

BLD WASHINGTON



BURÁS-LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY

SERVING THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Counsel

Submission

Theme: *We spread the Good News of salvation when we depend on and trust in God's grace.*

Word: *Disciples of Christ obey His call to spread the Good News of Salvation.*

Order: *“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch...do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” (Lk 5: 4, 10)*

(BLD Global Community reflection for February 2010)

REFLECTION:

“The BLDGK Ministry members were awake at the crack of dawn on a rainy Sunday for the two-hour drive to Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. They were eager to conduct a Basic Bible Seminar (BBS).

It was the first time for most of the participants to hold a Bible. At the far end of the packed room, a frail-looking man in his mid-50s was visibly struggling with the first exercise. I immediately approached him. I saw the pain in his eyes as he struggled to write down the titles of the different books of the Bible. He got stuck with “Exodo” and lagged far behind the rest of the class.

I soon realized what his problem was. He could barely write and was patiently copying from the blackboard, one letter at a time. But it did not stop him from actively participating and listening intently all day long.

It was almost dark and it was pouring when we left the Fr. Lehman's BLD-GK village. My husband, Raul, and I were tired, sweaty and smelly. But our hearts were full of joy and love. We had done our part in spreading the Gospel, at least for that day.” (Bible Reflection for January 11, 2010, Didache)

This BLDGK episode is no doubt an all too familiar story for most of us in community who strive to obey God's call to spread the Good News of salvation. The response could come in many forms i.e., building homes in a BLD GK village, sponsoring an encounter weekend, shepherding at an LSS outreach, visiting inmates at the Correctional Institute for Women or the Bilibid Prison, and many more. Often, we become over-anxious or pre-occupied with the logistics – the preparations, fundraising, securing volunteers, recruiting candidates, while engaged in other secular pursuits. And when we do go out to evangelize, we have a tendency to rely on our own human resources and ability, forgetting that we are merely the Lord's instruments in building His kingdom.

Our readings this Sunday demonstrate, in the persons of Isaiah, Paul and Peter, how

the Lord manifests His presence and His grace in our lives, as we reach out to others and go about doing our work in His vineyard. In the 1st reading, the seraphim touches the mouth of Isaiah and declares, **“See, now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged,”** (Is 6:7). In so doing, without much physical preparation, the Lord instantly empowers Isaiah to go and become a prophet speaking in God’s name. And it was sufficient for Isaiah to respond in humble obedience, **“Here I am...send me!”** (Is 6:8).

In the 2nd reading, Paul makes known that it is not by his own power that he is able to go and preach, but by God’s grace. **“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God that is with me,”** (1 Cor 15:10).

Finally, the gospel tells us that the Lord knew the disciples had been fishing all night without bringing in a catch, yet He commands them to cast their nets. One can imagine Simon Peter’s consternation, **“Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets,”** (Luke 5:5). We all know how the story ends. A great number of fish were caught and their nets were tearing. And all Peter had to do to release God’s bounty was suspend his skepticism and obey Jesus.

As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Bukas Loob Sa Diyos Covenant Community, there can be no better time for us to reflect upon the lives of these servants of the Lord and emulate them. Inspired by our Global Spiritual Director, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the theme of our year-long silver anniversary celebration revolves around God’s word in the gospel, **“Put out**

into deep water and lower your nets for a catch,” (Luke 5:4).

Let us, as one body moving forward in Christ, embark on our mission for the next 25 years, following in the footsteps of the prophet Isaiah who willingly submitted to the Lord’s calling. Let us heed the words of Paul who relied on God’s grace to do the work. And most of all, let us keep our faith burning like Simon Peter who remained steadfast in his trust and confidence, regardless of the circumstances, **“If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth,”** (1 Pet 4:11).

Prayer

Lord, thank you that among so many others, you have called us to serve you in the Bukas Loob Sa Diyos Covenant Community. As ambassadors for Christ, we commit ourselves to serve You with all humility. We pray that You will give us the grace to be steadfast, unmovable, and always abounding in Your work. Use us to heal the sick, comfort the brokenhearted and preach deliverance to the captives. Let us do Your will and help finish Your work. Empower us to be Your ministers and witnesses that we may declare Your glory and be a light to others. By Your divine grace, may we be Your chosen vessels to bear Your. All this we ask in the mighty name of Jesus Amen.

Directions:

1. Trust in the Lord by allowing yourself to be the instrument of God's love, peace and unity in the community.
2. Remain steadfast in evangelizing others relying on the grace of God alone.

God's Promise for the Week

"...you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me." (Ps 138:3)



"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch," (Luke 5:4).



**World Day for Consecrated Life
February 7, 2010**

In 1997, John Paul II called for consecrated life to be promoted throughout the universal

Church. He declared February 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, to be observed as *World Day for Consecrated Life (WDCL)*. In the United States, when February 2 is not on a Sunday, we celebrate on the Sunday after the Presentation. This year *WDCL* is observed on February 7, the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The celebration of *World Day for Consecrated Life* invites all the Church to reflect on the role of Consecrated Life within the Christian community. Those who choose to live a consecrated life do so for the sake of the gospel.

Some Christian women and men respond to God's call to become followers of Jesus through profession of vows and a life dedicated to prayer and service. They live out the consecrated life in different ways. Religious sisters, nuns, brothers, religious priests, and monks consecrate their lives through their profession of the evangelical vows and live as part of a community. Single lay people may choose to be consecrated virgins and make private vows to the local bishop as they live out their vocation in various walks of life. Secular institutes are another form of living the consecrated life as single people. Those who become followers of Jesus through the consecrated life bless the Church.

Source:<http://www.thinkpriest.org/2010events/WDC L-ENG-Final/wdcl2010combined.pdf>

Love Offering

- Jan. 08, 2010 \$ 986.00
- Jan. 15, 2020 \$ 1,229.00
- Jan. 22, 2010 \$ 896.00
- Jan. 29, 2010 \$ 1,069.00

Thank you for your generosity!

January Calendar

Feb. 05 1st Friday Eucharistic Celebration
12 Praise & Worship
19 Praise & Worship
26 Praise & Worship

Teaching Schedule

Feb. 26 - **Post Encounter**
(ME10/SE)
Feb. 27 - **Christian Parenting**
(ME10/SPE)
- **Encounters with Jesus**
(LSS9 & older)
- **Spiritual Warfare**
(LSS7 & older)
Feb. 28 - **Teachings of Jesus Christ**
Module 6 + Q&A
(Covenanted members)
- **CMP 2 Part 3**
(LSS8)
Mar. 28 - **Shepherd Training**
(LSS7 & older)
Time and Venue – TBD

Reminder

Please sign in and wear your BLD IDs during Praise & Worship and Community Functions.

Community Calendar

Feb. 22-25, 2010
Medical Mission (w/ BLD Newark)
Mauban, Quezon, Philippines
Mar. 5-7, 2010
YLSS# 4
Time & Venue - TBD
May 7-9
LSS#10
Time & Venue - TBD
June 12
Agony in the Garden/
Washing of the Feet Retreat
Time & Venue - TBD
July 9-12
Aspirants Retreat
Time & Venue - TBD
Jul. 31-Aug. 2
FE#4
Malvern, Pa.
Sept. 17-19
SPE#3
Holy Family, MD.
Nov. 12-14
ME#11
Dulles Hilton, Va.

Please check our website www.bldwashington.com for 2010 Schedule of Events.