



Month of June

WORD: *The one who does the will of the Father will enter the Kingdom of heaven.*

READINGS

- June 01** Dt 11:18, 26-28, 32
 Ps 31:2-4, 17, 25
 Rom 3:21-25, 28
 Mt 7:21-27
- June 09** Hos 6:3-6
 Ps 50:12-15
 Rom 4:18-25
 Mt 9:9-13
- June 15** Ex 19:2-6a
 Ps 100:1-3, 5
 Rom 5:6-11
 Mt 9:36, 10:8
- June 22** Jer 20:10-13
 Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
 Rom 5:12-15
 Mt 10:26-33
- June 29** Acts 12:1-11
 Ps 34:2-9
 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18
 Mt 16:13-19

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Be reminded that as followers of Christ, conversion of mind and heart is at the center of true discipleship.*
2. *Strengthen those whose faith is wavering by your example of obedience and humble submission to God's visible Word.*
3. *Be grounded on God's Word that you may know His will.*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Know that I am you God and you are My children; My will for you is life full of blessings and peace.*
2. *My children, seek and follow My will in all that you do and you will be with Me in My Kingdom.*

Reflections for June

In the first reading for the 9th Sunday in Ordinary time, taken from Deuteronomy, Moses reminds us to put our heart and soul into obeying the commandments of the Lord, being careful to observe all the statutes and decrees God sets before us. This is the order discerned for our Community by the ECS, not only for this month, but as the foundation of our journey through life. If we base our life firmly on His promise we will be strong enough for our journey here on earth and in moments of crises that inevitably come our way. The readings demand that our lives and our faith be consistent with each other.

St. Paul's letter to the Romans adds that for all who use Jesus' name under false pretenses, the day of reckoning will come and they will be exposed. The saved will be those who have been both hearers and doers (v 24-27) of the word, for Jesus' message is a call to action, not mere knowledge of words:

Nothing in the teaching of Jesus speaks with greater clarity than His actions which speak louder than words. To call ourselves Christians without living our faith is not going to help us get to heaven. Saying, "Lord, Lord" while living a life far removed from Christ's teaching will not help us either. Jesus seems to be warning us against overconfidence and self complacency. "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like the wise man." (v24). As modern day disciples, what matters most for us is our commitment to do the will of the Father in a practical and personal way. Jesus teaches us that conversion of mind and heart is at the center of true discipleship. The Gospel reading comes at the conclusion of the majestic Sermon on the Mount. Part of our responsibility is to help others stop and think about where their lives are headed and to point out the consequences of ignoring Christ's call.

Second week: St Paul cites Abraham as our model of faith. Both Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old when God promised to make Abraham the Father of all nations. Hoping against hope (v.18), Abraham believed God, and the promise was fulfilled. The gospel is a call to Matthew to follow Jesus and he leave behind his lucrative career, giving us insight into the ways of God. This completely corrupt person with potential for goodness willingly turns his life around and starts all over again.

Similarly, God beckons us to open our hearts to his call whenever and however it may come to us. As followers, we need to believe and have faith, and share the Good News with the poor, the lonely and the outcast, not just the good, the talented and the popular. The prophet Hosea tells us that what God wants is mercy (v13), not sacrifice; knowledge of God or holocaust. The reward for the repentant heart is the fertility of the heart, as God waters the fertility of the earth, as He showers it with spring rain (v.3). Evidently, it is difficult for man to grasp that it is the love of neighbor that gives value to sacrifice. Both Abraham and Matthew believe and offer everything to the Lord with a passion, their time, talent and treasures, and they listen and obey, humbly acknowledging that they are sinners. In a similar fashion God beckons us to open our hearts to his call.

Third week: Jesus needs workers who know how to help and comfort other people. Jesus looks at the crowds following Him and sees them as a field ripe for harvest. Jesus commands us to pray for workers for his vineyard. Be prepared therefore to be used by God to show others to him, like the apostles who were not afraid to serve Christ in a special way.

Continued on page 4...

-- A MEMORABLE COVENANTING --
HISTORIC AND PRECIOUS

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." (Mark 8:34-35)

Many were teary-eyed and somber. Some were anxious and excited. A few were terrified by what lay ahead of them but **everyone** was eager and hopeful to finally be able to say "Yes, Lord, here I am."

On a warm, clear Friday in May (16th) 2008, after the celebration of the Eucharist at the altar of the Our Lady of the Valley church in Phoenix, AZ, eighteen (18) members of the community formally sealed their covenant pledges with the Lord through the BLD. Officiating priest, Msgr. Paul Schetelick, pastor of St. Andrews parish in Bayonne, NJ, accepted and admitted the eighteen aspirants into full membership in the community as covenanted disciples. All the eighteen aspirants had fulfilled the teaching, attendance, witnessing, and discipling requirements, to qualify for invitation to covenanted membership in the BLD community.

The long-awaited covenanting ceremony was indeed a major milestone for the BLD Phoenix community. It not only indicated the rapid and steady growth of the community, but also the willingness, servant-heartedness, and maturity of the new covenanted disciples to follow Jesus more closely and to witness for Him more fully.

Let us continue to pray for each other, but most especially for our newly-covenanted members so that they may remain faithful to their pledges and promises to the Lord and that they may bear much fruit for the Kingdom. Welcome and congratulations to the following **covenanted disciples** of BLD Phoenix:

Cecilia Andaya, Gerry Bautista, Gladdine Bautista, Rey Conopio, Ann Conopio, Crosby Cortez, Mariz Cortez, Denny Custodio, Nina Custodio, Mario de Leon, Harmon Delima, Chit Delima, Arlene Junia, Jonathan Lurenana, Eunice Lurenana, Evan Pangilinan, Joie Pangilinan, and Eden Sebial



Receive the Holy Spirit

"Father of light, from Whom every good gift comes, send Your spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind, and by the flame of Your wisdom open the horizons of our minds. Loosen our tongues to sing Your praise in words beyond the power of speech, for without Your Spirit man could never raise his voice in words of peace or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord. Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen." (Liturgy of



the Hour for Pentecost)

Guided by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, the community conducted another Life in the Spirit Seminar #6 (LSS #6) on May 1, 17 & 18 2008 at the parish hall of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & Renewal Center in Phoenix.



Msgr. Paul Schetelick from Diocese of Newark as spiritual director, our DIP shepherds Chito & Aileen Ciocon led the sharers from

Phoenix and Newark disciples, Eric Cruz, Evan & Joie Pangilinan, Alex & Lina Alba, Jess & Ning Laforteza, Lee & Arlene Junia, and Simon & Lourdes Lam to help reveal God's messages to the candidates.

The volunteers from couples, solo parents and singles as auxiliaries, the seminar was a tremendous success, a tribute to the glory of God. With might prayer power of the intercessory before and during the seminar, the untiring service and action teams, worked harmoniously and joyfully. Together we helped thirty-seven individuals to have a close encounter of the PS kind (personal spiritual) meeting and accepting God in person, and ...

BLD Phoenix Encounters & Seminars 2008

July 25-27: Youth Encounter #4

Oct 17-19: Life in the Spirit Seminar #7

Marriage Encounter #8: June 6-8, 2008

ME 8 Please pray for the success and the Glory of God, that all the couple will heal their wounds, mend their ways, and have God as the center of their Marriage.

Fr. Reggie Carreon,

BLD Phoenix Spiritual Director

ME #2 attendance in Charlotte, S.C.

On April 25-27, 2008 at the Rock Hill Oratory Center for Spirituality, our Spiritual Director attended the ME #2 in South Carolina, and renewed his devotion to serve His people.



THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of May 2008

Receipts \$ 3,247.50

Disbursements \$ 1,613.42

Surplus (Deficits) \$ 1,634.08

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

Thank you for your generosity!

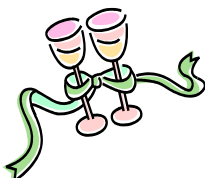
MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Dory Hey (ME 4)
- 8 - Jack Marquez (ME 6)
- 9 - Rupert Arrieta (YE 1)
- 12 - Bing Omega (ME6)
- 13 - Nina Custodio (ME 4)
- 14 - Bea Bautista (YE 1)
- 17 - Manny Siongco (ME 4)
- 29 - Mario De Leon (ME 6 Davao)



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 16 - Tony & Venus Fuentes (ME 7)
- 17 - Gerry & Gladys Bautista (ME 2)
- 19 - Jess & Ning Laforteza (ME 1 Reno)
- 23 - Mike & Tess Martinez (ME 5)
- 27 - Jess & Gee Go (ME 5)



LSS #6 continued

filled themselves with generous gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many received the gift to pray in tongues, others may receive the word gifts (power to know), **Wisdom, Knowledge & Discernment of Spirits**; the sign gifts (power to do), **Faith, Healing & Miracles**; utterance gifts (power to say), **Prophecy, Tongues & Interpretation of Tongues**.

“Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them:... Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.” (Rom 12:6-13)

“Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.” (Mt 10:8)

Our Lord was merciful and generous. He led thirty-seven souls through the baptism of the Holy Spirit: Rod Ibe, Grace Ibe, Ermina Estacio, Angelo Villegas, Cal Obispo, Amor Obispo, Ariel Bautista, Judy Bautista, DJ Korionoff, Nante Gaña, Anabelle Gaña, Eddie Kemmerer, Martino Ganzalino, John Deblois, Geoff Ibe, Villa Sandstedt, Evie Tejada, Ben Tejada, Michael Querol, Matthew Kodumal, Rollie Tabora, Justice Tabora, Marco Ocampo, Pam Zapanta, Jack Marquez, Tess Marquez, Nita Echeverria, Myca Siongco, Fran Castillo, Joel Maravillas, Chay Maravillas, Lito Caguioa, Norma Caguioa, Brian Climaco, Faustino Aguas, Anika Baldevia and Charlene Saberon.

Young or old, single, solo parents, or couple, God called each by name and touch them individually in their hearts. All rejoiced at the exhilarating experience each encountered. The Holy Spirit is mighty indeed. The harvest is bountiful. He brought many into the Lord’s vineyard with great gifts, empowered to each to serve and make disciples of the whole world. We shall start at our own community, the Church, the Diocese, the country and to the end of the world



June 29 - Filipino Sunday Mass at 5 pm
at Our Lady of the Valley
(Sponsored by BLD Phoenix)

www.BLDPhoenix.com

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.

IDLC:

- ◆ 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 contact Evan & Joie Pangilinan directly or e-mail: evanjoie@yahoo.com.

Word:

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

Reflections for June continued...

Christ calls us today, if you know him, you have no choice but to follow him. Are you responding? It is our task to continue the work of Christ. If we are good advertisements for the Church, many non-believers may discover Christ as well. It is no small challenge to be Christ's messenger as it demands great effort and hard work. Be part of the planting, the nurturing and the gathering, be a laborer for the kingdom.

Fourth week: The gospel of Matthew is a reminder that we cannot expect the community around us to receive the teaching of Christ with open arms. Jesus makes no secret of the fact that bearers of the word of God will suffer ridicule and rejection, yet he urges us to bear witness to him openly and to be fearless in making a stand for truth and justice. The mission of Jesus was to proclaim His Father's love and He never fails to carry out that task. If the word of God is to free us to act according to deeper convictions, then we must pray for the grace to overcome our fears. "**Fear not**" says the Lord; whatever happens, God is always in control. When we have completed our earthly journey of professing the Good News, Jesus will claim us as his own before the Father.

Fifth week, Solemnity of St. Peter and Paul: In the 2nd reading, as St. Paul nears the end of his life, he confidently says he had been faithful to his call. Thus, he faces death calmly, knowing his reward is at hand. Do we share the same expectation as Paul in meeting Christ? The Good News is that the heavenly reward is not only for the giants of faith, like Paul, but for all who are eagerly looking forward to Jesus Second Coming. Paul's message encourages Timothy and us, to persevere no matter how difficult the fight may seem. We will discover when we are with Jesus Christ that it was worth it. God always gives us the strength to do what he commands. This strength may not be evident, however, until we step out in faith and are actually doing the task.

The gospel focuses on Peter, we know more about him than any other disciple. Why? Jesus gave Peter an indispensable position in the Church, that of a "rock" and appointed him as a leader of the Christian community. Christ's confidence in him released a great power within his being to allow him to fulfill the mission entrusted him, which is crucial to the development and continuation of Christ's work. Peter, as the head of the church, is an example of the power of God at work – using the weak of this world to confound the strong.

The question put by Jesus to Peter: "**Who do you say that I am?**" results in an inspiring declaration of faith. As followers of Christ this question confronts us daily and calls us to examine how we live our lives and our faith. Saints Peter and Paul were both called to play important roles in the development of the Church. True tested servants; they accomplished the will of the Father.

We pray for greater insights into our own role in Christ's mission. God works through ordinary people like us. Hence, let us preach, not with words only, but by the way we live and the effort we exert to be light to others, always keeping the flame of faith burning brightly within our hearts. To be a disciple of Christ demands outstanding service.

Word: The one who does the will of the Father will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Order: "Take these words of mine into your heart and soul.... observe all the statutes and decrees that I set before you..." (Deut 11: 18 & 32)

May You Be Blessed

May you be blessed with all things good.

May your joys, like the stars at night, be too numerous to count.

May your victories be more abundant
than all the grains of sand on all the beaches
on all the oceans in all the world.

May lack and struggle be always absent from your life and
may beauty order and abundance be your constant companions.

May every pathway you choose

lead to that which is pure and good and lovely.

May every doubt and fear be replaced by a deep abiding trust
as you behold evidence of a Higher Power all around you.

And when there is only darkness
and the storms of life are closing in

May the light at the core of your being illuminate the world.

May you always be aware you are loved beyond measure
and may you be willing to love unconditionally in return.

May you always feel protected and cradled in the arms of God,
like the cherished child you are.

And when you are tempted to judge
may you be reminded that we are all ONE

and that every thought you think reverberates across the uni-
verse,

touching everyone and everything.

And when you are tempted to hold back,
may you remember that love flows best when

it flows freely and it is in giving that we receive the greatest gift.

May you always have music and laughter and
may a rainbow follow every storm

May gladness wash away every disappointment

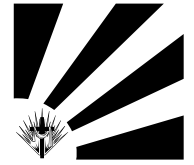
may joy dissolve every sorrow and my love ease every pain.

May every wound bring wisdom and every trial bring triumph
and with each passing day

may you live more abundantly than the day before.

May you be blessed and may others be blessed by you.

This is my heartfelt wish for you.



Adult

Soden Bernadette <bernpinay@yahoo.com>

To Everyone!

We just wanted to thank you all for the nice thing you have done in our lives while we were in Arizona. Actually, without BLD, I am not sure I am still in this world anymore; all the burdens I was suffering was just too difficult to bear.

I am thankful to Dory and Steve Hey introduced me and open my heart to joined LSS#3 three years ago. It felt weird at first, because I didn't know anybody except Tita Cita and Tito Pedro who were my shepherds. At first, I was kind of shy to share my reflection. I had plenty to say but was just too embarrassed to open up. I like how the BLD members treated us. All of you are very nice and kind of funny in a pleasant way.

Thank you Tita Cita and Tito Pedro for being my shepherds, thank you for all your prayers. I Love you.

Mary Ann & Chris, thank you both. You are such a wonderful couple. You helped us a lot, not only on moving those boxes, you offered everyone's rides, especially my daughter Jessica and you help others in praise and worship.

Elmer and Thelma, thank you also for your kindness in giving Jessica rides when I was not available, and for your advice.

Joie and Evan, you and other BLD members help Jessica though her difficult times. Thank you for giving her rides.

Tita Lulu and Tito Simon, thank you for the continuing prayers and your wonderful hospitality.

Tito Jess and Tita Ning, you are such wonderful people and I admire you a lot. I love to listen to you when you're in front with the microphone.

Lee and Arleen, you are a great preachers and wonderful people.

Tita and Tito Alba, what a generous couple, God bless you. I love your sharing, they were wonderful and unforgettable, You are so humble and generous and I admired you a lot.

Rey and Ann, I missed you. Rey is such a joker, I enjoyed the stories. I thank you for your wonderful attitude, especially in caring for the youth.

Tito Denny and Tita Nina, thank you so much for the wonderful prayer circle. Please continue to pray for us. But don't charge me a \$1 for each word, I don't have a job yet, right now my job is palamunin (ha, ha).

Tito Mario, you are always in my prayers too.

Tita Edith and Tito Art, thank you so much for everything, we missed you all. Say "Hi" to Angie, Errol and the rest of your family.

Lisa, thank you for being there with me, kahit maraming satanas around us, pinag-isa pa rin tayo nang panginoon.

Beth, Thank you also for everything, especially on my car, you took care of me allowing me to move ahead.

(to be continued on next column)

Judy, thank you for everything. Take care of your daughter, keep helping friends who need your.

To all of you that I didn't mention, please forgive me, I owed you a lot. Thanks you for including us in your prayers. It was a wonderful feeling that everyone is praying for us. Without you I will not come this far. A lot of my blessings came through the BLD community. I admired you all, and treasure your wonderful friendship. Forgive me also if I hurt anyone. I love you. We miss you. God be with you always.
Bernadette and Jessica

Youth

Jessamine Go

<jessamine_go25@yahoo.com>

Life as we know it could be very unfair sometimes. There is no certainty that working hard would guarantee you the promotion you've been aiming for, or serving God tediously would earn you more blessings from Him either. Jesus said "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 17:16). God isn't offering us relief from the burdens that life throws at us; instead He's offering us peace in both our hearts and minds to be able to face those trials with unwavering courage, and that in the end of the day we know God is always at our side never letting go.

As a youth member in BLD, I too experienced my fair share of disappointments, failures and heartbreaks in life. Being young oftentimes becomes a downside especially when going through tough situations that requires maturity in spirit. In this time and age, young people's hearts can be easily swayed and confused by strong emotions that oftentimes are very hard to deal with.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friendship can help him up" (Ecclesiastes 4:5). I gained so much by being involved with the BLD community, so much more than I have ever expected. I made important friends such as Maria and Bea, who became more like sisters to me, and all the girls in the youth as well. When I thought I had enough brothers to deal with, I met Andre, Adri, Rob, Mike, Matt, and the rest of the youth. Each one of them is special in their own way and had inspired me profoundly to be a better person. I learned so much from them, their strengths, weaknesses, courage and their ever growing faith in God. I will forever treasure the tears, the laughter, the sorrow, the accomplishments and the memories that all of us shared.

(to be continued on page 6)

Jessamine Go
 <jessamine_go25@yahoo.com>
 (continued)

Their friendship and support eased my burdens and made it all bearable, at that I can say life isn't so bad after all. During our last Y.E. reunion I and Jessica Soden sat down for the "circle of love" where everyone gave us their endearing, heartfelt good-byes. While they were doing that, I just sat there looking at the young faces in front of me thinking, these are the young people who will be the foundation of this group, the young adults who will be responsible for the growth of this community. And as they wish for my happiness, I prayed for them: courage, love, faith, and honesty as they continue to serve God and their fellow youths.

The new generation of young people is indeed submerged in emotional conflicts and confusion. Their strong feelings that should have been their success often becomes their hindrance, blinding and misleading them from recognizing what's right from wrong. The BLD youths and the people who support it have recognized this affliction and aims to help guide these young individuals to better themselves through spiritual maturity. I am proud to be able to serve them even for just a short while, to be able to help young adults just like me to understand what it really meant to live a blissful life centering in God. I have come this far because of my strong faith in God and the strengths of the people that I surround myself with, their encouragement and love have done so much for me both in my studies in school and fulfilling my responsibilities in the community. I will never forget the lessons I have learned about the healing nature of selfless love and forgiveness. "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:44-45).

On behalf of the Go family, I would like to thank everyone who supported us and cared for us. To tita MaryAnn and tito Chris Korte, for encouraging me to hold onto my dreams and for your amazing love both for me and my family. To "ate Joie", "kuya Evan", and "ate Wari" for showing me how my naiveté can eventually get me into trouble. To "tita Arlene" and "tito Lee" Junia, for always being there, and for the love I felt. To "tita MaryAnne" and "tito Ray Conopio", to "tita Melrose" and "tito Joseph" Kodumal, for your love and support. To "tita Leonor" and "tito Pepe" Beronia, for all your help in my schooling. To "tita Judy" and "tito Ariel" Bautista, for being there when I need a shoulder to lean on. To "tita Chit" and "tito Harmon," for your love and concern.

I would also like to thank everyone in the youth, especially, Maria Korte, for being such a wonderful friend, and Bea Bautista for always being there, thank you for being the sisters I never had.

Chita Dilema

Member, Finance Council, OLV (abridged)
 <harmonnchita@aol.com>

Dear All: I'm writing this memo not as a BLD member but as member of the OLV Parish Council.

The council on Wednesday, May 21st, discussed the recent request of Fr. Ed to the Vicar General of the Diocese on the legal and spiritual responsibilities of Fr. Ed and the parish to the Filipino community, whether the parish would absorb the Filipino community as one of its ministries or it would be classified similar to the status of St. Vincent the Paul. he would then meet the core of the Filipino ..

(to be continued on next column)

Community. Fr. Ed's focus is on BLD because, FCCA is only do celebration of the Holy Mass while BLD has a lot of activities, oversee by Archdiocese of Newark. This is in conjunction with the changes that Bishop Olmstead is implementing regarding the geographic and incorporation of individual parishes.

When the Bishop gave his blessings on the Filipino community to be part of OLV, prop to the changes. In 2008, the Bishop's changes in diocesan policies affect the standing of the Filipino community with the parish. During the budget report, the head of the Finance council, the Filipino mass plate positively impacted he parish 08-08 finance picture; more than double the previous year's and that would take care mostly of the utilities of the parish.



Fr. Ed mentioned that BLD is getting complacent that Fridays are reserved for them. The parish office should be informed ahead of time, on any changes.

Fr. Ed also said BLD community should be aware of the following:

1. Tissues papers & water bottles are left on the pews in the chapel & the main church.
2. Baby diapers were found in the trash in the bathroom emitting odor by the time Saturday mass.
3. Envelops in the church are taken out of place and some have scribbles and drawings.
4. both men & women bathroom trash bins are full.
5. The garbage disposal in the kitchen had residuals left in it.
6. Outside trash containers, ground or sidewalks, should be checked to ensure that no food are left.
8. BLD uses practically all the rooms in the church, Fr. Ed requested that we be aware of the utilities that we are using. We should turn off lights and air conditioner that are not in use.
9. Fr. Ed would like to know if those who go to Fridays praise and worship also go to the Filipino mass on Sundays. The reason is that if they only go to Fridays P/W and not attend the Mass even once a month, then they don't feel any affinity to the welfare and well being of the parish.

As a member of both BLD and FCCA, I do my best to safeguard our position at OLV parish. I appreciate the cooperation that I always get from both groups.

All these, In the Name of Jesus. Chit Dilema