



13/14 January 2018
Vol. 40, No. 2

Clear the Air: What are Elders and Deacons For?

Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:1-13

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 Sam Rendal
Pangwakas na Panalangin
at Basbas

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



Clear the Air: What are Elders and Deacons For?

Today's Message (13/14 January 2018) /
Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:1-13

GOD IS BUILDING
GODLY MEN TO
LEAD HIS FLOCK.
AS A CHURCH WE
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PRAY FOR THEM,
AND FOLLOW
THEIR EXAMPLE.
IN DOING SO,
WE WILL BRING
GLORY TO GOD.

It's amazing how some churches choose their leaders! A man should not be a leader in the church just because he is a successful businessman, has innate leadership ability, or is a famous personality. He is to be a leader because he is a man of God. Under the plan God has ordained for the church, leadership is a position of humble, loving service.

In the church, there is to be a plurality of godly men, *elders*, who oversee the Lord's work in the church. They are assisted in their work by *deacons*. The basic offices of a church do not need to be more complex than that.

WHO ARE THE DEACONS? WHAT ARE THEIR QUALIFICATIONS?

- Acts 6 introduces us to a group whom many believe to be the first deacons, though it was sometime after this that the office of deacon was officially recognized. Though these men are not yet called deacons, they are an appropriate model for deacons.
- Acts 6:3 gives basic qualifications the men were to have: they were to be "full of the Spirit and wisdom." Those fit well with the specific requirements for deacons found in 1 Timothy 3:8–13.
- Although specific qualifications must be met by those in the office of deacon, that does not mean the standard is lower for anyone else in the congregation. Everyone should seek to be in the role of a deacon. These qualifications should be a goal and a guideline for every believer.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC ROLES OF DEACONS?

- **Physical Care.** As modeled in Acts 6, the deacons (*diakonos*'s) are involved with the physical care of the members of the church. They are the hands by which the members, and even outsiders, experience the love of Christ firsthand.
- **Spiritual Care.** In 2 Corinthians 8:3–4, the ministry of providing resources for meeting basic physical needs is a form of spiritual service. In this sense, a believer in any form of ministry could be called the servant, or *diakonos*, of Christ. All Christians who serve the Lord are deacons, or ministers, if not in an official sense, at least in the general sense of the word (2 Corinthians 4:1, 9:1; Revelation 2:19).

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



Clear the Air: What are Elders and Deacons For?

Today's Message (13/14 January 2018) /
Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:1-13

WHO ARE THE ELDERS?

In the New Testament, three terms are used interchangeably for the same person. 'Elder' emphasizes who the man is—his character. 'Overseer' refers to his duty to oversee the flock—a ministry of prayer and teaching God's Word. 'Pastor' ("shepherd") deals with how he ministers—through the self-sacrificial feeding of a shepherd.

The highest position of authority in the church belongs to elders, who rule under Christ as undershepherds (*1 Peter 5:2-4*). The elders who rule in the local church are ultimately and primarily responsible to Christ—not to any outside body.

WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF ELDERS?

1. Elders oversee the local church. First Timothy 5:17 says, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching."
2. Elders feed people with the Word (*2 Timothy 4:1-5*). They are to determine doctrinal issues and have the responsibility of proclaiming the truth to the congregation. First Timothy 3:2 gives only one qualification about this function: he must be "able to teach."
3. Elders pray for people, pray with people, and lead in prayer (*James 5:14*).
4. Elders shepherd the flock of God according to Acts 20:28. This involves feeding and protecting the flock.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

The single, overarching qualification is that he is to be "above reproach." He must be a leader who cannot be validly accused of anything sinful. An elder must be above reproach in his marital life, his social life, his family life, his business life, and his spiritual life. An elder must be demonstrably skilled as a teacher and manager. If anything in his life signifies a weakness in those areas, he is disqualified.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE CONGREGATION IN RELATION TO ELDERS AND DEACONS?

The congregation is to do "the work of the ministry" (*Ephesians 4:12*). Hebrews 13:17 identifies the general obligation of a congregation: "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account." The congregation is to subject itself to their leadership, although they may not understand it all, and although they may even disagree sometimes with the elders.

Because they share unique responsibility and position in the church, elders are worthy of great respect (Read *1 Thessalonians 5:12-13* and *Hebrews 13:7*).

FINAL THOUGHTS

The future of the church depends on the quality of today's leaders. God is building godly men to lead His flock. As a church we must identify them, place them into leadership, pray for them, and follow their example. In doing so, we will bring glory to God.

May we see God's church to be functioning with strength and purity in the midst of a broken world. When the church willingly follows God's pattern for leadership, we will experience His blessing beyond anything we could ever ask or think ■

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." - Matthew 22:37-39 (ESV)

The command to love God and to love others is truly timeless. It still remains to be the greatest commandment, the greatest mandate, and the greatest blessing. Were it not for Christ capturing the whole of Scripture in this way, our life journey would simply be a journey. Were it not for the Word of God, the statement "Know Christ and Make Him Known" would not be the heartbeat of the GCF family.

Therefore, with a month left before our special worship services on the church's anniversary weekend, we ought to actively remember the basic, foundational principle of this core teaching of Christ. From the Anniversary Service (February), to the Church-wide Training on Disciple-making (March), the Discipleship Conference (May), and the other

aspects of this 40th year—our year-long celebration as a spiritual community is rooted in loving God and loving others. Even as we begin a new "Clear the Air" series, conclude a week of prayer and fasting, and continue our 40-day prayer journey—let us be reminded that it is still the greatest commandment that drives all these, even as the first month of 2018 unfolds as well.

May the much-awaited special worship gatherings on February 11 glorify our God, as an expression of loving Him and loving others. Please be reminded that we will only have two worship services on that Sunday: 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in Auditorium B, with an overflow on standby in Auditorium A ■

2018 PRAYER JOURNAL

A 40-day prayer journey to GCF's 40th Anniversary

It seems odd at first glance, but what we know as Ten Commandments are actually 'Ten Statements' in the original Hebrew language. The first statement then is this: God introducing Himself as "the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of slavery."

In the first pages of the Bible, we see God as Creator of the universe. It would have been impressive to obey a God with such power. But God, in His wisdom and love, revealed Himself as the Great Redeemer. He is a personal God whose mission is to redeem people from bondage and slavery. Not just a God who is powerful to create, but a God who is mighty to save.

By saying that He freed the Hebrews from slavery, God made clear that He cares deeply about humanity. God made Himself known as a God who cares for His creation. This is the foundation on which all the other nine statements stand. By redeeming a people, He is creating a community that lives and carries out the message of freedom to all of His creation.

Freedom for all God's creation—this is God's mission. He has shown us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ how to live in freedom. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free (*Galatians 5:1*). In Christ, we are freed from our bondage to sin. In Christ, we are made anew to enjoy Him and join Him in proclaiming freedom to those who are yet to be freed.

May God's redeeming and transforming love be the one at work in our day-to-day lives ■

Regular Prayer Gatherings

- GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.
- Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements

JOY WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Topic: Facing Your Giants

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 nn. at BM07-08
Fellowship resumes on January 16, 2018
Open to all women aged 40 and above

40TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

GCF will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on **February 11, 2018**, with **two** services: 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. There will be **no traditional service** on February 10, Saturday.

2018 PRAYER JOURNAL

A 40-day prayer journey to GCF's 40th Anniversary
We encourage you to continue reflecting and praying through our Prayer Journal. If you don't have a copy yet, you may register your e-mail at the ministry information booth for a digital copy.

CONCERT OF PRAYER

January 27, 2018, Saturday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
at Auditorium B

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

January 2018

	January Budget	Received, Jan. 1-11
General	9,510,844	2,237,661
Missions	1,008,500	204,430
	Jan. to Dec. Budget	Received, January
General	100,208,208	2,237,661
Missions	12,102,000	204,430

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness and mercy by the Valera family.

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

Would you like to read our weekly church bulletin on your mobile device? Just sign-up with your e-mail address at the Ministry Information Booth at the lobby and we will send it to you.



Love God, love others.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Jirah Endoso never saw herself in full-time ministry, but she can testify to how God can conform someone who has set her heart on other things to His own purpose and glory.



Growing up in a missionary family, Jirah was exposed very early to other cultures in Asia. This exposure birthed in her a desire to be an ambassador, and she took up a corresponding program in college to help her fulfill this dream. With this in mind, she set for herself goals for the next decade of her life during her senior year. But God had other plans for her.

The first job she got out of college was very demanding. She got physically, emotionally, and spiritually tired, and her relationship with God was inevitably affected because of it. But Jirah grabbed an opportunity to work as a ministry assistant here in the church, a blessing of a decision rooted in her closest mentor's affirmation.

Even in just few months that she had been a staff, she is happy even when at times work got tiring. She was happy with what she was doing, and she realized that God had brought back the spark in her for serving children, which got lost when she aspired to become an ambassador. Through her staff and volunteer work in the church (she is also a Y-group leader), Jirah saw how God changed her perspective about what is important, and that He doesn't give us what we want, but what we need ■

ON THE COVER: *Jesus Washing Peter's Feet* (1852-6) by British painter Ford Madox Brown (Wikimedia, public domain). Jesus modeled humility and servant-leadership to His disciples when He washed their feet before partaking the Last Supper. Today, foot-washing is part of Holy Week commemorations of some churches, and in some denominations, it is considered an ordinance.

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 and Women 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 Multi-
purpose 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

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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 13/14 January 2018, 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.

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.