

Isaiah spoke of a restored Zion upon whom the Lord's glory would rise, drawing the nations to His light. As we begin Missions Month, this passage directs our attention to God's purpose beyond one place or people. Through Christ, we are called to follow Him in that mission. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

Isaiah summons Zion to shine because the Lord's glory has risen upon her. Darkness covers the peoples, but God's light breaks in, drawing nations and kings toward its brightness. The light does not originate in Zion's strength; its source is the Lord. This restoration places His glory and the nations' response at the center of the vision. In Christ, God's people bear witness to the light and are sent to make disciples among all nations. (Isaiah 60:1-3; Matthew 28:18-20)

At the chapter's close, the Lord calls His restored people the work of His hands, planted for His glory. The least becomes a clan, and the smallest a mighty nation because He acts, not because they possess impressive resources. Isaiah's promise concerns Zion; it does not guarantee a particular building, budget, or size for our church. It nevertheless reveals God's power to work beyond apparent smallness. Faithful discipleship, mentoring, teaching, prayer, and partnerships can begin modestly while serving purposes we cannot presently see. (Isaiah 60:21-22)

The Lord concludes, "I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it." His timing calls for patient trust and active readiness. Jesus appointed disciples and sent them ahead of Him, calling them to pray for

laborers. GCF South Metro's opportunities in our community, across the Philippines, and among the nations require prayerful preparation of disciples and leaders. As Vision 2037 approaches its January launch, members can mark January 24, pray, and set aside a first gift according to their capacity. (Isaiah 60:22; Luke 10:1-2)

God's glory draws the nations,  
His power can work through  
small beginnings, and His timing  
calls for faithful preparation.  
This sermon challenges us to  
follow Jesus in making disciples  
and developing leaders,  
beginning in our community and  
reaching toward the nations,  
while preparing our hearts  
wholeheartedly for Vision 2037. ✱

## REV. LITO VILLORIA

"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." – Luke 14:11

Last Friday, October 2, the Lord reminded me through Luke 14:11 to humble myself before Him and entrust my honor to Him. This reminder also speaks to our life as a church. Every opportunity God gives us to serve must be received with humility and pursued for His glory.

Today, we begin Missions Month under the theme, "Following Jesus: From Our Community to the Nations." Our message, Following Jesus to the Nations, calls us to let God's glory shape our mission, trust Him with small beginnings, and prepare faithfully for His time.

With this in mind, I want to share a summary of Chapter II, "Vision 2037: The Statement and Its Meaning," from our forthcoming booklet, *Built for His Glory: Preparing the Church for Vision 2037*. It explains how our vision connects with our calling to serve God's mission:

## II. Vision 2037: The Statement and Its Meaning

Before we move further into preparation, alignment, and implementation, we must bring Vision 2037 back to the forefront. Since this statement has been before us for almost two years, we must remember its meaning and faithfully connect it to the life and direction of our church.

## Vision 2037

"To heed God's call for GCF South

Metro Church and GCFSM Christian School to be a greater blessing to our community, throughout the Philippines, and across other nations—reaching people of all generations for Christ by being a global discipling and leadership center through the expansion of the strategic facility He has entrusted to our care, in fulfillment of His global purpose for His glory.”

"To heed God's call..." affirms that this vision is a response to what we prayerfully discern as God's direction. We desire to follow Him with humility, courage, and obedience, neither running ahead nor lagging behind.

This calling is “for GCF South Metro Church and GCFSM Christian School” under one God-given direction. The school is a ministry of the church, entrusted to us for forming the next generation, serving families, developing leaders, and extending kingdom influence through education.

Our desire “to be a greater blessing to our community, throughout the Philippines, and across other nations” expresses a local, national, and global mission. We seek to bless our neighbors, strengthen churches and leaders throughout the Philippines, and contribute to God’s work among the nations.

"Reaching people of all generations for Christ" remains central. We must care for those already entrusted to us while intentionally discipling the next generation and preparing for those God will allow us to serve. This mission is pursued "by being a global discipling and leadership center." The church seeks to multiply

authentic disciplers who make disciples of Jesus Christ. The school seeks to develop excellent leaders with competence, character, and Christ-centered conviction. Together, we equip people to serve God's purposes.

We pursue this calling “through the expansion of the strategic facility He has entrusted to our care.” Our Daang Hari property is a God-given stewardship. Its expansion serves the greater mission of building lives, making disciples, developing leaders, strengthening families, and reaching communities and nations.

All this is “in fulfillment of His global purpose.” Everything we build, organize, give, teach, and lead must contribute to God’s redemptive work and serve the glory of Christ until He returns.

Finally, “for His glory” declares our ultimate purpose. Vision 2037 must be received as God’s call, carried by His grace, sustained by His provision, and offered back to Him. It gives direction to our preparation, purpose to our building, urgency to our discipling, and humility to our stewardship.

This chapter reminds us why Vision 2037 belongs to our shared calling. As we begin Missions Month, let us prayerfully consider how each of us can participate. We can pray for our missionaries and ministry partners, disciple someone, encourage a younger leader, share the gospel, and use our gifts to serve.

May we receive every opportunity with humility and follow Jesus faithfully—from our community to the nations—all for His glory. ✱

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