

# MY CALLING TO PASTORAL MINISTRY

REV. REVIN VASALLO

After passing the Mechanical Engineering Board Exam in March 2013, I devoted the first three months to the church. In those months, I was greatly involved in worship and youth ministry. During my conversation with my music mentor, he invited me to attend a youth camp in Cebu. I was able to facilitate a group for the first time in that camp, and there began my burden to disciple the younger generation. When I came back from Cebu, my desire for discipleship grew even more when I was given the privilege of leading a small group during our own youth camp.

After three months of heavy ministry involvement, I began to work in a secular job in Madrigal Business Park, Alabang. During the first few weeks, teacher Carol Felipe offered me the internship program at GCF South Metro. For the first time, I thought about the possibility of serving the Lord on a full-time basis. And so, I took it seriously and prayed for it. After a few months of prayer, I decided to continue working for various reasons. One is because I wanted to try to do both church ministry and pursue my engineering career at the same time. I loved both my work as an engineer and my ministry as part of the Exalting and NextGen ministries.

During that time, I was being

mentored by P. Don Guico in Exalting, and by P. Mike Duco in the NextGen Ministry. I was getting used to the rhythm of spending weekdays in the office and weekends in church, and God blessed me in both aspects of my life. In my career, I was able to gain a lot of experience in both the office and field work. I was able to handle projects both locally and internationally. My pay was continually increasing, and there was also an assurance of more benefits in the following years.

In ministry, I was able to hone my gifts and skills through my involvement in worship and youth ministry. With the guidance, affirmation, and support of my mentors, I was given higher responsibilities and leadership tasks. I was exposed to different churches, led worship in different capacities, and mentored younger musicians and worship leaders. All my experiences at work and in church revealed a lot about me, and about God. Then, eventually, my heart began to change.

My love for the ministry grew more and more, while my urge to advance in my career began to slowly fade. The desire I once had to be a successful engineer was outweighed by my passion to shepherd the worship team and the youth. However, there was one major consideration

before I could make a decision to go into full-time ministry: my finances.

I'm the eldest of the four Vasallo brothers. And during that time, my two younger brothers were just about to go to college. I can't think about how our family could sustain our financial responsibilities when I let go of my engineering career. Though I sensed God's call to the ministry, I couldn't help but worry. By God's goodness and grace, He intervened during my 3-day fasting. He affirmed my calling through Matthew 6:25-34, and He assured me that He would definitely take care of me and my family's future. I just had to stop worrying and start seeking Him instead!

After two years of working as an engineer, I finally decided to work full time in the church in 2016. I heeded the call of God, I committed my life to Christ, and now I will continually rely on the Holy Spirit to empower me as I strive to fulfill my duties as a pastor: To lead God's people by *setting an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity* (1 Tim 4:12); to handle God's Word by *teaching and preaching sound doctrine* (2 Tim 4:2, Tit 2:1); and to shepherd God's flock by *intentionally and willingly exercising oversight* (1 Pet 5:2). ✱