



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

28/29 October 2017

Vol. 39, No. 44

Heroes With Feet of Clay

Genesis 12:10-20

English Services
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Worship through Giving
Worship in Music
Scripture Reading
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Natatanging Bilang
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Gelo Tuanqui
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



Heroes With Feet of Clay

Today's Message (28/29 October 2017) /
Genesis 12:10-20

IN SPITE OF OUR
FRAILITY, DESPITE
OUR FEET OF
CLAY, CHRISTIANS
LIVE WITH THE
ASSURANCE "THAT
HE WHO BEGAN
A GOOD WORK
IN YOU WILL
CARRY IT ON TO
COMPLETION
UNTIL THE DAY OF
CHRIST JESUS."

There are few good words to say of a man who sells out his wife to save his own skin. That's exactly what Abram did. Scared of losing his life, he chose to risk his wife. But we are not in a position to judge Abram; rather we should take this episode as an example of Sir Walter Scott's truism: "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive."

And once again, the bright spot in all of this is how the grace of God is greater than a disciple's disgrace; how His faithfulness is greater than our failures. Note how this plays out in the father of our faith, who started out with feet of clay, like you and I:

1. THE **SEVERE** FAMINE IN CANAAN (V. 10)

- Verse 10 says Abram went to Egypt to *live there for a while*. He was not leaving the Promised Land for the glitter of the big city. Still holding to God's promise, he did not return to Ur, though matters were extremely difficult (*Hebrews 11:15*).
- Why did Abram leave the land to which he had clearly been called by the Lord? The text gives only one reason—survival. Egypt was then the bread basket of the world. The Bible never faults Abram for making the trip. Seeking refuge in Egypt may or may not have been wrong, but the sin lay in the deceit—not the journey.

God's call doesn't make us immune to difficult situations and tests. God allows difficulties to test our faith.

2. THE **SELF-PRESERVING** LIE OF ABRAM AND ITS SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES (VV. 11-16)

- Abram concocted a scheme to speak a half-truth about his wife (*Genesis 20:12*). He probably used an Ancient Near East practice called a "fratriarchy" in which a woman without a father was protected by her brother.

The Lord had affirmed that He would curse anyone

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6 p.m.)

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Giving

Worship in Music

Doxology

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Preparatory Hymn

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Response Hymn

Benediction



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who dared mistreat Abram (*Genesis 12:3*). But Abram refused to trust, and that decision blew up in his face. Reliance on anyone or anything else other than God will always have serious consequences.

- Pharaoh gave Abram a huge dowry of livestock and servants. But wealth acquired the wrong way often becomes its own curse (*Proverbs 10:2, 22*). These “gifts” proved to be the seed of future crises. The volume of livestock would create conflict between Abram’s and Lot’s herdsmen (*Genesis 13:7*). One of the female slaves, Hagar, would nearly destroy Abram’s marriage (*Genesis 16:1*). Sin’s reward always proves to be our undoing (*Romans 6:23*).
- Lying may seem successful for a while, but it will eventually bring embarrassment and disaster.

When we act faithlessly, we negatively impact those around us. We cannot be faithless to His will and also be faithful carriers of God’s blessing to others (*1 Peter 2:11-12*). By God’s help, may we be better examples throughout our own stay on earth.

3. THE SAVING GRACE OF GOD TOWARD ABRAM (VV. 17-20)

- God cursed Pharaoh’s home with “serious diseases” (*Exodus 11:1*). Pharaoh could have executed Abram for all the trouble his lies gave. In a desperate attempt to save his own life in a foreign land, Abram almost lost it.

The faithless often lose the very thing they try so desperately to preserve. As Jesus reminds, “whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it” (*Matthew 16:25*). And for those whose trust is completely in God, the very thing they surrender is often returned to them in a manner beyond their wildest dreams (*Matthew 19:29*).

- Only grace gives this story a better ending. Abram escaped with his life and a battered reputation. God doesn’t always spare us the consequence of sin, but we can trust His willingness to forgive if we repent. This is where our story merges with Abram’s—a gracious God who often stands between sin and consequence, and mitigates our penalty even when we deserve His full wrath. There is no word in any language to adequately describe such grace! “Amazing” will have to do.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Abram eventually experienced a remarkable transformation into the father of the faithful. This gradual change on his part gives hope to us who live today. Our walk of faith sometimes seems to be one step forward, two steps back. But in spite of our frailty, despite our feet of clay, Christians live with the assurance “that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (*Philippians 1:6*) ■

RETURN TO THE WORD

October 31st marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of his "Ninety-Five Theses" on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The document was essentially a theological argument against the practice of selling "indulgences" which purportedly made the buyer "cleaner" than Adam before he sinned. In fact, the Church declared that indulgences were as effective for the remission of sins as the cross of Christ. The Theses sparked a rediscovery of the gospel and a movement known as the Protestant Reformation. Christianity was never the same again.

As the Reformation spread and developed, several Latin phrases (or slogans) emerged. These represented the Bible-based theology of the Reformers:

- *Sola Scriptura*, or "Scripture alone." The Bible is our ultimate and trustworthy authority for our beliefs and conduct.
- *Sola Fide* and *Sola Gratia*, or "Faith alone" and "Grace alone." We are saved through faith in Christ by God's grace as expressed in Ephesians 2:8-9.
- *Solus Christus* or "Christ alone." Jesus Christ is the sole, sufficient Lord, Savior and King who is God's ultimate self-revelation of Himself to us (*Colossians 1:15*). No ritual, good

work or person can substitute for the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross for the atonement of sin.

- *Soli Deo Gloria*, or "to the glory of God alone." The goal of all of life is to give glory to God alone. "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" (*1 Corinthians 10:31*).

In a recent statement, the leaders of the World Evangelical Alliance affirmed that, "as we learn from the Reformation movement of the 16th century, the fact is that there is a need to again call the Church to return to Scripture; searching for answers to the key questions of the world today." In the same vein, the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches adopted a two-year thrust dubbed "Return to the Word."

There are many ways GCFers can help spur a second Reformation, one that is also centered on the Scriptures. Let me mention a couple:

1. Participate in the three-day workshop called "Rightly Handling the Word" on November 16-18.
2. Download our new Bible Engagement app, "GCF Life Journey," at the App Store (iOS) or Play Store (Android). More details about this app to follow ■

GCF MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Lloyd P. Estrada, GCF Corporate Secretary

We thank God for all the members He has been blessing GCF with. Posted in front of the ground floor elevator and the entrance of Auditorium B (escalator side) is an updated list of GCF members. **This list is not final and exhaustive**, and will be updated as soon as new and/or corrected information is provided.

If your name is not present on the list, or wrong information about yourself was posted, kindly visit the Ministry Information Booth to affirm your membership or to help us

rectify any error on the list. You may also contact either **Pastor Emerson Manaloto (0920 906 2623)** or **Ministry Assistant Zark Binag (0917 531 8267)** for further help.

Please bear with us as we pursue this endeavor. We need all the help we could get from you in keeping our Membership Roll up-to-date so that we could better pursue the Mission of God together ■

Ablaze Devotional

Real, true religion from God the Father's perspective is about caring for the orphans and widows who suffer needlessly and resisting the evil influence of the world.

- James 1:27 (Voice)

The gospel of Jesus Christ brought justice, reconciliation, wholeness, and beauty into a reality. And now, we are welcomed into His presence. As we encounter both His righteousness and His kingdom, we are being transformed into becoming His. As we become united in Him in love, His love becomes our love. The humanity of Jesus becomes our humanity. We learn to love one another, we learn to love the stranger, even our enemies. As we bask in the Presence of God, His heartbeat becomes our own. As we read and let His Word search our minds and hearts, we learn to love truth as He defines it.

The Spirit unveils our eyes to see Jesus alive in Scripture, in our fellowship, and in our service. He fills us with love, and let us be bound together with love as we go our diverse ways. He unites in this one spirit which makes the very life of Jesus present in the world. This is what makes us witnesses to the ultimate reality of love.

In this victory, we learn to pray for and lift up those who are in need, those who go to bed hungry. It teaches us to shed our apathy, and to be attentive and responsive to the needs and voices of the vulnerable and oppressed ■

PRAYER: Grant us softer hearts of humility and empathy, O God, and deepen in us a spirit of compassion and understanding. May we listen with grace, as You show us Your grace over and over again.

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL:

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



DINNER FELLOWSHIP

For parents of special needs children
Organized by WINGSS and Children's Ministry
November 3 (Fri.), 7:00 p.m. here at GCF
Contact **0917 531 0818** to reserve a slot



LIVING HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING AND UNCERTAINTY

A talk by Dr. Yoyit Roldan for Cancer Patients
Nov. 26 (Sun.), 12-3 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall
Contact **0917 532 1921** to register



RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD

Workshop on 2 Timothy for Bible Teachers
November 16-18 at GCF, Reg.: Php 1,000
Tickets are available at the lobby every Sunday
Contact **0917 532 1921** for more information



ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Nomination Period: On-going, until Nov. 5 (Sun.)
Election Days: December 9 and 10 (Sat. and Sun.)
Nomination forms are available at the Ministry Information Booth. For more information, please refer to the inserted flyer.

Weekly Stewardship REPORT

- Week of October 22, 2017 -

General Fund	5,521,298.78
Missions Fund	1,038,165.00
Designated	283,805.00
Total	6,843,268.78

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His love and faithfulness by Sweet'Pea Valerie Joy Aganon, Alan & Ging, the Basilad family and the Messiah College. The flowers are also given for the birthday of Anthony Aganon.

Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.



Love God, love others.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Ana Luz Ong was raised in a traditional religious background. In 2010, the Lighthouse Kitchen Growth Group, invited Ana, her mother, and son to their Bible study. She couldn't say no to the host as he had given them shelter at the height of Ondoy. But through that session, God showed her that in the midst of tragedy is actual victory, both physical and spiritual.



Ana joined the Carelink Ministry in 2010, ministering to new believers and those interested in becoming GCF members. She wondered how she could minister to them as a new Christian. But in the process, she was affirmed once more that God truly loves her and continues to equip her.

In 2016, Ana became part of Supamoms, a support group for single mothers. It aims to bring women care, healing, restoration and renewal through the Holy Spirit and the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and through fellowship in God's Word and testimonies. She hopes that this new ministry will enable single mothers to mentor and empower each other as they journey together ■

You may also bless others by sharing your own shepherding or discipleship journey in loving God and in loving others. You may e-mail your story to lifejourney@gcf.org.ph.

ON THE COVER: A felucca (river vessel) sailing along the Nile in Egypt (pixabay.com). Egypt straddles Africa and Asia, and is another Muslim-majority country, although some 10 to 15 percent of the population are Coptic Christians. Having been constant target of attacks by ISIS (including a church bus ambush that killed 30 last June), let us pray that these brothers will hold on to God's promise that vengeance is His, and that by His grace they will continue praying and blessing their violent persecutors.

Join a GROWTH GROUP

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUP

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., and 4:30-5:30 p.m.

At GCF (Youth Center, 6th flr.)

ICU (Intimacy Care Unit) GG

for Couples aged 30 up

Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. at GCF (Rm. A109)

GREEN MEADOWS GG

for Couples aged 40 up

Every other Thursday, 8-10 p.m.

at Green Meadows Subdivision

NEW GG (GATHERING CONTACTS)

for Single Men aged 21-30

Tentatively scheduled on Sundays, 3-5 p.m. at GCF

YACIES TUESDAY GG

for Single Men and Women aged 30 up

Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m. at GCF (Rm. BM07)

SPORTS GGs (THREE GROUPS)

for Boys aged 11 to 18

Saturdays, 12 nn.-3 p.m. at GCF Multipurpose Gym (6th flr.)

Pass by the GGEX (Growth Group Express)!

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room B123

Get a feel of what a Growth Group is like before you participate in one. Come and join us!

If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form inside this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag or submit it to the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 532 7740.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **28/29 October 2017**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.