

#2021

MIR MONROY

With only a few days left, many of us might probably be on the rush to buy gifts for our loved ones. Some of us might also be experiencing pressure on how to fit all parties, get together, out of town trips, or even go on outings in celebration of the holiday season, especially since Christmas is right around the corner. The NextGen staff of GCF South Metro celebrated Christmas early last December 9. As usual, we had so much fun playing games and enjoying fellowship with one another since it has been a while since we last saw each other in person.

As we celebrated the Christmas season, we were also encouraged to share how the Lord moved in our lives this past year through a quick ice breaker. We were asked to share using a hashtag and explain briefly why that hashtag best represents our 2021.

I started with sharing mine which is "#RollerCoaster". 2021 was full of ups and downs. It made me laugh most of the time, but there were likewise times when I wanted to cry due to fear and anxiety, especially on what is about to happen. But at the end of the ride, my heart has always been full of joy no matter how scared and anxious I was - just like when you go on a roller coaster. One also shared "#TrustAndObey" because the Lord once again reminded her that indeed all we can do is trust and obey God and His plan especially during challenging

times. Another hashtag that was shared was "#Amazed". This is because of the amazing revelations of God and how the Lord shows His great power in His work amidst challenges during the pandemic. "#Grace" was also shared because of the wonderful grace of God that was indeed very much evident this 2021.

After sharing our hashtags for 2021, we also shared our hashtags for 2022 since after Christmas, 2021 will quickly come to an end. So what do we look forward to this coming 2022? One of the hashtags shared was "#CovidGoAway". I believe that most of us, if not all, pray earnestly to the Lord for this pandemic to come to an end. When one shared "#Missional" we were reminded to be more intentional in terms of involving ourselves in the work of the Lord through missions. Life hashtags like "#PracticeMakesProgress", "#AnswerPrayers", "#WithJoyAndConfidence" were also shared. "#BetterTogether" is actually a great picture of how God's church should be.

It is never easy to face an end and transition to a new beginning in life. Many of us have this mindset that endings are not good. Some of us might be looking forward to next year but we can never disregard those of us who are still holding on to something this 2021 - whether it is something good, or pain caused by someone we love. Our situations and circumstances might change,

but one thing is for sure, Jesus Christ remains the same. Jesus Christ is constant. In Hebrews 13:8 it says, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

As we celebrate Christmas and are reminded of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, His life, and His ministry, we can hold fast to the Lord who is unchangeable. No matter what your life hashtag is this 2021, we can faithfully face 2022 knowing that the God who saw us through this year will continue to see us through next year and even the years beyond. As we put our confidence in the Lord, may the fears, the challenges, the pains, the hardships that we experienced in 2021 allow us to set our eyes fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

So, can you relate to any of the life hashtags that were shared? This Christmas season, may we intentionally look back and see how the Lord moved in our lives and anticipate how the Lord will reveal Himself this coming 2022. Prepare yourself! Look forward to 2022 and trust that the Lord will see you through! ✨

