

# EMERGE STRONGER IN UNITY

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The title is the theme of this year's PCEC National Assembly, a 3-day event that several of your pastors and members of the pastoral staff were blessed to attend at Clark City, Pampanga last week. What a great privilege it was for us to be among many pastors and church leaders from across different denominations, united in purpose in seeking God's will upon the PCEC umbrella of churches and para-church organizations to disciple the nations.

That exhortation is very timely and appropriate for GCF South Metro (being one of the member churches of PCEC) as we move forward in our thrust of multiplying disciples, in obedience to what the Lord commanded in Matthew 28:18-20, what is commonly referred to as the Great Commission. Indeed, only by being united in heart and purpose can we achieve what is seemingly impossible or difficult as we see the rise of moral decay in society amidst

the ills that are prevalent in various sectors, including government, work places, schools, and even churches! It was heartwarming to see churches of different sizes and denominations set aside theological differences to gather together and learn from each other on what is truly important in God's Kingdom building work.

We were reminded through the many wonderful resource speakers, including our very own Pastor Lito Villoria on various models of discipleship that can be considered by those in attendance to pursue in their own church contexts.

As we see and experience the many ills in society that is prevalent nowadays, it is good to be reminded that a true disciple of Jesus Christ is called to be Christ-like in character. We are called to swim against the roaring tide as we proudly proclaim that Jesus is the one who holds us up and girds us with the strength we need to weather through the various storms in our lives.

Having said all these, we need to be reminded of one of the principles that Pastor Lito shared during the assembly, and that is tenacity. Discipleship takes time. We cannot be complacent; we need to be patient; we need to be persistent as we pursue the call for discipleship in the church.

Together therefore, as a church, let us persevere in the call to obey the Great Commission to make disciples. And as we are reminded through our Mission Statement, may we strive "To love God, to love people and to make multiplying disciples". May we, indeed, emerge stronger in our common pursuit as we seek to be united in purpose under the banner of Christ, whose mighty and matchless name we proclaim!✠