



**4/5 January 2020**

Vol. 42, No. 1

## **A New Start**

*Exodus 40*

### **English Services**

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

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

*Pastor Larry Pabiona*

Prayer of Confession

The Lord's Supper

Worship through Giving

Response Song

Benediction

### **Filipino Service**

*(3 n.h.)*

Paghahanda

Tawag sa Pagsamba

Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan

Pagkilala sa mga Bisita

Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos

Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos

*Pastor BJ Sebastian*

Panalangin ng Pagsisisi

Banal na Hapunan

Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay

Tugon na Awit

Bendisyon

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



# A New Start

Today's Message (4/5 January 2019) /  
Exodus 40

GOD IS A  
GOD OF NEW  
BEGINNINGS.  
SALVATION IS  
JUST THE FIRST  
OF MANY "NEW  
STARTS" HE  
GIVES. AND HIS  
CONTINUING  
MERCY AND  
GRACE IS ALWAYS  
THERE FOR US  
WHEN WE NEED  
IT MOST.

The first assembly of the Tabernacle in the wilderness was a new beginning. The lessons communicated here have powerful applications for us New Testament believers, because like the Israelites, we desperately need new beginnings. And for many of us, the start of a year is a good time to think of new beginnings.

Three things show us how God made it clear that He wanted Israel to have a new start:

## 1. THE C\_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 1-15)

- It had been exactly one year since God told Moses that He was restarting the Israelites' calendar (*Exodus 12:2*). Then God commanded the Tabernacle be set up on the first day of the first month (*Exodus 40:2*). It was the New Year; it was a new beginning, a new creation.
- The God of the Bible is the kind of God who brings new beginnings to His languishing people. The Bible describes this in the Psalms and the writings of the prophets as **restoration** (*Psalm 23:3, 80:3,7,19*), **revival** (*Psalm 85:6, Isaiah 57:15, Hosea 6:2*), and **renewal** (*Psalm 51:10 103:5; Isaiah 40:31; Lamentations 5:21*). Hebrews summarizes all these longings as **reformation** (*Hebrews 9:10*).
- God gives new beginnings to sinners: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 *Corinthians 5:17*). Then Paul describes being a Christian as continuous growth: "And we all... are being transformed into the same image [of Christ] from one degree of glory to another" (2 *Corinthians 3:18*).

## 2. THE C\_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 16-33)

- Exodus 40 lists 18 commands from God to Moses. It took many Israelites giving and working to construct what the Lord commanded. But we

### Traditional Service

January 4 (Sat.), 6 p.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Worship through Praise

Worship through Fellowship

Worship through Giving

Preparatory Hymn

Scripture Reading

Worship in the Word

Pastor Larry Pabiona

Prayer of Confession

The Lord's Supper

Benediction



# A New Start

Today's Message (4/5 January 2019) /  
Exodus 40

see Moses named again and again as the one who fulfilled all the commands for the assembly of the Tabernacle (vv. 18-33), until it says, "So Moses finished the work" (v. 33).

- This reminds us of Creation, Genesis 1, where we read repeatedly, "And God said, 'Let there be...And it was so.'" Just as in creation God commanded and His commands were fulfilled, so it was in building the Tabernacle. The Lord's commands were carried out right away.
- We see how themes from earlier parts of Scripture continue throughout the rest of Scripture. In this we see its beauty and unity, which is a reflection of the beautiful wisdom of God and the beautiful work of the Holy Spirit in inspiring these words. This should make us say: "I find my delight in your commandments, which I love" (*Psalms 119:47*).

### 3. THE C \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 34-38)

- Just as at Creation, the Spirit took up residence on the face of the earth before giving it form and fullness (*Genesis 1:2*), so He came upon the Tabernacle to demonstrate that He was in the midst of His people.
- The cloud points to God being the giver of new life. *Psalm 104:30* reflects on creation and says, "When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground". It was this life-giving Spirit in the Tabernacle.
- The cloud filling the Tabernacle is a foreshadowing of our Lord Jesus. Just as the glory of God descended on the Tabernacle (*Exodus 40:34-38*), in Christ "we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (*John 1:14*). All the sacrifices and ceremonial rites of the Tabernacle foreshadowed the work of our Lord, who is the once-and-for-all final sacrifice (*Hebrews 9*), who offered Himself (*Hebrews 8*), thus ending the Old Testament sacrificial system (*Hebrews 10*). All this occurred by means of the Holy Spirit, who overshadowed the Virgin Mary and conceived in her the Son of God (*Luke 1:35*).

### FINAL THOUGHTS

The end of the book of Exodus is really a beginning. From this point in God's redemptive plan, Israel begins its journey toward the Promised Land. So this event is nothing less than *a new beginning*, a new creation theologically, a powerful testimony that God is a God of new life, of new beginnings for sinners and even for His people when they need it. God is a God of new beginnings. Salvation is just the first of many "new starts" He gives. And His continuing mercy and grace is always there for us when we need it most. So if need be, start over. Continue well. Then by God's Grace, end well! ■

## END OF COMMUNION SERIES, PORTRAITS OF CHRIST IN THE TABERNACLE

As we start a New Year, we bid farewell to one of the more difficult series we've used for our Communion Sundays, a study of the Tabernacle and how every structure, part and ceremony in it all pointed forward to the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. I pray this was all a blessing to you, as it was for me. After this we must continue logically into the most reasonable continuation, a devotional study of the New Testament book of Hebrews. I am very excited to delve into this book and study and apply it for our spiritual and eternal benefit!

## CLEAR THE AIR SERIES FOR JANUARY 2020

January of every year, we temporarily postpone our expositional series through books of the Bible (we are currently in Psalms) to focus on "Burning Issues Confronting Christians Today", which we also call our "Clear the Air" series. For the next 3 weekends we shall take up the following issues and see what the Bible says about them:

1. Taming Our Digital Tongue: Using Social Media to Bless, Not Curse
2. Anxious About Everything: Loving and Helping those with Anxiety Disorder
3. Is the Bible Still Credible and Relevant in This 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

I pray that you invite your *oikos* (family and friends) to join us in this series. May you and they realize that the Bible is always credible and relevant for any issue and topic, in any era.

## THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN, CHURCH

On behalf of my family again, we thank you all for your thoughtfulness through your gifts this Christmas season. I cannot name people, nor do you wish perhaps to be named, so let Hebrews 6:10-12 say what is in my family's heart to you all: "For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

## WELCOME OUR ELDERS AND DEACONS!

It is with much joy that I announce on behalf of the Board our newly elected Elders for 2020 onwards (alphabetically): Elders Teody Baldonado, Lloyd Estrada, Tani Holgado, Audie Orleans, and Rey Ramos. Our newly elected Deacons/Deaconesses are (alphabetically) Deacon JS Bagasbas, Deaconesses Gai Buce and Addie Cukingnan, and Deacon Orly Fernandez.

I know well all of these brothers and sisters, and can vouch for their heart to serve, so I rejoice in your wisdom and discernment to put them into more avenues of service. Let us uphold them all in prayer and welcome this opportunity for their ministry, including praying beside you during our Community Prayer. We shall be formally welcoming and installing them into service next weekend ■

# Ministry Opportunities + Announcements

*A Blessed New Year to everyone!*

## Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

### Growth Group Express (GGEx)

*Mixed group*  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Rm. B124 (GG Center)

### Sunflowers Growth Group

*Group for women*  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Rm. B506

### Burning Hearts Chronicles Growth Group

*Group for couples*  
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon  
Rm. B123

### Jars of Clay Growth Group

*Group for women*  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Rm. B512

### Best Together in Christ

*Group for couples*  
Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Rm. B508

### Sowers 2

*Mixed group*  
Sundays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 nn.  
Rm. B514

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at 0917 779 1549.*



### #PARENTSTALK

*Year-long Midweek Series on Parenting*  
February topic: **Active Family Discipling**  
Speaker: Pastor Lloyd Estrada  
February 5 (Wed), 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall. Open to everyone.



### WETFOOT

*Partner with God's cross-cultural kingdom building through short-term missions*  
GCF's Wetfoot Ministry is accepting applications for this year's short-term mission trip/s. Please inquire at the ministry information booth.



### JOB OPPORTUNITY AT GCF

We are looking for **one (1) building engineer** to join our full-time staff here at Greenhills Christian Fellowship. For other application information and complete job description, please email [gcfhr@gcf.org.ph](mailto:gcfhr@gcf.org.ph).

*The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His grace and mercy by Rubelyn Enriquez, the Valera family and the Messiah College.*

Please call 8632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

### DMG Leaders' Assembly

Topic: Missions Education  
February 29 (Sat), 4-6 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT / December 2019

NOVEMBER	Projected	Rcvd., Dec. 1-31	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Dec. 31
General Funds	10,459,217	9,803,086	General Funds	95,007,238	97,434,020
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	1,736,385	Mission Support Fund	15,812,370	15,196,268
Others (Designated, etc.)	661,864	1,084,966	Others (Designated, etc.)	16,873,885	15,120,032
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,438,779</b>	<b>12,624,437</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127,693,493</b>	<b>127,750,320</b>

*For we are God's workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do.  
—Ephesians 2:10*

The first pages of Scripture tell us the story of God's creation. Everything that He had made was good. And God decided that He will make humans in His own image. And it was so; both male and female was created in God's image.

But what does it mean to bear God's image? When we read "God's image", we tend to form a mental picture of what we look like and then attribute this picture to God himself. But the Hebrew meaning of the word image concentrates not on appearance but on function. This creation story emerged from a culture where a king was said to rule in the image of a particular god. The king was seen as the manifestation of a particular god on earth. If one wanted to see what a god looks like, you look at a king.

In Scripture we find that there is something different about humans. Although not God, nor demi-gods, in some recognizable and deliberate way, God's image is placed in them. Human beings, from the beginning, reflect who God is.

Each one is called to rule and continue God's creative work. It was God's will on earth as it is in heaven.

But sin marred this image. Man wanted to rule in his own image. But it only brought discord, division, and death. But God, in His great love, for His creation, became flesh. Lived and restored humanity to its

*In Jesus, we see how it is to be fully human. He brings into being a new humanity. We are saved so we could be what we were created to be.*

Creator and created purpose. This is salvation. This is redemption.

In Jesus, we see how it is to be fully human. He brings into being a new humanity. We are saved so we could be what we were created to be—rulers in God's image, sustaining and cultivating His created order ■

**PRAYER**  
*at the Chapel*

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

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

**Weeknight Prayer Gatherings**  
*Except Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.*

**ON THE COVER:** "For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys."—Exodus 40:38 (Illustration by Pat Marvenko Smith, [www.revelationillustrated.com](http://www.revelationillustrated.com). Used under non-profit use permission).



**Greenhills Christian Fellowship**  
Know Christ and Make Him Known

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

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ email@gcf.org.ph 🌐 gcf.org.ph 📱 Greenhills Christian Fellowship

# 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 for the first time 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_ Landline no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: **4/5 January 2020**

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

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Consent to use your information:

*By affixing your signature below, you give permission to Greenhills Christian Fellowship to store and use the information you provided above for the sole purpose of contacting you and updating you about any inquiry you have made.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your signature

# 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.