



The MENORAH

The Official Publication of the Fullness of Christ International Ministries



Special Christmas Issue



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We live in a world that measures success by size--the bigger the number of people, the better when it comes to organizational success. If you have been a part of this church for years now this question might have crossed your mind: "Why does our church remain small in number?" I believe the brink of a New Year is a perfect time for us to reassess our lives. This is the best time to reflect and ask ourselves how much of our lives is producing something of value to God and to eternity? If our church has remained small in number, have we asked ourselves, what have we done to help our church grow? How much "unplowed ground" do we ought to break in this coming year and make more useful and fruitful in growing the Kingdom of God? While more people filling in the church pews doesn't always equate to more Christians, we can take it as a challenge to bring in more people who we hope to occupy our seats with every intention to draw them closer to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, we also have to bear in mind that size is not the main goal of our church. Rather, it is our mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, disciple men and women to become a lampstand to the nation, pioneer home churches for the full discovery and activation of ascension and ministry gifts from God, and equip them to possess the land for God. The growth of our church will not really be a problem because God will take care of it if we as members of this church are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, submitting to His will for their lives, both individually and collectively because it is our mission to live out the gospel whole-heartedly in this ever-changing society. Growing in Christ is the key to growing a church.

This is all about being a good and effective witness of who Christ is and what He has called our church to be. From the character of Christ comes the conduct of Christ, if we choose to follow Him. Then, the values of our daily walk, those which drive our behavior, will, in turn, influence others. We cannot lead where we have not been, or when we do not know the direction to go. So, in keeping with His will, the word of God will spread. The number of disciples will increase rapidly and a large number of people will become obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7).

That is why our church is doing its best to maintain a balance between planting and watering for our church to grow. But we all need to contribute and do our part which also means that each of us must know what his/her spiritual gifts are so that he/she can best function within the body of Christ. Following up, teaching, and mentoring new, as well as seasoned Christians, are the keys to spiritual growth and the replication of the witness. When these things are present, our church will experience spiritual growth, whether or not there is numerical increase. I believe that our church is alive and growing even though the number of members is not increasing rapidly.

And so, as we celebrate another Christmas and welcome another year, let us remember what God said in Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever". That means He will continue to fulfill the same things He has promised yesterday in our present and in our tomorrows. Let us continue to trust in the Lord and have faith. Grow in Christ, my brothers and sisters, and as we faithfully live out God's calling we shall witness the growing of our church.

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Dare to Empower and Be Empowered



By Ma. Lourdes N. Colinares

Last 02 December 2017, the Generation for Christ Youth Ministry (Gen-C), held its fourth and final Vertical youth service for 2017, entitled “Dare to Empower and Be Empowered.”

In the past Vertical youth services, attendees were challenged to dream big, activate their God-given gifts and talents, and to represent God and His Kingdom. For the final service, the youth were emboldened to empower other people with the gospel and to be empowered themselves by continuously seeking, loving, serving, obeying, and trusting God passionately.

The service started on a lively note with an energetic icebreaker and an anointed praise and worship. Bro. Matthew Unite, Gen-C Financial Growth Pillar Co-head, led the Opening Prayer, followed by the Welcoming Remarks and Inspirational Message from Sis. Anna Patricia Unite, Gen-C Numerical Growth Pillar Co-head.

Afterwards, mentor-disciple duo Bro. Daniel Guinigundo and Bro. Nigel Delgado shared their inspiring testimonies. These really hit the hearts of those present. Not to be missed was the special number of the youth from FOCIM Quezon City who displayed their skill in dancing. Indeed, it was an inspiring display of God-given talents.



The heart of the service, the delivering of the Word, was given by Sis. Gabrielle Marie Tiongson. Sis. Gabbie is a full-time campus missionary from Victory Christian Fellowship, Greenhills. She delivered a powerful message on Discipleship—what it means, what it entails, and how the youth are empowered to disciple others.

Capping this year's Vertical series with the challenge to take the stage, fully prepare, and be ready to share the gospel to others, the youth are definitely pumped up and empowered for 2018.

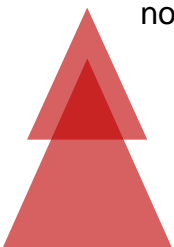
A Royal Dynasty **FOCIM**

Holds Second National Congress for 2017

By Woodrow Wilson C. Young

Our nation is on the verge of a breakthrough. We as a Filipino people have been experiencing signs, wonders, and miracles from God for a number of years. This is evident in our record breaking 74 straight quarters of continuous economic growth and in the process being labeled as Asia's fastest growing economy second only to China. However, our nation has encountered setbacks due to bad governance, drug-related crimes, and even political turmoil. In order to unlock the plan of God in this country, churches need to come together and move as one Body of Christ. We, as a people of God, need to contend for the destiny of this nation. Through God's favor and perfect time, this came to pass during the National Congress for Nation Transformation entitled "The Authority of the Church: Royal Dynasty". This key event took place last October 20 – 21 at the Folk Arts Theater and was organized by the "Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Christian Fellowship" in partnership with FOCIM. This 2-day event highlighted the powerful truth that we are authorized kings and priests for the Kingdom of God. As kings, we are empowered to legislate to the heavens for our nation (hence the term National Congress) and we belong to the Royal Dynasty of God.

Christ the Living Stone Fellowship Senior Pastor and Bishop Dan Balais, opened up the second day as the first speaker. He spoke of the strong need for the people of God to contend for the destiny of our nation. Bishop Dan expounded on the fact that our nation's destiny are revealed through signs in the heavens. He said that God communicates to His people what would happen. One concrete example is the recent liberation of the city of Marawi from an Islamic State group in Southeast Asia, which is based on the prophecy of the "Tetrad" occurring 500 years after the rebirth of the nation of Israel. There is also another sign that the Philippines will become the Prince Nation in Asia. In Revelations 12:3-4, there was a reference to a "seven headed" dragon that will pose a threat and wage war against Christ and His Church. Upon further study, the said dragon turned out to have a reference to China. The signs reveal that the Philippines will no longer be second to China because our nation does not belong to the dragon, but to Jesus Christ.





The next and main speaker was Dr. Don Crum, chairman of Gospel of Glory Board based in Texas, USA. He provided an exhortation for the congregation to receive not two but three different types of anointing, just like King David. He revealed that God desires to give us portions of anointing to affirm that He can trust us. We receive anointing through Worship, Intercession, and Fasting. By receiving that anointing, we become ambassadors for Christ and we are given diplomatic authority. Dr. Crum also stressed the importance of knowing that we are not citizens of this earth. Rather, our true citizenship is heavenly. Hence, we are given divine authority from heaven to negotiate here on earth. With regards to our anointing as kings and priests, Dr. Crum emphasized that we are kings and priests because we are the ones God is using to bring order to this nation. Our kingly anointing will give us the power to fight and bring order to our country. On the other hand, our priestly anointing allows us to manifest humility to provide balance to the power of a king. The punch of the kingly anointing together with the humility of the priestly anointing provides the perfect balance.

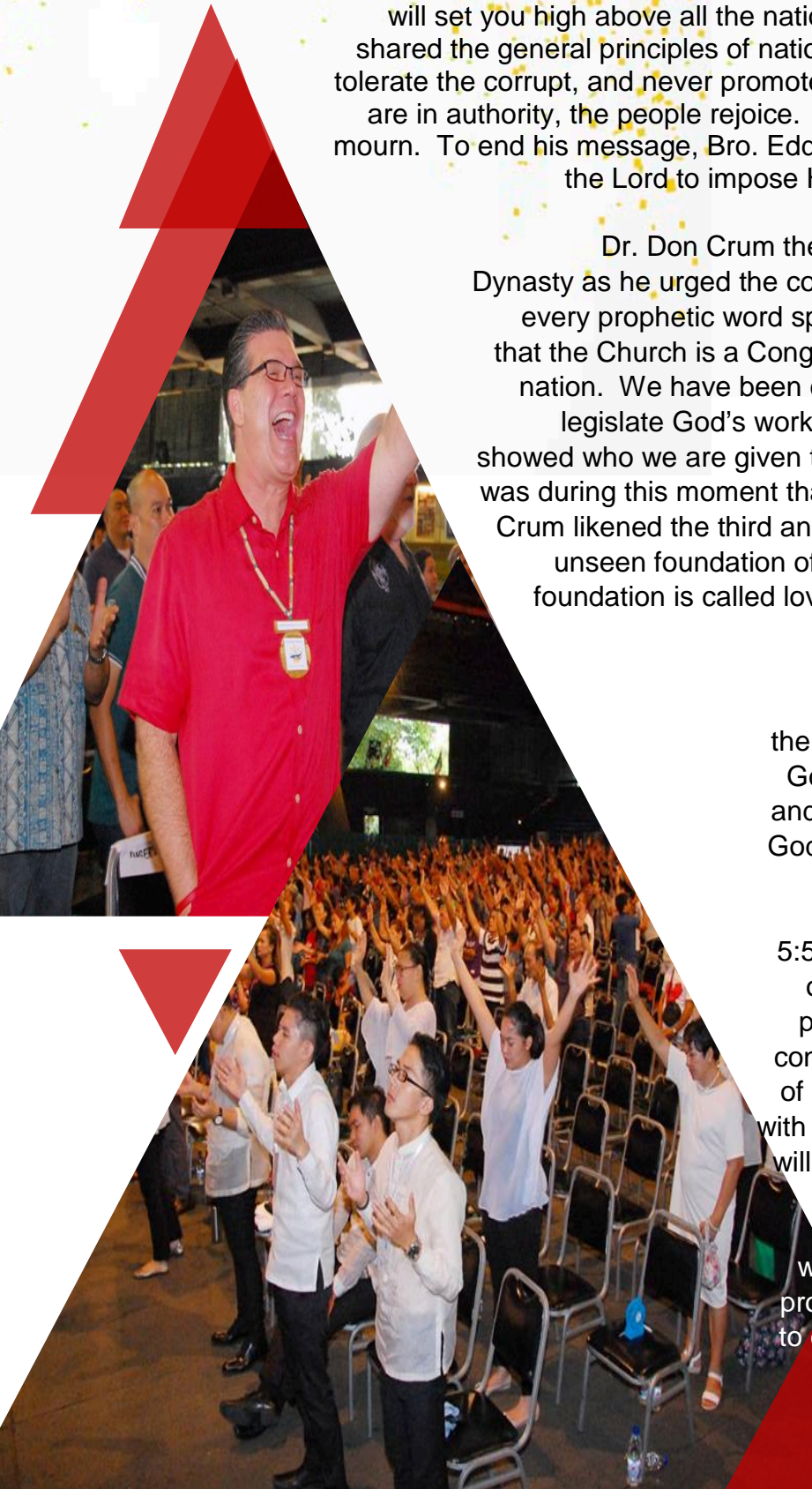
Bro. Eddie Villanueva, head and founder of “Jesus Is Lord” Church, stood as the third speaker. His message centered on the very powerful verse in Psalm 33:12 – “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.” He mentioned the importance of this verse being inscribed in our Philippine Peso, as this implies that the Philippine economy can never be taken down by the enemy. Bro. Eddie also shed light on how we can make the living God the Lord of our nation.



He captioned a verse from Deuteronomy 28:1 – “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth”. Furthermore, Bro. Eddie shared the general principles of nation building – remove the wicked, do not tolerate the corrupt, and never promote the incompetent. When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice. However, if the wicked rule, the people mourn. To end his message, Bro. Eddie closed with a powerful prayer asking the Lord to impose His will on our nation and heal our land.

Dr. Don Crum then continued his message on the Royal Dynasty as he urged the congregation to step into the fulfillment of every prophetic word spoken to our nation. He also reiterated that the Church is a Congress to legislate the plan of God for our nation. We have been called as senators and ambassadors to legislate God’s works to our nation. Furthermore, Dr. Crum showed who we are given that our destiny is tied to our identity. It was during this moment that the third anointing was revealed. Dr. Crum likened the third and most important anointing to that of an unseen foundation of a tall and strong building. This unseen foundation is called love for God. The more we love God, the more we function as a king and priest.

Dr. Crum then proceeded to quote the first and greatest commandment “Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind”. The more we love God, the more we worship Him. He added that God’s love will be poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). Our ministry must be the overflow of our love for God, as God’s love for us is perfect and unconditional. He urged the congregation to pray for divine impartation of passion for God so that He can trust us with greater things. Strong passion for God will ensure that we will never lose Jesus in the temple. Prior to closing, Dr. Crum prayed that all attendees will receive the three anointing and even prophesied that some of them will be sent to other nations because they carry God’s kingdom within them.



Bro. Diwa Guinigundo, FOCIM Senior Pastor, expounded on 4 strategies as to how all churches should come together and move as one body of Christ. First strategy is for the Church to move from a group of believers to a kingdom of priests and kings.

Second is for the Church to move from congregational to congressional mindset. Third is for the Church to move to the Kingdom of God to rule and reign as priests and kings. Lastly, the Church should move from the conventional to the supernatural as we aspire to walk in signs, wonders, and miracles. It is only through these strategies that the Kingdom of the Philippines will become the Kingdom of God (Rev 11:15). Bro. Diwa then called on all Pastors and Spiritual Leaders coming from different cities across the nation to come up on the stage to declare the Church's vision as one body of Christ.

It was truly a historic 2-day National Congress involving the kings and priests who belong to the Royal Dynasty of God. It became a moment of coronation for all attendees as they were anointed as kings and priests empowered to establish the Kingdom of God in our nation. Prophecies for this nation are now coming to pass. It was during this moment that we, the united Body of Christ in the Philippines, committed ourselves to assert God's kingdom and leadership in our nation. The Congress may have ended but the destiny of our nation has begun. We all look forward to being part of our nation's breakthrough from the Kingdom of the Philippines to the Kingdom of God.



A SUPERNATURAL CELEBRATION:

By Edward Matthew D. Unite

GT Toyota Asian Convention Centre, Quezon City, August 26, 2017. What started as a day with clear skies changed to cloudy atmosphere. as typhoon Jolina brought some rains and threatened to spoil FOCIM's celebrations. However, the storm quickly dispersed even before it made landfall. Truly the Lord was setting up the stage for a grander celebration as FOCIM marked its 31st anniversary with the very apt theme: A Supernatural Challenge to a Supernatural Church from A Supernatural God. Indeed no storm or any weather disturbance could disrupt the day of supernatural celebration.

A supernatural celebration the whole day, it started from the opening remarks of Ptr. Robert Lee Guerrero, the World Ministry head, to the singing and dancing during worship, highlighted by songs "Supernatural" by the Planetshakers, "When I Think About the Lord" and "Because of Who You Are". The whole venue was filled with joyous sounds and wondrous praises as the presence of the Holy Spirit occupied the place.

After the praise and worship, a brief audio visual presentation was shown of FOCIM's History on how it started from its early beginnings to becoming what God has destined it to be - a supernatural church. It was followed by special numbers by the Children's Sunday School Ministry and the Generation for Christ Youth Ministry. Messages from members of FOCIM who are currently overseas - Sis. Karen Bello, Sis. Rachelle Bolaños and Bro. Bobby Guerrero, were played.

FOCIM CELEBRATES ITS 31ST ANNIVERSARY



Most importantly, a church wouldn't be supernatural without living testimonies. Such was manifested through the testimonies given by Sis. Fe Faune, Sis. Vanessa Bolo, Sis. Lorie Oreta and Sis. Mari Collinares in a video clip. They all shared how they were truly blessed and how their lives have changed when they started serving God. After their testimonies, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, one of the spiritual fathers of FOCIM prayed for all the members of the ministry team. He declared blessings, wisdom and anointing to the ministry team to sustain its strong leadership in the church.

The Word was delivered by Bro. Dexter Low, likewise one of the spiritual fathers of FOCIM. He has been instrumental in guiding the church to actualizing and flowing into its apostolic and prophetic calling. He emphasized that the church should be able to build a legacy and heritage; that being a supernatural church is doing the impossible, such as the ability to disciple the nations and to preach to the Kingdom. In discipling nations, he pointed out that the nation should align itself to the purpose of the Kingdom and that the church should be God's agents for nation transformation.



The celebrations were capped by the casting of the church's vision by Senior Pastor Diwa Guinigundo. He emphasized that it is very important for the church to know what needs to be done and know how to do it in order to continually grow and reach the full potential of God's mandate. According to him, moving forward, the church should undergo smooth transitioning of leadership just like the Joshua generation to be able to carry out the vision of the church in the years to come.

No power is greater than the supernatural God of FOCIM. For 31 years, by God's grace, the church has survived every storm it encountered. It will continue to weather others that would come its way. By forging ahead despite all the challenges, is indeed a true testament that the church is going into the supernatural in serving a supernatural God.

BURNING BRIGHT: ON FIRE, 24 YEARS AND BEYOND FOCIM-QUEZON CITY CELEBRATES ITS *24th Anniversary*

By Hannah Cecilia S. Luching

The number '24' is an interesting figure that seems to be an unnoticed part of our daily lives: there are 24 hours in a day and the number of carats representing pure gold is 24. The human body is composed of 24 elements. Interestingly, the number carries a significant meaning from the Bible, the same being associated with the holy priesthood. There are 24 priests who served in the temple during the time of King David. The number of elders in the book of Revelation is 24.

For the members of Fullness of Christ International Ministry (FOCIM Quezon City), 24 is more than a number; it signifies festivity and thanksgiving. For 24 years, the Lord has displayed His faithfulness to His people and it is still being testified to today. The Church celebrated their 24th year anniversary last 26 November 2017 at SB Park, Villa Beatriz, Brgy. Old Balara in Quezon City attended by more than 350 members and guests.

As early as September, preparations were already underway through the leadership of the resident pastor, Sis. Shirley So, together with the heads of the QC home churches. Logistics and administrative arrangements were made by the members of the ministry team.

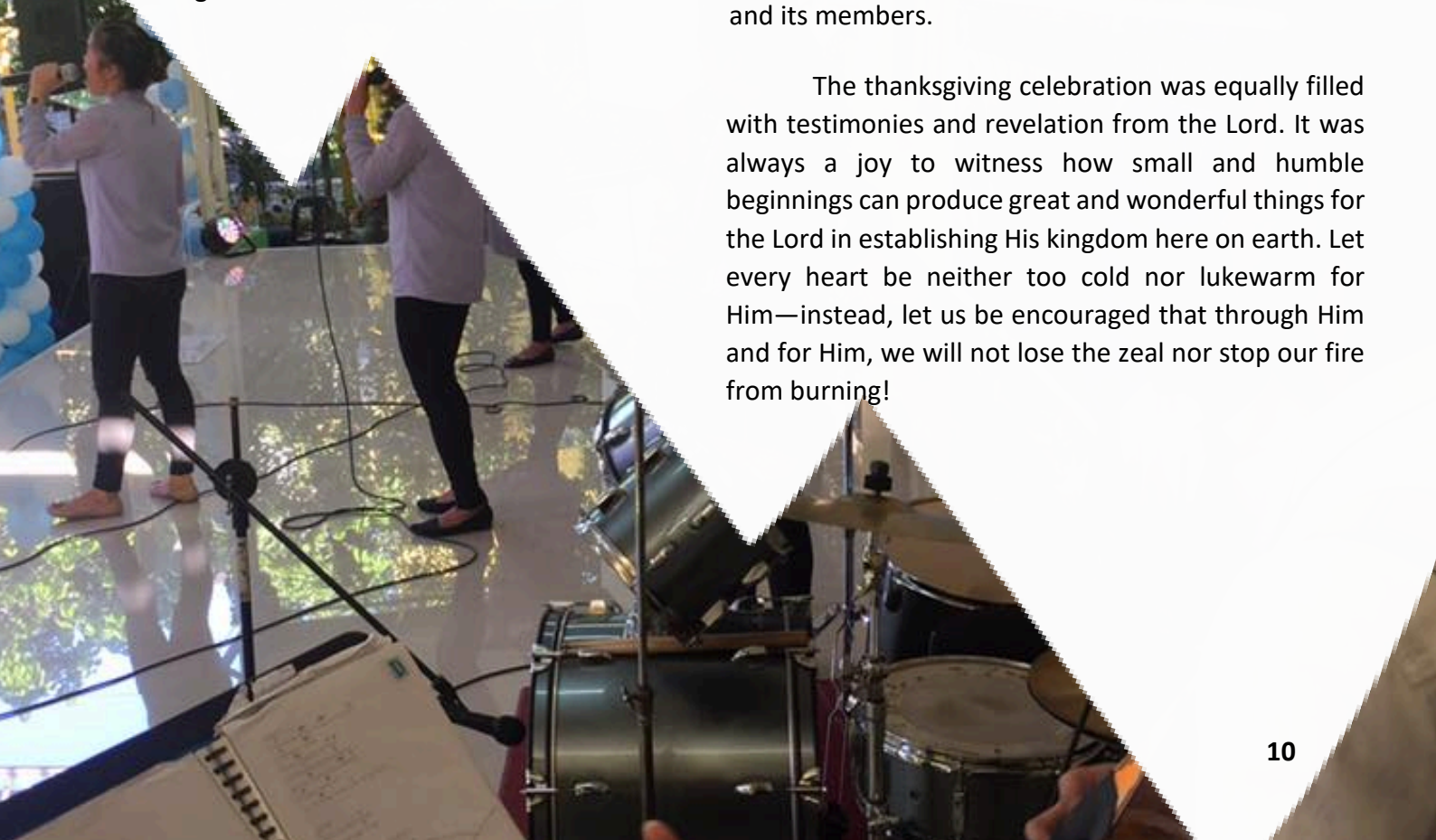
Twelve home churches also pledged cash donations to cover the cost of the food to be distributed after the service. Some of the members also found their own particular ways to offer their support to the church. One of the biggest blessings, perhaps, was the fact that Barangay Captain Allan Franza of Brgy. Old Balara, authorized the exclusive use of the newly-constructed function hall for free. God touched several people who gave support, both in cash and in kind, for the raffle at the close of the program.

Fullness of Christ International Ministry
Block 2 Lot 30, South Zuzuarregui Street, Diliman, Quezon City www.focim.org
8:00 PM Saturday Music Practice 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Sunday Worship Service



Bro. Diwa Guinigundo, senior pastor of FOCIM, delivered the message for this year's event taken from Romans 12:11-13, *"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."* Bro. Diwa also shared the Greek word 'thermo' which means "hot, heat". For us Christians, the word actually translates to having a heart on fire for God. He challenged everyone to never let the fire in every hearts go out, but to keep it alive and be fervent in spirit in serving the Lord.

Thereafter, the Children's Sunday school rendered a song and dance number to the tune of "It's All about Love". Thirty four kids from South Zuzuarregui, Kaingin, Tandang Sora, and Laura participated, their ages ranging from 5 to 12 years old. The growing number of students participating in the celebrations every year only demonstrates the full support of both the children and their parents. The Generation for Christ Youth Ministry (Gen-C) helped prepare a dance number, which gave the youth a chance to fellowship and connect with Gen-C. Leaders and elders of the church were anointed with oil and prayers. Staff from Barangay of Old Balara also witnessed the supernatural work of God in the Church and its members.



The thanksgiving celebration was equally filled with testimonies and revelation from the Lord. It was always a joy to witness how small and humble beginnings can produce great and wonderful things for the Lord in establishing His kingdom here on earth. Let every heart be neither too cold nor lukewarm for Him—instead, let us be encouraged that through Him and for Him, we will not lose the zeal nor stop our fire from burning!

What

Evangelical-what?



By Ma. Lourdes N. Colinares

If someone asked you to share the gospel right now, at this very instance, will you be able to do so?

Some of us shy away from this challenge and opt to stay in the shadows due to our insecurities, fear of embarrassment, or simply because we do not know what to say.

This 2017, the Fullness of Christ International Ministries (FOCIM) decided to address that issue by conducting a series of lectures that is geared towards empowering people to be more than prepared to share the gospel at the instance of the Holy Spirit.

Conducted by Bro. Daniel Guinigundo, the series entitled “**Evangelical-what?**” began as a reminder of our calling to share the good news to others. In each lecture, Bro. Daniel teaches the foundational doctrines that would boost our confidence in sharing the gospel, among which are sin, the trinity, the nature of God.

Now let us get into the nitty-gritty of “Evangelical-what?”

According to Bro. Daniel, the topic was borne out of the need of the church as seen by FOCIM’s senior pastor, Pastor Diwa Guinigundo.

“The series is very timely; the numbers don’t lie. There is a stark decrease in the number of Christians immersed and engaged in the work of evangelism,” he says.

Bro. Daniel believes that there is an indubitable need for more men and women who are equipped in season and out of season to share the gospel most especially these days when it is so easy to compromise our faith with the onslaught of media and technology.

“Paul, in the letter to the church in Rome, puts it perfectly: ‘Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect,’” Bro. Daniel says.

The series is conducted for the benefit of everyone in FOCIM. “While we are geared towards a high calling of transforming the nations, taking dominion of our respective atmospheres, and seeing and experiencing the supernatural, the most basic commands of Jesus must never be neglected or seen as inferior to the mission that FOCIM has been mandated to do,” Bro. Daniel says.

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Bro. Daniel uses different teaching methods such as using the blackboard, performing demonstrations or experiments, and allowing people to read the Bible aloud.

What is important, according to him, is that the techniques used do not water down the impact that the doctrines carry. Moreover, the medium in which it is taught must be understandable to everyone listening-- from the elder to the first time visitor.

Of course, conducting Evangelism-what is not an easy feat. Bro. Daniel faces several challenges in the course of his lectures and shares, “Perhaps the most challenging aspect of conducting the Sunday school lecture is understanding the material before Sunday. These doctrines have a rich history behind them and to deliver it in a diluted form would betray the text and the teachings that come along with it.”

As the teacher and a seminary student, Bro. Daniel says that he has to do ample research, consult professors and students alike, and choose sources that would give life and substance to the lessons.

Another challenge for him is time management. Juggling five ministries (yes, five ministries!), Bro. Daniel says that it is truly difficult to have something prepared for each week.

“Studying the Word demands all of you and God is teaching me how to prioritize!” he says.

As of date, Bro. Daniel says that FOCIM is halfway through the Sunday school topics. Those that have been discussed are the calling, the topic of God, the origin of evil, and the nature of sin. As a preface to the concept of forgiveness and salvation for 2018, a discussion of atonement and the blood of Jesus was recently given.

Indeed, with that line-up of topics, Bro. Daniel says, “Evangelism-what is a reminder to all Christians of one of, if not the most, important calling that all of us are made to fulfill, which is to share the good news that we have been forgiven of our sins because of the love of Jesus on the cross; through Him, we have gained everlasting life.”

With the end of such topics, there is already an initial understanding, leading to a more holistic comprehension of evangelism. According to him, “the groundwork has been laid and in that sense, my main objective to equip the congregation is in the process of being achieved.”

MESSAGE FROM THE TEACHER

To all those who found my research and my topics helpful and more than adequate in building their confidence, I would like to express my utmost thanks (you know who you are!). I would like to extend my thanks as well to those well-meaning people who give advice and helpful tips on how to improve the delivery of the topics.

For those who have questions about anything that was covered for the past six months, they can drop me a private message or a SMS and I would gladly answer them to the best of my abilities.

We have reached the end of the year, oh how time flies! In just a few weeks we will bid 2017 goodbye! But before we do, let's take a look at how 2017 was for some of our brothers and sisters in FOCIM!



Sis. Ethel Arada

GOD changed my life tremendously this 2017:

1. Taught me how to trust and depend on God more.
2. Gave me His word of assurance that to Him nothing is impossible.
3. Showed me amazing things beyond my imagination.
4. Showed me to focus on Him alone.

Ask FOCIM: How did God change your life this 2017?

By Ma. Lourdes N. Colinares



Sis. Didi Marcelo

The question should be, 'How did God use me this 2017?' This 2017, God used me when my former colleagues and I put up a foundation that helps unfortunate students who could not continue to study, especially those affected by the K-12 Program. Also this year, God used me in Touching Heaven Changing Earth where I was in charge of the food and hosting of the guests.

Sis. ML Marcelo



From time to time, what we often see are the areas of our lives that we struggle with. These may be moral failures or circumstances that have us discouraged. How does GOD change my approach to those areas of my life? What I have come to understand is the heart of God that causes Him not to deal us with our sins, or retaliate against us according to our iniquities. In fact, we are more loved when we are in our weakest. With this, I learned to understand and embrace the despicable and unlovely (may it be a person or situation) and extend my patience and appreciate the beauty of waiting for God's perfect WAY and TIMING.

Ngayong 2017, sinagot ng Panginoon ang panalangin naming mag-asawa na magkaroon ng sanggol sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon. Ang natutunan ko sa karanasan na ito ay ang kahalagahan ng pagiging matapat sa Panginoon. Basta't tayo ay masunurin at bukas ang loob sa paglilingkod para sa karangalan ng Panginoon, lahat ng hilingin natin sa kanya ay ibibigay niya. Lubos ang pabor na ibibigay ng Panginoon sa lahat ng nagmamahal sa kanya.

Bra. Woods Young



Bra. Daniel Quinigundo

God changed my life by bringing my dreams into realization. He showed that His grace is sufficient in the face of my weakness by allowing me to become a lawyer, giving me the opportunity to study on scholarship at the Asian Theological Seminary, and allowing me to impart my learning by handling the adult Sunday school. He changed my life by reminding me of His power to make all things beautiful in His time.



Bra. Abe Quinigundo

God gave me an unexpected promotion. He truly is the God of the suddenly!

Sis. Gellie Arada

As the saying goes, God wouldn't put something hard in your life if He thought you weren't strong enough to get through it. If He brings you to it, He will bring you through it.



Truly, the enemy won't stop until you're down, depressed, and bleeding but what I have learned throughout this journey is that my God is greater than all of my pain, sorrow and failures.

God made me realize that I'm afraid to take another step in my life because I'm doing it on my own sometimes. So, He challenged me to keep on moving forward and this time totally depending on Him to pursue the destiny He prepared for me.

Bra. Nigel Delgado



Bago magtapos ang 2017 marami akong bagay na lubos na natutunan at naunawaan lalong-lalo na kay God, kahit na may mga unos at pagsubok akong hinarap ito yung humulma sa aking sarili para mas lalo ako na maging matibay at matatag na kristiano. Lubos ang pasasalamat ko kay God dahil pinaramdam n'ya po sa akin na makabuluhan ang taong 2017 at ito ako patuloy na lalaban para gawin ang kanyang mga plano para sa aking buhay.

Bra. Denz Tan



Bra. Chriss Gamboa

Sakin po yung sa grades ko po, mas maganda na po compared sa grades ko last year.



Pinto Art Museum:

By Dan Abraham G. Guinigundo

Tucked away in the hills of Antipolo is Pinto Art Museum — a once hidden gem that is quickly gaining popularity among art novices and connoisseurs alike. Formerly known as “Pinto Art Gallery” when it was established in the early 2000s, the museum sits on a 1.2-hectare tract of land and boasts of well-manicured lawns and magnificent Mediterranean-inspired structures; almost every corner is *instagram-worthy*.

The artworks on display — all created by respected Filipino artists — form part of the collection of Dr. Joven Cuanang, the owner of the Pinto Art Museum, who started collecting art when he was still a young boy. First-timers can expect to see all media of art available: murals, sculptures, dioramas, and even a *Ducati* motorcycle.

The museum is like an organized labyrinth: the galleries are housed in six different buildings scattered around the property. Between the galleries are stone walkways, picturesque gardens, and almost every kind of art installation imaginable. Each of the galleries is in turn arranged based on different themes. The main gallery, in particular, is plastered with socio-economic-political themes and contains the massive painting entitled, “Karnabal,” by the art group “Salingpusa.” In another part of the museum is the unique “Forest” by Antonio Leano, an indoor bamboo forest installation.

While the entire collection is predominantly contemporary, visitors will be pleased to see an entire section dedicated to indigenous work — a fitting nod to the artistic roots of the Filipino.

A Review

Other places of interest inside is the Rizal Café in the garden area and Café Tan-aw by Peppermill Restaurant and Mixology Bar. Also worth paying a visit is the Pinto Academy for Arts and Sciences for Healing and Wholeness, which was established out of Dr. Cuanang’s fascination with “neuroesthetics,” which studies the way the brain appreciates art and how art can become part of the healing process. The academy is a school for visual arts, dance, and theater and is equipped with a library, an open-air amphitheater, conference rooms, and an auditorium.

Pinto Art Museum is in a class of its own. It is very refreshing to see an entire ecosystem of artworks by local artists. As well, the art itself, though stunning in its own right, is framed by equally stunning architecture and landscapes.

For a place that is a good 45 minutes from Metro Manila, this museum is sure worth the trip.

Pinto Art Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, and is located at 1 Sierra Madre St., Grand Heights, Antipolo, Rizal.



Rates:

P200 for Regular Ticket
P180 for Senior Citizens and PWD with valid IDs
P100 for Children and Students with proper school IDs
Free for children below 3 years old

Guided Tour Schedule:

09:00 am – 11:00 am
12:00 nn – 02:00 pm
02:00 pm – 04:00 pm
04:30 pm – 06:00 pm



BAD GENIUS

A Movie Review

By Dan Abraham G. Guinigundo

Inspired by true events, the 2017 Thai film *Bad Genius* tells the story of high school students and their attempt at cheating in an international standardized test for university admissions or the “STIC.” As described in the movie, the STIC is one of the most strictly administered tests in the world, making any form of cheating impossible – well, almost.

The story is set in present-day Thailand and centers on the life of Lynn (Aokbab Chutimon) whose exceptional intelligence allowed her to study in a prestigious school reserved only for the richest in Thailand. There, she would meet Grace (Oom Eisaya) and her boyfriend, Pat (James Teeradon), both of whom are as academically challenged as they are wealthy. As if by a twist of fate, the couple would soon discover Lynn’s superior mind and eventually convince her to help them cheat in their school examinations.

To help her friends, Lynn devised a clever scheme to help her convey the answers during the examinations, which quickly boosted her popularity with the other students. With the trio’s success – and some minor challenges along the way – they then decided to try their luck with the STICs in hopes of going to college in the USA. Predictably, given the high stakes of their venture, the three characters found a way to make money of their plan by soliciting money from their classmates in exchange for answers to the STIC. However, as the task proved to be too difficult, the team recruited Bank (Non Chanon), another genius from their school who was – like Lynn – financially marginalized. Again, how Lynn manages to pull this off is fortuitously revealed in the movie and is best left for the viewers to find out for themselves.

As of this writing, *Bad Genius* is rated at 92% by rottentomatoes.com, a leading movie critique website.



At its core, the movie is an emotional thriller with socio-economic undertones. While proceeding from a simple premise, the film is hardly unentertaining. The scenes are adrenaline-inducing and likely to leave its audience gripping the edge of their seats. As well, the actors are very convincing in their portrayal of the story’s characters. In fact, Chutimon, the actress playing Lynn, won the Rising Star Award in the New York Asian Festival. The movie, on the other hand, has broken Thai film earning records in several Asian countries and was screened at several international festivals, winning Best Feature at the New York Asian Festival and Best Director at the Fantasia International Film Festival.

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