

EXTRAORDINARY MILESTONES

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²² Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

Extraordinary, indeed, is the milestone we celebrated such as what our family experienced today when we held a family gathering in observation of my mother's 102nd birthday. It is nothing less than a miracle that we attribute to the Lord's goodness and faithfulness how He gave our mother 102 years in life, still strong and mentally alert. This tremendous blessing is only possible by God's immense grace upon her and our family for the blessed opportunity to have her for as long as she lives.

Following is a tribute I wrote seven years ago - With thanksgiving to God for the life He has given this remarkable woman, our mother. We pay tribute to her, the shy and demure lass from Hagonoy, Bulacan, who was a loving wife of almost 42 years to our dad, Eugenio (+), who passed on to glory in 1992. Together, they raised six (6) children and showered love to 23 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. She has so

unselfishly shared of herself to us, her family, relatives, and countless others who lovingly call her, Nanang. To us, her children, we fondly call her May. It is our prayer that the Lord would continue to be gracious unto her and grant her wisdom, strength and power for her remaining years with us.

Glory be unto God, our Father, for such a wonderful occasion to celebrate her life. Truly, in our lives, we have many reasons to rejoice about the Lord's goodness and faithfulness. Through the past two years of the pandemic, we have witnessed that in spite of the many trials and tribulations we have had to go through, how Lord's steadfast love, indeed, never ceases and His mercies never come to an end. You may have experienced the death of a loved one, closure of a business or loss of livelihood, yet, we remain resolute in our faith in God. He remains good in the midst of extraordinary milestones or as we experience trouble and difficulties.

Even for those who have had to endure severe trials in life, many will attest that indeed, God is the prayer answering God whose faithfulness endures forever! That is the blessed hope that

we have in Jesus Christ as He promises to never leave us nor forsake us.

Recent events in our nation (even around the world) have reminded us to remain steadfast in our faith that God will see us through, no matter how turbulent life's challenges may be. The unabated increase in prices of fuel and basic goods are a potent reminder that we should cling to our faith in God, to be obedient to His will so that as we pursue His purposes in our lives, we may still find hope amidst the very difficult times we live in. This allows us to find the silver living amidst the clouds that darken the horizon.

You may be effused with thankfulness to God for His goodness and faithfulness, perhaps like us, as we celebrated an extraordinary milestone in our family's life. Or, you may be going through a rough patch in life that may have caused you to ask questions about the Lord's presence and ability to allow you to withstand your trials, yet, the same holds true - the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, and His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness.✠