



*Journey With One*

**24/25 February 2018**  
Vol. 40, No. 7

## You are Part of a Bigger Purpose (The Church and You)

*Acts 15:1-19*

### **English Services**

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

Prelude  
Call to Worship  
Worship through Praise  
Worship through Fellowship  
Worship through Giving  
Testimony  
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  
Patotoo  
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos  
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos  
*Pastor Dags Miguel*  
Pangwakas na Panalangin  
at Basbas

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



# You are Part of a Bigger Purpose (The Church and You)

Today's Message (24/25 February 2018) /  
*Acts 15:1-19*

IT IS NOT A  
QUESTION OF  
WHETHER THE  
GREAT COMMISSION  
CAN BE FULFILLED.  
IT IS BEING  
FULFILLED, BECAUSE  
CHRIST PROMISED  
TO BUILD HIS  
CHURCH AND  
NOTHING CAN STOP  
THAT. THE QUESTION  
IS WHETHER YOU  
AND GCF WILL BE A  
PART OF IT.

God's plan of redemption began with Israel. God made clear that He was going to bring people from every nation into a loving relationship with Himself, and chose a specific nation to be the vessel through whom He would fulfill that. When God launched that initiative, He gave that promise to Abraham (*Genesis 12:2-3; Genesis 18:18; 22:15,18; 26:4; 28:14*).

Israel would become that nation, but they were chosen to be a highway for God's blessing, not a dead end. Unfortunately, when God blesses people, the "dead end mentality" is a hard one to resist. That dead end mentality continued into the formation of the church.

## THE CHURCH IS A HIGHWAY, NOT A DEAD END

In Acts 15, the church leaders finally realized God meant what He said from the beginning—that He was committed to going global with this thing and that whoever didn't get on board would be left behind! (*Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8*)

James concluded as he addressed the council: "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God" (*Acts 15:19*). Thousands of years after the Bible was written, our job is not much different than the one God gave Abraham.

The Apostles were like us. Left to their own devices, they tended to make everything more difficult than it should be. So, before any further damage could be done, the Apostle Paul called them out.

Do our churches today suffer from that same dead end mentality? Do we show concern for the sense of hopelessness people all around us feel, or does our disinterest make it difficult for our neighbors and friends to see Jesus when they look at us?

## GOD'S PLAN FOR GLOBAL EVANGELISM

(The following table comes from "8 to 15, The World Is Smaller Than You Think" by Tom Mercer, Senior Pastor of High Desert Church, California):

### 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



# You are Part of a Bigger Purpose (The Church and You)

Today's Message (24/25 February 2018) / Acts 15:1-19

SITUATION	DIVINE ACTION	METHOD USED
TO Unreached cultures	God introduces Himself	General Revelation, Nature, and cultural imprint
THROUGH a Reached culture	God explains Himself	Through Global Missions efforts
WITHIN a Reached culture	God reveals Himself	Through Oikos networks

## EVALUATE YOURSELF: HOW AM I AS A BIBLICAL BELIEVER?

(1) Experiences Spiritual Growth and Progress; (2) Attends Worship Service Regularly; (3) Becomes a Member of the Body; (4) Has an Appropriate ministry task or role, whether it is within or outside the church; (5) Makes New Friends in the Church; (6) Is Involved in a Fellowship Group; (7) Regularly Supports the Church; (8) Participates in the Great Commission

## WHAT WILL EVENTUALLY HAPPEN TO THE OIKOS MOVEMENT? EVENTUALLY, WE HOPE TO:

1. **Begin New Groups.** New groups produce new growth. Regularly starting new groups increases our church's effectiveness in disciple making.
2. **Start a New Church.** Is a church really a New Testament church if it isn't planting churches? Being a New Testament church means believing and doing what the New Testament church did. The New Testament church was concerned with, engaged in, and successful at establishing new congregations. Church planting begins with the conviction that it is God's will that his church grow.
3. **Reach across Cultures.** In the Great Commission Christ gave to us, the command in the original Greek is to disciple *panta ta ethne*, the ethnic units of humankind. A church concerned with responding to the Great Commission will not be able to overlook the vast numbers of people yet to be reached beyond the perimeters of its own small part of the world. Missions should be a priority of any church concerned with the Great Commission.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Can the Great Commission be fulfilled? We have come a long way since Christ left the apostles with such a seemingly impossible task. It is not a question of whether the Great Commission can be fulfilled. It is *being* fulfilled, because Christ promised to build His church and nothing can stop that. The question is whether you and GCF will be a part of it.

Will the Master return, as Christ illustrated in the Parable of the Talents, to find that you have hidden the treasure and have nothing to show? Or will he return to find the treasure left in your care to be multiplied through faithful investment, so He will then say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant"? Remember this: the faithful will always be fruitful, but the fruitless will be judged ■

## TESTIMONIES FROM GG MEMBERS

Today, we will hear testimonies from Christine de Vera and Apple Lim, who will share their life journey with God in the morning and afternoon services, respectively. They belong to the group of Growth Group Express (GGEX) attendees, who were all encouraged to participate after attending our special Christmas presentation last year. Both ladies are now going through the membership process and are desiring to serve in our church ministries someday. They intend to also promote the newly started group that began to meet last month and they extend this invitation to all of you: *If you don't have a Growth Group yet, pass by the GGEX every Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the GG Center. See you there!*

## DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUPS (DMG)

We introduce this year the ministry of our Disciple-Making Groups (DMG), which aims to make our Growth Groups and other small groups in the church intentional in disciple-making. We simply define "disciple-making" as the process of moving people from community to congregation and then to being consecrated, that they might repeat the entire process in others also (2 Timothy 2:2).

As headed by six pastoral staff, the DMG is subdivided into the following:

(1) Children; (2) ICS; (3) Youth; (4) Young Adults/Sports and Ortigas Center; (5) Mid-Adults, Connect, and Quezon City/San Juan; and (6) Men, Couples, Women and Seniors. In fulfilling their shepherding role to the flock, both the pastors and elders will work together in looking after the spiritual welfare of each of the Disciple-making Groups by feeding (teaching God's Word), leading (life-on-life mentoring), and caring (visiting and praying) for them, with the support of our deacons and deaconesses. The end-goal of this partnership among church leaders in the DMG is to improve more our member-care and produce more new church members, ministry servants, and small group leaders who will repeat the entire process in others also. Pray for it and participate!

## SPECIAL THANKS!

We thank all our Growth Groups, various ministries, and individuals from the congregation who generously donated food (and even cash), beautifully decorated the food stations, and orderly distributed the potless lunch to everyone who joined the 40th anniversary celebration of GCF last February 11. Indeed, your labor in the Lord will not be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58) ■



# Ablaze Devotional

*All of us, then, reflect the glory of the Lord with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from the Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us into his likeness in an ever greater degree of glory. — 2 Cor. 3:18*

## GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS AT THE CHAPEL

The GCF Hour of Prayer  
Tuesdays, 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.

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

We have witnessed God's greatness and loving faithfulness for the past 40 years. We have heard testimony after testimony pointing to how God has worked in the lives of the people here in our GCF family. We have seen how, through the years, we have moved from a small gathering of people to a congregation growing not just in numbers, but more importantly in depth of love and knowing Christ and making Him known. As we continue listening and marveling at the Lord's Word and work, may we find joy in letting Him reveal to us how we can participate in His work.

As we have witnessed God's goodness, may it come to us as an invitation to reflect that same goodness to the places where it is not evident. In our homes, to genuinely love where we find it hard to listen to each other's lives. In our workplaces, to find and give rest where we spend most of our time in. In our neighborhood, to give comfort and help to those who are in need and troubled. To the nations, to ask God for His mercy and justice where injustice and oppression arise. Let us allow the Word to transform and translate into our lives, moving our faith beyond ourselves, knowing that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord of all.

Let us continue asking God to reveal His presence and work in our GCF community and personal lives. As He opens our eyes to see Him, our service and passion are being transformed in His likeness ■

## Ministry Opportunities + Other Announcements



### OC LUNCHEON

March 4 (Sun.), 12 noon, venue TBD  
All paramedicals who are interested to serve through Operation Compassion are invited  
Contact Angel at 0932 371 3457 to sign-up



### PRAISE FACTORY AUDITIONS

Open to all kids 6-10 years old, preferably boys  
March 10 (Sat.), 9 a.m. to 12 nn. at Room A201  
Auditionees must prepare one song with their own minus one. They are also encouraged to be ready to dance and act.



### OIKOS TRAINING FOR ALL

Learn to reach out to your own community  
March 11 (Sun.), after the 10:30 a.m. service  
Venue TBD | Snacks will be served  
Contact Angel at 0932 371 3457 to pre-register



### LOVING GOD CONFERENCE

A Disciple-making Conference with  
Pastor Edmund and Ann Chan  
May 11-12 (Fri. & Sat.) here at GCF  
Tickets are available today (800.00 & 400.00)  
at the ministry information booth

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

February 2018

	February Budget	Received, Feb. 1-21
General	10,980,032	5,826,196
Missions	927,000	599,061
	Jan. to Feb. Budget	Received, Jan.-Feb.
General	20,796,048	12,738,338
Missions	1,854,000	1,564,315

### Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness, grace and blessings by an anonymous donor, the Basilad family, and the Messiah College.

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



**From life-on-life  
discipleship to  
compassionate leadership**  
*by Pastor Dags Miguel*

## Join a **GROWTH GROUP**

### **HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE Y-GROUPS**

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 B124  
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.***

I remember how I had one of my earliest glimpses of what it's like to be part of a spiritual community: I was just a kid attending Vacation Bible School (VBS), and it really struck me how "cool" it was that the church's youth ministry volunteered to serve kids.

That is one of the things that motivated me to get involved in the youth ministry. But I realized that more than these activities and programs, I was able to grow in my love for the Lord and His people because of the relationships and the community that I found there. I learned a lot not just because we were *taught*, but more importantly because lives were *shared* with us—lives of our kuyas and ates who spent time with us, listened to us, and genuinely loved us.

This genuine love showed all the more as I and some of my friends were encouraged to lead others also. I particularly remember how Ate Chette King shared her vision for us, that someday we, too, might be involved in mentoring and teaching others. I was insecure back then, but knowing that someone prays for me, trusts me, and is very much willing to help me in the process gave me confidence that such a task is something God wants me to do.

Now as a pastor, I try to pay forward the love and kindness shown to me by being a kuya ready to listen and love our young people who are embattled by a demanding world. It is incredibly difficult, but I draw strength from Christ who incredibly loved me, and who ultimately inspired my kuyas and ates to love me also ■

**ON THE COVER:** The famous Shibuya crossing in Tokyo, Japan ([pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)). The Japanese, surprisingly, are the second largest unreached people group in world, according to the Joshua Project. Only 1.2% of 120 million Japanese are Christians. Consider praying for: More workers to commit their lives for the cause of Japan's evangelization.



## 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](mailto:email@gcf.org.ph) • Website: [www.gcf.org.ph](http://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 24/25 February 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

# 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*).

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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.