



## THE WAY OF THE CROSS

*“For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him”*

Wilson L. Go Kiao

– Philippians 1:29

### I. The Grace of Believing in Him

It is by the grace of God that we have been granted to believe in Jesus Christ!

The way of the cross started from heaven when the Son obeyed the will of the Father. He was sent by God the Father not just to look at what the people are doing to the world He had created. No, he was sent to die for the world. He had to leave the glorious heaven where the angels encircled him and worshiped Him, to come down to this sinful world where people rejected Him. The Word became flesh and had to be born in a manger because there was no room for Him. Growing up for thirty years in a poor family, He worked hard as a carpenter to support the family's financial needs. His foster father may have died young and He had to take over the responsibility as the eldest of the family to oversee the upbringing of His younger siblings.

fulfilled his family responsibility, He then went to full time ministry. This did not mean that the family burden had been taken from him; rather the burden of the world was added onto his shoulder. When He saw the people like sheep without a shepherd, He felt the need that He had to take care of them and feed them. He had to preach and teach without ceasing, He had to heal the sick and drive out demons. So many times He had to skip meals and experience exhaustion. He had performed a lot of miracles. Yet some still would not believe Him, especially the leaders of the Jews who envied and hated him to the point of plotting His death!

“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrow, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”- Isaiah 53: 3-5.

“Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and

At the age of thirty, after Jesus had

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**A Blessed New Year to All.**

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I was in 4<sup>th</sup> year high school when the Lord called me to dedicate my life to full-time ministry. I had lots of doubts, fears and questions in my head, I tried to find the answers, but then I found out that God was the only one who can solve this puzzle. Throughout the years, the Lord God Almighty comforted and taught me to trust in Him. I was encouraged to see how God molded His people to become more effective in His ministry. I also kept biblical promises inside my heart. Now I can see how my life has changed and how I've grown in faith and burden for the lost.

Early last year (2004), my passion for my career subsided. From being a student to becoming a young professional, I had no peace inside my heart, because I knew at the back of my mind, my Heavenly Father had other plans for me. Then, I prayed and sought guidance from Christian counselors. I admit that I was scared to commit to my calling. I didn't know how to seek my mother's approval. My family would not allow me to take this path because they had other plans for my future. My heart was so broken that I cried out to my Lord; "How can I serve you if there are so many hindrances? How can I serve you fully if I don't have peace in me?" God convicted me to let it go and allow Him to be in full control. I remember praying to Him "Lord, if you really called me to go fulltime, please change my mother's heart, and kindly open a way for me". Asking my mother to reconsider, I looked for any Christian organization that would train me for the meantime. So, I decided to postpone seminary training for awhile.

The Lord's timing is perfect. While waiting, God indeed opened the door. He allowed my mother as well as my eldest brother to come home from the United States in short notice. I prayed eagerly for my mother's permission. By God's grace, she gave me her approval and until now, she is still that supportive of this calling. After seven years, at last I can obey God's call! I realize how my life has changed now I have visions, directions and goals to look forward to. I thank the Lord for having an abundant life and the privilege of serving our Lord Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!!!

I was born and raised in a Christian family. Nevertheless, long before I was in tune with God, I thought I was pleasing him. I had been so used to listening to Bible stories and verses that they never impacted me as someone who first heard the Gospel. I was a dead believer thinking all along that it was enough to believe in God and know that He is a Supreme Being.

It was not until I turned twelve that I began to understand what it truly meant to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

After two years of a growing relationship with Christ, He called me into full-time ministry during one of the local youth camps. It was a surreal experience of being led out of my seat, literally, to answer the call. Following that occurrence, my life has never been the same again. That burning desire to serve God deepened as I continued to walk with Him.

God has done so much that I can only give my life back in surrender, obedience and gratitude for His unchanging love, unlimited patience and unwavering faithfulness.



## Mission Trip

*Teams assigned to the different Mangyan groups take a break in Calapan, Mindoro.*



*Scenic place in Mindoro.*



*Food!*

**FACULTY ON THE MOVE**

☞ Dr. Joseph Shao conducted BSOP Sunday at the Living Christian Church in Cebu City last October 23, 2005. While there he promoted the third phase construction project (see related item below). This quarter he is also handling a course on “Seminar on Malachi” for the AGST Ph.D. in Biblical Studies program being held in BSOP.

☞ Dr. Michael Malessa is likewise teaching “Hellenistic Greek” in the AGST Ph.D. in Biblical Studies program.

☞ Prof. Dennis Yam conducted BSOP Sunday at the Trinity Church in Bacolod City last November 20, 2005.

**Construction Under Way**

These photographs show the rapid progress being done in the construction site. Do pray for the safety of all workers and for the funds needed to see this project to completion. Please contact the business office by phone, by email, or even visit us and witness the work of the Lord being accomplished through human hands!



*A month before construction started, faculty and staff members together with the students prayed at the construction site on November 8, 2005.*

*Construction of the men’s dormitory continuing smoothly. (Taken December 16, 2005)*



*The campus premises have been fenced for the construction activities and safety of the BSOP populace. (December 16, 2005)*



**Mobilized for Mission**

The students and faculty of BSOP were mobilized to go on mission trips to the following places:

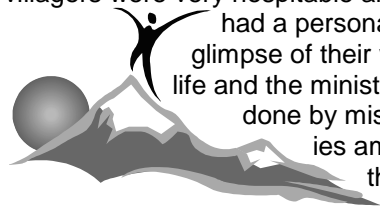
1. Oriental Mindoro – Three teams visited different Mangyan churches in Lamak, Baras, and Ayambekeg, under the coordination of Prof. Jay Hollowell and in cooperation with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship and the Mangyan church leaders. The trip took place on October 27 to November 3.

2. Dagupan City, Pangasinan – Dr. Jane Chuaunsu and Prof. Jean Uayan led five students to minister in the Dagupan Chinese Baptist Church. Intensive home visitations were made from October 27 to November 3. There was also a special seminar on the evening of October 29; BSOP Sunday on the morning of October 30, and a special program during the Sisters’ Fellowship held on Sunday afternoon of the same day. The team mainly focused on personal evangelism among the Chinese in Dagupan City.

3. San Martin, Burog, and Calumpang in Pampanga – On November 5, a team led by Prof. and Mrs. Doyle Carlbom with sixteen students were brought to these places by Kurt and Margaret Storck of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Another couple, Rev. Joshua Yu and his wife, Gloria, went along and acted as translators for the group. They visited the ministry of SIL among the Ayta people in these towns.

4. Cawayan, Pampanga – On October 27 – 28, Prof. Allen Lim Giok Lin took eight students to visit the Ayta village. They had to hike for 6 – 8 hours and got drenched by the pouring rain. But the villagers were very hospitable and they

had a personal glimpse of their way of life and the ministry being done by missionaries among them.



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though the Lord made His life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities..." – Isaiah 53: 10-12.

After the triumphant entry, Jesus predicted His own crucifixion for the last time. (Matthew 26:1, 2). The suffering started to get intense following each day and along the way. The Jewish leaders plotted His death with the help of Judas who chose to betray Him. During the last supper, He washed His disciple's feet as an example to serve and to love one another. He predicted Peter's denial and prayed three times in extreme agony in Gethsemane. Then he was arrested.

He stood the first trial before Annas. He stood the second trial before Caiaphas. Peter denied Him three times. He stood the informal third trial before the priests and elders. Mocked and beaten by temple guards, formally sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin, He stood the fourth trial before Pilate. He stood the fifth trial before Herod. He stood the sixth trial before Pilate again! And then, He was flogged and mocked by the Roman soldiers. Finally, He carried his own cross along the via Dolorosa. Along the way He stumbled and Simon from Cypress had to carry the cross for Jesus up to the place of crucifixion.

The pain and shame that He suffered on the cross is beyond comprehension and description. In addition, He had to endure the

mocking and teasing, until God silenced them with darkness and lightning.

After the resurrection Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

## II. The Grace to Suffer for Him

"The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them." – Psalm 25:14. In other words, the Lord reveals His secret to those who are very close to Him! Paul was one of the persons that the Lord revealed His secrets to. To suffer for Christ is truly grace upon grace! Not everyone is called to suffer for him. Only a chosen few, those who are worthy to suffer for Him, will go through what Paul experienced for the sake of Christ.

Jesus suffered for us; hence it is but natural for us to suffer for him. It is a privilege if we are chosen to suffer for him. "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name." (Acts 5:41)

Jesus said that we have to take up our own cross and follow him. Throughout the ages, the heroes of faith gladly followed what Jesus had said, followed the way of the cross and suffered for him. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed and from this blood grew churches that soon covered the four corners of the world!

The first martyr, Stephen, was stoned to death with Saul's approval. But Jesus was standing at the right hand of God welcoming him home. The great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and Christians were scattered like wildfire but revival took place wherever they went. Saul was converted and Paul was commissioned to suffer for Christ's name. James was put to death by the sword, but it did not affect the spreading of the message of the cross throughout the Roman world.

Jesus took away our sins and gave His own life to give us eternal life. He had walked the way of the cross before and He surely can accompany us as we walk the same path. Suffering is like good medicine. It is bitter yet it is good for healing. To suffer for Christ is indeed grace upon grace! The way of the cross is the way to glory!



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