NUGGETS OF TRUTH

"If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free."

John 8: 31-32

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Nuggets of Truth

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Editorial

With the advancement of Science and Technology, and the rapidly increasing Electronic Gadgets, the world is now filled with more and more things. Consequently, people become more occupied and busy with things, even entangled in the world of materialism especially the youth.

Parallel to the present condition of the world is the Prophecy about the End-Time. Although we are praying and waiting for the end of this dark, chaotic world; a world full of hardship, aches or pain and groaning, so that we would at last have a new earth, "the earth where righteousness is at home", the ending of this world is neither nice nor easy. The Day of the Lord is truly dark and terrible day.

In fact, it is the Messiah Himself who said that there will be great tribulation or troubles and persecutions. "For the trouble at that time will be far more terrible than any there has ever been, from the beginning of the world to this very day. Nor will there ever be anything like it again" (Matthew 24: 21).

Hence, the editors of this magazine **Nuggets of Truth** would like to arouse the consciousness of the people that "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4: 4). The word of God is complete; it gives life and health to both physical body and spirit. Therefore, it is best to seek the Kingdom of God first and His righteousness, and all good things shall be added unto us (Mathew 6: 33).

God's Goodness

Amazing as Ever-flowing Spring

God's goodness is beyond compare! It is excellent, sweet, and tender. There is nothing in this world that can be compared to it or can match with God's goodness. We can only liken it to some good things that we see around us.

Allow us then to liken God's goodness to an ever-flowing spring of fresh water that amazingly flows in a desert or as gentle drops of rain in a truly hot summer time.

Pause! Reflect! Imagine!

Imagine how great, how excellent, how sweet, and tender is God's goodness. For, that is exactly what we recently experienced. In December 2011 many families and homes were drastically devastated by the "Sendong" Flood and our family was one of them. Nevertheless, we truly thank Yahweh Almighty (God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit) for His grace and power that kept everyone in our family safe.

Then came the Typhoon "Pablo" in December 2012, just a year after the "Sendong" Flood. In addition, thieves and robbery, hold up and murder cases in our city suddenly and surprisingly escalated. Again, one of my daughters was a victim of hold up with a gun pointed at her. Praise God Almighty for His divine intervention, our daughter's life was spared.

All these were really devastating emotionally, physically, spiritually, and economically. Life in this world can really be hard, harsh, and even cruel. But, let us never forget that our God is the Almighty and in His goodness He is ready to make "All things work together for our good, to us who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8: 28)

Indeed, sad and painful the experiences may be yet through it all, our Father and Savior refreshed us with His love, mercy and mighty power. He let His words in Psalm 46: 10, "Be still and know that I am God" rung not only to our ears but deeply to our soul. He was loudly saying: "At all times and in all circumstances 'I Am Who I Am' (Exodus 3: 13-14). No one who puts his trust and hope in me will be disappointed. "Come to me all of you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest'" (Matthew 11: 28).

By the Lord's guidance and inspiration, our family led the **Peoples March Against Crimes & Violence** on March 17, 2013 to arouse the Kagay-anons to stand strong against anyone and anything that threatens our security and safety, and to shine with the glorious light of the Lord that could put off the works of darkness. The Peoples March started at Rodelsa Circle, Rotunda, Brgy. Macasandig down to Velez St, and culminated at the Provincial Capitol Park.

Miraculously, the Lord God Almighty greatly blessed us with the support and participation of people we never expected would be with us. In fact, one of the Speakers openly said: "I have been joining several 'Rally' but this is the first time that I have seen so many police men & women, military officials and soldiers joining and marching with us." It was really amazing, as spring of fresh water in a dry and barren land or as gentle drops of rain in a truly hot summer time. To God alone be the highest honor and glory!

To all the Filipinos around the world who in one way or another gave their support by expressing their deep concern through email, text messages, and call; to the students, faculty and staff of Xavier University, XU alumni with their wives or families; MUST staff and students; relatives and friends; to MGeneral Nestor Añonuevo of the 4th Infantry Diamond Division for the soldiers and Col. Eugene Jessie Osias one of our Speakers; to the City Police Director P/SR. SUPT. Graciano Mijares, to Police Chief Inspector Lemuel Gonda who gave a heavy and meaningful lecture, the many police men & women together with the Police Bomb Squad, the Media men, the Photographers – to Rich Concepcion who gladly served as the Official Photographer, to Gov. Oscar Moreno for the facilities - the sound system and etc.; in behalf of my family, I thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Peoples March Against Crime & Violence









Peoples March Against Crimes & Violence









Peoples March Against Crimes & Violence









Peoples March Against Crimes & Violence



Response to Crisis

Have you ever experienced a time in your life when everything was just right and then suddenly you are caught in a life-threatening situation? Whenever adversity strikes, what usually grips our heart and mind is the question, why? Why did it have to happen? Why did God let it happen to me?

We tend to think that for the believers in God, for those who have faith in God, you are spared and exempted from such trouble. While there is some truth in that, the fact is that we are still living in the world full of evil. In fact, for the children of God, we are always facing danger because the devil is always roaming around seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5: 8).

Nevertheless, let us never forget that God is God. He is the Almighty; the God of all times and circumstances. In the face of life-threatening situations, we are assured of God's promise to us that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13: 5). God allows such things to happen for us to accomplish something of greater and higher value. For us to be able to reach His much greater and higher purpose of our lives. And for people around to witness God's works through our lives something that they may never have seen in their lifetime.

The scripture says in Romans 8: 28," All things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are the called for His purpose." The purpose could be that through such situation more and more people would feel the love of God, feel the need for God, and bring Him more joy, honor and glory.

All we have to do is to never lose our trust and hope in Him who holds eternity. Keep the faith strong and even stronger. We must continue to yield in His hands which control the events of our lives.

God's Love

Love is the most beautiful word we want to hear. People talk how love makes them happy or sad; gives them joy & inspiration, and how love moves in mysterious ways. Each one of us talks how our parents, family members, friends, and other people love us. Almost always we say it's unconditional love. All of us want to love and be loved unconditionally. The Holy Scriptures describe love very beautifully: "Love is very patient and kind; never jealous nor envious, never boastful nor proud, never haughty or selfish or rude.

"Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him and always stand your ground in defending him." (I Corinthians 13: 4-7).

How about God's love? How does God show His love for us? As the song goes "God's love is warmer than the warmest sunshine, softer than the sigh. God's love is deeper than the deepest ocean, wider than the sky. God's love is brighter than the brightest star that shines every night and there is nothing in this world that could ever change God's love."

God's love is perfect in every way. It's a wondrous gift we all receive from heaven. God's great love is beyond compare for He even gave up His only begotten Son to save us from the power of sin. John 3:16 says For God so loved the world that He gave up His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have abundant and everlasting life."

Giving up is not an easy task. It takes time for us to think and rethink it all over again before giving up something that is so precious to us. How much more do you think is the giving up of the child/son that we love so much? That is really a very hard thing to do for parents who truly love their child. Yet God willingly gave up His only begotten Son for us to be saved from sin and eternal destruction.

Look around you! Everything around us is freely given to us by God like the air, the sun, the moon, the stars...The beautiful and wonderful nature is all given for us to enjoy because God loves us and cares for us. He created, molded us with so much love in His heart that He even made us in His likeness or His own image. God's marvellous love is shown and reflected in many wonderful ways.

From generation to generation He is patiently waiting that all would come to repentance and return to Him through sincere faith in His begotten Son because He is not willing that anyone would suffer in anguish and perish. He yearns for us to come to Him, commune with Him and be with Him because He is a Father who truly love and care for His children.

Apostle Paul declares "Neither heights nor depths, nor angels nor principalities, nor things present nor things to come that will be able to separate us from the love of God our Father Yahweh Almighty through His begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah or Jesus Christ." Indeed, there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God the Father through His Son Yahshua the Messiah. Let us gladly proclaim that God loves us and we love Him too.

There is nothing that can ever change God's love for us. "There are three things that remain faith, hope, and love but the greatest of these is love-God's love."

Life's Journey

Husbands & Wives

Submit yourself to one another because of your reverence for Christ. Wives submit yourselves to your husbands as to the Lord. For, a husband has authority over his wife....

Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave his life for it. Men ought to love their wives just as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. Every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband" (Ephesians 5: 21, 22, 28, 33).

The heart of God's teaching is love. He sent to the world His only begotten Son because He loves us (mankind) and He wants us to be saved from sin and eternal destruction. The Messiah, on the other hand, suffered because he loves us, and the Father in heaven. He wanted to bring eternal joy, honor, and glory to the Almighty Father.

The teaching for husbands and wives says: "Husbands love your wives....Wives submit to your husbands, for, a husband has authority over his wife."

I suppose we all have heard this teaching. The teaching is also clear and understandable. But, why are there many broken marriages and families? Yes, it is clear and easy to understand, but knowing it and applying it to our lives are two different things. Often, the application is more difficult.

Let me share with you some of my personal experiences and observation.

Here are few factors to ponder and consider:

- 1. Lack of Discipline
- 2. Lack of Determination
- 3. Lack of Concern
- 4. Misuse and Abuse of Authority
- 5. Lack of Sense of Balance
- 6. Observance of Hierarchy
- 7. Pastoring the Flock

Lack of Discipline

Husband and wife come from different families, tribes, and clans. They certainly have differences in lifestyle. What is good and acceptable to one may not be so to the other. For example: the cleanliness and orderliness of the house. Habits and ways that are acceptable to one but irksome to the other. Lack of discipline in the use of time, money, and other resources. Difference in priorities.

All these must be iron out in love, understanding, and respect. Otherwise, these differences and disagreements will mount up as the days go by and even the children will be confused which is which and whom to follow.

Husband and wife must be kind enough to each other as to agree what is best for the whole family.

Lack of Determination

Lack of determination to either husband or wife or both to have a good, honourable, peaceful, and happy family is a real problem. To live a good life in this world, one must have the courage, strength, and determination to reach his goal successfully.

We surely cannot take life easy, happy-go-lucky, and then expect a miracle of a good, happy, and successful family. We should be strong against anyone and anything that hinders us to reach our goal. Husband or wife must be strong against evil influences that will eventually ruin their relationship and keep them from enjoying a truly good and happy life. Sad to say that there some husbands or wives who find joy and contentment in being with their friends "barkada" most of the time, to the neglect and disappointment of the wife and children.

Lack of Concern

Lack of concern for the well –being of the husband or wife is one problem. In my observation, anywhere around the world, there are people who want to be loved, to be respected, to be served and do not know how to reciprocate. Unconsciously, perhaps, but they treat others as their servants or as competitors. Always wanting to outsmart others. The scripture says: "Whenever there is jealousy and envy, there is trouble and disorder."

Misuse and Abuse of Authority

"A husband has authority over his wife."

It is common knowledge that one who is bestowed with authority is the leader. Hence, he must be good and responsible leader so that those who are under his authority must be good and respectful followers.

The question is: are husbands good and responsible leaders? I guess no one can deny the fact that there are many irresponsible husbands and leaders. Followers must follow but who is that sensible wife who would just blindly follow a husband who is leading her family to destruction? There are even some who, if not abused and battered physically, they are verbally abused and emotionally battered day by day. It is quite difficult. However, "With God nothing is impossible." HalleluYah!

Lack of Sense of Balance

Life in this world is hard and demanding. Whatever is man's economic and social standing, I think everybody whether poor or rich, somehow feels life's pressures. The poor must do this and that to meet their daily needs like food. The professionals must have to meet the requirements and standards of their company. The rich have to keep their schedule of appointments, and their standing.

I think all these are part of life in this world, if not, really necessary. Since we are in this world and in this kind of life, we should be sensible, responsible, and wise enough to recognize or identify our priority.

It is best that husbands or wives should never use their works or important activities as reason or excuse to neglect their responsibility towards one another and to their family. Again, discipline is necessary.

Observance of Hierarchy

Let us remember that it is God Himself, the Creator of all living creatures who established the hierarchy in the family. Not the husband nor the wife, nor anybody, not even the President or Ruler of the land.

I am a bit perplex whether to share with you my personal experiences in this matter. But since I do not want also to withhold any good thing that would be of help to you, I took the courage and the opportunity to impart to you some good things.

As a wife, I have had my shortcomings and flaws, although I really tried my best to learn and grow in the Lord. Honestly, I have had painful experiences with regard to the observance of hierarchy. There were times I thought I was in the right, only to find myself being reprimanded by the Lord. I did my best to recall the issue, the argument, and to recognize where I was wrong, every time. Several times I did not really understand. But whether I understood it or not, I immediately beg for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.

Gladly, the time came when I have understood why? Let me share with you the following: The scripture says: "Be ye angry, and sin not." How?

- 1. When angry, stick to the present issue and take control of your emotion and tongue as best as you can. Forgive immediately. Do not let the sun go down with your anger and bitterness.
- 2. Do not label your husband with bad adjectives no matter how true, the adjectives may be. No bad or harmful words.
- 3. Never treat your husband disrespectfully in any way especially in the presence of other people.
- 4. Always remember, the husband has authority over his wife. Treat him as you would act towards your Manager in the office or President of the company. Somebody of a higher rank.
- 5. In case of wrongs and transgressions, correct him as you would correct a beloved son.
- 6. Be conscious that the position of a husband and a wife is like that of the oldest and the younger sons of a King. Although both sons the oldest and the younger have not done anything good or bad, the favor already belongs to the oldest son.
- 7. Pray for each other always.

Pastoring the Flock

Religious leaders are to minister, to pastor the flock. They have the responsibility to minister, teach, nurture, and guide their members in the way of righteousness. To help them live according to the teaching of God or help them do the will of God.

I am sorry but I have to be honest. In my experience and observation, there are religious leaders who love to have as many members as they can count without taking seriously their responsibility to teach the word of God, to guide and help them walk in the light of the Lord, help them live good and honorable life.

However, I think that is not surprising because long time ago even Yahshua the Messiah himself said:

"How terrible for you, teachers of the Law... You hypocrites! You lock the door to the Kingdom of heaven in people's faces, but you yourselves don't go in, nor do you allow in those who are trying to enter."

"How terrible for you, teachers of the Law... You hypocrites! You sail the seas and cross whole countries to win one convert; and when you succeed, you make him twice as deserving of going to hell as you yourselves are!

(*Matthew 23: 13-15*)

This Thing Called LOVE

Love is defined as great affection but actually no single word, phrase, sentence can capture the real essence and meaning of love. I am inspired to write about love by compiling Biblical verses and ideas about love. May you, our readers, find new insights and meaning on messages that already seem familiar. So, here it goes:

The Greatest Commandments:

"Love Almighty Yahweh with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all your strength" and "Love your neighbour as yourself" There is no commandment greater than these."

Matthew 22: 37 & 39

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but will have everlasting life" John 3:16.

"Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) said, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you that you may be sons of our Father in Heaven and that you may be perfect as your Heavenly Father in Heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:43 & 48

"Above all, love each other deeply because love covers a multitude of sin" I Peter 4:8.

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith; be men of courage, be strong. Do everything in love"

I Corinthians 16: 13 & 14

"Yahweh Almighty says my grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness" This is the reason why Apostle Paul was able to say "I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness so that Christ's power may rest on me"

II Corinthians 12: 9 & 10

And now, I will show you the most excellent way:

If I speak in tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophesy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames but have not love, I am nothing.

Love is patient, Love is kind, It does not envy; it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self- seeking. It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of all wrongs. Love does not

delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child. I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror, then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part, then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three things remain: faith, hope and love. **But** the greatest of these is LOVE.

I Corinthians 13

Indeed, the greatest of these is love. For where there is love there is mutual respect, total understanding and of genuinely seeing the beauty and value of the other. Where there is love, there is peace, harmony; there is joy. Seems impossible to happen? Remember, Love conquers all.

Right Choice and Right Attitude

There is no such thing as ultimate or absolutely bad situation. I believe there is always something good in every bad situation and vice versa or somehow, there is something bad in a very good situation. It is just a matter of right decision and action or right choice and how we handle those choices. Choices that may make us or break us. Some of those choices affect us for a day or week but there are choices that affect our lives forever. One thing I know and I can tell you is this: opportunities for good will most likely turn to bad or even worst with a bad attitude.

God wants his people to have an attitude that is right with Him. Having a right attitude in every situation helps man see the light in every dark path. A right attitude empowers man's will and determination to grab the light in every situation that can lead him out of darkness or nurture that pin of light to create a torch to conquer darkness.

According to J. Sidlow Baxter in his book, Awake My Heart "The difference between an obstacle and an opportunity is our attitude towards it. Every opportunity has a difficulty and every difficulty has an opportunity."

A person could be wrong with his choices in life, but it does not mean that you need to dwell with it the rest of your life. We need to be brave and strong, we need to strive hard and turn adverse condition because of wrong choices into a blessing with the help of God. We need to make a stand and face our trial head on and make the best out of it. I know this is not easy but we need to make a try because we will never know until we have tried it.

In attitude 101 by John C. Maxwell, he wrote: "When confronted with a difficult situation a person with an outstanding attitude makes the best of it. Life can be likened to a grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you, it depends upon what you are made of."

Attitude 98 by Charles Swindoll said: "Our attitude determines what we see and how we handle our feelings.

"Our expectations have a great deal to do with our attitude. And these expectations may be totally false, but they will determine our attitude."

There are lots of factors that affect man's attitude, it could be environmental, sociological, spiritual, and a lot more. Considering the world we live in which is full of crime and violence, corruption and sin, these dominating factors around affect people negatively. God Almighty Yahweh wants us to be different, He wants us to be the light; He wants us to represent Him. He wants us to be agents or instruments of change for good and for His glory and honor.

God wants to shape our lives according to His plans and purpose. God wants us to conform to His will and to lead others to change for the better. Generally change is not an easy thing. It takes a lot of time and energy. It requires diligent discipline of ourselves.

As children of the Almighty Father Yahweh through faith in His Son Yahshua the Messiah, that is what God our Father is doing to us. Everyday of our lives, He is changing us from glory to glory. The big part in the changing process is obedience and waiting. That is why the Psalmist admonished us saying, "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen thine heart. I say, wait on the Lord."

Do not be tired of waiting upon the Lord; He knows when the time is right, and while we are waiting, the Lord our God is working to polish our ways and attitudes.

Another big and important factor in the changing process of our character and attitudes, is problem or trouble. God our Father does not give us problem and although He loves us, He allows it to happen in order to test our character and attitude.

Our attitudes towards people, work, things, money, circumstances; our attitude towards God Almighty most of all, matter so much in all that we do and our future.

Our day to day happiness and our future success greatly depend on our attitudes!

You were taught, with regards to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4: 22-24

The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had. Philippians 2: 5

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4: 12

From: The book Precious & Everlasting Gems By: Dr. Gibson Jun T. Valenzona

Biblical Prophecy

"But the Day of the Lord will come like a thief.

On that Day the heavens will disappear with a shrill noise,
the heavenly bodies will burn

up and be destroyed, and the earth with

everything in it will vanish.

Since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be? Your lives should be holy and dedicated to God, as you wait for the Day of God and do your

best to make it come soon – the Day
when the heavens will burn up and be destroyed, and the
heavenly bodies will be melted by the heat. But we wait for
what God has promised:

new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will be at home."

II Peter 3: 10-13

Sweet Is God's Salvation

O Lord our God from whom salvation comes,
Great are the transgressions of man!
For, though Thou art God
It took You to give up
Your only begotten Son to save a sinful man.

Truly, O Lord Thou art love!

For, "where sin or transgression abound,
Grace did much more abound."

We praise You and thank You Lord for Your grace,
We praise You and adore You for
Your tender mercies.

Dear Lord our God,

How boundless and tender are Your cares

How great is Your goodness

How deep is Your love

How sweet is Your salvation!

From: The Book Beyond The Glorious Voice

By: Segundina T. Valenzona

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Editorial

It is always nice and inspiring to hear 'good news' but unfortunately, instead of 'good news' we now hear more and more people say: "The children and youth of today are really far different from the youth several years ago." I suppose what they really mean is the values; the manners and conduct of the youth now and in the past.

While it is true that as Filipinos we can be proud of our culture and values such as: strong family ties, high regards and respect for the elders, 'Bayahihan' or the 'Pahina' system which my father used to do as Barrio Captain (Barangay Chairman) – leading the people to work together for Barangay development without being paid, the high moral standard of our women, the gallantry of our men; sadly, the erosion of these values is now strongly felt by many of our people.

Let us seriously ponder and admit the truth that the crisis our country or the world suffers is not only centered in one group like the youth or one aspect like economic. Rather, our country and the whole world have been experiencing deep moral crisis and we are now suffering its effect. In particular, although many of our people are living in poverty the truth is: our country is not really in crisis economically. And, over and above our concern with the illmannered youth is the problem of scam in our offices which clearly

show that our country is indeed, in crisis of truly good and honorable leaders – truly honest, dedicated leaders.

Hence, in little and simple way, the editors of this literature *Nuggets of Truth* are reaching out to appeal and encourage our people to sincerely take a look back to our origin, and meditate on the following questions:

Who is our Creator? Why did He create us? What is His purpose in creation? Who is our Lord and Savior? What does He expect from us? At the same time, remembering that our Lord has taught us saying:

"Take heed and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12: 15).

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8: 36-37).



The Ten Commandments

- 1. "I Am the Lord your God....Worship no gods but me.
- 2. "Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God and I tolerate no rivals.
- 3. "Do not use my name for evil purposes, for I, the Lord your God, will punish anyone who misuses my name.
- 4. "Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.
- 5. "Respect your father and mother, so that you will live a long time in the land that I am giving you.
- 6. "Do not commit murder.
- 7. "Do not commit adultery.
- 8. "Do not steal.
- 9. "Do not accuse anyone falsely.
- 10. "Do not desire another man's wife, and anything that belongs to other people."

Yahshua the Messiah said:

"Remember that as long as heaven and earth last, not the least point nor the smallest detail of the Law will be done away with - not until the end of all things. So then, whoever disobeys even the least important of the Commandments and teaches others to do the same, will be least in the Kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, whoever obeys the Law and teaches others to do the same, will be great in the Kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5: 18-19).

"If we obey God's commands, then we are sure that we know Him. If we say that we know Him, but do not obey His commands, we are liars and there is no truth in us. But if we obey His word, we are the ones whose love for God has really been made perfect" (I John 2: 3-5).

"If You Love Me..."

By: Segundina T. Valenzona

Yahshua the Messiah you thoughtfully said:

"If you love me, keep my commandments."

Dear Lord, I gladly obey you to honor you

Because I love you!

To keep and uphold your commandments, and

To do your will is my joy and everlasting desire.

Your commandments say:

"Love Yahweh (God) with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Almighty Yahweh through Moses gave the

Ten commandments, in particular,

He commanded saying:

"Yahweh and Yahweh alone is your Elohim (God). Love

Yahweh with all your heart....

Never worship any other god for I tolerate no rival. Teach them to your children....

Write them on the

doorposts of your houses and on your gates."

Lord, grant that these commandments be written not only on the doorposts of our houses and gates.

But let Thy Holy Spirit write
them in every grain of our hearts and mind and
Make our tongues speak them out with grace
To teach our children
and everyone else in words and deeds.

By Thy grace let every

man and woman and everyone recognize

That there is only one Creator and Father in heaven –

One Mediator: Our Lord and Savior, and

No one else is worthy of our worship and

The best of our praises and thanksgiving

But the Almighty Father through

His begotten Son, our Lord, Our Savior and King.

"Worship The Lord In The Beauty Of Holiness"

By: Segundina T. Valenzona

Worship the Lord all ye saints of His!
Worship Him in the "beauty of holiness."
Worship the Lord with clean hearts
and pure thoughts.

Worship Him for it is the highest expression

Of our being alive with Him!

Worship the Lord all ye peoples of the land,
Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving.
Worship the Lord with all your heart,
mind, and strength,

Worship Him for He is kind to all – Kind even to the unfaithful and unbelieving!

Worship the Lord all ye angels of heaven,
Worship him for His mighty deeds.
Worship the Lord in perfect obedience,
Worship and praise Him
For every good and beautiful thing!

Life's Journey - Part II

Parents and Children

The Lord God Almighty Yahweh loves and cares for His people more than anyone does. He wonderfully made them and constantly take good care of them. In fact, before he created man and woman, God has already created everything that they needed day by day. After He created them, he gave them His word or instruction to follow so that man and woman would live according to His Will or live a righteous life and be happy; enjoy life in its fullness.

When man and woman fell from God's glory (standard), He gave them the Law or Ten Commandments, and the prophets to correct them, to teach, discipline, and guide them until God sent His only begotten Son-Yahshua the Messiah to save them from sin and eternal destruction.

Let us take note my brothers and sisters that when Yahweh Almighty gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites through prophet Moses, the fifth of the Ten Commandments says: "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Imagine! My brothers and sisters, of the many tremendous things that the Lord God wanted to teach His people, "Honor thy father and thy mother" is one of the Ten that He commanded them to do. Think how important it is! This certainly shows that just as God loves us and cares for us, He also

wants us all His people to love one another and especially for parents and children to lovingly care for each other.

Another wonderful thing my brothers and sisters, have you noticed that the fifth commandment is the commandment which has a promise attached to it? The irrevocable and lasting promise of God – the wonderful promise of long life in the land! In other words, it only takes for each one of us to honor God by obeying Him, and to sincerely love one another in order to have a blessed life in the land.

A blessed life my brothers and sisters, does not necessarily mean a life with so much money – peso, dollar, etc. or a life full of material/worldly things. Rather, a blessed life is a life richly blessed by God Almighty with His grace and mercy; blessing of peace, joy, good health, family success and happiness, even the blessing of eternal life. Take note also that the commandment and promise says: "Honor thy father and thy mother that you may live long in the land. It never said: so that you will have great possession (material wealth) in the land. And, obviously, since God promised to give us long life, it certainly follows that everything necessary to sustain life will be graciously provided day by day. Why not? If we sincerely take heed the teaching of our Lord and Savior? The scripture says: "Let your abundance be a supply to your brothers' need and let your brothers' abundance be a supply to your own need. So that as it is



written: 'He that had gathered much did not have too much, and he that had gathered little did not have too little.'"

(II Corinthians 8: 14-15)

Perhaps, some people think that this 'blessed life' I am saying is a poor and hard life, so nobody wants it. But the person who truly love and trust God Almighty knows beyond any doubt that he is richly blessed no matter what people think and say, because he is confident that God will never forsake him; God who is the source of all good things is always there for him and he will surely have abundant and eternal life face to face with God our Father & Savior in due time.

At this point, let us gladly continue our search and study of God's words concerning parents' responsibilities to their children and children's duties to their parents.

Parents:

Remember this! The Lord – and the Lord alone is our God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these commands that I am giving you today. *Teach them to your children*. Repeat them when you are at home and when you are away, when you are resting and when you are working. Tie them on your arms and wear them on your foreheads as a reminder. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

Apparently, God does not accept excuses why parents could not teach their children to love and honor God. "Tie them on your arms and wear them on your foreheads as a reminder." This was literally practiced by the religious authorities in the ancient times. For us, this does not have to be literal in practice, rather, we should be diligent in doing the will of our Father & Savior according to His words or commandments. Never forgetting that it is the parents' responsibility to teach their children to love God and lead them to worship Him alone in spirit and in truth.

"Parents, do not treat your children in such a way as to make them angry. Instead, raise them with Christian discipline and instruction" (Ephesians 6:4). Parents should treat their children with love and care. Teach and nurture them in the way of righteousness. Discipline them to live a humble and honorable life remembering that the holy scripture says: "What does Yahweh Almighty (God) require of thee? But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly...." (Micah 6:8).

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22: 6).

"Discipline your children while they are young enough to learn. If you don't, you are helping them destroy themselves" (Proverbs 19: 18).

"Children are fortunate if they have a father who is honest and does what is right" (Proverbs 20: 7).

Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with a promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6: 1-3).

"Only a shameful, disgraceful person would mistreat his father or mother" (Proverbs 19: 26).

"Listen to your father; without him you would not exist. When your mother is old, show her your appreciation" (Proverbs 23: 22).

"Let your father and mother be proud of you; give your mother that happiness."

Proverbs 23: 25

"If you make fun of your father or despise your mother in her old age, you ought to be eaten by vultures...." (Proverbs 30: 17).

"If you respect your father, you can make up for your sins, and if you honor your mother, you are earning great wealth. If you obey the Lord by honoring your father and making your mother happy, you will live a long life.

"Honor your father and mother in everything you do and say, so that you may receive their blessing. When parents give their blessing they give strength to their children's homes, but when they curse their children, they destroy the very foundations.

"If children do not honor their parents, it is their own disgrace. So, children, take care of your parents when they grow old; give them no cause for worry nor give them cause for anger as long as they live. The Lord will never forget the kindness you show to them; it will help you make up for your sins. When you are in trouble, the Lord will help you; your sins will melt like frost in warm sunshine" (Sirach 3).

When the mother and brothers of Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) were looking for him, after they found out that he was not with them on the road back home from the Passover Festival, one of the people there said to him, "Look, your mother and brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak with you."

Yahshua answered: "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother, my sister, and my mother" (Matthew 12: 46-50). "My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and obey it" (Luke 8:21).

Contentment

One fine noon while eating my lunch at my workplace, a mother and a daughter (my student) came in to see me and talk to me personally. While they were approaching my table I was stunned to see the mother is blind. As she sat, she introduced herself and told me that she took the courage to personally come despite the difficulty knowing her condition because she wanted to tell me honestly and openly the reason of her daughter's long absence in class. The very reason why her daughter has been absent from class and will still be absent was that they don't have food to eat. They have not eaten for almost a week already. They only have hot water to fill their empty stomachs. They don't have means of buying food because her husband though skilled worker could no longer find a job easily after the tropical storm "Sendong" incident. More so, he is old and ill at that time. She is blind too. They receive neither pension nor support too.

I was choked and tongue-tied to hear that. It was totally and completely a difficult situation. But while I was listening to her I heard no grumbling nor complaining despite their tough times.

I was rebuked and reminded. That incident allowed me to reflect on my life and my responses to the events of my life. I was reminded to be happy and content in whatever God has sent and given me. I was prompted by the words of Apostle Paul when he

said in Philippians 4:11 "I have learned in whatever state I am therewith to be content." Contentment must be our portion.

Whatever we go through in life, we must choose to be happy and content. We don't have reason to grumble and complain for what God has allowed to happen in our lives. Let us not allow or we must never allow discouragement and misery to rule our lives but instead to cling to God believing that He is great and big enough to take care of us. As we tend to grumble and complain, let us remember that there are millions more who have worse, even worst condition than ours but they choose to be happy. Let us be reminded that "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Timothy 6:6).

I would like also to encourage everyone to remember the saying: "No man is an island." Truly, we all need one another. In that particular case I have mentioned, God sent them to me not only for them or for their needs but for me as well. Through their presence God was gently touching me, blessing me and making me a blessing to others. HalleluYah!

Let us always make it our aim to be a blessing to other people day by day so that the Lord God Almighty will also bless us more abundantly!

Give Thanks

The sacred scriptures say: "Rejoice ever more. Give thanks to God in everything. Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5: 16-18).

Surely, my brethren, to give thanks when all is well, when everything around us is peaceful and in order, when life is good and happy is very easy. But, how about when the world seems to fall apart and its debris fall on you? How about when a member of the family is sick and you are pressured to move left or right offering your carabao at a low price in order to bring the sick to the hospital, and while in the hospital, the MNLF rebels attacked and burned not only one or two buildings but mercilessly ruined the whole city?

How about the sudden hostile entry of the Moro Freedom Fighters in a remote Barangay, held the farmers hostage and later beheaded? How about the most recent NPA attacks in Lantad, Claveria and in the mountain of Lagonglong, Misamis Oriental, and other places? What about the Media Report of the PDAF and Malampaya scam where millions even billions were plundered by the officials while the populace are starving? How did you feel my brothers and sisters when you heard the testimony of the witnesses that the victims of the "Ondoy" and "Peping" storms were ruthlessly used so that the officials whom the people trusted, could cunningly steal millions of money?

Truly, that is very painful! Several times while I lay on my bed, my tears rolled over my cheeks in pain. How could they ever do that to our beloved country and people? How could they treat our country and people with such kind of betrayal? Our country is a Christian country. Where is now the faith of our officials in the Lord Christ? Does our country still deserve to be recognized by the world a Christian country?

What had been going on is ugly! Every sensible person I believe, would like to ignore and forget it, but we can't, because it is the truth and the truth always prevail. In situations like these, I'm sure many would be tempted to say that to "give thanks in everything" is absurd! It's crazy!

But my brothers & sisters, let me tell you a powerful and touching story. The prophet Habakkuk complains to God saying: "O Lord, how long, must I call for help before you listen, before you save us...? Why do you make me see such trouble? How can you stand to look on such wrongdoing? The Law is weak and useless, and justice is never done. Evil people get the better of the righteous, and so justice is perverted."

The Lord's Reply: "Keep watching the nations around you, and you will be astonished at what you see. I am bringing the Babylonians to power, those fierce, ruthless people. They are marching out to conquer other lands. They will spread fear and terror...."

Prophet Habakkuk: "Lord, God how can you stand these treacherous, evil men? Your eyes are too holy to look at evil, and you

cannot stand the sight of people doing wrong. So why are you silent while they destroy people more righteous than they are?"

The Lord's answer: "Those who are evil will not survive, but those who are righteous will live because they are faithful to God."

That is the very reason my brothers and sisters, why in spite of everything the righteous should give thanks to our Father & Savior. "Give thanks to God in everything."

Let us also make these very meaningful words below our inspiration.

"I will quietly wait for the time to come when God will punish those who are evil.

And

"Even though the fig trees have no fruits and no grapes grow on the vines, even though the olive crops fail and the fields produce no grain, even though the sheep all die and the cattle stalls are empty, I will still be joyful and glad, because the Lord God is my Savior."

Abundant Grace

In my personal reflections in the last few months, I was deeply inspired by several verses in the Bible that talk about grace, assurance and love of the Heavenly Father Yahweh to his children. I would like to share these powerful verses with you. I hope, reader, that whatever you are feeling right now, these verses will give you hope when you are feeling down and troubled, strength when your own is challenged, light when you are going through something. These verses helped me survived my every day, may these also spark your day, today.

"Why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not Labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you... so do not worry saying 'what shall we eat or what shall we drink or what shall we wear' your Heavenly Father knows you need them, but, seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself" (Matthew 6: 28-34).

"Don't be afraid you are worth more than sparrows."

(Luke 12: 7)

"Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matthew 7: 7 & 8).

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see... and without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:1 & 6).

"Have faith in God, I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain 'go throw yourself into the sea and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen it will be done for him.' Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer believe that you have received it and it will be yours" (Mark 11: 22-25.)

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:8).

"I will strengthen the house of Judah, and save the house of Joseph. I will restore them, I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them for I am the Lord their God and I will answer them. The Ephraimites will become like mighty men, and their hearts will be glad as with wine. Their children will see it and be joyful; their hearts will rejoice in the Lord. I will signal for them and gather them in. Surely I will redeem them; they will be as numerous as before... I will strengthen them in the Lord and in his name they will walk, declares the Lord" (Zechariah 10: 6-8; 12).

Reconciliation

Living in this chaotic and sinful world is very difficult. A world full of sin and hatred, conflict and misunderstanding, disputes and heated arguments, jealousy or envy and many others that can easily break relationships. Sadly, this type of sin is common even among Christians. Apostle Paul in his letter to the Church in Corinth said: "Shame on you! Surely there is at least one wise person in your fellowship who can settle a dispute between fellow Christians." Apostle Paul made this statement due to members of the church splitting into warring factions and even taking each other to court because of their differences and conflicts. People tend to forget that relationships are always worth restoring especially among the believers of the Lord because life in Christ is all about forgiving and loving.

There is no such thing as ultimate bad situation that is beyond reconciliation in the eyes of God. Among believers, I believe there is always something good in every bad situation, and somehow there is something bad in a very good situation. It is just a matter of choice among both parties involved on how they wanted things to end, and that choices we make can make or break relationships. It takes years to build a strong relationship, but it will take only a second to destroy it. I believe, it is common knowledge that when relationships are broken, restoring it to its former state is very difficult, and even if restored it might not be the same as before. So, take good care of every good and beautiful relationship!

There are situations when people think reconciliation is impossible, and true indeed, reconciliation is a very difficult process but let us always remember that the Holy Bible declares: "For with God nothing is impossible, everything is possible through Christ who strengthened us." In addition, Matthew 5:23-24 also says: "If you are offering your gifts at the altar and there remembered that your brother has something against you, leave your gifts there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; and then come and offer your gift."

Gladly, as part of God's family through faith, we have learned to forgive and most of all, we have learned to love each other as God loves us. Love is a precious gift from God. It gives man the heart to forgive his enemies. Understandably, however, it is not easy to be in pain, hence, it is not easy to forgive. But, remember, "All things are possible with God."

It was neither easy for Yahshua the Messiah to die on the cross, shed His blood to pay the penalty of our sins so that God the Father would forgive us. The Lord also taught us saying: "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6: 14-15). Let us live in the love of our Father and Savior day by day because this love enables us to forgive.

Tips on Restoring Relationship or Reconciliation

Lots of books and reading materials have tried to tackle this issue but the real question is: How useful would it be, since we are dealing with different types of people, and we all know that each of us has our own unique personalities?

Here are Some Tips:

Admit that you are Part of the Problem. Often, people have the tendency to excuse themselves of the problem they get involved, and put all the blame on others or other party. But, in conflict, I believe that, the saying: "It always takes two to Tango" is true.

Admit that somehow you are part of the problem (this will keep you humble), and that both you and the other party need God's help and guidance.

In my own personal experience in dealing with conflict which resulted in broken relationships, I came to a conclusion that there is no better way in solving the problem than by accepting the possibility that you are part of the problem. As believers and followers of Yahshua the Messiah it is our duty and responsibility to find ways how to mend and repair shattered relationships. Acknowledge to God in prayer that there is no one you can trust

where you can fully entrust your life's situation and problems. That you need God's help to guide you and direct you in solving the problem.

We need to take time and Pray. A person's initial reaction when confronted with problems is to seek comfort and guidance of other people or talk to friends and family in order to gain sympathy and advice. There is nothing wrong about that but there is a great danger involved, since it is beyond your control if they pass on your stories to other people.

The first and the best thing to do when confronted with problems is to take time and pray. People look and listen to what is on the surface, but God looks and listen to the heart.

The "Prayers of a righteous man availeth much and anointed prayers can move mountains to the sea." Prayer is communication with God. Presenting to God our concerns is the best way in handling every situation in life. Knowing that spiritually we can do nothing by ourselves, it is imperative that we pray to the LORD and make supplication since He alone is the source of all good things. Surrender everything to the LORD in prayer no matter how small or big the problems are. For the scripture says, "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry." (Psalm 34: 15). Pray and present your case to God. Wait for God's answer and obey.

Many people attempt to bury the hurts and pain deep in their hearts thinking that the deeper those pains and hurt are buried, they will forget it and eventually be gone or die down. The sad thing is that, those hurts and pain take roots in your heart and keep on polluting and contaminating your lives. We need to release all hurts and pain and allow God to take control over our lives.

Accept Undeserved Suffering. To accept undeserved suffering – suffering that rightfully belongs to the offender, is one of the hardest choices a person can make. But like our Lord and Savior, let us be willing to accept or bear undeserved suffering for the benefit of all. Truly, it is not easy but once the bitterness is gone by the help of the Holy Spirit, we will be able to break free from past conflicts and the healing process begins.

We need to Let Go of the Past. Holding on to the offense will only torment you. It doesn't bring anything good. It only causes more pains and hurt. It will contaminate our personalities and ruin our attitude towards people. Unknowingly, it already destroys everyone around you. Holding the hurt in your hands and not releasing it will not bring positive change. Surrender everything to God in prayer and let God have His own way because God loves you and He does not want you to be in constant pain. He is concern with what concerns you.

The Holy Scripture declares: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (I Peter 5:6-7)

"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Psalm 55:22 KJV)

We need to Forgive. Declare forgiveness to your offender in prayer. We need to search our hearts and make sure we have not let any grievances take hold over us. Be quick to forgive, the longer we wait, the harder it is going to be. The longer we hold on to resentment, the harder it takes to forgive.

Forgive as soon as possible. Time is precious; we cannot afford to let it slip by in useless pain. It is far cheaper to pardon than to resent – anger has a high cost; hatred is an extravagant expense; grudge bear unreasonable interest. Let us open our hearts to one another in love which is willing to get hurt as it reaches out to help, lift and change others' lives. Be willing to share with all people the full freedom of forgiveness as we have freely received from the LORD.

Mark 11: 25 states that, "When you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in Heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done." This particular verse follows His promise which said; "...When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for."

We need to ask for Forgiveness. We begin by humbly admitting our mistakes and accept responsibility of our mistakes and ask for forgiveness. Asking forgiveness is taking the "higher road."

By asking forgiveness it makes the barriers go down and calms the heart of the receiver.

Take responsibility for your part, how you hurt the other person, rather than give any attention to how they hurt you. However, for healing to be complete, you eventually need to take full responsibility for your own actions, or even thoughts.

Don't let pride control your feeling, the moment pride crept in, it changes our perspective of reconciliation. Let us be reminded that pride is so cunning and deceptive, it can lead man to its greatest downfall. It ruins the character, it corrupts sound judgements, it blinds the mind from the truth, and it destroys who we are. We will lose nothing if we humbly ask for forgiveness, but we will gain a lot when we sincerely repent and ask for forgiveness.

We need to create an open line of Communication. Direct communication is the key element. The only way that you can go about repairing your friendship is by communicating directly with your offender or friend. Ask them to let you try and explain what happened. Speaking the truth in love always marks good communication.

We all acknowledge that communication is an extremely important aspect in reconciliation. And yet we also admit that we struggle with this essential skill, often doing it poorly especially when emotion is involved. We all stand in danger of shading the truth to protect our own interest or our pride. Behind all the

communication problems come an underlying fact – we are not good at telling the truth. If we were, we would likely have far more harmony in our relationships.

Stay calm, be as objective as you can. Let each present his arguments and be patient. Take time to listen and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you and teach you what to say and how to response and at the same time be alert and attentive to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

With regard to God's people in conflict let us remember that the same Holy Spirit who is working in you is working in them! There is hope for change. There is always hope for reconciliation. When we place others in God's hands it frees us from unnecessary worry and assure us that they are being taken cared of better than we could ever do. Give them to Christ and go on with your life. Allow God's healing power to bring reconciliation in His time. Don't give up! Don't think reconciliation will never happen. Just allow God to work in their hearts as He does in yours.



Genesis 1 in the Holy Bible tells us about the beginning of the creation; the divine creation of Yahweh Almighty. It is only by His words that everything in the creation was created; Yahweh Almighty (God) spoke and they were created according to His words. Psalm 29:4 says; "The Voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty." The Psalmist further tells us that God in heaven alone is the creator of everything, and it's so amazing how He made them all. He created each one for a purpose.

According to one writer Lawrence E. Ford, Sr. "God uses the wonders of creation to demonstrate His power or protection or provision and to reveal His awesome character." Indeed, God's greatness is revealed through His creation. His Sovereignty, His Holiness and His love is shown in many wonderful ways when He created the world and all that is therein. Prophet Jeremiah declares (32:17) "Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you." "With God nothing is impossible" (Luke 1: 37). God's power is indeed beyond human comprehension.

Then God created man and woman in His likeness - in His own image, to have dominion over all His creation. He placed in the

hands of man the responsibilities and authority to take care of everything He made. He showed to us how He loves us by giving to man the full authority of His creation and for us to enjoy by providing all our needs. God's creation is truly marvelous! As we looked around we are all fascinated by the works of His hands that it makes us wonder how it all began. Just to think how the flowers bloom, how the sun goes to sunset and the sun rises every morning, it's amazing!

Let us give God the best of our praises, glory and thanksgiving for all the blessings we receive day by day through His creation, and remember that without Him we are nothing. The Psalmist says; "Give unto the Lord, O you mighty ones, give unto the Lord the glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." As the Psalmist wrote, let us also declare and proclaim the goodness of our Father and Savior. Let us make known to the whole world that there is none like Him in goodness, power, and holiness.

Sadly, the creation that God lovingly created was and is still distorted. It is groaning in pain because of sin of the very man God had given the full authority to have dominion over His creation. We failed to do our portion of responsibility to take good care of the precious things God entrusted to us. The result is that all of us suffer and still waiting to be redeemed.

Now is the time of awakening! Now is the time to repent! God has given us this very hour to go back to Him before its too late, before the hour of judgment is in our very door and no one would ever escape.

For us children of divine God Yahweh El through our faith in His Son Yahshua the Messiah and Holy Spirit, let us not be tired of doing what is right for the scripture says, "The day is coming when all the proud and evil people will burn like straw. On that day they will burn up, and there will be nothing left of them. But for you who obey me, my saving power will rise on you like the sun and brings healing like the sun's rays. You will be as free and happy as calves let out of a stall. On that day when I act, you will overcome the wicked, and they will be like dust under your feet" (Malachi 4). Right now all of creation is groaning in pain, but there is hope that one day they will be set free...and share the glorious freedom of the children of God (Romans 8).

When the Kingdom of God will be on earth, all of creation will rejoice and be glad, forever free from the bondage of sin and suffering. "We will be happy forever, forever free from sorrow and grief."

Children of Most High our Father in Heaven, let us rise and shine, fight the good fight of faith for the *Complete Freedom of God's Creation!*

International Interfaith Movement

Dear Brethren,

Greetings of peace and hope in the name of God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit!

For more than a decade now, the things that have happened in our country the Philippines, and the events around the world have already shown to us and manifested that the *Biblical Prophecies* of the ancient times are now being fulfilled. We are already in the 'Last Days'!

For our Meditation and for better in-sights, allow us to quote a few of these prophecies.

The disciples asked: "What will happen to show that it is the time for your coming and the end of the age?"

Yahshua the Messiah answered: "Watch out, and do not let anyone fool you. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am the Messiah!' They will try to seduce even the very elect or chosen of God.

Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be famine and earthquakes everywhere. All these things are like the first pains of childbirth. How terrible it will be in those days for women who are pregnant and for mothers with little babies! For the trouble at that time will be far more terrible than any there has ever been, from the beginning of the world to this very day. Nor will there be anything like it again. For the sake of God's chosen

people, however, God will reduce the days. Otherwise, nobody would survive" (Matthew 24).

"The day of the Lord is dark and gloomy. It is a day when the earth shakes and the sky trembles. It is a dark and terrible day. On that day, the Lord God Almighty will give warnings on the earth and in the sky. The sun will be darkened, the moon will turn red... Red as blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes" (Joel 2-3).

"The Lord God Almighty will devastate the earth and leave it desolate. It is a day of great trouble and everyone will be in distress. He will twist the earth's surface and scatter the people. The earth will lie shattered and ruined.... Both the earth and the sky decay because the people have defiled the earth by *breaking God's Laws* and by *violating the Covenant* He has made to last forever.

"I have always been ready to welcome my people and to answer their prayers but they did not come to me.... They shamelessly kept on making me angry. So, I tell you that it will be your fate to die a violent death because when I called you did not answer, when I spoke you did not listen. I tell you also that those who worship me and obey me will have plenty to eat and drink but you will be disgraced. They will sing for joy but you will cry with a broken heart" (Isaiah 24 & 65).

"Behold the day is coming when all the proud and evil people will burn up. On that day, they will burn up and nothing shall be left of them. But as for you who obey me, my saving power will rise on you like the sun and brings healing like the sun's rays. You will be as

free and happy as calves let out of a stall. On the day when I act, you will overcome the wicked and they shall be like dust under your feet" (Malachi 4).

In view of the afore-stated prophecies, our family – Supernico & Segundina Valenzona family decided to revive the Cagayan de Oro Interfaith Fellowship we founded and led (with some friends & brethren) years ago. But this time in a new (revised) name – International Interfaith Movement. The International Interfaith Movement aims to open a door for all good-hearted people to join us in our crusade to prepare the people to face strongly the great challenges in the near future, in spite of our different religious denominations.

In particular, the International Interfaith Movement aims to:

- 1. Facilitate a much better inter-action among good-hearted people, and to enhance willingness to be of service/help in times of need, and distress.
- 2. Constantly provide strong prayer support for one another to strengthen the faith and kindle hope.
- 3. For International Interfaith Movers (members) to be an ever ready Prayer Warriors, and Intercessors for the benefit of all and for the fulfillment of God's Will.

Beloved brethren, the greatest commandment the Lord taught us is: "Love God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Matthew 22: 37 & 39).

In connection with the Lord's teaching, we hope that through the International Interfaith Movement (IIM), everyone of us would be able to actualize or put into practice the sacred commandment freely and fully or the best way possible.

You can freely contact us with this email address: gibsonjun@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

Dr. Gibson Jun T. Valenzona (For & In-behalf of S. & S. Valenzona family)

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"Repent Or Be Totally Destroyed"

Hi! Greetings of peace & success to everyone.

My dear brothers and sisters, I am here to deliver to you the Good News! The Good News is: Our heavenly Father loves us so much. He is not willing that anyone man would perish because of sin but that all should come to repentance and live with Him forever.

Hence, on the eve of April 25, 2014, the loving & merciful God woke me up and said: "Give Warning to the people to Repent or They will be totally destroyed." "Give Warning to the people to Repent or They will be totally destroyed." On May 3, 2014 God said: "The foundation of the world will be shaken...."

Brethren, according to the Command of the holy and merciful God, I call and encourage everyone to Repent. For, the end of this age/world is very, very near. Let us do those things that show that we have repented. Let us seek God, His righteousness, and His Kingdom and be there with Him in perfect peace and joy for eternity.

May God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit be with us all. HalleluYah!

Truly yours,

Segundina T. Valenzona

For Reflection

One of the disciples asked Yahshua the Messiah saying: "What will happen to show that it is the time for your coming and the end of the age?"

Yahshua the Messiah answered: "Watch out and do not let anyone fool you. Many man claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am the Messiah' and they will fool many people. They will try to deceive even the elect or chosen of God."

"Countries will fight against each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be famines, earthquakes, and plagues everywhere.... Everyone will hate you because of me. Many will give up their faith at that time; they will betray one another.... Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved. And this Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all people; and then the end will come."

"How terrible it will be in those days for women who are pregnant and for mothers with little babies!... For the trouble at that time will be far more terrible than any there has been, from the beginning of the world to this very day. Nor will there ever be anything like it again. But God has reduced the number of days; had he not done so, nobody would survived."

"Soon after the trouble of those days, the sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, the stars will fall from heaven, the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky.... coming on the clouds of heaven with great power and glory. The great trumpet will sound, and he will send out his angels to the four corners of the earth, and

they will gather his chosen people from one end of the world to the other." Matthew 24

Sin and Repentance

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory God." Romans 3:23 KJV

"Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence." Romans 3:23 TEV

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Yahshua the Messiah our Lord."

Romans 6:23 KJV

"For sin pays its wages – death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Yahshua the Messiah our Lord."

Romans 6:23 TEV

"Turn away from your sins because the Kingdom of heaven is near." Matthew 3:2

"Yahshua the Messiah said: "The right time has come and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn from your sins and believe the Good News." Mark 1:15

"Repent or Turn back and leave your disgusting idols."

Ezekiel 14:6

"Human pride will be ended, and human arrogance will be destroyed. Idols will completely disappear, and the Lord alone will be exalted." Isaiah 2: 17-18

"People will hide in caves or dig holes to try to escape from the Lord's anger and to hide from his power and glory, when he comes to shake the earth.... they will throw away the gold and silver idols they have made, and abandon them to the moles and the bats." Isaiah 2: 19-20

"I tell you.... Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Luke 13: 3&5

Peter said: Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ), so that your sins will be forgiven.... Save yourselves from the punishment coming on this wicked people." Acts 2: 38

Since we are God's children, we should not suppose that his nature is anything like an image of gold or silver or stone, shaped by human art and skill.

God has overlooked the times when people did not know him, but now he commands all of them everywhere to turn away from their evil ways. For he has fixed a day in which he will judge the whole world with justice.... Acts 17:29-30

".....They must repent of their sins and turn to God and do the things that would show they had repented. Acts 26:20

God's Love & Forgiveness

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God"

I John 3:1

"For God so loved the world (His creation), that He gave His begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"You know that the Messiah appeared in order to take away our sins, and that there is no sin in him. So everyone who lives in union with Yahshua the Messiah does not continue to sin...." I John 3:5-6

"Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18

"If we say that we (have not sinned) have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9

"...you burdened me with your sins; you wore me out with the wrongs you have committed. And yet, I am the

God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you."

Isaiah 43: 24-25

"For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." Psalm 86:5

"Repent sincerely and return to me." Says the Lord "with fasting and weeping and mourning. Let your broken heart show your sorrow."

"Come back to the Lord your God. He is kind and full of mercy, he is patient and keeps his promise. He is always ready to forgive and not punish."

Joel 2: 12-13

Our Lenten Meditation

"Forgive them Father!....
They don't know what they are doing."
(Luke 23: 34)

I think we all know from the holy scriptures or at least have heard how Yahshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ) lived here on earth, suffered, and died; resurrected, and ascended to the glorious Throne of the Father Almighty Yahweh.

To recapitulate, Yahshua lived with his parents, brothers, and sisters in Nazareth, Galilee. When he was thirty years old he formally started his ministry i.e, after John the Baptist baptized him in the Jordan River together with the other people. His popular ministries were Teaching, Healing, & Feeding.

He walked around teaching the people the ways & will of God. He taught them the ways of righteousness and at the same time healed the sick people and feed the hungry miraculously whenever it was necessary. He even raised the dead back to life!

In other words, Yahshua the Messiah had done nothing wrong, instead, he helped the people in many ways. At first, I believe, the religious authorities were simply skeptical but later they became jealous until they reached the point when they had him arrested, questioned, and presented him to Gov. Pilate who was so hesitant to judge him, but the crowd of people shouted at the top of their voices "Crucify him", "Crucify him". Kill him, if you don't

judge him guilty and worthy of death, then, you are not a friend of the Emperor."

After the arrest led by Judas Iscariot, Yahshua was presented to the high Priest Caiaphas. There, in front of the high Priest a soldier beat him on the head, another one spat on his face. The others said many insulting words, mocked him, and accused him of many things falsely. People harshly treated him until they presented him to the Governor. Is this what the Lord deserved for teaching the people the way of righteousness, healing, and feeding the people? It's absurd!

Anyway, being put under pressure by the demand of the Jews, Gov. Pilate reluctantly handed Yahshua over to them. Then they led Yahshua to Golgotha and crucified him there.

My dear brethren, I'd like us to imagine how much pain, insults, disgrace Yahshua suffered. The sufferings, I believe, was so intense that no words could fitly describe it. But how did Yahshua take it? He never thought of the disgrace of dying on the cross because he loved the Father so much. To him, it was a privilege to serve and to show to the Father how much he loves Him.

In other words, Yahshua was more than willing and ready to bear any hardship and suffering the people could ever think of inflicting on him just to do the Father's Will and to save mankind from sin and total destruction.

How different Yahshua was/is from many of us. In truth, many of us cannot ignore even the least insult. We cannot tolerate a

bit of mistreatment. Yes, because it is very painful. Usually, people fight back or retaliate, bitter, and even hate. But, Yahshua thought nothing of the insults and pain; all he had in his heart and mind was our salvation, abundant and eternal life in God's Kingdom. Hence, even when he was on the cross, his first word was: Father! Forgive them...." He is indeed the Lord and Savior. The Lord of lords; the King of kings.

My brothers and sisters, let us ponder upon this question, do we have the heart to ignore insults for the sake of the salvation of some people? And say Father, Forgive them! Are we willing to suffer or give up some things for the sake of God's Kingdom on earth? Yahshua the Messiah gave up his throne momentarily and offered himself, do we offer some of our resources for the building of God's Kingdom?

May God bless us all!

Yahshua the Messiah said to him, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me." Luke 23:43

Yahshua the Messiah never forgets the purpose of His life in spite of the moment of agony. He continued giving comfort to the people especially those who were sad, in sorrow, and in misery. He is indeed the source of hope whatever circumstances we are in.

In the case of the robber Yahshua the Messiah gave Him assuring words that he will be with Him in paradise. As a man who was lost and in agony that word gave him strength and assurance of 80

hope. Why did Yahshua the Messiah give that assurance to him? What did the robber do? What did Yahshua the Messiah see in him?

I do believe Yahshua the Messiah saw a humble man, a man who has a repentant heart, and who is quite sensible that even in his agony he defended Yahshua against the mockery of the other robber. The robber did his part and portion by believing. He knew in his heart that Yahshua the Messiah was innocent and He is the only source of hope in life and a better life in God's Kingdom.

Many people around the world are sick physically and spiritually, even dead spiritually. They are in sorrow, could not find peace, living in sadness, in misery but in spite of their circumstances they still continue to harden their hearts and won't believe that only by having faith and in believing in Yahshua the Messiah will they be pulled out from their situation.

For us my dear brethren let us not harden our hearts. Like that robber let us be humble, confessing and admitting our guilt, sin, fault, and have a repentant heart. For Yahshua the Messiah truly cares for us no matter who we are, no matter what you have done in the past as long as we unite with Him in faith, then He will keep us safe, and give us new purpose in our lives.

Let us remember that "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have abundant and everlasting life."

Let us believe in Yahshua the Messiah and we will be with Him in God's Kingdom where there is eternal joy.

"Dear woman, here is your son,.. Here is your mother." John 19:26-27

While Yahshua the Messiah was hanging on the cross suffering in so much pain, Mary and the other disciples were also near the cross in deep sorrow and sadness. Seeing His mother in such condition, certainly brought pain and grief also in Yahshua's heart. He knew that for Mary, His mother, and for any other mothers, it would not be easy to bear the pain at the sight of their own sons suffering in pain, being unjustly crucified and the thought of losing a dear son. It was truly painful for Mary but she has to bear in submission to God's Will.

Yahshua the Messiah despite the deep agony thought of His mother. He felt deep compassion for His mother that even in such pain He was able to entrust His mother to His disciple, John, whom she could call a son. Mary will have a son whom she could be with, and with whom she could show love and compassion. In the same way, His disciple, John, could have a mother to attend to, a mother to take care and love as Yahshua the Messiah loved His mother.

The same compassion Yahshua the Messiah has for us His children and people. He sees and feels our sorrows and grief. That is, in our sorrows and grief, in our struggles and hardships, in our heartaches and pains God never leaves us alone Nor forsakes us in our battle for victory. God's love for us overflows. He sends us His Holy Spirit, His people, even manifests his presence to comfort us, inspire us, support us and carry us through.

God sees us and assures us every step of the way as we carry our own cross for His honor and glory.

"Eli Eli Lama Sabachthani"
An about the ninth hour Yahshua the Messiah
(Jesus Christ) cried with a loud voice
"Eli Eli lama sabachthani?" that is to say,
"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"
Matthew 27:46

We are all children of the Almighty God Yahweh; No doubt about that! And as His children, we rest on His promises that:

"He will never leave us nor forsake us" Hebrews 13:5

"He will be with us until the end of the earth"

Matthew 28: 20

"Heaven and earth may pass away but His words will never pass away" Matthew 24:35

But why is it that at times we feel alone? forsaken? so burdened? Like Yahshua the Messiah while He was in this world, we are in distress. We are like lambs in the midst of wolves. Imperfections and evils in this world tire and hurt us, more so, make us feel vulnerable. In many occasions of despair, we feel alone, forsaken, defeated and beaten down. These feelings make us resonate well with Yahshua the Messiah when he said "my God, my God why hast Thou forsaken me!"

In our moments of loneliness and unworthiness, let us remember the life and suffering Yahshua the Messiah in this world. In spite that he is called "The Son of God", He was not spared of all that pains and troubles. This situation also reminds me of the popular story "Footprints in the Sand".

The author was wondering and questioning God, "why is it that in the low moments of his life, he only saw one set of footprints in the sand?" was it during those times that God left him alone? Where was God when he needed Him most?" The Almighty Yahweh answered him back by saying that "he only saw one set of footprints in the sand during his vulnerable times because it was then that God carried him." IT WAS THEN THAT GOD CARRIED US! HalleluYah!"

In our sorrows, difficulties and even in moments of doubt, let us remember and be inspired by the life of Yahshua the Messiah. He was the Son of God yet in many times he also felt alone, he felt so burdened and forsaken. But in reality, He never was! The Heavenly Father was with him. He gave him strength and grace especially in the most painful ordeal He has to go through. In our trying moments, let us continue to pray and cling to our Heavenly Father that He may grant us grace and eventually victory against all evils.

No sorrow and despair will triumph against the children of the Almighty for we are His. The LORD will work on our behalf. Remember, it was then that HE carried us! In fact, God gave up His Son, Yahshua the Messiah for our salvation! We are never forsaken, we are never alone. The Almighty Yahweh is always with us.

I Thirst" - John 19:28

What does the Fifth Word say to us?

Jesus' Physical Humanity

Yahshua the Messiah's (Jesus) word "I thirst," reminds us of Jesus' physical nature, his humanity.

It shows that what was happening in the cross is very real and tangible physical pain and suffering. It was no play-acting on the cross as done on stage today -- a divine being pretending to undergo a physical act of torture that could not touch him. Rather, Yahshua felt extreme thirst and exhaustion while hanging on the cross. Yahshua's fifth word, "I thirst," remind us that He died in the flesh because of our sins, and for our salvation.

"... Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus Christ is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist...." (1 John 4:2-3)

"Many deceivers who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist." (2 John 1:7)

Jesus' Awareness of the Scriptures

Second, "I thirst" reminds us of Jesus' extensive knowledge of the prophetic scriptures concerning his suffering and death -- and his willingness to fulfileach of them to the letter.

> "He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:12)

He knew it well and referred to it again and again. Jesus' action to ask for a drink is deliberately prompted by his knowledge of Scripture and determination to fulfill it:

"... So that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty." (John 19:28)

Let us be aware of God's purpose of our life, let us determine to fulfill it!

Yahshua (Jesus) drank the wine and said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:30

Let us visualize ourselves in the place of Yahshua the Messiah for a moment. Let us try to feel how it was to carry such a very important and heavy task or mission of saving the whole world with unbelieving, uncooperative people even hostile beyond compare.

Truly, it's not easy! Isn't it my brothers & sisters that even our ordinary task and responsibility is not easy to carry wisely & properly? Isn't it true that sometimes we are pressured beyond limit so that our temper rise because of this and that. How much more pressure do you think, did Yahshua feel? I believe it was tremendous! Nevertheless, Yahshua took it all prayerfully, calmly and faithfully unto the cross. What our Lord had done was truly impressive and astounding! And, he surely deserve our best praises & thanksgiving.

When the Lord cried out saying, "It is finished!" I believe it was a cry of victory, a cry of great relief that at last the very heavy task is completely done in spite of all the opposition and troubles along the way. The great problem in the world was already solved.

Brethren, in our walk with the Lord and in our endeavor to serve Him, there are times when we feel tired, and down because of the attitude of the people around us. But, let us make Yahshua the Messiah and his words our great example and inspiration in all circumstances until we can victoriously say: "It is finished! In the mighty and holy name of the Lord.

Father! In your hands I place my spirit" (Luke 23:46)

"It was about twelve o'clock when the sun stopped shinning and darkness covered the whole country until three o'clock; and the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn into two. Yahshua (Jesus) cried out in a loud voice, "Father! In your hands I placed my spirit."

My dear brothers and sisters, I'd like us all to imagine and refresh ourselves with all that Yahshua the Messiah went through until he placed his spirit in the hands of the Almighty Father Yahweh.

Truly, it was such a hard life. A life from the manger unto the cross, I believe, is a life of hardship and pain beyond compare. However, in my reading of the Holy Bible, gladly, not a verse has ever told me that Yahshua murmured, complained, and discouraged; not even his mother and father who had to make sacrifices for the safety of baby Yahshua.

In our own journey, I'm sure there are situations in our life when we feel that our life is a life of pain and struggles. I suppose there are also people who feel that they are living a life full of hardship and disappointments. But, have we tried to examine and see the difference of our situations and sufferings from that of Yahshua the Messiah? Maybe we deserved the suffering; maybe we suffer as a consequence of our own wrong doing. Perhaps, some are burdened and weighed down because of sin. On the contrary, Yahshua the Messiah was and is holy yet he suffered for the sake of our salvation and the Father's Kingdom here on earth.

My brethren, our Lord and Savior loves us so much. He wants to give us rest from all our troubles. So, let us heed the call of our Lord and Savior: "Come unto me all you who are heavy laden and I will give rest." Then we can be sure my brethren that when we suffer, we suffer for the sake of righteousness and the Father's Kingdom. And, at the end of life's journey, like Yahshua the Messiah, we can boldly say: "Father! In your hands I place my spirit."

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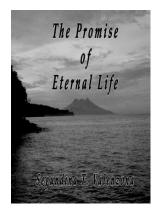


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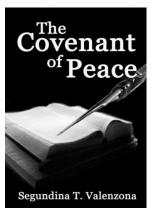


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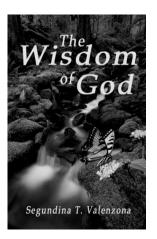
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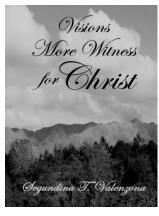
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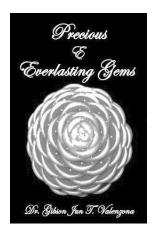
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Precious and Everlasting Gems

By: Dr. Gibson Jun T. Valenzona

This book, Precious and Everlasting Gems is a compilation of my recorded praises, prayers, thanksgiving to Yahweh Almighty through His begotten Son Yahshua the Messiah our Lord and Savior, during my deep and solemn meditation.

Also, the short but powerful and holy words with messages of lasting value which God Almighty, our Father & Savior through the Holy Spirit inspired me to deliver to His beloved people.

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By: Segundina T. Valenzona

This book, My "Sendong" Story is first and foremost a documentary of our experiences at the time the "Sendong" storm and flood violently visited our cities, Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City, Philippines.

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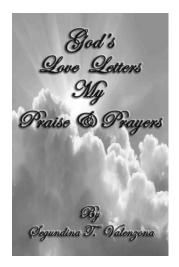


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