

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 8, 2024  
BULLETIN ISSUE #49



## SERMON OUTLINE

## A FRESH VISION FROM GOD

JUDGES 7:9-18  
REV. LITO VILLORIA

In 2014, our church family embarked on a 40 Days of Prayer Campaign to discern what God wanted us to be and the work He wanted us to do when we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027. During that season of prayer, God gave us the conviction to focus on five (5) essential things that serve as the pillars of our Vision 2025: *Being, Doing, Missional, Leadership Development and Prayer*. We have labored together these past ten years and are now seeing the fruits of our discipleship thrust and discipling.

By God's grace, He has given us a fresh vision to pursue even before the end of our 12-year journey towards Vision 2027. Therefore, Vision 2037 is another 12-year journey that overlaps with the first (2025-2037). By 2037, when we celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we envision our church family to still

be pursuing our main thing of Multiplying Disciples but having a new P1.0 B facility housing our church ministries and school community. When I shared this vision with our church leadership team, Growth Group leaders, co-ministers, including our Next Gen leaders, they affirmed that this huge task is something we can pursue.

Vision 2037 is a God-sized task. But just like any God-given assignment, it comes with specific provisions to accomplish the mission. In the story of Gideon in Judges 7, God gave Gideon the daunting task of defeating the Midianites and Amalekites whose army was *"like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance"* (vv. 9a & 12). However, God gave Gideon His assurance that even before

he took the first step, He had already given the Midianites into his hands (vv. 9b, 14b, 15b).

Gideon was still gripped with fear as he went down the valley despite the divine assurance. So, God sent assistance in the person of Purah, his servant, who became a source of Gideon's strength to carry on his mission (vv. 10-11). Gideon continued to pursue his assignment and God affirmed along the way that he would successfully defeat the Midianites (vv. 13-18). And in response to God's work in his midst, Gideon responded expressing his allegiance to God through worship (v. 15a).

From this story of Gideon, we will learn principles that will serve as guardrails to keep our allegiance to God as we pursue our Vision 2037. ✨

## GRATEFUL TO GOD

REV. LITO VILLORIA

Praise God for a very good turnout during our Annual Business Meeting held last Sunday, December 01, after the second worship service. We looked back on how God has been working in our church family for the past ten years and the great things He had done through our ministries the past year. It was also a joy to have 180+ members who participated in the affirmation process of five (5) motions presented by the Board of Elders (BOE) for approval.

The motions approved by the congregation are as follows: (1) P62.918M 2025 Annual Ministry Plans and Budget; (2) P6.666M 2025 Capital Expenditures; (3) Election of Elder Gilbert Bayang for his second 3-year in the BOE; (4) Election of Deacons Jaime Besana, Jr., Jong Navarro, and Rimer Regalado for their first 3-year term; and Deacons Francis Ilagan, Corwyn Jose, Mai Madrigal, Dan Mariveles, and Donnie Wahing for their second 3-year term in the Board of Deacons (BOD); and (5) Authorization for the BOE to initiate the establishment of GCFSM Foundation Ministries, Inc. with the mission of making a difference and being an agent of societal transformation in various communities, businesses, and public sectors in and around the Philippines through the multiplication of disciples of Christ.

The establishment of the GCFSM Foundation Ministries, Inc. (GCFSMFMI) is one of the first steps

related to our pursuit of our Vision 2037. The main goal of our main thing of Multiplying Disciples is the spiritual maturity of believers. We firmly believe that when believers grow in spiritual maturity, we can make an impact in the transformation of the communities around us and in areas where we conduct outreach and missions. Since almost all of our ministries have direct, significant contributions to societal transformation, it qualifies us to be recognized as a partner of the government, including but not limited to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). We are praying that within three (3) years we can get accreditation from the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) as a donee institution. As a donee institution, we will be authorized to issue tax credits for donations, especially from businesses and corporations.

We need to emphasize that the GCFSMFMI is the social arm of GCF South Metro Church. It gives us more opportunities to bring Jesus directly to our surrounding communities and around the Philippines. The ministry functions of the church will be transferred under the foundation, but it will still be led by the staff and co-ministers of the church. We will provide you with more details pertaining to the organizational set-up of the foundation and its relationship with the church.

### Sabbatical Leave

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I, together with Linda,

## PARSON TO PERSON

will take our partial sabbatical leave this December until February 2025. I was due for a one-year sabbatical last June 2023, but due to certain circumstances, I wasn't able to avail of it. All major events for next have already been laid out and planned accordingly. During my absence, Rev. Don Guico, Executive Pastor, will be the Pastor-in-Charge.

For 2025, we have a sermon series on two books of the Bible—one each from the New Testament and Old Testament. Our theme next year is "Shine as Lights in the World," based on Philippians 2:15-16. Our 12-part sermon series in the Book of Philippians will be from January to April. It will be followed by a 20-part sermon series on the Book of Judges from May to November. Every second Sunday (Communion Sunday), we will have ten (10) sermons on Real Talk where we address current issues and challenging questions we must deal with.

Linda and I are just so grateful to God for the privilege to be part of what He is doing in, for, and through our beloved GCF South Metro. During this sabbatical period, we would appreciate your prayers for Linda and I to experience more of God's presence as we rest in who He is and what He is doing in our lives. May the Lord's blessings be upon you and your family, especially this Christmas season! ✨

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Let us continue to be found faithful in our giving.  
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