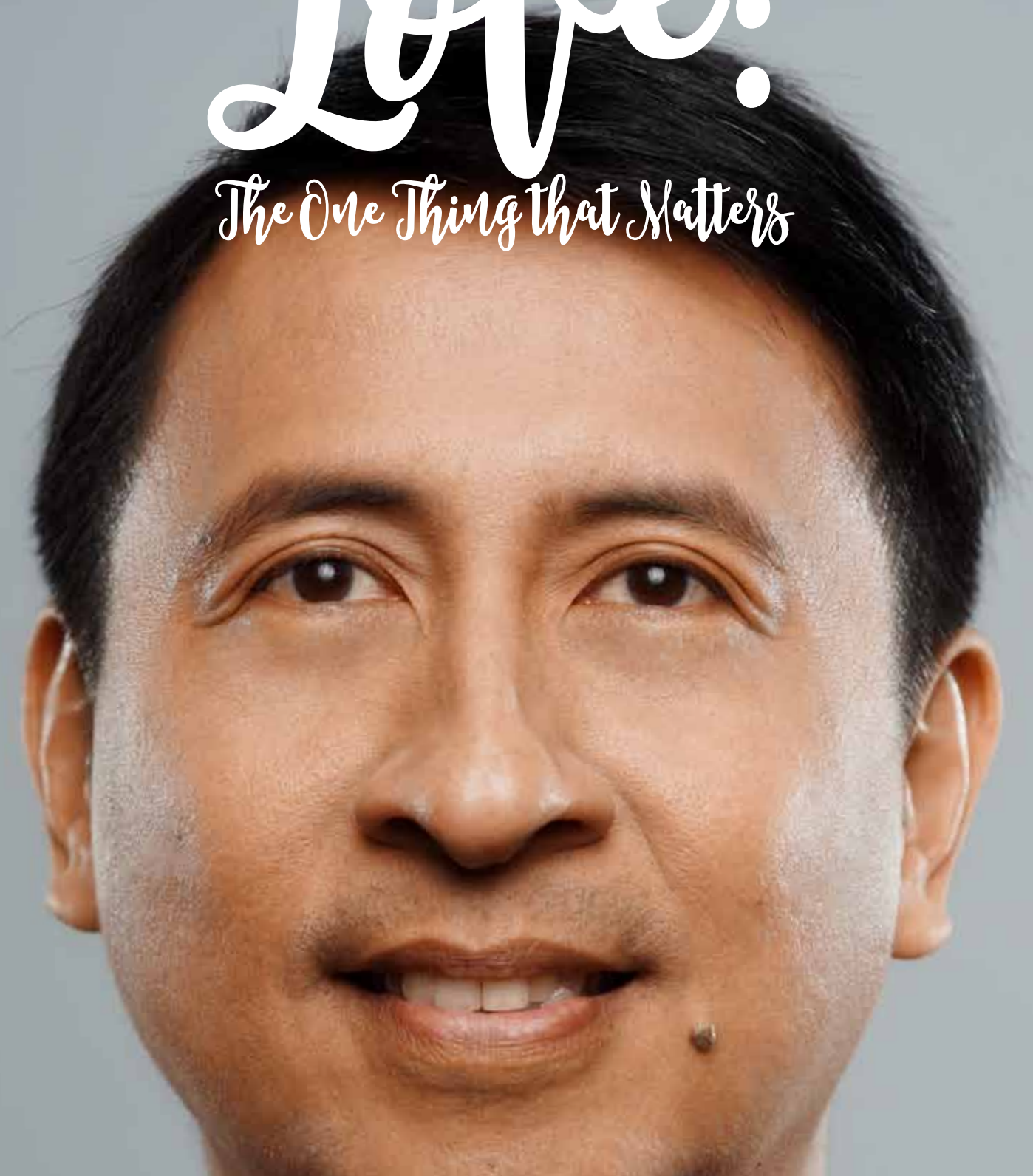


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By Bo Sanchez

Love:

The One Thing that Matters



W

hen I gave my first talk as a skinny 13-year-old kid, 100 percent in the room were older than me. And I loved scolding all those old people.

One day, it happened. I discovered I was one of the old people. Today, only 30 percent of those in the room are older than me.

I plan to preach until the day I die, so I'm preparing for the time when 100 percent of the people in the room will be younger than me.

This will happen because of the aging revolution. According to scientific studies, on average, you'll have 34 more years than your great grandparents. If they died in their 60s, you'll live to your late 90s. Perhaps 100.

But I don't want to wait that long before I leave a legacy in this world.

Like a play, life has two parts: the first act and the second act. Anything before 50 is the first act. Anything after 50 is the second act. I thank God for what He has showered me with during my first act. The relationships. The ministries. The growth. It's way, waaaaayyyy better than what I have ever dreamt of.

How much more in the second act?



3 Tips for a Superb Second Act

I love reading this part about the life of Job who suffered much in his life. It says in Job 42:12, "The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part." In the first act of Job's life, he had 7,000 sheep and 3,000 camels. (That's a huge number.) At the second act of Job's life, he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels.

This is my prayer for you and me: That God will double your blessings at the second act of your life.

I feel this double blessing. Honestly, I'm so much peaceful today than I've ever been in my entire life. I feel that I've become more of who I am. I've become more authentic.

If you're in your 20s or 30s, you must be thinking, "Bo, this teaching isn't for me."

Actually, it is. Because life is governed by the Law of the Farm. And what you plant in the first act, you'll harvest in the second act. To create a double blessing in the second act, I have three recommendations.

- **Plant Healthy Seeds**

If you take care of your body, your body will take care of you. How much sleep do you get? How much fruits and veggies do you eat? How much exercise do you do?

- **Plant Wealthy Seeds**

You don't want to grow older without money. Grow older, yes, but grow poorer, no. You want to grow older and richer. How? Live by my Abundance Formula: Earn 100 percent, spend 70 percent, invest 20 percent, and give away 10 percent.

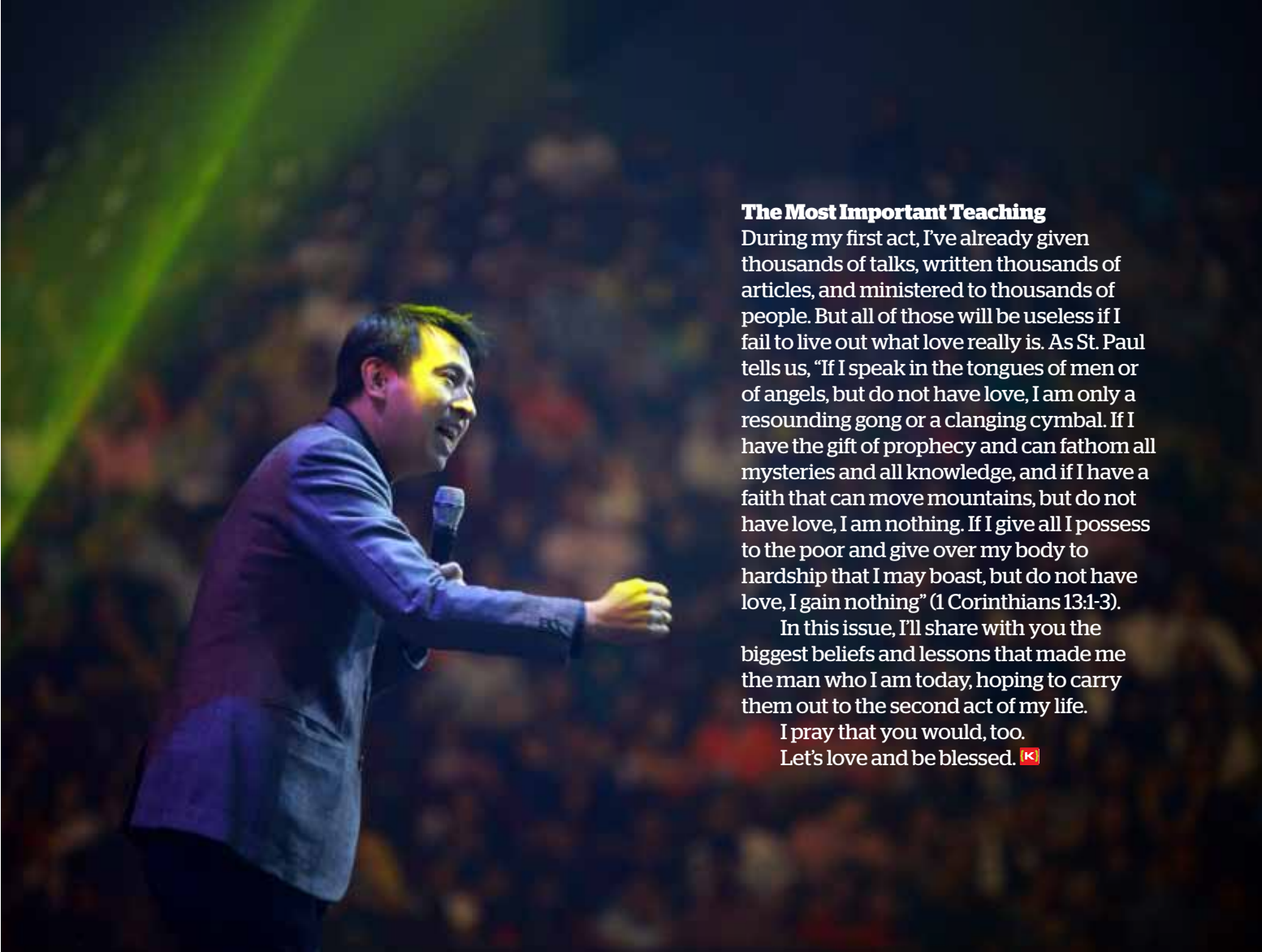
- **Plant Holy Seeds**

The Bible can be summarized into two greatest commandments: Love God and love your neighbor. Invest in your closest relationships.

These three seeds may seem independent from each other, but one word sums up their essence. A word that serves as my life's goal. A word that matters above anything and everything.

L-O-V-E.






The Most Important Teaching

During my first act, I've already given thousands of talks, written thousands of articles, and ministered to thousands of people. But all of those will be useless if I fail to live out what love really is. As St. Paul tells us, "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

In this issue, I'll share with you the biggest beliefs and lessons that made me the man who I am today, hoping to carry them out to the second act of my life.

I pray that you would, too.

Let's love and be blessed. 

21 Biggest

A

long time ago, our community gave out rules for its members to follow.

We taught them that these rules are the requirements for membership.

We taught them how many minutes to pray each day, how many chapters of the Bible to read each day, how many absences one can make before being removed from the members list.

That was our preoccupation. We were focused on external behavior. Why? Because we confused

religious maturity with spiritual maturity.

Now we know why we're very different from each other.

Religious maturity meant perfecting certain religious activities.

But spiritual maturity meant things that are very difficult to measure: a healthy self-love, acceptance of one's weakness, an attitude of gratitude, deep trust in God's love, beautiful humility, respect for each other's differences, and a growing love for others.

So instead of giving rules to our members, we now share our core beliefs.

We realized that changing behavior can only go so far; but when a person changes his beliefs, his behaviors will change spontaneously.

And I share our beliefs with you with both humility and boldness...

With Humility

Humbly, because we'll always be human beings clutching onto the hemline of truth. Truth will always be

infinitely bigger than how we define it. Before truth, words will always be clumsy and crude containers. We're all like little children playing with boxes, trying to capture the wind.

One day, four blind men were walking on the road when they met an elephant.

But they'd never seen an elephant before.

One of them held the tail and said it was a whip.

The other blind man touched the body and said it was a wall.

Another blind man held the ear and said it was a fan.

And the other blind man held a leg and said it was a trunk of a tree.

When it comes to the truth, we're all like the blind men.

What I can do is simply tell you what I see from my little window.

With Boldness

Yet I also share my beliefs boldly because these beliefs have blessed us so much. These beliefs have given us

Lessons

By Bo Sanchez

joy and life. Beyond measure!

Why have they blessed us? Because these beliefs are reflections on the Word – and that is the source of life.

Love compels me to share them with you in this issue. Here they are:

1. God loves you.

We cannot do anything that will lessen His love for us. Believe that our repentance is the result of His forgiveness, not the other way around. Through sin, we say no to God's love for us. But believe that God will wait for you until you say yes to Him.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

2. God created you in His image.

Celebrate, listen and trust more in God's goodness within you and within others.

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them... (Genesis 1:27)

3. In spite of your imperfections, you can still grow.

We are broken, yes. It takes humility to accept that. But such humility will open ourselves to God's love. As we admit our brokenness before others, we are receiving God's healing through them and, in turn, heal others through our wounds.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)

4. God still works miracles today.

There are blessings everywhere, waiting to be received. Within our biggest problems are our biggest blessings. Believe that the prayers of others will strengthen our faith, which will make us more open to receive the blessings already available to us.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)

5. You can make your life beautiful.

God has given us the power to determine our future. As I always say, your past does not define your future. Drop the blame and take personal responsibility for your destiny. Your failure is necessary for success. Believe in the power of your words to determine your desired future.

Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! (Deuteronomy 30:19)

6. God has an exciting vision for your life.

We can discover this vision through our deepest desires and core gifts. Having a passion for this exciting vision is the key

to a joyful and successful life.

For God is carefully working in you both to desire and to do that thing which you desire. (Ephesians 2:13)

7. Love is the essence of Christianity.

Love must be gentle and tough. Self-love is the foundation of loving God and others. Self-love means radically caring for our soul, our mind and our body.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39)

8. Real success is defined by your relationships.

It may be challenging sometimes, but we are called to honor our parents. Great marriages, holy children and strong families don't just happen – they are created with much sacrifice. Family life is the primary way of building God's Kingdom. Single people need a spiritual family around them. Real financial success is dependent on the strength of our relationships.

“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (John 13:35)

9. Prayer is powerful.

Use your own language of prayer to open yourself to God. The best prayer is a life lived in love.

Continually be prayerful. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

10. Grow in wisdom each day.

Grow in wisdom each day through Scripture, readings, talks, mentors, and personal reflection. The best way to grow in wisdom is by action.

Keep company with the elders, and stick closely to their wisdom. Desire to listen to every godly conversation, and don't let intelligent proverbs

escape you. If you find individuals who are intelligent, get up before dawn to see those people, and let your foot wear out their doorsteps. Think about the Lord's decrees, and meditate constantly on his commandments. He will make your heart steadfast, and will grant your desire for wisdom. (Sirach 6:34-37)

11. Live within a spiritual family.

Surround yourself with people who can make you develop communal prayer, nurture spiritual formation and help you grow in your faith. Find loving mentors.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)

12. Born to serve.

We are born to serve through our family and friendships, our professions, our ministries, and our evangelism – sharing God's love to the people around us.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. (1 Peter 4:10)

13. God's will is not a detailed plan but a divine call.

God's will is narrow for choices between good and bad, but very wide for choices between good and good.



For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. (Proverbs 2:6-7, 9)

14. Emotions are windows of the soul.

Respect and listen to your emotions. But at the end of the day, still choose to do what is right.

Then Jesus wept... Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. Jesus responded, “Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?” Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” And the dead man came out.... (John 11:35, 38, 43)

15. What you focus on grows.

Your mindset determines your reality. The color of your lenses will



determine the color of your world. God's created universe adjusts to our expectations.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

16. The true purpose of wealth is to love others.

I teach Christians about financial literacy, wealth-building, simplicity and sacrificial generosity, not to promote materialism, but because I believe profit is sacred when profit is used for God's purpose, supporting one's family, supporting God's work, and helping the poor. I believe in tithing to my spiritual

family that nourishes my spiritual needs.

"Here's the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home." (Luke 16:9)

17. Faith is a lifetime journey with many stages.

We become like the god that we worship. Unless we change our cruel, legalistic, selfish image of God, we will not see real change in our lives.

Continue, therefore, to live in Christ Jesus the Lord, in the spirit in which you received him. Be rooted in him and built up in him, growing ever

stronger in faith, as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude. (Colossians 2:6-7)

18. Christianity essentially includes a sacrificial love for the poor.

Salvation isn't simply about going to heaven, but about bringing heaven down on earth, especially for those who are suffering.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

19. Care for God's creation.

God appointed us as the Earth's caretakers. It's a responsibility entrusted to us so we can pass on a planet still habitable for the children of our children.

The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants. Throughout the country that you hold as a

possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land. (Leviticus 25:23-24)

20. Lead not through fear, but through love.

I believe in a leadership that equips – and then gets out of the way so people can fully mature and bear fruit.

But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. (Matthew 20:25-27)


21. I believe in the Catholic Faith.

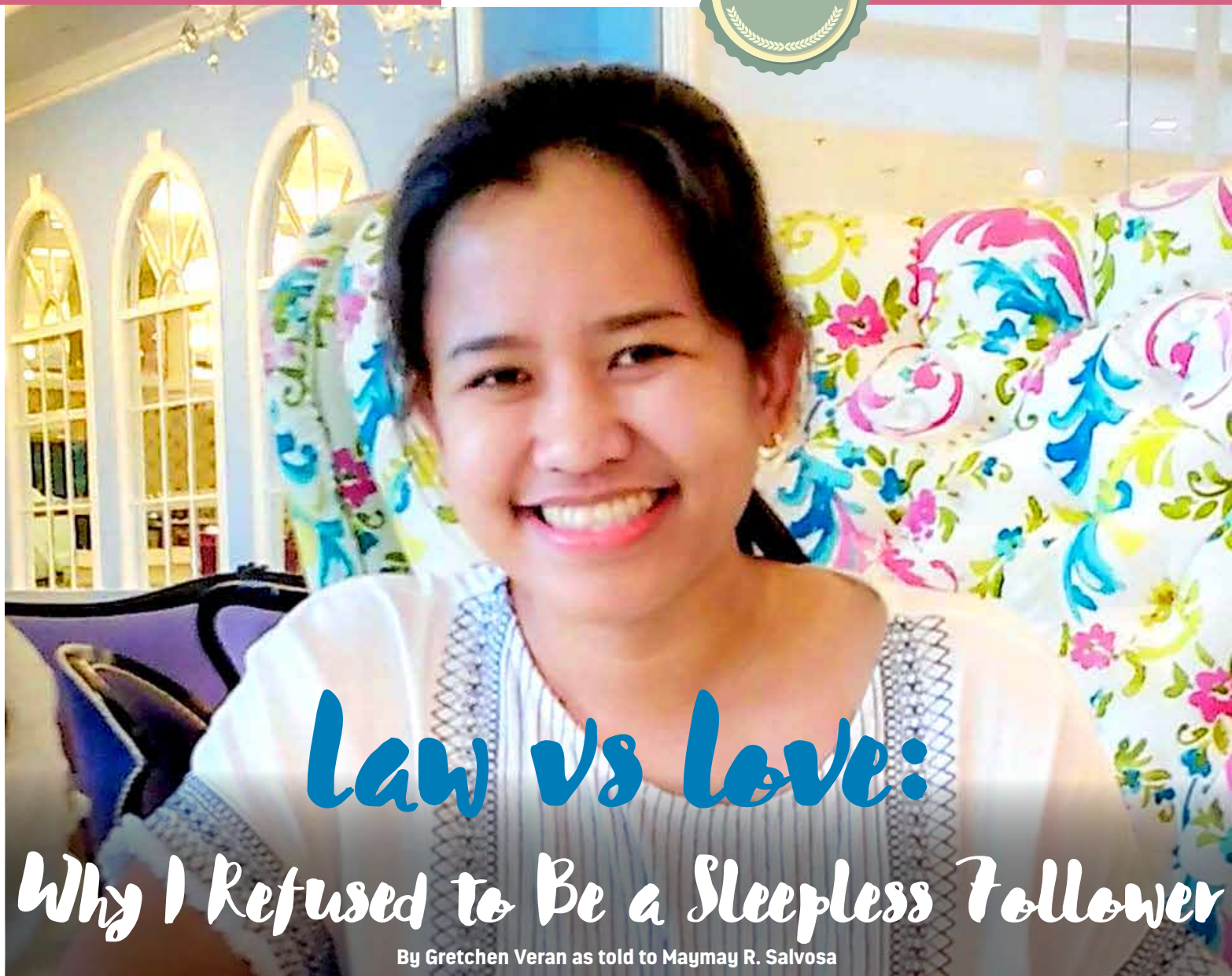
I believe in the sacraments. I believe in the Magisterium. I believe that the Eucharist is God's call to me to also be a broken bread and poured-out wine for others. I believe that every human being is a child of God – no matter what race or status or religion. I believe in working for unity among Christians and non-Christians.

"Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." (Matthew 16:18)

These Beliefs Are Our Unique Gifts to the World

Businesses talk about the importance of their unique selling proposition (USP). You can't exist as a business if you don't know your unique gift to the world. If you're like everyone else, why bother existing?

These beliefs are our USP. I pray that these will be the biggest gifts that we can share with you. Ever. 



Law vs Love:

Why I Refused to Be a Sleepless Follower

By Gretchen Veran as told to Maymay R. Salvosa



“Hi! Welcome to The Feast!”

A gentle tap on my shoulder interrupted me as I read the bulletin. It was my first time to attend The Feast, the weekly prayer gathering of the Light of Jesus Family, and the people’s warmth and hospitality was remarkable. Thinking that the guy was just another stranger who wanted to welcome me, I simply nodded to acknowledge his presence without looking at him. I continued browsing *The Feast Bulletin* until the man walked away.

When I glanced at my friend, Jedy, she looked dumbfounded while following the man with her gaze. Laughing, I asked her, “What’s the matter?” “Gretch!” she called out with excitement.

“What?” I asked again. To find a clue, I searched for the man. He already entered a room.

“Gretch!” Jedy stared at me, disbelief written all over her face. “Bo Sanchez greeted you! He was here a while ago. How could you just ignore him?”

It was my turn to be dumbfounded.

Seven years later, I have deciphered the mystery of why “the” Bo Sanchez would come to me, a nameless attendee, in spite of his fame.

The same answer led me to a place I now call my home.

Doubts and Doctrines

In college, I studied in a university run by a non-Catholic denomination. Only 10 percent of the student population was Catholic, myself included. Every day, I would hear tirades against our beliefs. They bombarded me with their doctrines and Bible verses. To understand our faith more, I attended Mass regularly. I invited Jedy with my “Mass hopping.” To my disappointment, our experience didn’t help us so much.

One time, in the middle of the Mass, somebody shouted, “Help! My mom fainted!” Another Sunday, we heard a priest literally gave a sermon to somebody who was chewing a bubble gum in front of everyone. Then there was a church with defective audio and we couldn’t hear anything except the echo. It was hopeless.

Without meaning to, I attended an indoctrination session in our school when I submitted my notebook to one of my professors. He asked me to turn the Bible to certain passages and read them aloud. But I couldn’t focus on his explanations. I was astounded with my teacher. He would just flip the pages with his finger and – without any bookmark – he would land on the exact passage that he was referring to. I couldn’t grasp how he memorized their Bible to that extent. Amazing! But something was missing.

In spite of my schoolmates’ exceptional knowledge about their church’s teachings and my increasing questions about the Catholic faith, I was not convinced to join them because of one thing: I couldn’t see deep joy in them.

Some of my classmates were choir members and they were more relentless in inviting Catholics to join them. But when they arrived in school, they were tired, sleepless and dragged. I found out that their practice started at three in the morning. Oh, no! Although a lot of things about Catholicism puzzled me, I was sure that I wanted a place where I can know God in a more joyful way.

Finding the Happiest Place on Earth

Then I saw a CD on top of our television set.

When I asked my mom, she said it’s a Charismatic audio teaching. I think one of the gifts instilled in me by God was my hunger for wisdom, so I played it. But among the things that I did to learn more, listening to that CD changed my life the most.

It was a talk by Bo Sanchez and I was struck by his words. I became a regular reader of his blog. Everytime I would visit his site, I always saw an ad about The Feast, saying it’s “the happiest place on Earth.” It seemed corny to me, though, because the picture showed people raising their hands. But when I was already getting frustrated with our church experience and since Jedy’s birthday was drawing near, I invited her to The Feast.

It was indeed the happiest place on Earth. My first Feast experience was made even more memorable by my very unlikely encounter with Bo. Week after week, I experienced indescribable love at The Feast. The talks nourished my faith and the people’s sincerity broke my defensive walls.

Since I am the eldest daughter and I grew up handling leadership roles, I used to think that I should always be tough. I barely allowed myself to cry in public. I thought that it’s a weakness to open your wounds to others. I have quite a few

but shallow friends, not because they are, but because I just didn’t let anyone in. But in the deepest corner of my heart, I longed to be with a *barkada* where I can enjoy a clean, good fun, those you can invite for a random weekend getaway and share personal stories with around a bonfire. And I found them at The Feast.

I joined the Light of Jesus Youth Missions (then called YMPACT) and a Light Group (LG) headed by Cookie Galia. Our LG was an answered prayer! My LG mates’ openness caught me off guard, especially when *Ate* Cookie poured out her heart to us. What I thought as a weakness turned out to be a strength. I admire how she, as a leader, didn’t hesitate to show us her scars. Her trust and vulnerability shifted my perspective. I realized that authentic leadership entails a lot of humility – to love and to let others love you back. I learned to love with no holds barred.

Only Love

“I’m sinful myself. That simple.”

I was browsing the Internet when I read Bo’s reply when asked why he doesn’t leave the Catholic Church despite the issues and controversies that the Church faces. His answer blew me away.


While most religions claim to be perfect, to be “saved,” to be the true Church because of their excellence in the Scriptures, here is a man who confesses his sinfulness, imperfection and need for God’s grace. While other denominations boast about their obedience to the law, here is a family which accepts everyone with love. Wow!

A day before my college graduation, I found myself inside the Sanchez’s car. I served at the youth camp in Antipolo where Bro. Bo gave a short message. An hour later, I was on my way back to Manila, thanks to Bro. Bo who was kind enough to give me a ride. I could “redeem” our conversation.

But I was wrong. Though I see him preach and talk a lot on stage, I was surprised that the only word he said throughout the ride was “great!” He spoke less and listened more – about my graduation, my dreams (I told him I wanted to be the Philippine’s Oprah) and other trivial matters.

Days, weeks, months and years following that unforgettable ride, the leader of the LOJ Family, the author of bestselling books, the head of several ministries, still remembers my name. Bro. Bo approaches me when he sees me in a cafeteria. He calls me when he sees me at The Feast. My every encounter with Bro. Bo is an experience of love.

When I zoom in or out, one word summarizes my journey in the LOJ Family: Love. God’s love for His children and Bro. Bo’s love for Jesus trickle down to the members. Such love compelled me to stay, to serve, and to accept leadership roles as years pass by. It made me experience the joy that I only wished for before.

I’ve gone a long way from being the Gretch who was once a first-time Feast attendee. Being a Christian leader is a humbling experience, so different from my connotation of a powerful and religious leadership. Yes, I’ve got sleepless nights when service demands it. But I do it with joy. In this family, I am full of life. I am full of love. 

Love: The Core of leadership and Lasting Relationships

By Bo Sanchez

F or sometime, we thought that raising leaders in our community was a matter of having the right training program, or the right formation program, or the right curriculum, or the right organizational structure...

As the years went by, we realized we were wrong. We realized that all these are important, but they're not the essence of how to raise up leaders.

Today, we've discovered the Master Key of raising leaders.
It's nothing but old-fashioned discipleship.
And what is discipleship?
Again, it's not a particular program or system.
At the end of the day, discipleship is relationship.
Discipleship is friendship.



The Power of a Friend Loving Another Friend

In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus summarized the entire Gospel into two commandments. He said, "Love God" and "Love your neighbor."

In John 15:12, He even cut it down into one law. He said, "Love one another as I have loved you."

The essence of the Christian life is the essence of leadership.

When a leader raises another leader, he simply loves him in a relationship. John Maxwell says, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

In that loving relationship, a leader pours his life into his disciple.

Whether the disciple becomes a leader or not is no longer the most important goal. The most important goal is to love a person.

He shares his love. He opens his home. He gives his time. He offers his service. He shows his wounds. He imparts his wisdom.

Leadership isn't just about managing tasks.

Leadership is about loving someone so that he becomes all that God wants him to be.

No Claim That We've Perfected This

I'm not claiming we have perfected this brand of leadership. Far from it. Goodness, it seems like we're merely starting in this journey towards this beautiful leadership!

And we have a long way to go.

But by God's mercy, He always gives us another opportunity to try again.

These are our leadership beliefs:

1. We're called to be relationship-based leaders.

A great leader is a relationship expert. He loves before he leads. He lays down his life for his sheep. Our relationships and our mission are one. In our work, nothing is more important than our relationships, because the greatest commandment is love.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

2. A leader strives for excellence, but especially the excellence of love.

Emphasizing excellence in our work is good, provided that it's secondary to the excellence of love. Our first goal as a leader is to be the most loving, not the most excellent. When love is sacrificed at the altar of perfection, we lose the essence of the Gospel.

Jesus said, "They will know that you're my disciples by your love for one another" (John 13:35), not by how you uphold standards of excellence. Love is the motivation of excellence.

Three things will last forever – faith, hope and love – and the greatest of these is love. Let love be your highest goal! (1 Corinthians 13:13-14:1)

3. A leader doesn't ask or expect his members to be loyal to him – he simply gives his loyalty to them.

We're spiritual parents that bear spiritual children and release

them into God's hands. Our children do not owe us anything, but we owe our children our lives forever. We are loyal to them, not because they show loyalty, or because they deserve it, but because that's who we are – we're loyal persons. Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you.

Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly – not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. (1 Peter 5:2)

4. Our first and most important assignment from God is to make disciples via relationships.

Discipleship is relationship. Before we preach, lead teams, or create plans, we're constantly discipling specific people to Jesus: 1) Some are our leaders; 2) Some are new people at The Feast; and 3) Some are not yet even attending. Individually and regularly, we meet them over coffee or meals – loving them, leading them to follow Jesus more.

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

5. A leader needs to live in the truth.

We welcome the worst sinners in the Light of Jesus Family, but those who preach God's Word follow a higher call: They need to live in the truth. If a preacher falls into a pattern of grave sin or grave consequence, living in truth means he'll voluntarily resign and submit himself to spiritual rehabilitation from the elders. If the sin is a grievous crime, the erring leader shall be turned over to his victim and the secular justice system.

"If someone aspires to be an elder, he desires an honorable position." So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. (1 Timothy 3:1-2)

6. A leader should always live in relationships of accountability.

To be a leader is a dangerous job, open to the usual temptations of money, sex and power. We protect ourselves by surrounding our lives with accountable relationships – our families, friends, Light Groups (LG), and our fellow leaders. We commit ourselves to being open, honest and vulnerable.

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:1-2)

7. We're called to be God's messengers.

People thirst for God's Word. People will go to where their

souls are fed. At every Feast, the life-giving Word of God must be presented in a simple, relevant and practical way that the unchurched can understand. People should go home with their spirit nourished, inspired and instructed by God's Word. Because of this, the ability to preach is intrinsic to a Builder.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. (Colossians 3:16)



8. We're called to preach hope.

People live every day in a world of discouragement. People live with inner hurts, past traumas and future fears. Every day, people are burdened with many trials. So at every Feast, without fail (no matter what topic is being preached), the Builder's first message is always hope – to announce that God's love is able to meet their needs. That the best is yet to come. That nothing is impossible with God.

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. (Psalm 33:22)

9. We're called to preach personal responsibility.

We preach faith and works. We don't preach the prosperity Gospel but the practical Gospel. We preach that God prospers us – but we also preach financial literacy, simplicity and entrepreneurship. We preach that God heals – but we also preach about caring for our health. We preach that a family that prays together stays together – but also that a family that plays together stays together. At the end of the day, people determine their destiny by their godly decisions, not just by their devotions.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:14, 17)

10. Power of focus.

Rather than be a flashlight, we would prefer to be a laser that cuts steel. Our singular mission is to make disciples of Jesus. Our autonomous partner organizations shall focus on the other missions of the Kingdom – such as uplifting the poor and proclaiming God's love through media. That is their focus and we support them. But our mission is to make disciples through: 1) The Feast; 2) Light Groups; and 3) personal relationships.

The one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above. (Philippians 3:13-14)

11. God calls us to love the unchurched.

According to surveys, 85 percent of Catholics no longer go to Sunday Mass regularly. They may no longer be religious but they still hunger for spiritual things. We make a serious effort to speak their language when we preach, worship and relate with them. We make The Feast and LGs as safe places for the unchurched and broken. Except for pastoral (like the LG head) and high-profile roles, we invite the unchurched to serve God in various ministries.

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:5-6)

12. God calls us to love the youth.

Our Feasts should reflect the demographics of the population we're working in. In the Philippines, 70 percent are 30 years old and below. Thus, we aim that our Feasts in the Philippines reflect this percentage. Generally, each leader should attract people who are 10 years older and 10 years younger than he is. To attract younger people, we push the youth to lead and to preach, and for older people to take on more supportive roles.

"Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you." (Jeremiah 1:6-7)

13. Seek friendly debate from other leaders for our big decisions.

God leads us not just through the team leader but through our leadership team. In our big decisions, we engage in friendly discussion, seeking wisdom from all leaders. But at the end of the day, the overall leader must make a decision, and the entire team fully supports his decision – even if it isn't one's personal choice.

Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success. (Proverbs 15:22)

14. We need to increase our rate of failure to increase our rate of success.

We believe that action precedes clarity. We're not afraid to fail. Many failures are the road to great success.

Our greatest victories come from our greatest failures. We don't believe in ready, aim and fire. We believe in ready, aim, fire, aim, fire, aim, fire. We fail quickly so we can try again.

For the just man falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble to ruin. (Proverbs 24:16)

15. Leaders shouldn't just be efficient; they should also give joy.

We believe that efficiency isn't enough. Being consistent is wonderful. But are our organizations happy? Do we give joy to people? The LOJ Family aspires to be a happy home for our members and our guests. Create surprise and laughter and excitement. Don't just meet expectations. Exceed them.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. (Philippians 4:4)

16. We believe in empowerment and succession.

We make ourselves dispensable by raising up leaders. It's our primary task. We follow this rule: We always raise up leaders who will be better than we are – both in character and capacities. Our biggest accomplishment is when the accomplishments of the next generation of leaders are bigger than ours. We also focus on leaders who will lead leaders.

Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around (Elisha). Then (Elisha) set out to follow Elijah and became his servant. (1 Kings 19:19-21)

17. We should always be in touch with new people, not just our leaders.

We make a serious effort to always listen to the unchurched. We deliberately build relationships. We pray and call up those who send prayer requests.

We lead evangelistic LGs. Our goal is to know what our "customers" want – so that their voice won't be lost in our busyness and the the bureaucracy of our organization.

Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17)

18. We build many smaller Feasts and many sessions in a Feast – without preventing large Feasts.

By having many Feasts and Feast sessions, we raise up many Builders, worship leaders, music ministries and other servants. (Service blesses people.) We reach people in each geographical location. We avoid the difficulties of pastoring a huge crowd where individuals can slip through the cracks and disappear without us building relationship with them.

"You will need to appoint some competent leaders who respect God and are trustworthy and honest. Then put them over groups of ten, fifty, a hundred, and a thousand.... You won't be under nearly as much stress, and everyone else will return home feeling satisfied." (Exodus 18:20-23)

19. The best organization is decentralized and autonomous, but not independent.

Within each district, we provide legal and governmental leadership, registering each province under the Securities and Exchange Commission. But nationally and globally, we provide spiritual leadership only. LOJ is first of all a spiritual family. We're united by our mission, vision, beliefs and (especially) relationships – not by legal structures. Each district functions on its own. We are starfishes, not spiders.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called. (Ephesians 4:3-4)

20. Building people and relationships and structures are important – in that order.

We first invest time, effort and financial resources in our leaders, servants and in our relationships, and second only in structures, though we also recognize that structures are necessary for our work for the Lord.


Upon disembarking, Jesus saw a vast crowd. He pitied them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them at great length.... He told them to make the people sit down on the green grass in groups or parties. The people took their places in hundreds and fifties, neatly arranged like flower beds. (Mark 6:34, 39)

21. We believe that our leaders should work on their financial life so they can have the freedom to bless others.

We believe leaders can only freely serve the Lord if they have no financial bondages. We encourage our leaders to be long-term investors and entrepreneurs, so they can teach their flock to do the same. LOJ shall teach them financial literacy and stewardship.

God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work... This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (2 Corinthians 9:8, 12)

As leaders, this is our gift to you. If we do our work well, you'll be much better than all of us. You'll be more loving and more gifted.

And if you do your work well, you, too, will raise up leaders better than yourselves. 

The Most Important I Learned a


By author

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he number of Feasts continues to grow – in the Philippines and around the world. This would not have been possible if not for the dedication and commitment that the Feast builders pour into their calling.

Yes, they shepherd their respective flocks. They preach. They inspire. But like the Feast attendees, the Feast builders are also learners. They are the first to humbly admit that they, too, pine for continuous growth. They seek mentors, read books, attend seminars, and find ways to improve themselves. They also rely on one another for brotherly support.

No doubt, being a Feast builder taught them valuable lessons that they use to deal with challenges, to face difficult people, and to address their personal issues that spring up once in a while. Each of them has unique experiences that molded them to be the leaders who they are today.

Among the nuggets of wisdom that they acquired in their leadership journey, the Feast Builders share the most important lesson they hold on to this day. 

Loving relationships are the foundation of a great Feast! And I'm a channel of God's overflowing love. He will love His people through me. - Boggs Burbos

Value relationship over tasks and results, listening and showing empathy towards others and their needs. - Vic Español

It's all about relationships. Build good relationships. - Mike Viñas

Leadership is about being a servant to the people who build The Feast with me. - Jan Silan

Humility in obedience. - Eng Si

To lead is to love like Jesus, to lay down one's life for one's friends. - Jonathan Yogawin

Important Leadership Lessons from a Feast Builder

Sincere humility is the key to growth. - JP Paul Hernandez

A leader is first a follower. - Joel N. Saludares

Leaders are most powerful when our knees hit the ground. Humility is the key. - Velden Lim

The quality of relationship a Feast Builder is able to establish is a major determinant of the success of his Feast. - Raymond Quiroz

Just love.
- Paolo Galia

You don't need to be a good speaker in building a Feast, all you need is a big heart that's always willing to serve, fearless in love and strong in faith. - Monching Bueno

Leadership in the Feast taught me that it is about sharing the mission of love to everyone, and you do it together. - Andreus Cosio

Integrity – by being honest, being true, being me. - Rafael Si

A leader loves as Jesus loves. - Jon Escoto

Leadership is a joyful sacrifice. - Alvin Barcelona



Daily Decisions for a Healthier You



Dr. Didoy Lubaton

Take charge of your health now. Don't wait for the sickness to creep in. The level of our health is a direct result of our daily decisions.

Here are some daily decisions you can do to be on your way to fullness of health:

1. Win your mornings.

Upon waking up, stretch out your arms and open your body wide. It stimulates blood circulation and awakens your muscles from slumber.

Afterwards, use the first 15 minutes of the day to your advantage. No newspapers, TV, or gadgets please. Instead, visualize the outcome of your day. You can do this in a quiet time, meditation and in prayer. You may also practice deep breathing while doing this. Drink calamansi juice and eat a bowl of fruits after one hour. It gives you an early immune system boost and it's good for your digestion.

2. Move it!

There's a saying that your psychology affects your physiology. Apply it the other way around and let your physiology affect your psychology. Even if you are not in the mood, just move! Action influences your emotion.

3. Slow Down.

Do you feel tired most of the time? Do you get cough and colds often? Do you

The struggle is real. Every day, I see patients suffering from sickness. I feel for them. When I was younger, my father struggled with stroke. His kidneys also failed and he went through hemodialysis thrice a week. It was a painful sight.

Here's what I realized: Sickness comes when we are in *dis-ease*. And we'll get sick unless we decide to get better. Your body is your business. The best person who could make you better is you. I love how American educator Stephen Covey said it: "The key is in our decisions, not our conditions."

Yes, the mountain of sickness can be overwhelming. But small repeated actions done daily will eventually break that mountain.

experience hyperacidity or migraines? Your rate of activity might be too fast that your rate of recovery can't catch up.

Take short breaks within the day. Chew your food well and enjoy your meal. Take six to eight hours of uninterrupted sleep daily. Go on a vacation once in a while. Disconnect from social media and gadgets. Date your loved ones. Simply slowing down brings tons of health benefits.


4. Eat to be nourished, not just to get full.

When you create or order your meals, choose what will give you good nutrition. Rename your food choices as either "Forward Food" or "Backward Food." Ask yourself, "Will this help me move forward to better health or backward to illness?" Eat food that your body will thank you for. Build or break your body in the long term. It's not just about feeling full and satisfied; it's about feeling strong and nourished.

5. Surround yourself with positivity.

Think positive thoughts. Use positive words. Do positive deeds. Surround yourself with positive environment. Spend time with positive people. Choose your friends wisely. Get deposits of love from family and good company.

Over time, being consistent with these habits will lead to your transformation of your body, mind, heart and spirit.

Cheers to a healthier you! 



Ouch! You Cut my Financial Umbilical Cord!

In March 2012, Marvin and I were the proudest parents. Our oldest son, Martin, graduated with honors from the Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in Business Management. We were thrilled to have reserved seats at the very hot and humid Ateneo covered courts.

Proud and thankful as we were with our son's achievement, we decided to stop giving him his weekly allowance once he graduated from college. Yes, even if he was still unemployed. And we gave him a decent notice on this. When he first heard it, he exclaimed, "Ouch! You cut my financial umbilical cord!" From then on, I use that term when I teach about raising children with high FQ (Financial Intelligence Quotient).

Don't get me wrong. We're still very PPP (Pusong Pinoy Parents). Our two sons who have graduated and whose financial umbilical cords have been cut still live with us for free, but they pay for their personal expenses. For instance, when Martin decided to live in a condo near his office last year to avoid everyday traffic, he shouldered the cost of rent and other related expenses.

Examining the Analogy

The umbilical cord is the conduit or the connection between the developing embryo or fetus and the placenta. The cord enables the supply of oxygenated and nutrient-rich blood from the

placenta to the fetus. Conversely, the fetal heart pumps deoxygenated, nutrient-depleted blood through the umbilical cord back to the placenta. The placenta is expelled from the uterus alongside the fetus, 15 to 30 minutes after the birth of the baby.

In the same way, when we bring our children to this world, it is our obligation to support them, to give them a good life to the best of our ability. But it is only a temporary arrangement.

Isn't that a powerful analogy?

Why Cut When You Can Afford?

For some families, it is a necessity because of limited budget. How about for those who have more than enough? I suggest you still do because this is an essential step to financial freedom.

Sad to say, there are some parents who continue to nurture the dependence because they want to control their children through money. Maybe sometimes, unknowingly.

On the other hand, a lot of PPPs are just over-giving to their children that they forget to set aside for their retirement. They don't stop providing for their children, which usually carries on to their children's children. I'm not talking about occasional gifts here but the day-to-day expenses: tuition, meal allowance, etc. *Kawawa naman kasi.* (They're pitiful.)

I wish to bring back the image of the placenta here. It provides the oxygenated and nutrient-rich blood cells to the developing fetus and it also receives back the deoxygenated and nutrient-depleted blood cells. Imagine yourself as the overstaying placenta, receiving the nutrient-depleted blood cells from your adult child. If you don't cut the financial umbilical cord of your children (or any other dependent for that matter), *ikaw ang magiging kawawa!* (You'll end up being the pitiful ones!) You become worried sick. How can you not be? This is a toxic arrangement!

Refusing to cut the financial umbilical cord also encourages children not to seek employment right away. Sometimes, I get irritated with fresh graduates who say, "I won't look for a job yet, *Tita*, I'll rest *muna*." What? I know college is also hard work and a student deserves a good vacation after all these years of



By Rose Fres Fausto

studying, but hey, are you your class valedictorian that offers have already come your way? And the thing is, the ones who say “I’ll rest *muna*” are not necessarily the ones who worked hard in school. Try cutting their allowance and maybe they won’t have too much fun “resting *muna*.” Encourage them to look for a job soon because it’s not that easy to find one that makes a good match with their dream career. And remember, there’s competition out there.

Prepare Them Well for the “Cutting of the Cord”

Here are some steps you can do to prepare your kids for the cutting of the cord:

- 1. Start their FQ journey as soon as they’re born.** Open a savings account for them and deposit all their cash gifts in their own account. This way, you don’t comingle your funds right at the start.
- 2. Keep their allowance on the low end.** It teaches them to live within a limited amount. What more, when job hunting comes, starting salaries will not pale in comparison to mom and dad’s allowance. This is another reason why some fresh graduates find it hard to accept low starting salaries. Moreover, with high allowance, the cutting of financial umbilical cord is more difficult because your child would feel like getting a “pay cut.”
- 3. Teach them to save regularly.** This habit, when formed early, will be with them forever. When cash comes in, set aside a percentage. Pay yourself first – the first law of money. When they start receiving their own pay, they will continue to save and, hopefully, be delighted because the amount is now bigger than their previous allowance from parents.
- 4. Bring *baon* (packed lunch).** Both my husband and I brought *baon* to school and later on during the first years at work. So goes for all our sons. This not only saves you cash but also controls the quality of food that you eat on a regular basis.
- 5. Teach them how to invest early on.** While they are still your dependents and you can provide for their needs, invest their money in higher-yielding instruments like equities or equity funds and hold for the long term.

Of course, in doing so, remember the second law of money: “Get into something that you understand and seek advice only from competent people.” Develop their

entrepreneurial spirit for them to know that earning money can be both challenging and enjoyable.

6. Be frugal. Don’t get them used to expensive designer stuff. Even if you can afford to shower them with these goodies, think of how they will be when they start earning their keep. They will feel a big downgrade in their lifestyle when you cut the cord. So teach them the value of delaying gratification. Heed the third law of money: “Make your gold work for you. Make an army of golden slaves before you buy luxury.” Differentiate what you, as parents, can afford vs. what they can afford.

7. Use financial statements to help them delay gratification. Have them prepare their balance sheet and update it at least every quarter. Once they regularly see how their money grows, they will have an easier time resisting that latest gadget because they know the lost opportunity of not investing. Seeing their money grow also acts as their substitute gratification. And the bonus is, both parents and children will have an easier time cutting the cord when the time comes. When all the above steps have been implemented, the balance sheet would already have a healthy sum that will enable the children to take their first steps of financial independence.

8. Consider this as your graduation gift. If you can afford, you may want to give a quite substantial gift (but not too much) to your graduating child. Have some agreed-upon parameters on the use of the cash if you want. But that’s it, no more allowance from mommy and daddy.

The key to success in doing the above is to always add fun and a good choice architecture to make the steps easy for them. Any talk about money should be related to the true purpose – your family’s core values. Do not strain yourselves in over-saving. As I heard my mom say while we were growing up, “Live within your means but enjoy the fruits of your labor.” I guess this is the only way to sustain something that’s a lifetime journey.

Cheers to high FQ and a peaceful cutting of your children’s financial umbilical cord at the right time! 

Rose Fres Fausto was an investment banker turned full-time homemaker and now a writer and speaker. She wrote bestsellers Raising Pinoy Boys and The Retelling of The Richest Man in Babylon (English and Filipino versions). She’s also a behavioral economist and Gallup Certified Strengths Coach. Follow her on FB and YouTube as FQ Mom, and IG and Twitter as theFQMom. For questions, e-mail Rose@FQMom.com or FQMomm@gmail.com.

AN EXTRAORDINARY SEASON OF GRACE

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)


We all go through seasons in our life. We are blessed if we are aware of the season we are personally in at the present moment. As one Church, we are currently living in a special season of grace. Pope Francis has declared an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. This is a time when the storehouse of heaven is wide open and abundant grace is available for all who would accept the invitation of God to draw near.

I have already heard many stories of individuals receiving extraordinary graces during this Jubilee Year. There is a woman who harboured hatred in her heart for many years for her father because of the way he physically and verbally abused the family. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, God's grace broke through when she went to confession and this time the priest did not give her the usual penance for dishonoring her father, but told her, "What is important is the desire to forgive." She began to understand why her father could not show love nor ask for forgiveness. He didn't know how to love because he had not experienced it. No one had shown him love or he was too blind to see it. He could not

ask for forgiveness because he was not aware of the hurt and trauma he caused. She shared, "*Hindi siya humihingi ng tawad dahil hindi niya alam kung paano.*" (He didn't ask for forgiveness because he didn't know how.) Then she decided to be "merciful like the Father" (the theme of the Jubilee Year of Mercy) and let go of 40 years of hatred and unforgiveness. Now she begins to see her father with the eyes of God.

Another woman was struggling with returning to the Lord after having fallen into serious sin in spite of years of serving the Lord in the church. She could not forgive herself nor see how others could accept her if only they knew how far she had fallen. But she heard God's words to her, "Just come home." During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, she didn't only come back to God's loving embrace, she has experienced the inner freedom to openly testify before others about her journey as a "prodigal daughter" returning to the Father. Today, God is using her life witness to call others to return to God.

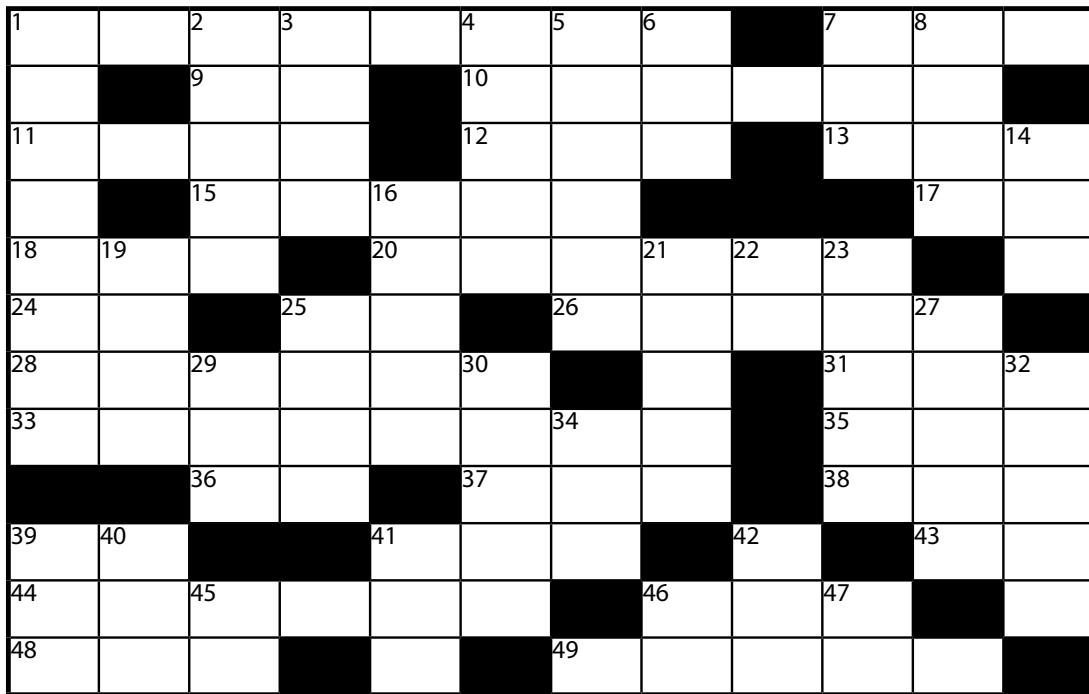
There are many other stories just like these. Grace abounds! Is there an area in your life that needs God's help? Bring it to the Lord. He is waiting for you to come to Him. Is there something in your past that keeps you from receiving God's love and being a channel of His love to others? Lay it down at the foot of the cross and leave it there. God readily forgives and forgets. Is there a disappointment in your heart over an unfulfilled dream or expectation that pushes God away? Talk to God about it and listen to His words of unending love.

There is grace – extraordinary grace – during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Don't miss out on it! Whenever you see an advertisement announcing a free trip or a free car if you only sign up, you are quick to respond and take the chance. This is much more valuable than anything the world has to offer. Take a chance on God. He won't fail you. "His steadfast love never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness!" (Lamentations 3:22-23) 

E-mail Beth at bethmelchor.seasons@gmail.com



By Beth Melchor



ACROSS:

1. Woman coworker of Paul in Rome (Romans 16:12)
7. Hard wood in the Bible
9. Man named in the genealogy of Jesus (Luke 3:28)
10. Evangelist apostle
11. A cheering shout/sound of agreement
12. Saul caught the ___ of Samuel's clothes and it tore
13. Spirit ___ Jesus to the desert to be tempted (Matthew 4)
15. Present-day country mentioned in the Bible
17. Ethiopian King who conquered Egypt (2 Kings 17:4)
18. "You're neither ___ nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:16)
20. Weapons of war
24. God killed him because of his wickedness (Genesis 38:2)
25. Intravenous for short
26. "She doesn't worry when it ____, because her family has warm clothing." (Proverbs 31:21)
28. Each had gathered just what he ____ (Exodus 16:18)
31. "The ___ is gone, the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
33. Chaldean name of Azariah (Daniel 2:49)
35. A true loyal officer of King David (1 Kings 1:8)
36. ___ and behold
37. "The Son of ___ is Lord of the Sabbath" (Luke 6:5)
38. "You have made my father's house a ___ of thieves." (Matthew 21:13)
39. "___ for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15)
41. Jehovah or Yahweh
43. Dad
46. Bird in the Bible
48. Place Sanballat planned to kidnap Nehemiah (1 Chronicles 8:12)
49. David's fifth wife in Hebron (2 Samuel 3)

DOWN:

1. Another woman coworker of Paul in Rome (Romans 16:12)
2. One of Jesus' parable
3. What Jesus always do
4. A place famous for its gold (1 Kings 9:28)
5. What Jacob do in cutting the wool of his sheep
6. "They sharpen their tongues like swords and ___ cruel words like deadly arrows." (Psalm 64:3)
7. Used for anointing
8. Animal in the bible
14. Another animal in the bible
16. Elijah was fed by this bird (1 Kings 17)
19. Prince of Midian put to death by Gideon (Judges 7:25)
21. Spices in the Bible
22. Archaic spelling for woe
23. "I did not come to bring peace, but a ___" (Matthew 10:34)
25. A prophet of Judah (2 Chronicles 12:15)
27. God made the man fall into a deep ___ (Genesis 2:21)
29. Possibly, the snake which bit Paul's hands (Acts 28)
30. Devil
32. Daughter of Jacob who was raped (Genesis 34)
34. Seventh son of Jacob by Zilpah (Genesis 30:11)
39. "The people of Tyre & Sidon would have long ___ repented of their sins." (Luke 10:13)
40. The breaking of God's commands
41. People/nations to be deceived by Satan (Revelation 20:8)
42. Possibly, a tool used by Joseph as a carpenter
45. "___ not commit murder" (Sixth commandment)
46. King of Bashan defeated by the Israelites (Deuteronomy 1:4)
47. Musical note

Contributed by Vic Lagdamen

Answer from last month:



THERE STANDS A CROSS

In the late 70s, I went to a doctor to describe some strange symptoms I had. I related that on several occasions, as I rushed up the steps to make it to class on time, everything suddenly turned pitch black a few seconds. And then just as fast as it got pitch black, the sunlight came back!

My gait became noticeably unsteady, like I had one drink too many. I was dropping things. I had extreme tight bands around my torso making breathing difficult. I had pins and needles jolting me on and off, all over and all day. I had double vision. I felt I had very hot water pouring down the outer part of my left leg.

So the doctors had a CT scan done which thankfully confirmed I had a brain; but no disease. None of the symptoms I described, jibed with the CT scan results. In conclusion, the doctor peered at me and solemnly said, “*Absard. Absard ang symptoms mo, hija.*”

I went for a second opinion and asked, “But shouldn’t it have a name – this *absard* set of symptoms?” The second “opinioner” said, “It’s a non-*ispisipik birus.*”

There, clear as mud! I had a “non-*ispisipik birus*” causing all these *absard* symptoms. End of story.

So I walked away and decided I was not going to ever bring up these symptoms again. People would think I’d gone batty. (Fine, battier.)

Then I left college life, taught nursery school, then taught high school a few years, and worked for a prestigious publishing outfit.

A few more years later, I got married.


Over the next years, the symptoms got more intense. The next doctor I went to in 1986 ordered an MRI of the brain. The MRI found I had lesions there. In the cerebellum, in the cerebrum, in the medulla oblongata, in the brain stem, etc.

Finally, my symptoms were taken seriously. They were lifted out of the classification *ABSARD* and out of the classification *NON-ISPIPIK*. It actually had a name – multiple sclerosis. So I was not imagining things.

This July marks my 30th year with MS. Thirty years of crossing a Red Sea yet not drowning. Thirty years of walking through a furnace, yet unsinged. God has seen me through this far. Who can do that? Only a God of faithfulness.

Two days after 9/11, an exhausted rescuer worked his way through the wreckage and was dumbfounded to find that a 17-foot steel beam had fallen upon another steel beam, forming the shape of a cross. Right in the middle of the wreckage.

There were people who chalked this up to mere coincidence. But I imagined this image clearly in my mind and locked my gaze upon it. In the midst of 30 years of MS, there stood a cross. In the same way, in the middle of your abandonment, in the middle of your crisis, in the middle of your diagnosis, in the middle of your dark night, in the middle of your collapse, in the middle of your pain, there stands a cross.

And in the middle of it all, even if it’s sometimes hard to see through the fog of the wreckage, we can be certain that we have not been left alone. 



By Rosanne Romero

E-mail Rosanne at kitchenscribbles@gmail.com



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“Kuya Bo”

For us Filipinos, “*kuya*” is a big word.

It literally means the elder brother among siblings.

Yet in our country, “*kuya*” can just be applied to anyone, as with “*ate*” (big sister), “*tita*” or “*tito*” (auntie or uncle), or even “*nanay*” or “*tatay*” (mom or dad). In fact, the persons you apply these titles to don’t need to be a relative or someone older than you.

But actually they don’t really just apply to anyone and everyone.

Because “*kuya*” means someone you can depend on – someone who truly cares for you, who puts your interest before his own, who is ready to generously give his time, talent and treasure to someone in need.

A “*kuya*” will laugh with you, cry with you, cheer for you, pray for you, and fight for you, even putting his life on the line.

A “*kuya*” serves as a model to you. He guides you, teaches you, coaches you, and empowers you.

A “*kuya*” has the honesty and courage to make you realize your mistakes, yet will love you no less, and help you rise again when you fall.

In short, a “*kuya*” is Jesus to you.

I have seen a few real “*kuyas*” in my life, most especially that I am the eldest among my own siblings. I am

their “*kuya*”. But I admit I have fallen short of the descriptions I just enumerated for a “*Jesus-Kuya*.”

That’s why I am so tremendously blessed and privileged to have met and known personally a real “*kuya*,” not just to me but to hundreds of thousands, (even millions) of people.

He is “*kuya*” to the elderly of Anawim, “*kuya*” to street kids he helps shelter and feed, “*kuya*” to hundreds of youth he helps send to school, “*kuya*” to the unwed mothers of Grace to Be Born, and “*kuya*” to many other beneficiaries of the mercy ministries he founded and built.


He is “*kuya*” to countless readers of best-selling books and articles he continue to write that help change lives, “*kuya*” to listeners and viewers who find a deeper faith and renewed hope in God, and “*kuya*” to all who are blessed by The Feast worldwide.

He is “*kuya*” to the poor and the “Truly Rich”, “*kuya*” to the sick and the dying, “*kuya*” to the healthy and strong, “*kuya*” to the depressed and desolate, “*kuya*” to the dreamer and the daring, “*kuya*” to the nameless and the faceless, “*kuya*” to the successful and famous.

He is “*kuya*” to his family and relatives, and “*kuya*” to his community and friends.

And though I am a little older than him, I shall never stop thanking God up to my last breath for giving him to me as my mentor, my leader, my friend, my “Big Brother.”

To all of us, he is Brother Bo. And I know, like me, you too thank the Lord endlessly for giving us this simply wonderful, amazing, God-sent “*kuya*.”

From all of us, “*Maraming Salamat, Kuya Bo!*” (Thank you so much, Brother Bo!) 



By Alvin Barcelona

E-mail Alvin at kpreacheralvin@gmail.com

DO YOU WANT TO EARN EXTRA INCOME WITHOUT QUITTING YOUR JOB WHILE INSPIRING PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME?

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Happy serving and earning at the same time!

Blessings,

Yo Martinez
Sales and Marketing Manager
Shepherd's Voice Publications

RESIGN TO LOVE

By MNO (Real name withheld upon request)



When my husband and I were in our 30s, we both worked as managers of an American multinational company. Aside from the generous compensation, we enjoyed car plans (we had brand-new cars every five years), frequent company-sponsored training in five-star hotels, business trips here and abroad. We had a great life with our flourishing careers in the company. We both intended to retire in that company.

But God had a different plan for us.

Big Turnaround

At 18 months, our eldest child was diagnosed with autism. I was about to train abroad for a software that will integrate all the systems in the company. I was made to choose between caring for our child who needed intensive early intervention and my precious, hard-earned career. In my daily prayer time, God was clear in asking me to resign.

I reflected that my career was my Isaac at that time, and God was asking me to offer my Isaac to Him. But I had misgivings because no one served as a housewife in my family. My mother, aunts and even grandmothers all had jobs until their 60th birthday. No one stayed home to care for the children and the household on a full-time basis. Nevertheless, I asked God for a sign by showing me a truly happy housewife. And that is where the wife of our chapter head came into the picture.


I asked Sister Lydia Macapagal how life was as a housewife. "Very happy and very fulfilling!" she responded in a heartbeat. If that is not God's clear answer to my request, I don't know what is.

I heeded God's calling. I prepared my resignation letter and handed it to my boss whose jaws fell because it was really out of my character. I was driven and passionate with my work. My resignation came as a surprise to them. But when I explained to him that our eldest child needed intensive early intervention (which will spell a great difference in our son's life), my boss gave me a handshake and wished me well.

Big Return

A few months after I left the company, my husband joined another American multinational company with a higher position and higher compensation package. Three years later, I was amazed at how God had blessed my obedience to Him. When I saw my husband's income tax return during that year, it was my jaws' turn to drop. Our combined gross compensation three years ago was my husband's withholding tax for that year! Please read that again. Go figure how God multiplies His blessings in ways we cannot even imagine or expect. We just have to obey Him and trust that He will take care of all our needs and more.

I am not asking all mothers of children with special needs to resign right now. Please don't. You'll have to assess and reassess your own situation, read the Bible every day, talk to God every day and discuss with your husband the pros and cons of your situation. You must reach that point before you make a major decision because therapy is expensive and your special child definitely needs intensive therapy.

In my case, God's call was crystal clear. He wanted me to resign to love. 

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SPECIAL INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH:

Dearest God, we praise and thank You for the gift of life. We thank You for granting us another day to enjoy Your graces and receive Your infinite mercy. We enthrone You in our hearts and in our homes.

We ask You, dear Lord, to teach us to love every single day. Fill our hearts with compassion, courage and humility. We especially pray for our brothers and sisters who are struggling to love and forgive themselves and other people. Breakthrough our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Praying for you,

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

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

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Bulletin

VOL. 1 NO. 1

JULY 2016

THE MAN BEHIND THE PREACHER





The Boss's Wife

Dearest Love,

I can't believe that you're now 50 years old! That means we've already known each other for 22 sweet and wonderful years. I still remember the first time I met you at St. Francis Auditorium. Actually, it was the first time I heard you preach. I can't forget that moment because my first impression of you wasn't positive. Good thing, the Lord was quick to whisper in my heart to listen to Him through you. And once I refocused, I was hooked – not on you but on God! Those weekly talks for the Bible Study for Catholics were magical. God's hand led me back to His heart and eventually to your heart.

I really love the song "Something Good" from *The Sound of Music*. I absolutely can relate to it. I've done a lot of foolish things when I was younger, that's why I still catch myself asking you this silly question, "Why did you choose me to be your wife?" To which you would always reply, "You have all that I need." I must have done something good to have such a loving, romantic, thoughtful, caring and humble husband. But that's how God is. He just loves me so much and you are the concrete expression of His love for me.

There are so many things I still want to tell you, but I'll just keep it short and sweet.

Love, thank you for everything.

For always **L**istening to me. More than speaking, you have that beautiful gift of listening. Thank you.

For always **O**verlooking my shortcomings and choosing to look at the positives. Thank you.

For always being my romantic **V**alentino. You sure know how to fill up my love tank. Thank you.

For always being my **E**ncourager. You are my constant support and inspiration. Thank you.

Happy birthday to the one who shares God's love with me every day. I'm declaring an even greater outpouring of God's grace, abundance and anointing in your life. I love you.

Your Sweets,

Marowe



The True Essence of Power

On July 11, 2016, the 50th birthday of Bo Sanchez, there are some verses for the day's Mass readings that well apply to Bo.

First, Isaiah 10:1, "Hear the word of the Lord."

Bo teaches us that to be successful in life, you have to know your anointing. Look at what's common among his successes. He gave his first talk when he was 13. With his family, he started the first Light of Jesus prayer meeting when he was 14. He won a Bible quiz on national television at 16. He wrote his first book at 20. What was common in all those victories? He used words. That was his anointing.

And to this day, Bo continues to make full use of his anointing – and is changing hundreds and thousands of lives because of it.

The second Bible verse in the July 11 reading is from Psalm 50:23. "Those who offer praise as a sacrifice honor me; I will let him whose way is steadfast look upon the salvation of God."

I believe the success of Bo's ministry is anchored on this truth: his life has been a sacrifice of praise to God and genuine obedience to Him. People clearly see his sincerity and integrity in his many talks onstage, in print, broadcast, and online media.

Now as a co-missionary and in-law – my wife, Reng, is his cousin – I have seen Bo up close, outside the public eye, and I can attest that he lives what he preaches – his every word, every action simply manifests his anointing.

The third verse in the readings on Bo's birthday is Matthew 11:5 which says, "... and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."

Yes, with his anointing to use words, Bo has proclaimed Jesus' Good News to the poor. And those words Bo has substantiated with practical action.

First, he established mercy ministries that provide financial support and services to the needy – from womb to tomb: homes for orphans, women in crisis, street children, and scholarships for poor but deserving and persevering students. The Light of Jesus Family also provides spiritual nourishment for women in prison. Bo himself founded Anawim, our home for the abandoned elderly. We also opened the Light of Jesus Pastoral Care Center which offers one-on-one pastoring, plus 24/7 telephone counseling for the downtrodden.

In his long experience of ministering to the poor, Bo realized poverty is rooted in the wrong notion that money or wealth is the root of evil. He clarified that the Bible says what's evil is the "love of money" or, in one word, greed.

So he set out to become an entrepreneur and then embarked on a new financial literacy program he calls his Truly Rich advocacy, which teaches people how to make money or grow their money – but with one and only motivation: for one to be of service to God's poor.

Bo sets the example by donating a hefty portion of his income to the Light of Jesus ministries.

That's Bo Sanchez at 50 years old: truly rich for God and His people – living with less so the less fortunate may have more. It's the true essence of power.

Happy Golden Year, Bo!

All for God's Glory,



Hermie Morelos

President, Shepherd's Voice Publications



GREETINGS



A MODEL OF COMPASSION

I cannot thank God enough for giving me a special brother like you. For almost 35 years, we have been together as friends, brothers and co-founders of our Light of Jesus Family and I look forward to another 35 years.

Bo, in those fruitful and challenging years, you have taught me so many things in life. You are my mentor, pastor, friend and brother in Christ Jesus. Compassion tops the list of the things you have impacted my life. Yes, I find you as a very compassionate leader who understands and even lives with my stubbornness and bullheadedness. Without you knowing it, your compassion melted my hardened heart and I began to imitate your virtue.

I will not be compassionate to others, especially to my family and the people under my care, if you did not model it for me. You once told me that you do not agree with my “Shape up or ship out” policy. Allow me to tell you now that you are right and I agree with you. This is now my life’s principle: “It is better to be compassionate than be right.”

Thank you so much, Bo, and I pray that God will to bless you with more years to live so that you can impact more lives as you impacted mine.

Pio Español
Director, LOJF International Operations

POWERFUL SAGE

Before Obi Wan Kenobi trained Luke Skywalker to be a Jedi, he was once a great champion who defeated a lot of evil people in the galaxy. In *Lord of the Rings*, Aragorn won't be the King if Gandalf didn't mentor him. But he's not just any old man; he's an all-powerful sage who wishes to make the world a better place. Also, the X-Men won't be powerful if they are not led and trained by the most powerful psychic in the world, Professor X.

Bo is not just a superhero – he is all of those heroes combined and more. He saves the world for the glory of God by blessing one soul at a time. His powers include love, communication, excellence, integrity and most of all, humility.

He made me a better person not through his superpowers or successes but through his genuine friendship. I have learned how to be a good man who fights for what he believes in.

The name “Bo” means “to live” and I truly believe that his life is an instructional manual on how we can live our best lives possible.

Thank you, Bro. Bo, for being you.
Happy birthday and I love you!

JPaul Hernandez
Builder, Feast Greenhills



“Bo is the arnibal to our taho, the sarsa to our fishballs, the suka to our chicharon, the niyog to our bibingka. Can’t imagine life without him.”

(Bo’s Light Group of Feast builders)



STORM SEEKER

I first encountered Bo in 1992 when my wife, Lanie, and I first attended a gathering in San Miguel Corporation. I could not forget what I heard from him that day.

Bo said that we all go through storms in life. God allows them to happen as we try to seek the purpose of every trial and difficulty. And he added that there are times when we need to seek a storm. I was blown away by his words. Why would anyone deliberately find a problem and embrace it?

Bo explained that Nehemiah did such a thing. Nehemiah felt a burden in his heart because the temple of God in Jerusalem was in ruins. He felt that he had to do something. Leaving his comfortable life in the palace as one of the king’s trusted servant, Nehemiah begged for the king’s help for him to restore the temple in Jerusalem and attend to the needs of the suffering Jews.

I realized later on that this is what serving God is all about. It starts with a burden in your heart. When you respond to the call of God, that burden turns into joy even if there are still difficulties and storms along the way.

That’s why I am eternally grateful to Bo for bringing Jesus into my life and my family. From a messenger who delivered God’s Word into my heart 24 years ago, he has become a true friend who selflessly loves me. Because of him, I know that God loves and cares for me so much more.

A very happy birthday, Bo!

Carl Fontanilla
Head, LOJF Feasts Provincial

GREAT FRIEND

Bo, you have been a great friend to me over the last 20 years and I pray that it will continue for several years to come. You are an inspiration to many. I pray that you keep on being a light to the world.

The Lord has given you a powerful gift of preaching. May you not get tired of using it. You are a man of the Spirit and a lover of God’s Word. Continue to immerse your ministry from the gifts on high.

Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with me and so many others. May our love for each other never grow weary and may we always be ready to support one another in our ministries.

Happy birthday and welcome to the “Golden Club!”

Fr. Steve Tynan, MGL
Spiritual Director, Light of Jesus Family



LIVING OUT THE ANOINTING

This is a milestone for us because you have reached the golden year of your blessed life. How much more with your most beloved family, Marowe, your wife, and two young boys, Francis and Benedict. The Manongdo Family and I, as well as the Upper Room Prayer Group – now the King of Glory Community – send our best wishes for your birthday! It's in the Upper Room where you first heard God's call for you to preach. Thank you for sharing the Companion devotional with our community. It helps us in our daily journey with God, and our Bible study and meditation, especially on the Sunday readings.

God speaks through you strongly. His voice is all around the crowds wherever you go. People see God in your heart. Keep going to where God is sending you. Again, the most blessed of birthdays and more years to come!

Sis. Aida Manongdo

Sis. Aida was the one who prophesied that Bo would preach to the nations when he was only 13. Kerygma asked her, "How do you see Bo now compared to what you saw in him when he was 13 years old?" She answered:

When I first saw him, I saw God's plan for him. He will be anointed. He will be given the wisdom and knowledge to become the youngest preacher of the Good News in our country and around the world.

He started preaching at the age of 13 in the Upper Room of Project 7. He handled our prayer meetings with adults as his audience. It was wonderful and it must have been like what Jesus experienced when He preached at the temple of Jerusalem to the doctors and philosophers of his time. Bo has not changed. God continues to anoint him with more wisdom, knowledge and all the gifts of the Spirit.

Now at 50, I still see him as a little boy. He still has the same boyish smile and stature – a "wonder boy" so to speak. God is using him mightily as a writer of many books, aside from being a down-to-earth preacher. God's presence overflows in him so much so that even if you're a serious person, he can draw your attention and make you smile. The Feast, the prayer gathering that he leads, makes you feel at home right away. Jesus is already present in him. Encountering him gives one a beautiful and indescribable feeling.

As a result, the Light of Jesus grows brighter and brighter. With the divine music of his team turning everyone into living saints by creating a celestial atmosphere of love, joy and peace, everybody reaches out to God. Heaven is filled with applause and celebration because of the repentance and conversions that take place.



UNFLUSTERED KINDNESS

I imbibed Bo's kindness – how he reacts to situations or people. He never gets fazed or rattled. He accepts things gently and prays for that person or the situation.

I have always been a reactive person. I easily let my emotions erupt. But when I started to work closely with Bo, I noticed his calmness. There are countless times when he receives a disturbing or deflating news, or even about someone who intends to hurt him, and I am there. While I already want to blow my top, Bo remains unflustered. He just nods his head, smiles, and moves on.

This is the most significant impact he has made in my life.

Today, I am calmer. I have come to accept things as they are (though sometimes I need to remind myself). To accept things, people or situations that I cannot change anyway, and to forgive.

With this comes his heart for listening. Bo listens and allows the person to speak his mind.

He had a very close friend who served as his go-to person. They helped each other a lot, solved many problems together and so much more. One day, this guy turned his back on him. The friendship, trust, loyalty – they were all gone.

But Bo? He forgave and never said a word against the guy.

That's who my brother is.

Happy birthday, Bo!

Chelle S. Crisanto
Bo's eldest sister

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

You are a wonderful example of God's love personified
 You lead by example and you're always there to guide
 From our hearts and minds to our hands and feet
 Everything that you do is a lesson we savor and keep.

For us, you are a mentor, a father, a friend and a prayer partner
 Your time, talent and treasure, those are what you always offer
 This generosity of yours is way beyond measure
 The friendship that we share is what we truly treasure.

Peace of mind, strong health, overflowing love we pray
 More opportunities, ideas and successes to come your way
 We both declare that all your dreams will come true
 May you have a blessed birthday, Bro. Bo. We love you!

Didoy and Mayi Lubaton
 Feast Builder, Bay Area and wife

EPITOME OF SERVICE

A simple, humble, unaffected and ever-consistent
 brother and friend. An epitome of God's servant to
 the highest level.

That's who you are, Bro. Bo. You are heaven-
 sent, a blessing, an inspiration... or even a living
 saint to us all.

A blessed, healthy and happy birthday to
 the GOLDen BOy (while I'm stuck to being silver
 forever)!

We love you and looking forward to our dream
 of 100 years of service and brotherhood!

Adrian Panganiban
 Feast Builder, Bay Area



My Bo Sanchez Rap!

Minsan ako'y naimbitahan
 Sa prayer meeting na kung saan
 Tanong ko ay sinong preacher
 Ito daw ay isang author ng mga librong
 Sa National Bookstore matatagpuan.

Ako'y nagulat sa aking nakita,
 Bata, payat, makapal ang salamin
 at medyo kulang sa porma
 Pero nang siya'y nag-umpisa
 Ako ay natameme at bigla na lang napanganga.

Siya pala si Bo Sanchez
 Atenistang matalas mag-Ingles
 Hirap mag-Tagalog

Pero mga mensahe nya'y malalim pa
 Sa ilog ng Novaliches.

Sinundan, pinakinggan
 Bawa't salitang kanyang bibitiwan
 Pihado at siguradong
 Meron kang babaunin at matututunan!

Yan ang ating kapatid at kaibigan
 Humble, tapat, puspos ng kabaitan
 Wala kang masasabi
 At walang masamang tinapay
 Dahil siya ay isang tunay na servant!

Maligayang kaarawan, Bro. Bo!

Adrian Panganiban, Feast builder, Bay Area



50

Things

**My Father *Never*
Taught Me**

By Bene Sanchez



My dad is known as a motivational speaker, a preacher, an author – someone who is in the business of self-improvement and teaching.

As his son, I am exposed to his world and I see his lifestyle every day. I suppose you'd think I'd learned so much from just being with my dad, but nope.

Let me share 40 things my dad *never taught* me – and 10 things he actually *said* to me.

Why? I think the greatest lessons my dad ever gave me were the things he never said, but just did. In fact, that's number one.

Be a doer



1

My dad is someone who acts. He doesn't just make things up in his head. He shares stories from his life, what he did right, what he did wrong, and how that applies to you. And if you get to meet him, you'll see that he really walks what he talks about. His life is an open book, and if you watch carefully, each page is full of things he's done, he's doing, and he's going to do. He's not lazy. I know that doing these things are the secret to being as happy, sincere and loving as him.

Don't procrastinate

My dad just doesn't. If he has seven articles to write that day, he will write them. He will not watch TV in between. He makes sure he always finishes things on time.



2

Be early

My dad loves being early. He leaves an hour before even if the trip only takes 30 minutes. He values the time of the people he will meet. He gives importance to each person by respecting their time. So even if he will be the first person in the room, he'll still be prompt.



3

Be patient

My dad married someone who is not good at being early. My mom takes bazillion years to dress up. (In fairness, I do too. Ha, ha, ha!) But my dad doesn't mind. Even if he loves being early, he doesn't get the slightest bit agitated when he's going out with Mom. Regardless if he's already two hours late before they leave, he remains untroubled. By his actions, he taught me that other people are more important than being on time.



4

5

Be courteous

My dad is always respectful to everyone. No matter if he's talking to an Uber driver or the CEO of a giant enterprise, he treats them with the same respect.

Be generous

My dad is the most generous person I know. He will always sacrifice himself for the needs of others. He gives more than he should. Even in the smallest things. When he tips waiters, he gives them double despite already having a service charge in our bill. He helps out anyone in any way he can.

6

7

Be calm

My dad never gets angry. That's not an exaggeration. Sometimes I wonder if he never worries about anything because he can see the future. Ha, ha! He shows me that people should always come first before your emotions.

Listen first

My dad doesn't judge any person. My dad will always listen to your story, no matter how wretched or dark you think it is. My dad will be there to hear it all and to comfort you. My dad believes there's nobody too far away from Jesus.

8

9

Know when enough is enough

My dad is always patient and he will give you unlimited chances to learn from your mistakes. But once he knows that something has to be done, he will talk to you firmly yet kindly. His genuine love compels him to awaken you when enough is enough.



Be teachable

When you're in a conversation with my dad, you'll be surprised to see that almost the entire time, he simply listens to you, nodding his head and taking in what you're saying. As much as you want to learn from him, he wants to learn from you, too.

**Read a lot**

My dad spends most of his free time reading. He loves learning so he'll read anything he gets his hands on. That's how he crafts the different Feast series – by reading several topics and devising the talks based on his learning.

Walk outside a lot

My dad walks around every morning and makes 3,000 steps. He talks to our neighbors who are already up at that time. He smiles at the kids who leave for school. He takes in the sunlight and the fresh air. My dad seems to find these simple things important, and I think this is one of the reasons why he's always happy.

**Laugh a lot**

My dad always laughs. He's very corny. But then, he's the happiest person I know. He finds joy in little things.

Spend time alone and pray a lot

My dad takes times off and sits alone on the couch and just prays. Sometimes I'm tempted to poke him or take a picture of him because he's frozen on the spot. But that's how he makes his important decisions – by constantly praying.

**Eat a lot**

My dad loves to eat. He enjoys the company, the good food and the moments of building relationships over meals. He cherishes life's simple pleasures. He always goes out to try new restaurants.

Be healthy

My dad is a pescetarian, meaning he only eats fish and vegetables. He sleeps earlier than I do and wakes up at five in the morning. He walks and exercises as much as he can. He normally nails a minimum of 10,000 steps a day. He believes that when he's healthy, he'll be able to love people the best he can.



17

Regularly date the important people in your life

Monday is my dad's date with me and my younger brother. I have the snack time while Francis has the lunch. On Tuesdays, Dad dates our mom. Wednesday is reserved for a lunch with young LOJ leaders. My dad has lots of one-on-ones and special meetings with all the important people in his life throughout the week. In fact, I think he spends around 60 percent of his time building relationships!

Money is important so you can make a difference in this world

My dad makes a lot of money. He once told me, "One of the easiest things in the world is to earn money." But my dad uses almost all of it strictly to help others, to build ministries, to change the world. He lives on the bare minimum.

18

But money really isn't that important

At the end of the day, my dad doesn't care about how much he earns. He only thinks about how many people he blesses. He never gets attached to material wealth. To him, money is just a tool. It's not as important as people and relationships.

Surround yourself with loving people

Even my dad has a Light Group, our caring group in the community. In fact, he has two. They meet every other week, and they literally just talk and share and laugh and cry and pray for one another the whole night. My dad has so many friends and I'm amazed how they've all got my dad's back.

20

Surround yourself with people smarter than you

You think my dad's smart? You should meet his mentors. My dad regularly meets with them and they help my dad improve in the areas he needs to. He has financial, health, and spiritual mentors. He likes being the dumbest person in the room.

21

Surround yourself with Jesus

My dad's life is completely Christ-centered. There is no reason to live unless your life is for Christ, and my dad is such a great example of that. He always reads Christian books, watches sermons and talks, and prays a lot. Jesus is the center of his life.

22

23

Be in this world

My dad is a realist. He doesn't believe that God will magically save you from all your problems. He knows you need to make a difference in this world by doing what God calls you to do.

He's not in some lofty high place detached from the world. My dad feels the hurt and pain that people feel. He lives in the now.

Plan your future goals and dreams

My dad always plans ahead. He has plans for five, 10, 20 years from now, and even beyond that. He has goals and dreams for himself, for the community, and for others. Guess what? He does have his own Novena to God's Love and a Dream Board.

24

25

Follow your passion

My dad could become a lawyer or whatever, and he'd probably be good at it. But he wouldn't be happy there. My dad's passion is to bring people closer to Christ, through the gift of communication. That's why he speaks, gives talks, facilitates seminars and all those things. He lives his core.

Old fashioned values will stand the test of time

My dad believes in humility, chastity and respect. He practices these virtues. He doesn't let the world stir him from what he knows is right. He knows that short-term pleasure is nothing compared the long-term glory of following Jesus.

26

Have a great work-life balance

27

My dad is someone who works very hard, but he knows that work is not the center of the universe. My dad spends a lot of time just savoring life. He loves watching movies. (Sometimes, he watches *anime*. Can you believe that?) He even enjoys his time just looking at old cars and other stuff!

Spend time with young people

28

My dad spends a lot of time with people 10, 20, 30, 40 years younger than he is. He says he learns a lot about the world by just being with them.

Spend time with old people

29

My dad has a huge heart for the abandoned elderly. He regularly visits them in the ministry he founded for the elderly, Anawim, which is in Montalban, Rizal. He also makes time to be with his parents-in-law (my *lola* and my *lolo*) and bonds with them.

Family is important

We go on vacations twice a year with both sides of the family, respectively. My dad prioritizes our family. And it's not a nonsense-kind-of fun, but a quality moment to bond, support, and pray with and for one another.

30

Try new things

My dad loves to experiment and try new things. He's not afraid to try new food, engage in new experiences (he once did a canyon swing in Bohol), meet new people, and find new ways of doing old things.

31



Dearest Dad,

Many people know you as the Preacher in Blue Jeans, award-winning author, and a successful entrepreneur, but I know you as the most amazing dad in the world.

I admire you because you do your best to spend time with me and my brother no matter how tired you are. I also admire you because of your love for God. Thank you for teaching me to pray and to serve others.

Happy 50th birthday, Daddy!

I love you!

Love,

Francis



Francis

Always be optimistic

My dad always looks at the brighter side. As long as it's practical and a great idea, my dad gives it the benefit of the doubt. He knows good things come to people with good thoughts.



Imagine



My dad dreams big! He dreams crazy things. He imagines a lot and spends a lot of time fulfilling them. He even doodles sometimes. That's how he gets all those crazy ideas like starting The Feast and related ministries.

Always tell the truth

I don't think I've ever heard my dad lie. That simple.



Be humble

My dad is very down-to-earth. He knows that all the pleasures of this world and the achievements he has accomplished are fleeting and that he has done everything only as a vessel of the Holy Spirit. He won't turn down your praise or compliments toward him though, but he'll redirect you to the One who gave him everything.



Speak words of kindness and love



My dad doesn't curse either, even if he's frustrated. When my dad drives, he always compliments the drivers who are overtaking him. (Ha, ha!) He knows that expressing his emotions by saying or doing something rude and mean won't do anyone any good. It always feels better to just love.



Be sincere

Everything that my dad does comes from the heart. And I think that's really beautiful. He really loves what he does and loves being with others. He's never fake nor shallow. He's the real deal for me.

Stick with it till the end

My dad is a persevering person. He sticks to his goals till the end, no matter how difficult the challenges are. If he's struggling, he prays. He prays and prays and prays. That's how he faces them.



Love others

Use things, love people. At the end of the day, it all boils down to it. I think that's the most important lesson my dad has ever taught me. He lives it! He prioritizes people over anything. He knows that life doesn't matter if his relationships are not in check – his relationships with others, with himself, with God. To him, love is the most important thing in this world.



I may not be Bo Sanchez, but if there was one thing that I know that I have to emulate, it would be this: Love others.

Be trustworthy



If someone tells my dad to keep a secret, or trusts him to do something, he does it. Mainly because my dad is forgetful and he just fails to remember what you tell him (Ha, ha!). Kidding aside, my dad is someone whom I can trust.

BONUS: 10 Things That My Dad Actually Said to Me

41

“Eat the frog first”

When you're facing something difficult, it's tempting to back out and focus on the easy thing first. But no. My dad teaches me it's better to do what you detest before doing the easier thing. Delayed gratification.

“One of the easiest things in the world is to earn money”

Yes, I know I already said that. But I found it hard to believe until my dad repeated it to me several times. So there, it's easy to earn money.

“Love your mom”

It's sometimes hard to be the best son ever for my mom because our personalities clash all the time. But whenever we fight, my dad only tells me three words: Love your mom. And that does wonders, really. Whatever petty thing we are fighting over means nothing compared to our love for each other.

43

“I don't know. Where do you want to eat?”

It doesn't matter where we eat. As I mentioned, my dad is pescetarian. But whenever I want to eat in a ramen house, which only serves grilled pork chasu and pork broth, my dad will gladly go there just to spend time with me. People are more important.

“Pray about it”

I've noticed that whenever I go through big issues or struggles and I share it with my dad, he will consistently reply with this line. Sometimes, I'm tempted not to tell him anymore. But I realized, I need that kick. I need to hear, “You should pray about it, Bene.” Because encouraging others to pray and supporting them this way can mean so much more than “you can do it” or a “it's gonna be OK!”

45

46

“Ask your mom first”

My dad and my mom are always a team. So even if I could get away with something through my dad, he reminds me to ask my mom first. He shows me the importance of getting both my parents' blessing rather than just to escape. They are always willing to listen, and most of the time, if I ask nicely, they're going to say yes.

“Praise God!”

Whenever my dad buys a new phone or a laptop and he tries out the keyboard, he types, “Praise God!” He always glorifies and worships the King of kings in everything he does.

47

“I know you'll learn from your mistakes”

My dad always forgives me. He believes in me, no matter how many times I fail. He encourages me to learn from my mistakes. I have unlimited tries, unlimited chances with him, just like how I do with God. He knows that I try my hardest to move forward and stop looping over and over again.

48

“Bene, what should I wear?”

He knows it's important to leave the hard things to the experts. Ha, ha!

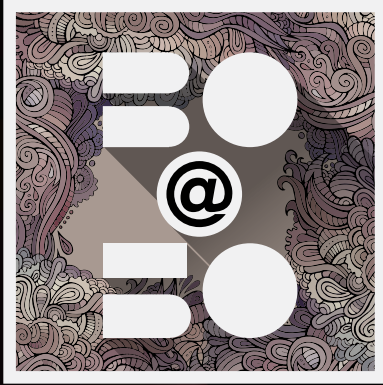
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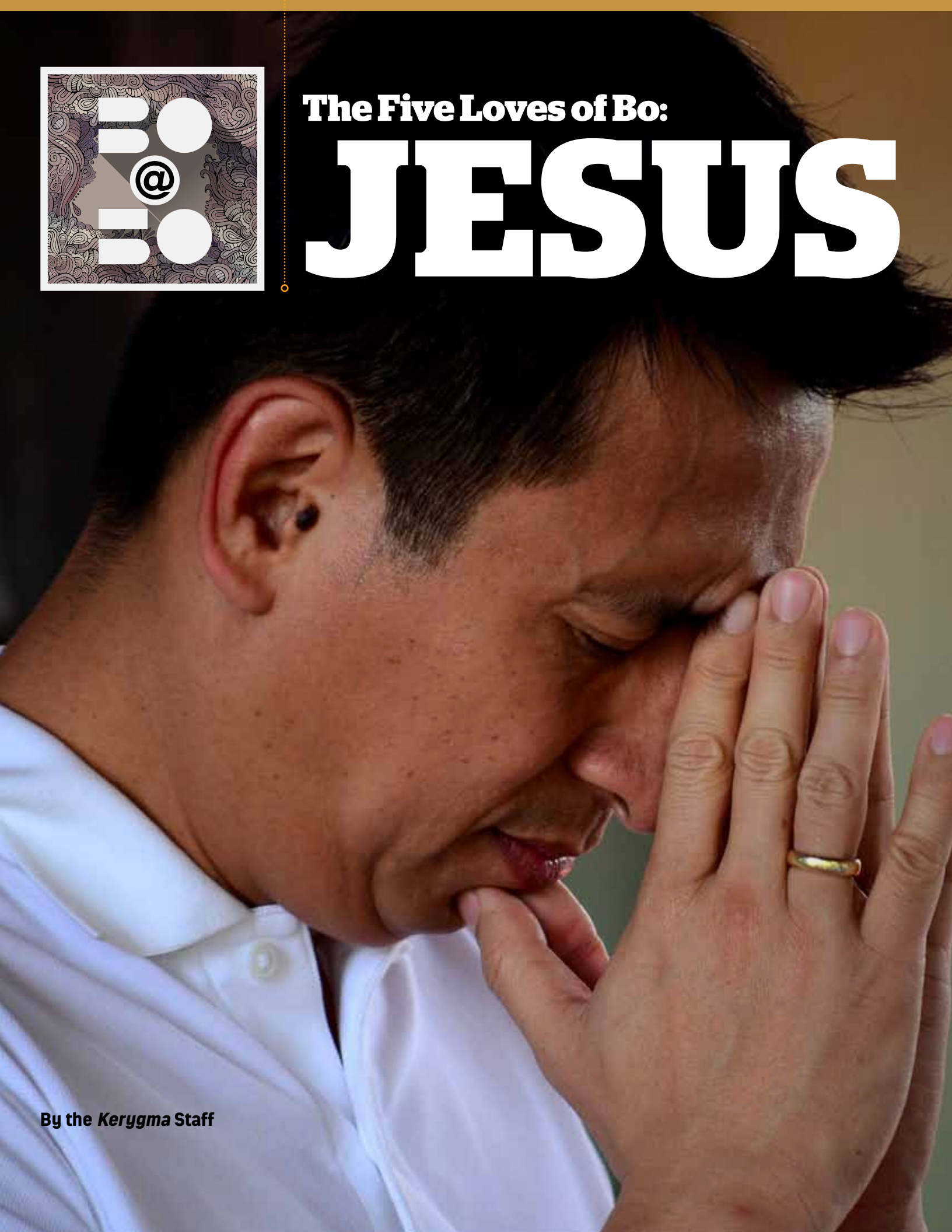
“I love you”

He tells me this line every single day – and it changed my life. I would never be who I am today without his love.
Dad, thank you for everything you have taught me – whether you actually told it to me or I just picked it up from watching you.
Thank you, Dad.
And I love you, too.



The Five Loves of Bo:

JESUS



By the Kerygma Staff

Lord, we love You," Bo prayed as he led worship at the regular Feast builders' meeting. Unknowingly, his words struck Migs Ramirez, Feast builder at the Bay Area.

As a worship leader, Migs would often start worship with a word of adoration or praise such as, "We worship You, Lord! You are amazing, God!" It's what they were used to saying. But he noticed that when Bo would lead worship, he would always begin with: "Jesus, we love You."

At that moment, Migs realized how much Bo loves the Lord. "What the people don't see," is one of the best things he learned from Bo. "I thought to myself, how much do I really desire God? Do I just pray when there's people around? When I lead worship? From him, I saw that it's possible to love Jesus in a very personal and intimate way. Without my seeing the person's private moments, I know Bo loves Jesus," Migs said.

Today, his love for God continues to grow deeper as he sees the face of Jesus in his wife and kids, in the lost, in the children and elders abandoned by their loved ones.

"He brings me closer to Jesus," shared Mike Viñas, ATC Feast builder, "by his humility, grace and love for others. He is probably the most loving person I know."

"During a Marian Pilgrimage in Europe, Bo carried the luggage of the pilgrims to their rooms because there was a shortage of porters. He did this at midnight without anyone seeing him," shared George Gabriel, Feast builder at the Bay Area.

"Our leader is so humble. At the end of the day, he acknowledges Jesus – the purpose of it all," said Makati Feast builder Jan Silan.

Loving Like Jesus

For Bo, it's all about relationships. He loves Jesus by loving His people. He goes out of his way to make people feel special.

"I've always been shy at the builders meeting. But Bo's presence alone is a warm welcome. Most of the time, he goes out of his way to talk to young builders like me. He often asks, 'How are you?'" shared Dwight Castillo, Feast builder of Pacita.

One question would lead to another until he touches on all the aspects of the person's life. "He's a great listener. One of the best!" Jan said.

"When you have decisions to make, the first thing he'll say is, 'I'll support you,'" George added.

"Despite his busy schedule, Bo finds time to reply to e-mails. I remember when Nicole and I were dreaming about writing a book together. We prepared a long e-mail to ask about his thoughts and sent it at 10:50 p.m. After 10 minutes, he replied with full support and suggestions," shared JPaul Hernandez, builder of Feast Greenhills.

"He believed in me more than I believed in myself, Mike added. "I still remember when we were leaving Feast Valle Verde to move to PICC in 2010. I couldn't believe he was asking me to join him as his worship leader. The trust he gave me inspired me to believe in myself. He disciplined me by spending time with me and entrusting valuable responsibilities of ministry under my care."

What Would Bo Do?

Like Jesus, Bo is also the kind of leader who leads not by position or power, but by example.

Thirteen years ago, he organized a caring group of preachers from different communities. This was before the Feasts became weekly events and before they sprouted all over the place. "I was amazed at how he was able to bring us together and yet not assert himself as the group leader," Rissa Kawpeng shared.

Every meeting, the leadership went around, with the preachers taking turns to give a message that the rest would use as a jump-off point for their personal sharing. "Despite the fact that all of us were leaders in our own right, everyone acknowledged Bo as the head – even though he never asserted it. From this group came forth some of our first Feast builders," she added.

Unknown to Bo, his example has inspired many of his co-builders to ask, "What would Bo do?" when they find themselves in challenging situations.

"It has made me aware of the little commitments that I make. My word to this friend, my commitment to this person. What would Bo do if I were as busy as Bo? If he can do it, why can't I?" Migs said.

"I also spend time with my leaders and make them feel important. I love my leaders as Bo loves me – by spending time, listening and doing my best for them. I learned to love everyone and see Jesus in each person I meet," Jan said. "His Christ-like life has truly changed mine," Mike added.

Jan seems to capture the sentiment of the lives he has touched: "Thank you, Bo, for loving me, inspiring me, and showing me the face of Jesus in the world."



The Five Loves of Bo:

FAMILY



Y



8 years ago, Bo Sanchez made the second most important decision in his life. He married his One True Love.

After years of discerning, he decided that he was for married life. And from then on, he knew that above all his ministries, the most important is his family.

To many people, Bo Sanchez is a preacher, spiritual leader, a businessman, a writer, and a missionary. But above all these, he is a loving husband to Marowe, and a cool father to Bene and Francis.

People wonder how he manages his time to fit his crazy schedule. And the answer is, he doesn't. He does not manage his time, he manages his *biggies*. And the first *biggie* is his family.

He has a list of "Untouchables," his top priorities. That includes his weekly romantic date with his wife. Nothing can touch that date.

He gives her flowers not just on special occasions, but also on ordinary days. He compliments her. He bonds with her constantly. For him, Marowe is his emotional home.

To build a strong marriage, he does acts of love consistently. Day in, day out.

Also, he has weekly dates with his two boys. This is untouchable, too. He commits to this because for him, when the relationship is close, kids listen. During these dates, he gets to converse with his sons, listen to their stories, know them better, be there for them as they grow up.

Being a father of a teenager, he knows that to make his relationship with his son work, he has to connect with him. That's why he lets Bene pick his outfit. He enjoys these moments, plus it makes him look more *guwapo*.

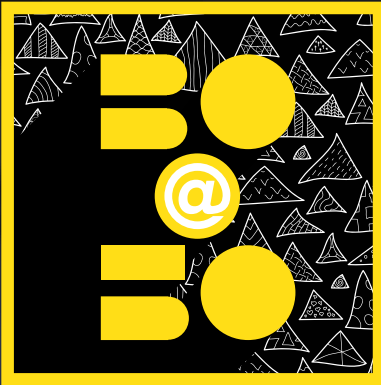
Francis is a talented painter whose art works are included in *Bo's Life Dreams Success Planner*. For Bo, it's vital that parents support their kids and nourish their potentials.

Bo's goal is to be the greatest dad on the face of the earth and to raise up little dreamers like him.

When he was still single, Bo ministered to thousands of people around the world, such as Light of Jesus Family, his mercy ministries, his employees, and many more.

Then God called him to do something greater. God entrusted him another ministry, the most important he would handle – and that ministry is his family.





The Five Loves of Bo:

SERVICE



There are two things Bo Sanchez is passionate about – speaking and writing. He is so passionate about these two that he has become a highly paid speaker and a bestselling author of more than 40 books.

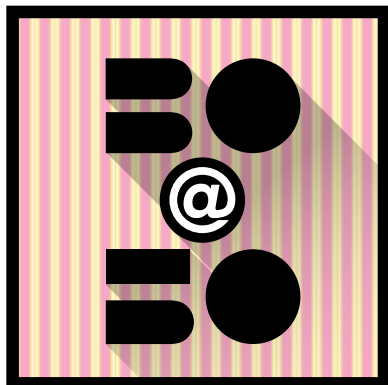
Some organizations and companies are willing to pay a high price just to have him in their seminars. Little did they know that they could actually hear him speak for free when they attend The Feast, the weekly gathering of The Light of Jesus Family where he serves as the main preacher.

Bo loves to serve his spiritual family that he preaches for free not just in one but in three sessions in The Feast Bay Area. Like any human being, he also experiences days when he doesn't have the energy to preach. But all for the love of service, no matter how hard, he still pushes himself to do so. He always thinks that if he steps lousily onstage, he won't be able to serve his spiritual family well. He loves his service but he loves even more the people he serves. He wants to give them his best.

So in the name of love, how does he keep his energy when preaching? Before he goes onstage, Bo actually dances. He readily admits that he has two left feet but dancing backstage forces him to move his body, and makes him feel alive, ever ready to preach no matter how lazy or tired he feels.

He also makes sure to prepare his talks well. Friends testify that they would see Bo practicing his talk when he's by himself. He's able to churn out fresh material week after week, thanks to the fact that he's a bookworm and has a ton of books enough to fill another house. So it's no wonder, too, that he can produce bestsellers year after year. When he wrote his book *How to Find Your One True Love*, he read as many as 30 dating books. With a hunger for reading like that, he would fill his luggage with new books and consign his clothes to a *balikbayan* box just so he can take his precious loot home when he travels.

Oh, there are times when he doesn't feel like writing. But he writes anyway. He pounds words, then phrases, then sentences, then paragraphs in his laptop, until he's in the zone and has created a masterpiece. He's a prolific writer who doesn't need ambience or mood to compose his articles. And all these he does because he loves to serve.



The Five Loves of Bo:

POOR

Bo's compassion for the least, lost and last began when he was a teenager. While most kids his age idolized Superman and other cartoon heroes, he looked up to St. Francis of Assisi. At age 15, he preached on the streets.

He played and prayed with poverty-stricken people. He spent his time in poor communities and even put up a house with other lay brothers and lived with the less privileged. He followed the steps of St. Francis to the core. He wore tattered jogging pants matched with dirty-white shirt. He walked on the streets with the smell that could knock people down. He cherished those who are in need the most.

And a month ago, *Anawim*, the Home for the Abandoned Elderly established by Bo, celebrated its 21st anniversary. He lived there with the elders for three years, in a small nipa hut, without electricity and running water. Today, *Anawim* has a Garden of Life that promotes organic farming and a fishery. God is truly blessing the works of his hands.

Aside from *Anawim*, he also founded several other ministries: *Grace to Be Born* for pregnant women in crisis and their babies; *Pag-asa ng Pamilya* which extends educational assistance to poor but deserving students; *Tahanan ng Pagmamahal* that provides home and education to orphans; and *Jeremiah 33:6-7 Foundation*, a home for sexually abused girls.

When you visit the *Jeremiah* home, you will witness the joy in the faces of the young girls who've found hope through this ministry. One of them remarked, "I'm like a

new person here. It's as if I've reset my life."

Bo dreams of the day when the mercy ministries are self-sufficient and no longer need to rely on donors for their day-to-day operations. In the meantime, he continues to earn – and earn a lot – through his bestselling books and his businesses to fund these good works. In fact, he donates 100 percent of his book royalties, as well



as his corporate speaking fees, to his organizations. He is working toward "reverse tithing," where he will give away 90 percent of his income and live only on the 10 percent. He's not there yet but friends close to him estimate he's gone beyond the 50-50 mark.

Borrowing the words of Mahatma Ghandi, he lives simply so that others may simply live.

That's who Bo is. That's what Bo does. That's how Bo loves.



The Five Loves of Bo:

FINANCIAL



With Bo's guidance, Benj and Fely now reap the rewards of their financial discipline. The couple, together with their daughter Chai, promotes financial literacy to thousands of people.

Bo was enjoying his life as a poor missionary, serving God with his all, without any desire for material wealth. He saw money as evil. But many times, reality would poke its ugly head and he'd find himself in situations where he just wanted to give all the money in his wallet, only to realize that he had, sometimes, just 20 pesos left.

This frustrated him so much that he cried out to God, "Lord, I don't want this to ever happen again. Oh, to have money to help others! Help me help them."

Fast forward 20 years later. This prayer has been answered many times over.

Today, his main advocacies – his loves – include financial education, with the vision of creating a new breed of Filipino multimillionaires. He believes that it's possible to create material wealth and gain spiritual abundance at the same time. This is the main principle behind his successful Truly Rich Club. Through this club, which now has almost 16,000 members all over the world, Bo has helped many people get out of their debts, become wise investors, start their own businesses, and even multiply Bo's financial literacy advocacy.

One of those that he has helped through his finance seminars is the couple Benj and Fely Santiago. Their journey to financial freedom has also inspired others to take their financial lives seriously. *Kerygma* interviewed the couple and here's what they said:

How and when did you first learn about Bo's financial literacy advocacy?

We learned about it in 2007 when a coworker told Fely that Bro. Bo has a half-day Truly Rich seminar. We have known him since the early '90s when we got hold of *Kerygma* magazine and attended some of his gatherings. We lost contact with

AL LITERACY

Kerygma and Bro. Bo when we moved to Trece Martires City, Cavite in 1999. That's why we were also very excited to attend the "8 Secrets of the Truly Rich" seminar.

After that half-day seminar in July 2007, we enrolled in the two-day Truly Rich Financial Coaching seminar the following September. We were, at that time, looking at where to invest the retirement money that Fely was about to get from Intel, which eventually closed down in 2009.

We are so thankful to Bro. Bo. He is truly our biggest blessing from God. Maybe without that financial coaching that he provided, "*Baka pinulot na kami sa kangkungan.*" We were so financially ignorant, it cost us millions of pesos! We had so many wrong investments. We were big spenders.

We felt that money would never stop from coming in until Fely lost her job in Intel in 2008 and I lost mine in 2009. It was a wake-up call for us. Our mindset then was just that of an employee – work until 60 or 65 years old, then retire.

But God is good! He intervened and we now are in the stage where money works for us. Plus, the biggest blessing is also for our children. They follow the abundance formula that Bo teaches: the 70-20-10 principle. (See the book *Abundance Formula* by Bo.) They have their own investments. They are all professionals now and know where to put and grow their money.

How did this influence your personal life?

Big time! It totally changed our psychological wallet and it gave hope that we can get out of our financial woes. And we did. From being buried in seven-digit debts, we can now say that we have achieved financial freedom. But more than that, the biggest blessing we have from our encounter with Bro. Bo is the spiritual transformation of our family.

After the financial coaching that we attended in 2007, Bro. Bo invited us to The Feast in Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City. Imagine, all the way from Trece Martires in Cavite, the entire family would drive to Valle Verde every Sunday since January 2008!

Then The Feast transferred to the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, that's where our family began serving in different ministries: Fely and me in the Financial Mentoring Ministry; Chai and Chiara in the youth ministry; Rocky, our youngest son, in the Singles Ministry. Our eldest son, Rjay, and his wife, Rose Ann, now actively serve at The Feast Orchard Music Ministry in Singapore. The Feast has brought our family closer to God. Our family battle cry is now "to be a holy, happy, healthy, wealthy and worthy family, a blessing to more families."

What are you doing now to multiply the blessing he has imparted in your life?

Aside from bringing our friends to The Feast, we are actively pursuing the IMG (International Marketing Group) mission to promote financial literacy to Filipinos here and abroad. In 2007, after we attended Bro. Bo's Truly Rich seminar, where he taught us to write our dreams, this is what Fely wrote:

"We are part of the Bro. Bo's apostolate, crusade and mission to spread financial literacy to make more Filipinos truly rich and happy millionaires, to travel around the Philippines and around the world to give this financial education. We will do this even to the grassroots level."

This dream has been fulfilled. We are now going around the Philippines and around the world sharing financial literacy advocacy to all Filipinos, especially our OFWs. We are happy that we promote this mission through duplication. We are training teams to be trainers and sharers as well so that we can reach out to more people. We now have the Truly Rich Makers all over the world to multiply the blessings we have received. As a way of giving back, every year the Truly Rich Makers family supports the *Kerygma* Conference of Bro. Bo. We started as a gold sponsor and in 2015 we became a conference partner.

We have found our lifetime vocation, and for this we have God and Bro. Bo to thank for.

The story of Benj and Fely is just one of the many inspiring accounts of people who have achieved financial freedom through Bo's passion for financial literacy for his countrymen. He longs to see the day when the Philippines will be great because of a new breed of Filipino multimillionaire businessmen and entrepreneurs whose love for creating wealth is driven by their desire to help more people.





MASTERMINDS: Diverse Yet Dedicated to Prosper Others

"It's OK to be rich as long as you enrich others."

Proverbs 27:17: "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

One day, Bo Sanchez invited real estate businessman Randy Manaloto to lunch. Bo's friend, Ronnie Siasoyco of the TRION Group, wanted to consult Randy about partnerships. The three met in Dusit Hotel. Ronnie wanted to pick Randy's brain about partnerships in business because Bo had told him that Randy didn't like having partners in business yet made an exception when he organized WOFEX tradeshows. Bo and Ronnie wanted to learn the best practices that make partnerships succeed.

Beyond the discussions on partnerships, Randy told them about a US-based business mastermind group called Maui Mastermind and gave them a book about it. He envisioned a similar group in Manila, particularly with Bo and Ronnie, that would meet over lunch once a month to mentor each other. Then they agreed to invite others to the group, starting with Richard Kho of Technistock, Larry Gamboa of Think Rich Pinoy, Edward Lee of COL Financial and Junie Toreja of Toreja Corporation – all in a matter of six months.

In 2010, after critiquing business plans of some Feast builders, Bo and Edward invited Dean Pax Lapid, an AIM professor and entrepreneur, to the

Mastermind (MM) group. The last to come on board was Rex Mendoza of Philam Insurance and Rampver. A year later, Richard dropped out of the group because of his busy schedule.

Mastermind Insights

Meeting once a month with carefree timelessness for years has pushed me to be a better man.

Larry Gamboa, Ph.D.

Bestselling author of *Think Rich, Pinoy!*
 Founder, Think Rich Pinoy Realty, Inc.
 (a company engaged in real estate investing and marketing, promoting financial literacy and education)

Being part of Bo's Mastermind group is an honor and privilege. It's always refreshing and motivating to share wisdom, experience and advice with like-minded individuals. We reinforce and stimulate ideas and move these into action as we validate our values, faith, business mindset, entrepreneurial creativity and leadership skills to grow our businesses. Not only are our stomachs filled, but also our minds with wisdom and learning.

Randy Manaloto

Managing director of CityDorms
 (a cluster of dormitory-hotels in the Makati business district)

Having been a part of this wonderful group of gentlemen is truly a blessing and a privilege. It has allowed me to learn so much, and it has immensely enriched my personal and professional journey. Being the youngest in the group, it gave me the distinct advantage by being able to apply a lot of the vicarious experiences, distilled with so many other shared ideas and opinions, in my relationships, and in the way I do business. It has sharpened my approach and also softened my heart. It made me more grounded and desire more of substance than success.

As we continued sharing and giving of ourselves, we have grown so close that even our "Masters" and "Mastermind Babies" (our respective better-halves and children) have also grown intimate. Our families regularly share every member's challenges and victories, and have since called ourselves the "Mastermind

Family." These, together with our regular family travels, have created in us a bond that will always link us as one family.

Ronnie Siasoyco

Founder, President and CEO of Trion Group of Companies

The Mastermind is a diverse group of eight gentlemen who share common passions and aspirations. It is a diverse group in terms of age, business backgrounds and experience, but our thirst for learning and sharing is immeasurable.

I believe that seven of us gravitated towards Bro. Bo because of his spiritual leadership and his natural inclination to be of service to others. While we can say that the gentlemen of Mastermind are already highly successful individuals in their own right (Bro. Bo says we are his business and financial mentors), we all strive to live meaningful lives not just for ourselves, our families and loved ones, but for many other people whose lives we touch.



Individually and collectively, with God's blessings, we hope to make a difference in our communities, our country and the world we live in.

Rex Mendoza

Managing director of RAMPVER Financials
 Former president and CEO of Philam Life

Continued on page 79

SUPER BO

THE SECRET LIFE OF BO SANCHEZ

STORY BY KARREN REÑZ SENA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY PIO MALLARI

AT THE FEAST, TWO GIRLS WERE SO AMAZED AT BO SANCHEZ. THEY WERE WONDERING HOW BO COULD HAVE DONE EVERYTHING HE'S ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED.



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
BO WROTE 40+ BESTSELLERS, WRITES SEVERAL ARTICLES PER WEEK, PREACHES FOR 3 SESSIONS AT THE FEAST EVERY SUNDAY, A SOUGHT-AFTER INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER, HANDLES 12 SMALL BUSINESSES, HAS A WEEKLY DATE WITH EACH MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY ON SEPARATE DATES AND MANY MORE.



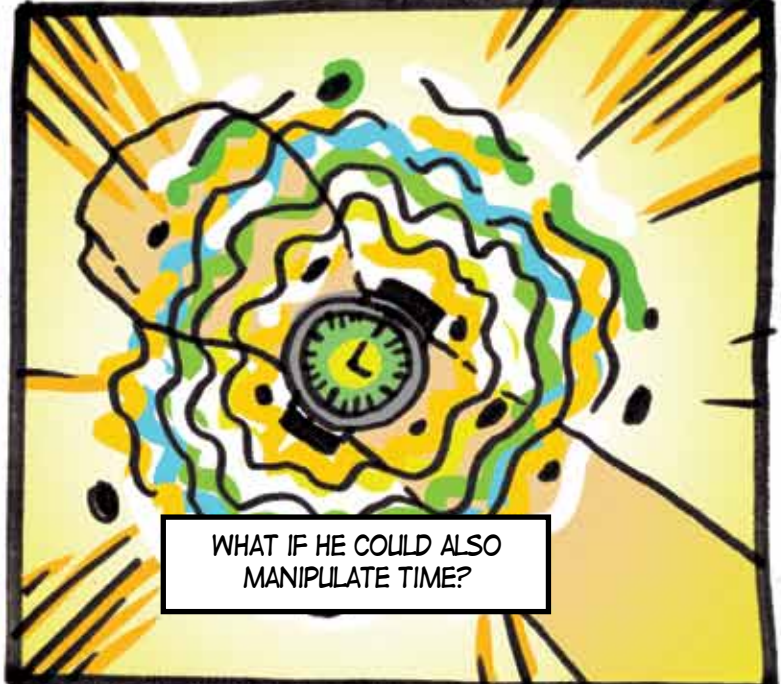
I DON'T THINK HE'S HUMAN. HE'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE AN ORDINARY PREACHER BUT HE'S REALLY FROM OUT OF THIS PLANET.



YOU'RE RIGHT. I THINK BO'S A SUPERHERO. NO ORDINARY HUMAN BEING CAN DO EVERYTHING BO DOES.



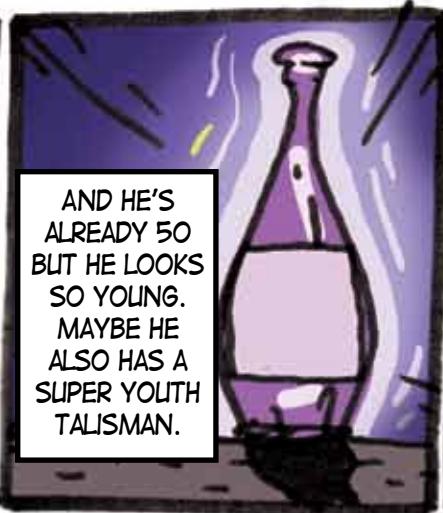
MAYBE HE CAN BUILD SUPER CLONES.



WHAT IF HE COULD ALSO MANIPULATE TIME?



AND CAN TELEPORT FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER!



AND HE'S ALREADY 50 BUT HE LOOKS SO YOUNG. MAYBE HE ALSO HAS A SUPER YOUTH TALISMAN.



IT'S TOTALLY POSSIBLE! BO REALLY HAS SUPERPOWERS!



I WISH WE COULD ASK HIM IN PERSON SO WE'D KNOW.



THEN SUDDENLY...



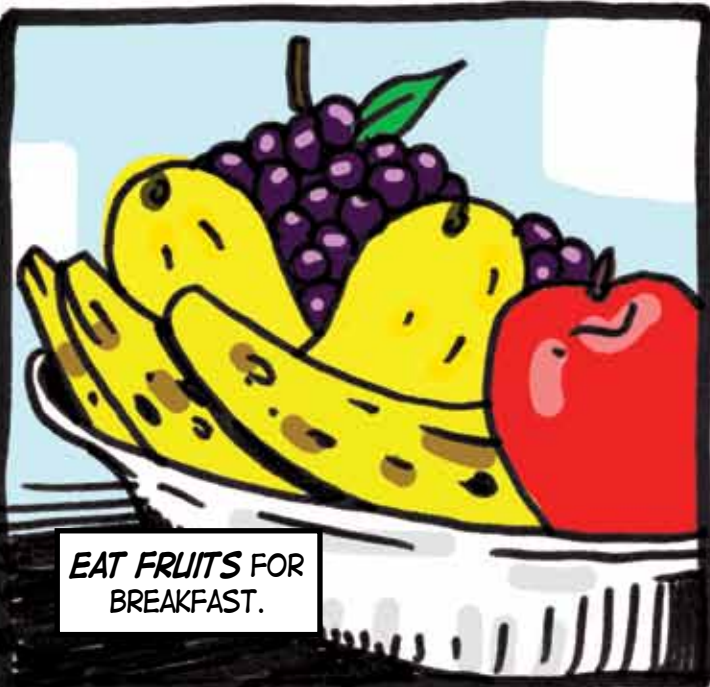
BRO. BO! A BIT OF YOUR TIME PLEASE?

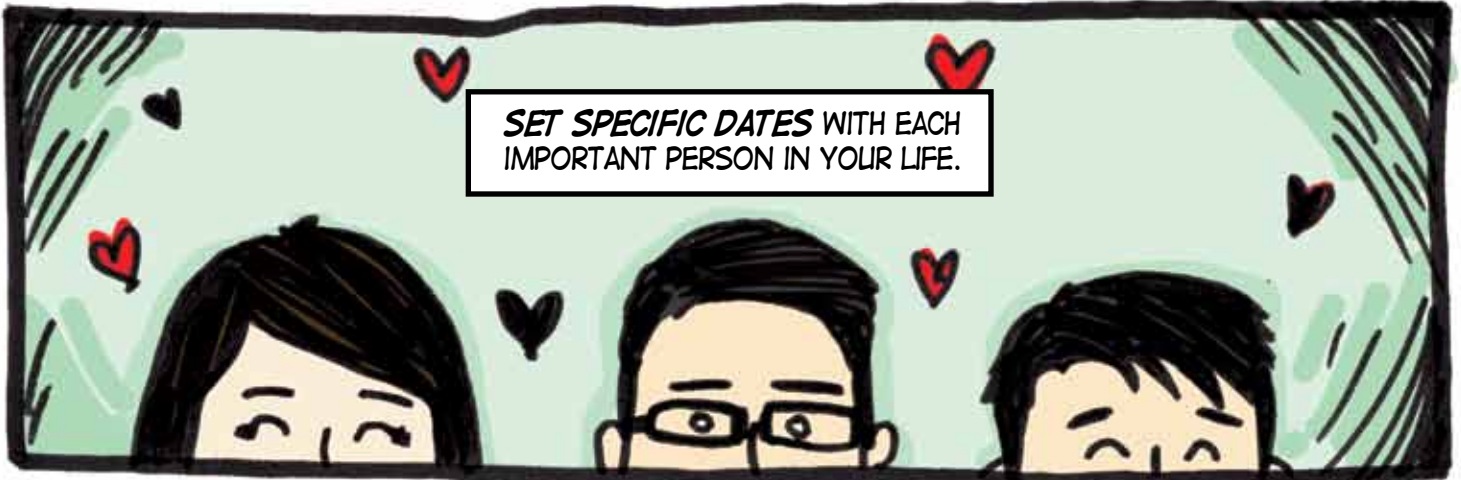


YES, HOW MAY I HELP YOU?



WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING!





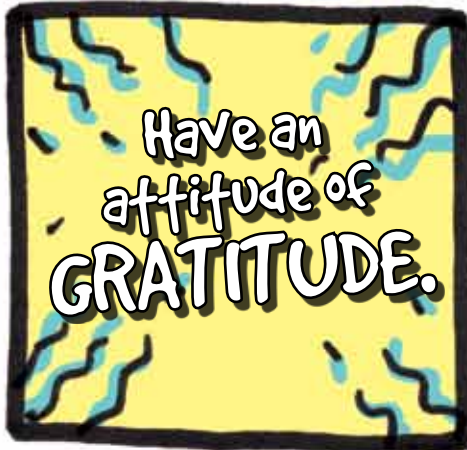
SET SPECIFIC DATES WITH EACH IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR LIFE.



SPEND TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES.



WRITE EVERY DAY.



Have an attitude of **GRATITUDE.**



FORGIVE.



GO TO THE FEAST EVERY WEEK.



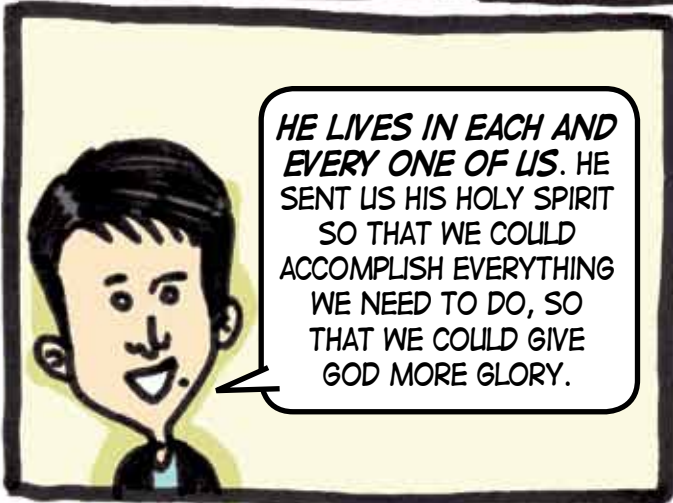
THAT'S IT?

BUT THAT'S SO... NORMAL!

AND BORING.



YES! THAT'S IT!



MASTERMIND. Continued from page 73

When Bro. Bo invited me for a luncheon meeting with his entrepreneur friends, I did not hesitate to say yes even though I didn't know what was coming and I didn't know anyone in the group. Since then, Mastermind has influenced my life as a father to my children, as a businessman, and as a leader to my employees. In other words, this group of inspiring men changed my life.

Through the years, I began to love them as if they were my real brothers – they became an extension of my family. It is with the greatest honor and pleasure that I serve God with my Mastermind brothers today.

Thank you, Bro. Bo, for giving me the opportunity to meet and interact with these Very Inspiring Persons (VIPs).

Dionisio “Junie” Toreja

President and CEO, Toreja Construction
Founder and president of Nativeland Development Corporation

As a veteran in stock market investing and equities trading with over 40 years of experience, I've been exposed to the convenience and efficiency of trading international markets online. I had a burning desire to develop a platform that would allow customers to have immediate access to the Philippine Stock Exchange with ease. Thus, Citiseconline was born in 1999 and was later changed to COL Financials.

Then I chanced upon the book of Bo, 8 Secrets of the Truly Rich. This was what I was looking for to balance the financial success of my proprietary traders. After Bo gave a private workshop for my company, I began to implement a campaign to provide free education about safe and long-term stock investing through the Truly Rich Club. I realized that this was the valuable “software” needed in people's mind – not just the software apps inside the infrastructure.

Edward K. Lee

Chairman and Founder of COL Financials, Inc.
Dean of Investments, Truly Rich Club

My Mastermind friends are godly friends who challenge me to become what God intended me to be.

Values are our set of principles (ethics) that determine our behavior (code of conduct). It sets the priorities in our lives. Values determine what is or what is not important to us.

Values are the inner drive that makes us act on particular situations, especially when push comes to shove.

They become stronger and more evident in good times and in bad. It is the foundation of how we go about in our lives, through hardships and achievements. Values become the thread of how we pull things together and prioritize people, places, position (work), prosperity and purpose.

Our values are prized and cherished because they are what please or satisfy us. Our values make our actions consistent

As Masterminds, these are the things we value:

Family: *We give importance to our family life. There's a boundary between work and family. We want our spouses to have the kind of lifestyle they want. “A happy wife is a happy life.” We always want to be loved and appreciated by our family members.*

Friends/Social: *Masterminds value having friends who share common interests. We want to live in a community of believers and achievers with selected qualities.*

Financial: *We want to have the financial resources to be able to live the kind of lifestyle that our families desire. It can mean vacations, going out and having fun, or a comfortable home within a secure neighborhood.*

Growth: *As Masterminds, we continuously look for opportunities for personal growth, physical and spiritual fitness. We want to be able to take part in life that has purpose and meaning.*

Dean Pax Lapid

Dean of Entrepreneurship Circle
of the Truly Rich Club
Lead advocate of the Philippine Center
for Entrepreneurship Foundation Inc.-Go Negosyo
Bestselling author
Adjunct faculty on Entrepreneurship,
Asian Institute of Management
With various companies across IT, petroleum retailing,
and recently a 23.5-MW biomass power plant

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