

Ever wonder how Sundays at your local church will feel like without someone to greet you "good morning", and give you a warm and welcoming smile the very moment you enter the door? How about not having someone to assist and lead you to a vacant seat, or someone to collect your tithes and offering, or perhaps someone who will hand over the bread and wine? Think about self-service. Oh how dreary and tedious it would be. Don't you think?



These are just some of the things I've been exposed to, and bet there's a whole lot more to learn.

The ushering ministry of the church plays a vital role in the hospitality and welcome ministry of the local church. Having the privilege of immersing myself in this ministry one Sunday has made me realize that being an usher is more of a ministry than a function... it is no joke!

Needless to say, a church usher has a true love for the people of the church and a desire to promote an atmosphere of reverence and worship in the house of God. No special talent or gift is required to stay after a worship service to pick up trash, help the logistics team, or reach out to new visitors for consolidation. Anyone can be a servant, all it requires is character and love for God and His people. Genuine service cannot be separated from love. We can give away only what we've first received (1 John 4:19).

Let me enumerate a number of why's:

- Being an usher requires you to always, yes, 'always' display a warm, sincere smile.
- You always need to be well groomed.
- Your hands should always be clean and soft for a firm handshake. (Nah! Just kidding!) Don't be a bone crusher!
- Learn to remember the names of people you greet. And get to know the ones whom you have met the first time.
- Track attendance record of the members and make the visitors feel welcome.
- Seat people in front, have them occupy it and leave seats open in the rear for late comers.
- If children are disturbing the service, provide help by guiding them to their parents or invite them to join kid's church
- Be prepared to act quickly and deal with difficult situations.
- Enter into a spirit of worship during the service, but remain attentive.
- Collect the tithes and offerings, prepare and distribute the elements for the Holy Communion, and many more.

We can go through the motions of serving God, but if our hearts are not in it; then, we're missing the point. The more we are aware of and experience God's love in our own lives, the more prone we are to respond in love by serving Him and the church.

**"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked." (Psalm 84:10)**



## RADIANCE KINDLE CAMPFERENCE

By Anna Bianca Pereyra



**"The cloud filled the temple, and the court was full of radiance of the glory of the Lord." - Ezekiel 10:4b**

Last May 11-13, 2017, Gracegate Harvest Church, through its iNYouth arm, was able to successfully conduct the third installment of the Kindle CampFERENCE at CCT Tagaytay Retreat and Training Center.

and was inspired and motivated to become the salt and light wherever God appointed them to be. It was the first time the camp had a bonfire night, and representatives from different YP clusters gave their powerful testimonies on how the Lord touched them and on how they felt His love, forgiveness, and power during the camp.

The event was participated by 60 radiant campers composed of young professionals and students. It was an opportune time for the young people to take some break from the corporate world, school works, examinations, deadlines, and the likes. It has always been the church's desire to empower and equip all the professionals and youth in the spiritual aspect of their respective life, as well to their social and personal development as they face every day's battle in the workplace or in school.

Pastor Ziggy Buksh and Bro. Yen Diego were the guest speakers, while Gracegate pastors' Henry Alumbro, Lester Guevara, and Harold Doroteo also spoke at the campference.

With the theme 'Radiance', which is defined as light or heat emitted or reflected by something, the delegates has been truly kindled with God's fire,

Apart from God's word through the sessions, the campers were also able to showcase their skills and abilities during the indoor and outdoor activities conducted. The highlights include the 'Minute to Win it' and 'Amazing Race' concept of games. The red team brought home the bragging right of being the Campference champion.



Dear Gracegate,

In the past six years, God has been faithful doing His work in our individual lives. We saw His hands move mightily in our spiritual growth. He's been present right in time of need, and bestowed upon us unlimited blessings; thus, seeing His faithfulness beyond our imagination.

This seventh year's theme: *"Deeply and excellently committed to love God and to serve His people through the Holy Spirit empowerment and leadership submission"* sums up our major part for the expansion of God's glory and serve as total expression of gratitude. Indeed, we are serving a great and living God.

Surely, by God's grace, we will live after this theme for this year and even years to come. My prayer and dream for our church is for us to become more traditional, in the essence of the First Century Christians; that all of us will be busy not only with our own personal lives, but more importantly, be busy doing the harvest mandate and discipleship process.

May the power of the Holy Spirit and His powerful anointing be upon us, seeing God performing classic miracles in our midst, empowering us to conquer our community and city. As we all know, GRACEGATE is not just a city church, but an inter-city church where people come from different cities of the metropolis.

**"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."** **Romans 5:1-2 NIV**

Happy 6th Anniversary!



REV. HENRY ALUMBRO



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# GRACEGATE HARVEST CHURCH

Our Purpose

TO LOVE GOD AND LOVE OTHER PEOPLE

Our Vision

TO WIN SOULS AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Our Goal

TO MAKE ALL BELIEVERS, LEADERS OF LEADERS



## HEROES OF FAITH

By Ps. Lester Guevara

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. -Hebrews 11:1-2 (NLT)

Have you admired heroes before? Or are you fond of watching movies today with the theme of superheroes such as spiderman, superman and the likes? Even though the characters are fictional, we are still so amazed and mesmerized by their beyond human superpowers and abilities that we even dream to be like them. With that said, I would like to inform you that there are real-life superheroes. And most of them can be found in the Bible. In Hebrews chapter 11, there are names that were listed as heroes and often referred by some as the Bible's Hall of Fame of faith.

From Abel to Abraham, from Moses to other prophets and judges, the writer just gave these people one common denominator. And that common factor is faith. Unlike the characters from the movies and comics, that we watch and read, these people that were mentioned in Hebrews chapter 11 relied on God in doing great things. They don't have any god-like powers or ability. What they all have was their faith and their relationship with God.

Despite of their recognition that they received, one of the things that we can notice about these heroes are their flaws. The Bible did not even try to cover up or hide their deficiencies. Abraham, Moses, David are some of the examples. Some of them committed grave sin such as murder and adultery. But in spite of these shortcomings, the writer of Hebrew inducted them to the hall of faith not because of their heroism or marvelous deeds but because of their dependence on GOD. Their stories were real and was written for our own benefit. We can learn that God doesn't need perfect people, but rather people who are willing to be molded and purified by God for his purpose. All of the heroes believed and trusted God even though they still have yet to see all the promises that He has given. "All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised"(v.39).

In the end, the writer gave us the eternal perspective of God's promises to his people. "For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us" (v.40). Faith is the only currency that God accepts. Therefore all people who wants God's recognition must live by faith. For without it, pleasing God would be a difficult task. With that said, I personally believe that the list of hall of faith still continues to grow. After the old patriarchs, we have the apostles and the other disciples, the early church fathers, and the faithful men and women of God through-out every generations are filling that list. By knowing how they lived, we can be reminded that our faith can become our lasting legacy because their faith is one of the reason why we have the gospel today. Their lives can help us and inspire us to fight a good fight. We can see that they are faithful to their call. Because faithfulness was the by-product of their faith. So the next time you want to read a story of a real hero, get and turn the pages of Bible because it is the only book in the world wherein you can read the lives of true-to-life real heroes in history. And after reading, you might be surprised that by faith, you can also become a hero like them.

Photo Source: <http://bradwhitt.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/photo.jpg>



WORSHIP SERVICE - 10 AM  
PEPSOL CLASSES - 8:30 AM  
Every Sunday | 3F Fairview Center Mall Cinema, Quezon City



GRACEGATE KIDS CHURCH  
Every Sunday, 10 AM | Gracegate Office, Pontiac St., Fairview, Quezon City



CORPORATE PRAYER  
Every Wednesday, 10 AM | Gracegate Office, Pontiac St., Fairview, Quezon City



INYOUTH CONVERGENCE  
Every 2nd Sunday, 12:30 PM | 3F Fairview Center Mall Cinema, Quezon City



INYOUTH PROFESSIONALS  
Every 3rd Sunday, 12:30 PM | Gracegate Office, Pontiac St., Fairview, Quezon City

### SAVE THE DATE



PRE ENCOUNTER | July 23, 2017 | 1PM  
ENCOUNTER GOD WEEKEND | August 20-22, 2017

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