



# The Shepherd



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*Celebrate the Fullness of Life*

**“Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with Him. Keep your roots deep in Him. Build your lives on Him and become stronger in your faith as you were taught and be filled with thanksgiving”**

*Colossians 2:6-7*

## STEWARDSHIP

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When you make your resolutions, don't forget your responsibilities as stewards of God's gifts. The New Testament concept of stewardship is based upon the idea of grace and not law. The motivation for giving is the love that people have for their Lord and his Kingdom's work. People are to give from their hearts because of the change that had occurred in their lives.

**Who is to give?** The New Testament proclaims “Each of you.” (1 Cor. 16:2).

**What is to be given?** St. Paul says in 1 Cor. 16:2, “Whatever one can afford.”

**When are we to give?** St. Paul makes it plain. He says, “On the first day of the week.” (1 Cor. 16:2).

God's financial plan has been in force for more than 3,500 years. It has worked in every generation whenever and wherever people have practiced it. It has never been too demanding or restrictive. When practiced by God's people, it has provided for the work that needed to be done and God has blessed those who followed his plan.

### ALL IS GIVEN TO US!

*God gives us shelter.* Not just any shelter, but a house with a sound roof and inside there is furniture and pictures on the walls. There is heat, air conditioning and television.

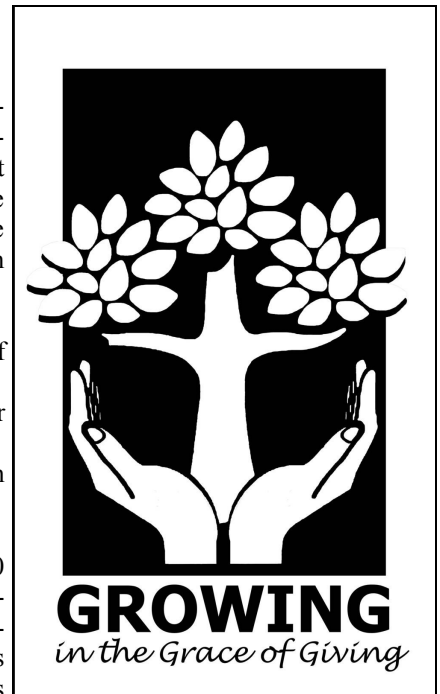
*God gives us food.* Not just food to sustain life, but a rich variety of delicious dishes, and marvelous tools with which to prepare them.

*God gives us clothing.* Not just a covering for our bodies, but beautiful things with many different textures and bright colors.

*God gives us friends.* Not just acquaintances, but people who care about us.

*God also gave his only son so that we might be eternally happy.* All that is asked in return is that we love God, have faith in God and that we share God's Word.

God has given each one of us a *gift*, a *charism*. A charism isn't something we earn. It's a gift entrusted to us for the sake of the whole community, including the church. The only question is whether we will put it at the service of the community or not. Pray that we will grow in our understanding of stewardship of our talents and abilities. As St. Paul put it, “God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.” (Romans 12:6). “Do not neglect the gift you have... Be diligent in these matters, be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to everyone.” (1 Tim. 4:14-15). Finally, we should remember Colossians 3:23-25, which tells us to work cheerfully in all we do, just as though we were working for Jesus.



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# COUPLES FOR CHRIST

A Private International Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right  
Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

June 23, 2010

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## A THANK YOU LETTER TO THE CFC GLOBAL FAMILY

Praise be to God! Our 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a resounding success! What a wonderful affirmation of God's love! It is not a coincidence that the past three years' celebrations have been the best-attended, drawing crowds of more than 50,000 each time. It is probably not a coincidence either that the past three years have been marked by the miracle of the rains (in the case of 2008, a major typhoon) suddenly stopping as soon as the Holy Mass began.

It is in the past three years that our community has experienced great trials and challenges. It is in the past three years that our celebrations, not just the anniversary but also all our major events such as our leaders conferences, have been overflowing with people, always eager to hear God's Word, always joyful.

What does this tell us? It tells us that we serve an awesome God! It tells us that He is indeed present in our lives, affirming us always, consoling us with His many miracles. It tells us that in our 29 years of existence, it has been our magnificent God who has been guiding us, directing us, enabling and empowering us to fulfill the mission that He himself has given.

The papal nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams, said it best when he told the tens of thousands of rain-soaked CFC brethren during the anniversary Mass that "He is the God who enabled us to be what we are, to accomplish so much good, to accomplish so much good these past 29 years. It is only He that has done it. It is the real Christ who now blesses you and sends you on your mission to spread His gospel. What is that gospel? It is the gospel of love, the gospel of truth, the gospel of what is right."

In 2011, we shall be celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As we celebrate the past 29 years, let us look forward to our 30<sup>th</sup> year, as the Archbishop said, "with courage and optimism." With courage because the work is daunting and the challenges many. But with optimism because we know who walks with us as we do the work, as we indeed spread the gospel of love – our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your prayers for the success of this anniversary. Thank you to those who actively participated in the congresses, in the preparations, in the anniversary parade. Those who witnessed our commitment to remain for the anniversary Mass in spite of the thunderstorms overhead, the strong winds, the flooded grounds, the lashing rain that soaked every part of our bodies, came away convicted that truly, we must serve a wonderful God.

Happy Anniversary, CFC! See you all at our grand 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations!

God bless us all.

**FOR THE CFC INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

**JOE YAMAMOTO**  
Executive Director

349 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City 1554, Philippines  
Telephone Numbers (632) 727-0682 to 87 \*727-0707 \* Fax Number (632) 727-5777  
Email Address: cfcmultimedia@gmail.com  
[www.couplesforchristglobal.org](http://www.couplesforchristglobal.org)

## GOD'S LOVE

by Henryeta Ferrer- Richmond I

What I am about to tell you happened to me almost 18 years ago and I always believed in my heart that there is a special purpose for what transpired and that purpose has always been definite and solid in my mind--- to live to tell, simply to be a living witness to the goodness and mercy of our Lord and God. It took me this long because there was always a doubt in my mind that I should be the right person, worthy to bear this good news. For years I am working on my spiritual make-up, subconsciously waiting for that time when my heart is worthy to carry on this task. I was never convinced that if I re-tell it, I could give justice to what I actually experienced. How does one re-tell a miracle? How does one recapture overwhelming love and mercy in a few words? I still believe it is beyond words but with God's grace, I might be able to scratch the surface with this testimonial of God's love.

I was 21 years old when I first died. Some people call it a near-death experience but I actually believe I died because I was presented to Jesus for judgement. I saw Him, almost a silhouette but more real than that, a gloriously white vision. He was sitting on a very grand throne. Because I did not see his face, I also surmised that probably when people die and are not yet worthy to be accepted in heaven, they come face to face with Jesus but are not yet granted the privilege to see His face, because only the perfect soul can see Him.

As I said, this happened when I was 21 years old, graduating from university that school year. A group of my friends and I went to Bicol to take part in the Penafrancia Festival. That Sunday afternoon, we all decided to go swimming in a lake, about an hour drive away from where we were staying. To make a long story short, I drowned and lost consciousness. Later on, my friends told me that my heart actually stopped beating for several minutes, my face was a deathly blue pallor, and they have almost given me up for dead. The last conscious thought of this world that I had was trying to scream and gasping for breath while I was struggling in the water. Then everything faded.....

The next thing I was aware of was floating in the air, feeling so tired, weak and heavy, as if I couldn't carry myself.



But I was not alone. I have an angel at my right side, holding me by the elbow and was lifting me up. I still felt very weak despite the angel's help and another angel appeared on my left side and helped lift me up. In my vision, we were all white, flowing, willowy figures suspended and rising up in the air.



Then came the next scene where I was in the threshold of heaven (at least that was how it seemed to me). The surroundings was very peaceful, pristine white, cloudy, as if a smoke machine was left on. But nobody was around, even my angels were gone, and then I saw Him. A few feet away, there was Jesus on His throne. I should mention that when all these happened, I was carrying a heavy burden of intense dislike for a person. And when I faced Jesus, for some reason, that sin was uppermost in my mind. The sinner that I was, I fell to my knees, crying incessantly from a mixture of guilt, fear of judgement, a sad acceptance that I will not be entering heaven, and from the realization that what I have become is not what I was meant to be. He never spoke, never said a reprimanding word but I was afraid of my judgement which I know was forthcoming. I wept. And when I spoke, I asked him for mercy, not for me but for my mother, who I know would be in despair when I died. I pleaded, for my mother's sake, "Please don't let me die yet, Lord, for my mother. In Tagalog, I said, "Kawawa naman ang mommy ko".

Maybe he saw how truly I love and care for my mother or maybe this act of unselfishness was my saving grace, because He gave me another chance at life. The next thing I know, I was in another place and high above me, was what seemed like the dome of a cathedral, flashing colourful scenes of my life, like a projector. One thing that amazed me was a scene I saw that happened to me when I was about 9 years old. I remember that afternoon very vividly. It was one of my greatest acts of kindness and charity to a stranger, a beggar, a poor lonely woman who was wandering the streets looking for her lost son. I gave this old woman some change, a glass of water, some cookies, a pair of slippers-- practically everything that I owned as a 9-year old. And there it was, beautifully haunting me in the after life. Unfortunately, there were also scenes that I was not happy to see---acts of selfishness, pride, petty dislikes, among others. Looking at all these, I cried again and made a decision to change my life if I had another chance to live again. >> page 10

## CHANGES 2010

*Effective January 1, 2010:*

- **Bro. Frank Nuguid** is Head of the National Flame Ministry. This appointment is concurrent to his responsibilities as Regional Head.
  - **Bro. Jun Reyes** is National Coordinator of Servants of the Lord (SOLD). This appointment is concurrent to his responsibilities as Regional Head.
  - The former Capital and Atlantic regions (which includes Ontario and Quebec) is combined into one region, to be called the CAPITAL/ATLANTIC REGION. **Bro. Jun Clarito** is the Regional Head of the CAPITAL/ATLANTIC REGION.
  - **Bro. Jun Reyes** is the Regional Head of the BIG SKY REGION, replacing **Bro. Ouel Gardon** to allow him to focus on his many responsibilities as National Family Ministries Coordinator and acting National YFC Coordinator.
  - To underscore the importance of Pastoral Formation which helps us keep our roots deep in our Lord Jesus Christ, the key message of our theme for 2010, **Bro. Nick Borja** will concurrently be the Head of the National Pastoral Formation Office. A National PFO Core Group will be formed shortly.
- Sis. Norma Borja** is confirmed as National Coordinator of the new MIGRANT WORKERS MINISTRY, which she has been performing since the beginning of this year.

### New AREA COUNCIL of CFC Vancouver:

- Bro. Jimmy Arzadon**, Sector Head
- Bro. Toto Tajonera**, Cluster Head, Vancouver
- Bro. Dante Serion**, Cluster Head, West Cluster
- Bro. Chong Evangelista**, Cluster Head, East Cluster
- Bro. Cesar Rodas**, Family Ministries Head

The Area Council is the top governing body for CFC in the area. It is charged with the responsibility of promoting, protecting and strengthening the vision, mission, life and culture of Couples for Christ in British Columbia and its mission areas.

*Effective Feb. 1, 2010:*

**Bro. Jimmy Arzadon (wife: Sis. Liza)** -- Area Director of CFC Vancouver. He replaces Bro. Ramir Locsin who will provide strong support to Jimmy in the area of Pastoral Formation, an area of focus for CFC Canada in 2010, and may take on some leadership role in the East Cluster where he lives. Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Liza were Cluster Leaders for the West Cluster and were Burnaby chapter leaders before that. They have many years of committed service to the Lord in CFC Vancouver and have provided leadership in many areas most recently in the highly successful and Spirit-filled CFC Conference in Victoria

**Bro. Dante Serion (wife: Sis. Chet)** -- West Cluster Head. Bro. Dante/Sis. Chet have been with CFC since 1987. They have served in various capacities both in the Philippines and here in Canada. Most recently, they were the chapter head of the newly formed Richmond 2 (St. Monica) Chapter.

**Bro. Ning Dinglasan (wife: Sis. Edith)** -- Richmond 2 (St. Monica) Chapter Head. Bro. Ning/Sis. Edith have been with CFC since 1994. Their services started with serving the Richmond area and most recently, as cluster head of Vancouver Cluster. Bro. Ning/Sis. Edith were instrumental in the flourishing of members in the Vancouver area.

**Bro. Toto Tajonera (wife: Sis. Chat)** -- Vancouver Cluster Head. Bro. Toto/Sis. Chat have been with CFC since 1996. They were chapter head of Vancouver 1 before this assignment.

**Bro. Noel Armea (wife: Sis. Marie)** -- Vancouver 1 Chapter Head. Bro. Noel/Sis. Marie have been with CFC since 2003. They were one of the Unit Heads of Vancouver 1 before this assignment.

## MY OLYMPIC EXPERIENCE

By Dante Serion—West Cluster

I volunteered for just 13 shifts but I ended up working a total of 15 long shifts (most of the time standing) with no pay, but I loved every minute of it.

I was assigned at GM Place in all my shifts, and was in the venue for Opening Ceremonies and most of the hockey games. I was even chosen to join the Canadian delegation in marching inside BC Place during the dress rehearsals 2 days before the Opening Ceremonies. chatting with spectators lining up for the x-ray machines passing through my work area, watching the competition live with my co-volunteers, many from as far away as Australia and Germany. To stand up and belt 'O Canada' in the building with everyone was the best feeling I've ever had. Before these three weeks, and the last week in particular, I don't think I ever actually knew what it was like to be truly proud of being a Canadian. Instead of just cheering for the athletes on TV like I normally would, I actually had a connection with the games.

I was caught up in a sea of red cheering people which created a laid back party atmosphere, a set filled with energy at the same time was an indescribable feeling. I met "The Great One" Wayne Gretzky and Skeleton gold medallist Jon Montgomery. The moment Sidney Crosby made the winning goal was probably the crowning moment of all and I doubt such a moment of mass euphoria will happen again in Canada for a very long time. And I even had a photo of dejected Ryan Kessler while returning to the USA dressing room after the awards ceremony. The entire experience will never be duplicated for the rest of my life. As a volunteer, people would walk up to me and shake my hand and thank me for a job well done. "What job?" I asked. It wasn't a job – it was a service love, something that I would do again, if given the chance in this lifetime.

Despite the long hours, I had tremendous fun and most of all, was introduced to a new hobby, pin collecting. I have collected more than 200 pins now. I've made new friends who are also pin collectors and traders, some of them trading for more than 20 years.

My Olympics memorabilia would soon be put away but the memories of my 21<sup>st</sup> winter Olympics will never fade.



## VOLUNTEER ADVENTURE

By Chett Serion— West Cluster

All of us have wonderful memories of the 21<sup>st</sup> Winter Olympics and these will stay with us forever. We have shared with the athletes triumphs and felt their pains. We built memories with our children and friends when we patiently lined up to get to the pavilions and learned about each Canadian region as well as other countries' pavilions. We were happy to hold that gold bar and the medals. We were in awe of that \$1 million loonie. We were like children happy to get that cow bell from Bell Ice Cube and the luminous necklace from BC Power Smart Village. We learned to wait outside the Media Office entrances at Pan Pacific Hotel so we can obtain the elusive media pins. We rejoiced and danced when our women's and men's hockey teams won the gold medals. We were so happy just to be in the middle of Robson Square in the midst of all the happy and jubilant faces. It would not have been a complete success without the 25,000 volunteers who unselfishly gave their time to make the games safe and orderly for everyone. I would like to honor our own brothers and sisters from the St Monica Richmond Chapter who volunteered in different areas of the Olympics. Arlene Lasa and Liza Mallari at Ozone; Ricky Sta. Cruz at the Richmond Oval; and my husband- Dante- at Canada Hockey Place. Thank you also to Babes Montoya and Alex & Grace Boquiren who worked as security in various venues.



God bless you all.





# Wedding of 3 CFC couples



Whistler, June 19, 2010





## **Christ Glorified!**

*YFC Holds First Youth Camp at St. Bernadette*

*By Rosette Correa– YFC East*

The Victoria Day long-weekend did not stop thirty-three youth from all over Surrey from joining Camp 6LORIFY, the sixth youth camp of the Youth for Christ Surrey II Chapter, at the St. Bernadette Parish Hall. Fr. Patrick Chisholm, parish priest of St. Bernadette, welcomed the youth and the YFC Surrey II Service Team composed of youth leaders from St. Matthew's Parish and St. Bernadette/Immaculate Conception Parish for their three-day camp which started on May 21st and ended on May 23rd. The YFC is the youth ministry of the Couples for Christ family of ministries.

Taking Psalm 86:12 as their camp verse, the Camp 6LORIFY Service Team took the challenge of putting together a camp in such a short time, and a hectic schedule for the youth with examinations and end-of-the-year academic requirements looming ahead. For the youth leaders, it was an invitation from God to serve that they could not refuse, despite the obstacles and a YFC Regional Conference at the end of the month. Isaac Guevara, YFC Chapter Head for Surrey II, was overwhelmed with the amount of support for the camp. "The facilitators and the camp leaders really stepped up to make this camp possible. Even when I lost my voice the second night, the participants were sympathetic and remained enthusiastic and understood the importance of this spiritual journey for them." He also says that the support of the St. Bernadette Parish community and its CFC Chapter was also inspiring. Mikey Raymundo, parishioner and YFC Unit Head of St. Bernadette and IC Parish, had the same spiritual experience. "I am overwhelmed with the success of Camp 6LORIFY. I am excited at the same time to serve the St. Bernadette YFC as a Unit Head. For me it's not a chore - anything to do with serving God is what I love to do and I am looking forward to be doing this service for St. Bernadette." Both Guevara and Raymundo served as Youth Leaders for this camp for the first time.

The youth camp blends good fun through games and a talent show, but the main focus of the three-day retreat is prayer, reflection, confessions, Holy Mass and the five talks that elaborate on the role of youth in knowing, loving and serving God. "The YFC provides a link with young people to Christ's teaching and evangelical work," says Jim Diaz, the YFC Cluster Coordinator of Surrey. "While it is all done through a brotherhood through a variety of activities such as sports, retreats and other camps, the main focus of the ministry is to provide the youth a venue for worship and service. We expose them to the right environment for growth in our Christian faith." The YFC is open to youth ages twelve to twenty-two, and membership begins through the participation in youth camps, such as Camp 6LORIFY.

The youth camps are scheduled twice a year by YFC ministries in parishes all over the Lower Mainland where the CFC-YFC have their groups. The camps are run by senior members of the ministry, with CFC Parent Coordinators overseeing the logistics as well as the supervision of the participants and service teams 24/7. Talks are given by senior members as well as speakers from the parish and former YFC members who have gone to Singles for Christ and CFC, or such as in the case of Camp 6LORIFY speaker Steven Cheng, have gone into the seminary to study theology and become a priest.

Mike Potusek, YFC Unit Head and Youth Ministry Head of St. Matthew's Parish, acknowledges the success of camps like these to the youth leaders and the Parent Coordinators, who are CFC member couples. "The leaders and the PCs work really hard to make camps like these a reality. Without their help, dedication, prayers, and good example, we would not be here." Potusek adds that the CFC brings so many youth closer to God and he thanks them for being parents to their second family, the YFC.

The CFC Chapter of St. Bernadette appreciates the dedication and hard work of the YFC youth which especially shone during the camp. "Their spirituality is truly inspiring, and the couples of CFC are encouraged every day with the youth's energy and direction," says Danny Felices, Chapter Head of CFC St Bernadette/IC Chapter. "We pray that all the youth everywhere develop this dedication to God's service. Christ is truly glorified through these young people."

The YFC will hold the National Youth Conference in August which will be participated in by YFC members all over Canada and the US. With the same energy and enthusiasm, God's youth will continue to march onward in these events as His dedicated servants, doing His evangelical work to plant the seeds of His eternal word.



## **FROM THE CHAPTERS:**

### **“STAR” SHINES ANEW FOR VANCOUVER**

*From Desil Manapat*

The Couples for Christ's STAR Series Workshop for Music Ministry members was held last November 8 and 22 at the community rooms of Metropolis at Metrotown in Burnaby. Spearheaded by Vancouver I's Music Ministry, the six-session workshop was given by Bro. Noli Arzadon, Bro. Jimmy Dimaculangan, Bro. Elmer Tangco and Bro. Bebot Loecin to over 40 music ministry members and unit and household heads from Whistler and Vancouver.

Having been enlightened and guided by the speakers through the workshop's pastoral, technical and worship components, the participants were not only impelled to use music to serve God to the fullest but were more than inspired to glorify the Lord with their whole being for a lifetime.

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### **Honouring Fr. Patrick**

*By Rosette Correa– Surrey III*

The CFC Chapter of St. Bernadette gave a praise and honouring night to its beloved and faithful pastor, Fr. Patrick Chisholm last June 4, 2010, at the St. Bernadette's Parish Hall. The CFC Chapters' families, from the CFC, YFC and KFC were all represented and gave Fr. Patrick a fitting tribute to his devotion to the CFC.

Danny Felices hosted the honouring that began with praise and worship with the whole CFC family. Rose Javier, introduced Fr. Patrick's biography and his achievements. This was followed by song numbers from KFC and a spiritual bouquet. The YFC also gave Fr. Patrick a gift and letters of thanks for his welcoming of the YFC for the first time at St. Bernadette Parish. The YFC recently held its youth camp at St. Bernadette, which helped ushered in the group into the parish. The CFC couples offered masses, rosaries and adoration pledges for Fr. Patrick as well.

Fr. Patrick was very thankful and enthusiastic about his honouring. He mentioned in his address that he appreciates all the CFC St. Bernadette Parish has done for the church and its continued support for all its efforts. He prays that the CFC continues to work with its evangelical work with the parish families. The honouring was followed by a fellowship.

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### **50th Golden Wedding Anniversary 12.26.2010**

*Bro. Ning and Sis. Edith Dinglasan- Richmond I*

God's intent is for Christian couple to experience a great marriage.

We have come to know each other at first over the telephone through a friend, a phonepal relationship. We wanted to meet and agreed to attend a jam session of mutual friends. Frank Sinatra's song "Tender Trap" was played and we danced only once that night since Ning had a sore throat and fever. We could not take off our eyes for each other that evening while we danced. To make a story short, love blossomed (five years of going steady during our junior high up to graduating college earning Bachelor of Commerce). Right after graduation, we both landed jobs in Hongkong & Shanghai Bank and Bank of America in 1959 and got married in Dec. 26, 1960.

We are blessed with 5 wonderful children and their spouses (our heart's delight) and 6 loving grandchildren (our bundle of joy).

This coming Dec. 26th - God willing, we will celebrate love, family, CFC community and thanksgiving.

***May God be praised.***



## God's Love

Continued from page 3

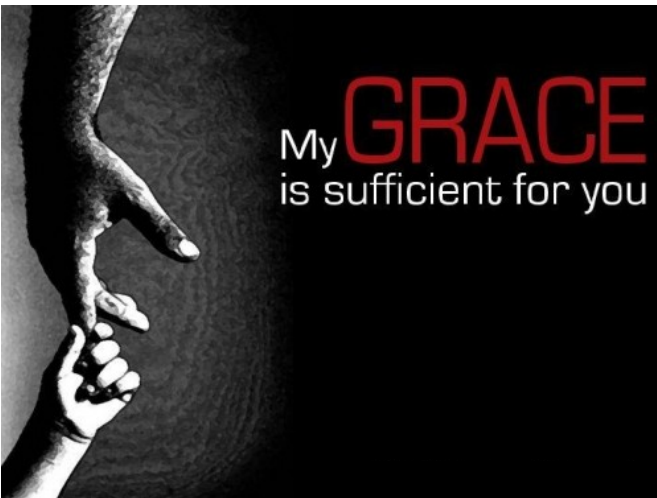


Then came the next scenario in a dark, narrow, and cave-like tunnel. In this setting, I immediately felt scared, fearful, a foreboding feeling was overwhelming me. I don't know how I knew it, but I know I am fighting for my life. I also know there was a train coming very fast and gaining up on me and I felt like I was being chased but was trapped in that tunnel. Somehow, I know that for me to be saved I have to scream before the train comes. I tried screaming but it felt like I was in a nightmare struggling to wake up, no voice was coming forth. I was literally battling something---I knew it was death. I was gasping for breath, growing more scared and panicky every second, re-living my struggle in the water when I was drowning. Then a woman's voice whispered in my ear, urging me to scream, telling me I can be saved if I scream. The voice coached me, encouraged me, strengthened me when I was weakening. And I grasped that voice, clung to it because I had nothing else to hold on to in the dark. That voice bought me time and strength. Right there and then, without any doubt, and I don't know how I knew it but I am certain that the woman's voice in the dark was Mother Mary's voice, taking part in my salvation. But time was not on my side, and I couldn't scream and I failed despite my best efforts to do so. I saw the train coming very fast, and I panicked and knew that was the end for me and there was acceptance of my judgement. I will die after all.....

And then the train was right in front of me and I felt the sensation of suddenly hurling down in a dark pit, as if the ground underneath me disappeared. And with a sinking feeling and acceptance of my fate, I know I was doomed. But in a split second, when I thought everything was lost, very unexpectedly, my outstretched hand was taken in a strong grasp, a man's gnarled hands. He held me so tight it hurt. I only saw his hands, very human, very strong hands. It was like looking at a movie scene where the whole screen was dominated by the picture of my hands taken in His. I was looking for the nail wounds but didn't get a chance to see them. But I know so surely in my heart that was my Lord, Jesus Christ, who, because He loved me so much with an outpouring of love and mercy, cannot let me go. Even at the most hopeless, end-of-the-tunnel situation, He will not give up on me. Until the end of my days, He wants me to be His. The Judge in my earlier vision became my Savior in my most desperate situation.

And all of a sudden, right after my realization that Jesus saved me, I was back in my friends' arms, screaming so loudly, screaming with all the strength left in my body, at the top of my lungs. And I was back in my physical body. Weak and yet strengthened. I asked these questions when I was revived.... Did I do something special in my life that I deserve a second chance? Am I destined to do something great for Him that's why I was saved? And later on, I remembered my judgement scene and for years I seemed afraid to ask, why did Jesus seem almost "stern"?

In answer, let me quote the following from an unknown author that I came across in my readings: "The bible tells us that God is love. In spite of his extensive knowledge of our sinfulness and unworthiness, he has declared, "I will never fail you. I will never forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5) One of the clearest demonstrations of his love is found at the cross on which Jesus died for us (Romans 5:8). God's love, however, is often misunderstood. Many think that because he loves us, he won't judge us. But his love for us does not negate the fact that he is also just. Scripture clearly and repeatedly makes the point that only the Godly will see his face. Therefore, we can be certain that our sins will be dealt with. For those who have accepted God's gift of salvation---Jesus's death on the cross---their sins have been forgiven. For those who haven't accepted this gift, God's judgement is certain."



**As to my first question, "what have I done that I am given a second chance with Him?"**

The answer is NOTHING.... The bible says it is not because of our works but because of *HIS LOVE AND BY HIS GRACE* that He promised us a place with Him. When God breathed life on us, He has already planned for us to share in His kingdom. We have not done anything yet. When He gave us His only begotten Son, He is re-affirming that plan of salvation. It is up to us to do SOMETHING, to accept His gift of salvation, to work for our place with Him, to deserve and be worthy of that privilege. Because our God is a righteous God, it is only natural that we set ourselves right before we can share in His glory.

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## God's Love

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My experience taught me one thing..... God's love is so great that He wills us and faithfully waits for us to WANT and ACCEPT His gift. If we stray, he patiently waits. And to want Jesus is to LOVE Him, to SERVE Him with joy, to PROCLAIM His words and works, to FOLLOW his commandments, to make choices that will PLEASE him, to LIVE just as He did, to lead a life that is an INSPIRATION to others, to DESIRE that people should turn to Him, to YEARN to talk about Him all the time, to be filled with His HOLY SPIRIT, to feel like singing and dancing in PRAISE of Him, to LOVE OTHERS, even the people who challenge you, to PRAY not only for your family and friends but for strangers because you believe God loves them too, to THIRST for His words in the scripture, to be overwhelmed with a desire to EVANGELIZE, to love your family and put ORDER in your family life and personal life, to want to pray FERVENTLY, to pray the A-C-T-S and to SAVOR each part of your prayer from the Adoration to the C-ontrition to the T-hanksgiving and not want to fast forward to the S-upplication, to BELIEVE His promises and His words with full FAITH, to be able to SHAKE OFF any anxiety and worries because you believe He will take care of you, to enjoy the company of people who SHARE the same faith, to want to belong to a CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY and look forward to the prayer meetings, teachings and fellowships, to TEACH your children about God and INSTILL in them a faith that will not be shaken and will be steadfast and stay with them all throughout their life, to be JOYFUL when your little ones rationalize everything as a work of God, to not lose HOPE AND FAITH in times of sorrow, to BLESS His name in times of joys and INVOKE His holy name in times of trials..... How beautiful it is to love God and all these things were what I would have missed if I died at 21. These are the great deeds I was destined to fulfill! And I thank the Lord that He loved me and gave me a chance to feel and live all these. They may not be elaborate, magnanimous deeds, but now, experiencing these and living these daily are my source of joy and happiness...

Brothers and Sisters, that was my miracle, my brush with death, not the physical, temporary death but real death. I said earlier, He gave me another chance at life, but what He gave me was actually another chance to live forever with Him. And I realize that I cannot live long enough to tell and re-tell this story of how my God loves me, each one of us, that He will do a special miracle in our lives if we but let Him. His love is the most beautiful love, a perfect love, that it was not enough that He gave up His life for us through His passion and death but He also has to personally touch our lives. Review your lives and you will realize that He has indeed touched us individually. Maybe not as vividly as my experience, but sometimes so quietly through our family, our spouses, our children, our friends, our community or even through the people who challenge us and persecute us. He calls us daily to heed His offering, to want His gift fully. Do not let this opportunity pass, for His gift comes with no strings attached, just Jesus, offering us eternal life with Him. What greater gift is there than this--- **GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE!**

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Contact Celso Galvez @ 604.540 .5262, email: [csgalvez7433@yahoo.ca](mailto:csgalvez7433@yahoo.ca)

## COMPLETING THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION

# Theology of the BODY

Many believe that human sexuality is a taboo topic in the church. Or at least something you only talk about in a whisper when a child asks embarrassing questions. Christopher West is here to tell you differently. The dynamic speaker and author has devoted his life to examining Pope John Paul II's 129 Wednesday audience messages, delivered from September 1979 to November 1984, dedicated to the theme of human sexuality in the light of Christ.



On **October 2, 2010**, Saturday, Couples for Christ is sponsoring “**FREEDOM TO LOVE**” Conference, Christopher West one-day seminar, 8 am-5 pm, on the late great **Pope John Paul's “Theology of the Body”** at **St. Patrick Parish, 2881 Main St. Vancouver**



West said that since 1993, he has been on a lifelong journey to explore the pope's work and bring the life-changing message of the church's true teaching to others.

“Lives are transformed. Marriages are transformed. Our own lives start making sense — we can understand why we made the choices we made, why we are in the pain that we are in. And we have hope for the future. Not for just our own future, but hope for the church and hope for the world.”

West said that the Theology of the Body is the teaching of human sexuality and married love, but it is not just for married people. West invites everyone — young, old, married, single, priests, religious, consecrated celibates — to attend the seminar.

“It is a vision of why we are created male and female and why we hunger for love,” he said. “It is an invitation to the banquet that really satisfies the hunger. It is for all of us.”

“We are here to reflect on nothing short of the very meaning of our lives and the meaning of the Gospel,” he said. West is married. He and his wife Wendy, who live in Pennsylvania, have five children.

## Hungry for love

“We are hungry,” West said. “God has put in each and every one of us a hunger for love. And when the banquet is not presented, we inevitably go to the culture's fast food menu. The culture offers us a promise of immediate gratification for our hungers. But you can only eat greasy chicken nuggets for so long before you start being sick.”

West said that most people who grow up in the church were given the starvation diet, where desires are considered bad and must be repressed. Given the choice between starvation and greasy nuggets, he said, most people, himself included, would choose the nuggets.

“It is only when I discovered this Theology of the Body that I realized there was a banquet that really satisfies,” he said. West said that the sexual revolution was responding to a legitimate hunger that was not being fed by the starvation diet. The Theology of the Body goes the distance — it completes the revolution.

“The revolution got us talking about our hunger, but it led us to the wrong food,” he said. “This Theology of the Body acknowledges the hunger and leads us to the right food.”

Who should attend the Theology of the Body seminar? West said, “If you are hungry, come.”

“If you are looking for more than what the culture has to offer, come,” he said. “If you thought Christianity was a list of oppressive rules, you will be delightfully surprised.”

“Bring your friends, bring your neighbours, bring people that you would love to expose to the church's real teaching who have maybe left the church or feel ostracized,” he said. “Bring your Protestant and Evangelical friends. The goal is to present this vision in a language where everyone can feel welcome.”