



Month of January

WORD: *Stewardship of God's grace is bringing others to Jesus.*

READINGS

- Jan 4 Is 60:1-6
 Ps 72:1-2,7-8,10-13
 Ep 3:2-3a,5-6
 Mt 2:1-12
- Jan 11 Is 42:1-4,6-7
 Ps 29:1-4, 9-10
 Act 10:34-38
 Mk 1:7-11
- Jan 18 (Phil) Is 9:1-6
 Ps 97:1-6
 Ep 1:3-6
 Mk 10:13-16
- Jan 18 (Int'l) Sam 3:3b-10, 19
 Ps 40:2,4,7-10
 1Cor 6:13c-15a,17-20
 Jn 1:35-42
- Jan 25 Jon 3:1-5,10
 Ps 25:4-9
 1Cor 7:29-31
 Mk 1:14-20

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Keep on searching God's purpose in your life; continue to develop a deeper relationship with Him through daily prayers, Eucharist, reading/meditating on His word.*
2. *Be the shining light for others in the community by being more concrete in your mission work that will help the poor in a sustainable way.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Be my light that others too may discover Me and give glory to My name.*

2009: A New Chapter

The chapter 2008 has closed, but whatever happened will be remembered and will be part of history. Whatever we learned from the past will always remain the same. As we struggle on our journey to our true home to have our real reward in life aside from reaching the peak, we have to stay focused on our goal. It is not man's recognition, but it is simply to be closer to the Lord and to live our life with Christ.

As we reflect on 2008, so many blessings and good things happened in our life. Whatever had transpired to BLD Phoenix community is the foundation of where we are today as we look back at all the events in 2008, like the different encounters and Life in the Spirit Seminars that were all inspiring. More members were covenanted and committed. More home-grown sharers were developed.

The year 2008 was a significant year for BLD Phoenix. BLD Phoenix was approved as a Full Fledged District. The first and special emergence followed before the end of the year. The experience with the emergence process was something different. The atmosphere was solemn. Before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, we can felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. It was very smooth and calm.

Our life has many chapters with still many more to come. As we look forward to another chapter of our life, another year of dedicated service to our Lord, let us all welcome 2009. Yet we are uncertain of what is ahead of us. We have to be confident to seek what the Lord wants us to do. Nothing had really changed; still our Lord God Almighty is totally in charge and in control of everything. He uses different times, places and events to change and position us, His children, for whatever purpose He has for us.

Our prayers and support go to the newly emerged DCS of BLD Phoenix. We pray that all the challenges of this New Year will make us more united with Christ in both word and deed, with our full confidence that everything will work for those who love and serve the Lord, for our Father's greater glory!

To our brothers and sisters in Christ, we give our sincere thanks for touching our lives but most of all we thank our Lord for everything!

=====

January Reflections

After celebrating the coming of the Child Jesus into the world last December, all four Sunday readings of January focus on how we should receive Jesus into our hearts and lives. This unmistakable message weaves through all the readings like a thread - **"Receive God's call and follow His beloved Son, Jesus, with complete faith and total obedience."** Brothers and sisters let us decipher this message and reflect upon its applications in our daily lives.

Receiving God's call -In the Gospel for the first Sunday of January, the Magi see the "star" as God's call and they were overjoyed (Mt 2:9-10). In the first reading for the third Sunday, the Lord calls Samuel who answers again and again, **"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening"** (Sam 3:10, 19). In the Gospel for the third Sunday, Andrew and Simon receive God's call when they hear John the Baptist say, **"Behold, the Lamb of God."** (Jn 1:35-36). *Continued ...*

Solo Parents Encounter #3
 Friday, Jan 30 - Sunday, Feb 1 2009
 Desert Outdoor Center
 (41402 N. 87th Avenue, Peoria, AZ 85383)

January Reflections *continued...*

The above verses demonstrate that God calls us in different ways. He calls us through other people and through our family members and friends in and out of Community. He calls us through the events and circumstances of our life, whether by blessings or hardships. As Christ's disciples, our hearts should always be ready and expectant like Samuel, open and willing like the first apostles, and humble and joyful like the Magi. Father, we pray that You take away the hardness and doubt from our hearts, and fill us with Your love and grace to know and hear You when You call.

His beloved Son – In the Gospel for the second Sunday of January, during Christ's baptism God's voice from heaven declares, *"You are my beloved son, on whom my favor rests"* (Mk 1:11). In the first reading of the same Sunday from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, God declares, *"Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit ..."* (Is 42:1a). Then, in the Gospel for the fourth Sunday, the beloved Son, following His Father's will, starts His public ministry with the proclamation of repentance and the Good News of salvation (cf Mk 1:14-15).

The above passages declare that Christ Jesus is God's chosen One upon whom the Father has placed His Spirit. And the Father is well pleased with His Son who obediently follows His will to incarnate as a human being and bring salvation to mankind. As God's children, we too should obey God's will, repent of our sins, and bring the message of salvation to others through our life witnessing.

Father, we ask for Your Holy Spirit to guide us in following Your will. May our lives be pleasing to You and may we be worthy to be Your beloved children.

Following Jesus with complete faith – In the Gospel for the first Sunday of January, the Magi follow the "star" with complete faith and find Jesus. They then offer their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (cf Mt 2:9-11). Like the Magi, we too must persevere in following our "star" and have the complete faith that God's call will indeed lead us to Jesus. And, upon finding our Savior, we must offer ourselves to Him in joyfully love and willing service to our Community and in the greater church.

In the Gospel for the fourth Sunday, the first four apostles (Andrew and his brother Simon, and James and his brother John) abandon their nets (and even their father, Zebedee) in order to immediately follow Jesus. They then become fishers of men (cf Mk 1:16-20). Like the first apostles, we too must immediately respond to God's call with complete faith. We must be ready to leave our worldly attachments and comforts, and follow Jesus no matter how difficult disposition may be.

In the Gospel for the third Sunday of January, the Feast of Sto. Niño in the Philippines, Christ teaches us to be childlike, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these (cf Mk 10:14-16). As God's children, we are exhorted to have complete faith and trust in Him. Only by accepting His word rather than insisting on our personal preferences, can we claim His kingdom as our inheritance.

Following Jesus with total obedience – In the first reading for the fourth Sunday, Jonah obediently goes to Nineveh at the Lord's bidding to proclaim His message of repentance (cf Jon 3:1-3). Like Jonah, we should obediently heed God's call for us to proclaim the salvation He offers us, His people. When we have the opportunity to share our lives through our Community's word sharing circles, encounter programs, and LSS, we should do so without reservations or hesitation.

January Reflections *continued...*

In the first reading of the second Sunday, the Prophet Isaiah reminds us that we are called, that we have been led by hand, formed, and have a covenant with the Lord to be the light to the nations (cf Is 42:6). Yes, through our Covenant Community we have been called, we have met the Lord, we have grown spiritually, and we have signed our covenant pledge to build communities centered on Christ. We should serve God through our various Community ministries and homesteads with complete obedience and total commitment.

In the psalm for the third Sunday of January, King David declares, *"... to do your will, O my God, is my delight, and your law is within my heart"* (Ps 40:8). Such should be our attitude. We should delight in obeying our Father's will. His commandments should be our way of life. And when called, our answer should be, *"Behold, I come"* (Ps 40:7a).

Prayer – Father God, forgive me for the times when I did not recognize Your call because I was too focused on worldly matters. Forgive me for the times when I hesitated to obey Your will and prioritized my personal desires. I pray Father that the eyes of my heart be enlightened to the hope that belongs to Your call. I pray for the unwavering faith of the Magi and of Your first apostles. I ask for the grace of the absolute obedience shown by Jonah and declared by King David. All these I ask through Your Son Christ Jesus and through the intercession of His mother, that I may be worthy to enter Your kingdom. Amen.

JANUARY THEME AND PROMISE

Week 1 (Epiphany of the Lord) [Evangelization]

Theme: We are stewards of God's grace when we lead unbelievers to worship Jesus.

Promise: *"...upon you the Lord shines, and over you appears his glory."* (Is 60:2b)

Week 2 (Baptism of Jesus) [Servanthood]

Theme: We are stewards of God's grace when we lead our members to be faithful servants of Jesus.

Promise: *"...upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nation."* (Is 42:2)

Week 3 (Feast of Sto. Niño-Phils) [Strengthening Family Life]

Theme: We are stewards of God's grace when we guide the children to Jesus.

Promise: *"...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"* (Mk 10:14b)

Week 3 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Other Districts) [Obedience]

Theme: We are stewards of God's grace when we readily obey His will.

Promise: *"But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him."* (1 Cor 6:17)

Week 4 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time) [Dispossession]

Theme: We are stewards of God's grace when we repent and follow Jesus.

Promise: *"...he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice."* (Ps 25: 8b-9a)

THE LORD'S ORDER FOR JANUARY

"Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you." (Is 60:4a)



BUKÁS LOÓB SA DIYÓS COVENANT COMMUNITY
The Executive Council of Servant Leaders

"We are to be faithful to the Lord, and only to the Lord because we are His servants."
Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, Community Spiritual Director

Ref 08-1222-090

December 22, 2008

To: **The Bukas Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community – Phoenix District**
Cc: Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, Community Spiritual Director
District Servant Leader
CCEO/ DCEO
Subject: **Appointment of the District Council of Stewards – BLD Phoenix
(2008 Special Emergence)**

Dear **Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

We praise and thank the Lord for guiding the discernment of the ECSL in the selection of the District Stewards for BLD Phoenix.

With one heart and one mind, the Executive Council of Servant Leaders announces the appointment of the following members of the District Council of Stewards (DCS) for the BLD District of Phoenix, with their respective Apostolates, effective December 22, 2008 until June 30, 2012 for a term of 3 years and 6 months (Res 08-1222-102):

District Council of Stewards – BLD Phoenix

Rey & Ann Conopio	-	Evangelization
Ramon & Ludy Cuasay	-	Formation
Alex & Lina Alba	-	Management
Jess & Ning Laforteza	-	Pastoral

We are confident that having been called by the Lord and empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to serve as leaders in their District, the incoming DCS will be able to meet the tasks and challenges ahead for the service to BLD, all for the glory of God.

We leave them this verse from 1 Peter 5:2-4: ***"Tend the flock of God in your midst, (overseeing) not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."***

May we request that the anointing of the new DCS be scheduled as soon as possible. As we extend our gratitude to the outgoing members of the Interim DCS, we request that a smooth and complete turnover of responsibilities, including pending matters and concerns, be conducted. We also thank the DCEO and CCEO for their work in the Special Emergence held on December 13, 2008

In the service of Christ and for the greater glory of God,

Eliang Leah Sison

Eliang-Leah Sison
Presiding Servant Leader

87-A Amoroso St. San Lorenzo Village, Makati City, Philippines 1223
8153355 (telefax); 8176246

BLD PROM Night



Love, Love, Love by bringing our families, friends, and loved ones to BLD Prom Night (A Fundraising for Praise Ministry) **Dinner and Dance**
On: **February 7, 2009** Time: **6:00 pm**

Venue: 1103 S. Mesa Drive, Mesa, AZ 85210

Tickets: \$15.00 for Youth

(15 & younger)

\$25.00 for Singles and \$40.00 for Couples

Attire: **Formal**

Make it a memorable night! Wrist Corsages (\$20.00) and Boutonnieres (\$8.00) will be available. Preordering (at the Friday sign in table) recommended for guaranteed availability. A limited supply will be available at the door. Photo booth will also be available. Invite the whole family and get family portraits taken. Photo booth packages as follows (please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery):

Package A : The Conservationist

\$7.00: 2 – 4x6; 1 – 5x7

Package B: The Practical

\$ 15.00: 2 – 4x6; 1 – 5x7; 1 – 8x10

Package C: The Moderate

\$25.00: 4 – 4x6; 3 – 5x7; 1 – 8x10

Package D: The Charitable

\$ 35.00: 6 – 4x6; 4 – 5x7; 2 – 8x10

Package E: The Generous

\$55.00: 6 – 4x6; 5 – 5x7; 1 – 8x10; 1 – 16x20

Individual picture pricing (each picture)

4x6= \$2.50 5x7= \$4.00

8x10= \$10.00 6x20= \$25.00

Add 4 wallets to any package for an extra \$5.00 to the package price.

January 2009 **Magnificat** Issue is now available. New subscriptions are available and to start in February. Please see Crosby Cortez for more details.

February 25 - Ash Wednesday

(Day of fasting and abstinence)

Please check your local parish for service times.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6-Rod Ibe (ME 6)
11-Alex Alba (ME 1)
12-Fe Querol (ME 4)
15-Gerry Bautista (ME 2)
15-Lucy De Leon (ME 6 Davao)
24-Butch Omega (ME6)
26-Bernadette Soden (LSS 3)
30-Cita Rivera (ME 3)

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2-Art & Edith David (ME 6)
5-Carl & Glo Javier (ME 6)
12-Harmon & Chita Dilema (ME 5)
18-Butch & Bing Omega (ME6)
20-Alex & Lina Alba (ME 1)
31-Ben & Becky Felipe (ME 1)

Thursday January 22 -

Offer this day of penance and fasting for violations against the dignity of the human person committed through the acts of abortion. Make this a day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee to the right to life.

RESOLUTIONS 2009

Resolutions as they say are made to be done but made to be broken just as well...it's a bit of a sad attitude as it reflects the lack of commitment, don't you think? Like love and marriage (and lotsa other things), a resolution is a decision. A decision to resolve, be absolved and evolve! Happy New Year!

...I would like to deepen my relationship with Jesus, refrain from self-indulgence, detach myself from worldly desires, and serve the poor and needy. -Christine Minch LSS 7

...I will do my best in 2009 not to take things too seriously and avoid getting upset too fast! -Eva Ward ME 4

Our new year's resolution is "not" to make a new-year resolution but to enjoy life more and experience pleasure in every blessing the Lord is giving us. -Pete & Eve Parian

As another year begins, we continue to be mindful of God's gifts, count His blessings, be thankful of these always & share with graceful hearts. -Jonathan & Eunice Luceñana ME 1

...get good grades, buy the twilight dvd, be respectful of others, resolve my own problems & that's about it. Alanah Mh 10

... I will make my own rendition of Sarah G's *A Very Special Love*. Seriously, I will visit the backyard once in a while just to have a glimpse of the blooming roses, primarily to take time to enjoy the outdoors...while singing *A Very Special Love*. 🌻
-Joie Pangilinan ME 5

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of December 2008

Receipts \$ 2,784.00

Disbursements \$ 2,433.09

Surplus (Deficits) \$ 350.91

See Treasury Logbook for details-available at Registration Area or see Treasury Ministry Heads Pedro & Cita Rivera

Thank you for your generosity!

Ministry Announcements

Intercessory Ministry:

- ◆ Please update petitions monthly for continuous prayers and/or update Intercessory ministry heads for answered prayers. You may please make/update prayer requests through a link in the website or e-mail ministry heads: Denny & Nina Custodio at dennyc1220@cox.net.

DLC:

- ◆ To all DCS and Ministry Heads (and all those Involved in handling minors) please take the Safety Environment Training for Ministries offered by local parishes. Please check the Diocese website for training Schedule: <http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php>

Secretariat

- ◆ Please wear your community I.D. If you do not have one please contact Evan & Joie Pangilinan directly or e-mail: evanjoie@yahoo.com.

Word:

- ◆ Please share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord or an answered prayer with the community thru an article (350 words max). Please E-mail to eunex@aol.com.