

Friends *as* Hosts *and* Guests: Hospitality *in the* Mission of God

Hebrews 13:1-3 and 3 John 5-8

GCF MISSIONS MONTH 2018

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Friends *as* Hosts *and* Guests: Hospitality *in the* Mission of God

Today's Message (28/29 July 2018) /
Hebrews 13:1-3 and 3 John 5-8

It starts with
open hands,
open hearts,
and open
doors.

1. INTRODUCTION

The “Lost Sheep” simulation game and what it exposes in the church

2. URBANITE ATTITUDES TOWARD STRANGERS

3. UNDERSTANDING THE WORD “HOSPITALITY” IN THE GREEK NEW TESTAMENT

Philo, “love of” or “love for,” and *xenos*, “foreigner,” or “stranger,” or even “enemy”

Sunday Services

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Worship through Giving

Missions Testimonies

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Calvin Chong

Ryan Martens (3 p.m.)

Benediction

4. WHO ARE THE STRANGERS IN OUR MIDST?

- Travellers subject to danger and exploitation by locals who understood their vulnerabilities
- The difference between “strangers” in 3 John and “strangers” in Hebrews 13:1-2
- Contra “stranger danger” teaching in Sirach 11:29-34



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5. RELEVANCE OF THIS MESSAGE OF HOSPITALITY IN TODAY'S WORLD

- Contrasting traditional missions and contemporary missions which bear in mind current global realities
 - “Globally, there were an estimated 258 million international migrants in 2017.... Between 1990 and 2017, the number of international migrants worldwide rose by over 105 million, or by 69 per cent. Most of this increase occurred from 2005 to 2017, when some 5.6 million migrants were added annually, compared to an average of 2.5 million from 1990 to 2005” (International Migration Report 2017, 1).
 - ...that's a lot of foreigners and strangers in all our backyards
- *Xenos* as missionary force as well as mission field on our shores (Scriptures remind us to offer hospitality to both types)
- My stories to illustrate the point of showing hospitality to strangers (both in Singapore and beyond)
- It starts with open hands, open hearts, and open doors...
- Remember, “If you're not scoring goals in your home team, don't expect to score goals in the World Cup.”
- Do cultivate the habit of “making extra effort and bearing with inconveniences” where you are!

The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor Erik Dizon

BEING THE LIVING AND LOVING WORD

Have you ever wondered why you are where you are at present? If you're like me, my perspective often tends not to go beyond the natural, earthly level to find answers. But we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Relevant words indeed from Paul's letter to the believers in Rome—a church quite acquainted with the evil rule of an emperor, a people of God who were far from being free, marginalized and persecuted.

We as believers in Metro Manila enjoy relative freedom, comfort and a certain latitude to leverage our influence as Christ-followers. Of course, we face our own set of challenges living in a culture of corruption, violence and injustice. But God has placed us—our church—right in the midst of this circumstance, this metropolis, and this nation. We have space to express and live out our Christianity where we are. You may disagree with this assessment of our present circumstance. And that is okay.

I just want to point out that regardless of our present circumstance and above our natural daily lives, the unseen God is at work, implementing his perfect plan not just for the world and for our nation, but also for our individual lives. Yes. We have a part in His grand plan, as individuals and as a church. His Word exhorts us to

be light in the dark places where God has placed/assigned us.

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father” (Matthew 5:14-16).

Beyond being Filipino, we are citizens of the Kingdom of God. We are to be salt (preservative) and light (guide) in the midst of our nation's circumstance. Our call—our privilege—is to join the Almighty God our Maker, in His mission of redemption, reconciliation and restoration of human kind as well as the rest of Creation. On occasions, we are gathered as GCF in our corporate meetings, fellowships, and events, but we are mostly a church scattered in our various God-appointed assignments; no one is exempted. Wherever we find ourselves, we are to be the living Word, to be the Message that speaks to people, to issues and to situations on God's behalf. Speak truth, light and life wherever the Lord has placed you. Pray for divine appointment. Respond in loving obedience. In His authority and with His favor, let us be the living and loving Word of God where we find ourselves. This is what knowing Christ and making Him known is about ■

Ablaze Devotional

**Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name; make
known among the nations
what he has done.**

— *Psalm 105:1*

Looking at the history of Scripture, we find that these writings were originally read in front of a congregation. Scripture was meant to be listened to and to be responded to, not as individuals, but as a community. It is both a recalling of what God has done for His people. It is a calling to proclaim His deeds among the people—with each other, and to those who have yet to know Him. As we personally experience God's goodness in our lives, we are called to share this good to others. "What you hear in a whisper, proclaim on the housetops" (*Matthew 10:27*).

As we continue to celebrate and pursue God's mission, may we always search for the Lord and His strength. Let us ask God to open our hearts, minds, and hands to receive His mission for our families, our community, our church, and our country. May we always retell and share His goodness wherever and whoever He sends us to.

Let us pray for a missional heart upon each GCFer, as we learn how to be good stewards and partners with our missionaries. May we not just be a sending church, but also a welcoming church who fosters and takes care of our missionaries, not just in their financial needs, but also with emotional and spiritual support. One thing about sending out is being with them through their struggles, being the embodiment of the friendship and fellowship that God gives ■

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



IMPULSE

Connect Ministry Camp 2018

August 3-5, at Word of Life (Calauan, Laguna)

For more details/to register, please contact Noli at **0917 625 0244** or visit the ministry info booth at the G/F lobby.



#PARENTS'TALK

Speak. Understand. Connect. Relate.

August 10, 17, 24 & 31 (Fri) at 6:30-9:30 p.m.

at the 4/F Assembly Area | Dinner will be served.
Please contact **0917 532 7768** to reserve a slot.



BIBLICAL PORTRAIT OF MARRIAGE 2

August 11, 18 & 25 (Sat) at the Fellowship Hall

Last day of registration: August 5. Registration is at the G/F ministry info booth. For more details, contact Dana at **0917 532 7725**.



SABBATH RETREAT 2018

Young Adults' Ministry retreat

August 25-27, Sinagtala Farm Resort (Orani, Bataan)

Reg. Fee: PHP 3,000, registration starts July 8 (Sun)
For more details/to register, please contact **0917 532 7741** or visit the YA booth at the lobby.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

July 2018

	July Budget	Received, July 1-24
General	9,140,955	6,232,234
Missions	927,000	189,800
Missions Contingency		2,552,323

	Jan. - July Budget	Received, Jan. - July
General	55,094,599	44,056,971
Missions	5,562,000	5,866,841

Flower Ministry

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to our God for His faithfulness by Mr. & Mrs. Martin, the Messiah College and by an anonymous donor.

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



My heart for my people

by Maggi, GCF Missionary (CAN)

It's been 24 years since I started believing in Isa al-Masih (Jesus Christ) through the ministry of a missionary when I was living in Taguig. As my friendship with this person grew, one day she gave me a key to her house. When she was not there, I would go to her house, and find a Bible and read it. This was part of my journey to faith in Jesus.

I told her at that time that if the Bible would be translated into my own language, many of my people would come to the Lord. God impressed on my heart the burden to bring His Word to my people in our heart language so that it would be more understandable and so that those who would read it could be touched by God as I was when I read His Word for the first time. So, despite knowing that I would be killed should my family or relatives know about my newfound faith, I still pursued my decision to live for Isa al-Masih.

It's been 18 years since the first time I visited GCF with a friend and teammate in the ministry, and the church has been supporting me since then.

Now, we are almost done with the New Testament. Our target date to finish it, with God's help, is 2020. Then the NT will be completed and will be available to the almost 1.5 million Maguindanao all over the nation.

If God still sees me useful in this ministry, my heart is willing to continue to do the Old Testament so that the whole Bible will be available to my people. Your faithfulness is really a big encouragement for me to continue in this ministry of translating his Word into my native language ■

Listen to Maggi's full testimony during our services this weekend.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

New Growth Group (Mixed Group)

To be led by Pastor Emer Manaloto

Topic: Knowing God's Will

Starting Aug. 12 (Sun), 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rm. B124 (Growth Group Center)

SPORTS GGs (Three Groups)

for Boys aged 11 to 18

Saturdays, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

at GCF Multi-purpose Gym (6/F)

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

8 a.m.: Ages 1-3, B415; Ages 4-5, B410; Age 6, B414; Age 7, B403; Age 8, B413; Ages 9-10, B411; Ages 11-12, B409; Transition Age 13, B406

10:30 a.m.: Ages 1-2, B412; Age 3, B415; Age 4, B408; Age 5, B410; Age 6A, B402; Age 6B, B403; Age 7, B401; Age 8, B413; Age 9, B411; Age 10, B414; Age 11, B409; Age 12, B405; Transition Age 13, B406

3 p.m.: Ages 1-5, B415; Ages 6-9, B402; Ages 10-12, B403

5:30 p.m.: Ages 1-5, B415; Age 6, B402; Ages 7-9, B401; Ages 10-12, B403; Transition Age 13, B404

Nursery: 2nd flr. for nursing moms and babies aged one week to 11 months old

Yayas: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., B404

Sunday School Parents' Class:

9:30 a.m., B406

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.

GG LEADERS' TRAINING 2

Topic: Managing Conflict in Small Groups with Dr. Yoyit Roldan

August 5 & 12 (Sun), 12-3 p.m., Youth Center



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 July 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).

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.