

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JANUARY 18, 2026
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SERMON OUTLINE

REBUILT, RESTORED, RECOMMISSIONED FOR THE NATIONS

ACTS 15:16-18 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

As we celebrate our church anniversary, we remember the grace that has carried GCF South Metro through seasons of rebuilding, renewal, and remarkable growth. Yet anniversaries are not only for looking back; they are for looking ahead. As we enter 2026—our Year of Preparation for Vision 2037—we recognize that this moment is a recommissioning. God is shaping us for deeper discipling, wider influence, and greater kingdom impact. Acts 15:16-18 provides the perfect lens for our celebration because it reveals a God who rebuilds, restores, and sends His people so that all nations may seek Him.

The Jerusalem Council debated whether Gentile believers were required to follow Jewish customs to belong to the community of faith. In settling this dispute, James quoted Amos 9:11-12, declaring God's intention to "return,"

"rebuild," and "restore" the fallen tent of David. In Acts 15:16, James affirmed God's promise: "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen." The tent symbolized God's kingdom and covenant with David—fulfilled in Christ, the true Son of David, who rebuilt what sin and division had broken. James repeated God's work in the same verse: "I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it," pointing to God's renewal of His people, their identity, and their mission.

The purpose became clear in Acts 15:17: God rebuilt and restored "that the remnant of mankind might seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who were called by my name." The gospel was never intended for Israel alone. It was always God's plan to welcome the nations into His family through faith in Christ. James concluded in Acts 15:18 by anchoring this mission in God's

eternal purpose: "says the Lord, who made these things known from of old." The inclusion of the nations was not innovation—it was fulfillment.

Theologically, this passage reveals a God whose mission has remained unchanged from the beginning. He rebuilds His church when it weakens, restores His people when they drift, and recommissions them when the mission expands.

Therefore, the purpose of this sermon is to remind our church that this anniversary is not only a celebration of God's past faithfulness but an invitation to embrace His future calling. Christ has rebuilt us, Christ is restoring us, and Christ is recommissioning us so that our community, our nation, and the nations may seek the Lord. ✨

FAITHFUL THROUGH THE YEARS, SENT FOR THE GENERATIONS AHEAD

REV. LITO VILLORIA

As we mark the 29th anniversary of GCF South Metro, we pause with gratitude to remember God's faithfulness through the years and with humility to recognize that His work among us is far from finished. Church anniversaries are moments of thanksgiving, but they are also moments of renewed calling. They invite us not only to look back with praise, but to look ahead with obedience, discernment, and faith.

Our celebration today takes place as we enter 2026, our Year of Preparation for Vision 2037. Preparation, however, is not merely about plans, structures, or timelines. It is about spiritual alignment—ensuring that our hearts, priorities, and practices remain anchored in Christ and responsive to His mission. Before we build further, expand wider, or multiply more, we must be certain that we are walking faithfully with Jesus. God has been faithful to carry us this far, and He continues to prepare us for what lies ahead.

God's Faithfulness Through the Years

GCF South Metro was established on January 19, 1997, born out of small Growth Groups south of Manila, whose members desired to follow Jesus faithfully and make disciples intentionally. From those humble beginnings, the Lord formed a local church that journeyed through multiple seasons—meeting in rented facilities, navigating transitions in leadership, and witnessing God's provision again and again. In His time, God entrusted to us our present property along Daang Hari, which has since become a strategic base for ministry. This campus also became home to GCF South Metro Christian School, a ministry of the church that now disciples hundreds of students and families of the next generation.

Influence Beyond Our Local Church

At the national level, God has been clearly and intentionally using GCF South Metro to influence the direction of discipling within the Conservative Baptist Philippines and the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches. Through teaching, leadership, and modeling authentic discipleship and intentional discipling, God has allowed our church to help shape conversations, frameworks, and initiatives—most notably through the National Discipling Campaign of PCEC. This movement calls churches across the country back to biblical discipling, with the prayerful vision of

seeing transformed lives, renewed churches, and ultimately, national transformation under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Over the past 29 years, God has also graciously allowed GCF South Metro to participate in His wider work by planting and supporting churches. From this congregation have emerged GCF Batangas, GCF Sta. Rosa, GCF Parañaque, Landayan Community Fellowship in San Pedro, GCF Iloilo, GCFSM Bacoor, and Julianahan Community Fellowship. Each of these works stands as a testimony that the gospel multiplies when disciples are intentionally formed and faithfully sent. Today, we are also prayerfully working toward the planting of GCFSM Alfonso and a church-planting work in Pagadian City, trusting the Lord to establish these ministries according to His timing and purpose.

Beyond local church planting, God has further widened the influence of GCF South Metro beyond our immediate context. He has opened doors for us to share what God has been doing in our discipling journey as a church. Through His gracious leading, we have been connected with global networks such as the Global Alliance, the World Evangelical Alliance, the Global Kingdom Partnerships Network, and the Asia Evangelical Alliance. These relationships have allowed us to learn from others while also sharing what God has taught us, as churches across nations pursue authentic discipleship and intentional discipling.

In fact, this coming June, GCF South Metro will host around 300 leaders from the Asia Evangelical Alliance. We will have the privilege of sharing our discipling pathway as a church—how discipleship flows into discipling, and how both are sustained across generations. These leaders have expressed their desire to prayerfully adapt this pathway within their own national and ministry contexts. We receive this opportunity not as a mark of achievement, but as a stewardship of grace entrusted to us by the Lord.

A Season of Reset: Preparing for What Lies Ahead

As we step into 2026, this anniversary also marks a personal milestone for me—this will be my 16th year serving as Senior Pastor of GCF South Metro. In prayer and reflection, the word that has shaped my posture for this

season is reset. This is not about changing our mission, correcting failure, or stepping back from God's calling. It is a deliberate posture of renewed attentiveness—choosing to see our church again with fresh eyes.

I have been asking the Lord to help me imagine myself as if I were a new Senior Pastor stepping into this church for the first time. When someone is new in any organization, the instinct is to listen carefully, understand the details, learn the culture, and discern what must be protected and strengthened so the organization can move forward faithfully. That is the posture I am intentionally taking as we prepare for Vision 2037.

Part of this reset involves aligning our practices more clearly with our convictions. Last year, we returned to distributing communion elements as part of our gathered worship. Beginning the second Sunday of February, we will return to the use of the traditional communion cup and bread rather than commercially sealed elements. Beginning today, January 18, we will also resume passing the offering bags during our worship services. These are not matters of nostalgia, but formative practices that help shape us as a worshipping community.

This reset also includes renewed attention to disciplined stewardship as we align our resources with our calling. Above all, it is a spiritual reset—keeping our church anchored in God's Word. That is why, beginning January 25, we will launch our year-long sermon series on the Gospel of Luke, titled Following Jesus, calling us back to the heart of discipleship: walking closely with Christ, shaped by His Word, empowered by the Spirit, and sent for His mission.

As we look ahead, Vision 2037 reminds us that our calling as a church is not merely to gather, but to be a blessing—locally, nationally, and globally. It is a call to remain rooted in God's Word, sustained by prayer, committed to discipleship, and faithful in multiplying disciplers across generations.

As we celebrate 29 years of God's goodness, may we continue to walk forward with grateful hearts and obedient lives. May we remain faithful to follow Jesus where He leads, confident that He who has been faithful in the past will be faithful still. This is not merely a reflection on our past, but a declaration of who we are—and who God is calling us to be as we move forward together. ✨

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