# VISION God Blessed Us

### Ephesians 1:1-6 (NKJV)

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ijust as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, shaving predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

### Introduction

In the first chapter of Ephesians, Paul talked about God's incomparable blessings to us:

- The Father chose us (1:4-6).
- The Son redeemed us (1:7-12).
- The Holy Spirit sealed us (1:13-14).

All of these are "to the praise of His glory." These truths are so profoundly important and deep that Paul prayed that God will open our minds to comprehend the riches of all that God has given to us as members of the body of Christ, the head over all (1:15-23).

# God wants us to know who we are in Christ and how we came to be in Christ.

Our conversion and appointment as saints have nothing to do with our clean lifestyle or even being a good person. It all happened by the sovereign will of God. God has opened our spiritual eyes to see Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We were spiritually dead because of our sins, living without a purpose, blinded by this world's system, and excluded from the life of God.

### Ephesians 2:1-3

<sup>1</sup>And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup>among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Now that we are believers, the Bible called us "saints". We are those whom God "set apart" for Himself, the bride of Jesus. As the bride (the Church), we are to be holy because He is holy. We are to be faithful because He is faithful. We are to love one another as He loved us. We are to cast ourselves totally on Christ. We are to fix our eyes to Jesus to the end.

### 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

<sup>30</sup>But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption<sup>31</sup>that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

Grace is the beginning of our faith. He saved us and blessed us.

Peace is the end of our faith. It is the need of every sinner. Christ reconciled us to God through His death on the cross. Jesus is our peace in trials, persecutions, and sufferings. That is why we continually seek Him and do His will.

I. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

Why does God bless us? It is so that we may have something to bless and glorify Him.

### Proverbs 3:9-10

<sup>9</sup>Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; <sup>10</sup>So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

We cannot bless God in our own way because it is unacceptable before God.

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Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." The Lord opened an opportunity for the UCA students to experience His loving mercy and grace during the retreat last January 17-19 at UCF Mt. Tabor Church Re-Creation Center.

Students witnessed the immense love of the Lord through His Word. All the activities focused on the gospel of Jesus Christ that planted in their hearts a seed of faith, making them believe in Jesus and receive Him in their life. The students were also moved by the presence of God during the sessions. It was an experience they will surely treasure as they come to know the true and living God. All glory and honor belongs to our God who made the retreat as avenue in reaching out the lost souls.



1 John 1:5 (NKJV) This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.



After going through various challenging activities, students enjoyed their time together as they shared delicious meals in their three-day stay at UCF Mt. Tabor. This created another memory to remember the goodness of the Lord in their lives.











The games and activities challenged the minds of the students as they surpassed station from station, testing their teamwork and cooperation. This year's activities led the students in knowing the importance of finding life in Jesus.



















Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

John 8:12 (NKJV)



With colorful props and beautiful smiles, the students seized every opportunity to take pictures with their friends during the retreat. These photos were a remembrance of their



Acts 26:18

To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.





filled with the great move of the Holy Spirit. The students sang songs of hymns that became prayers of their hearts. They encountered the presence of God as His Spirit spoke to their hearts to receive the light—who is Jesus. This gave a life-changing experience with the love of the Lord that touched their lives. They experienced forgiveness when they confessed their sins and humbled before God.







As they gather together, Rev. Dr. James Sy lead the students in worshipping and inviting Jesus into their lives declaring Him as their Lord and Savior.



 $^{35}$ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 6:35 (NKJV)

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# Water Baptism

The Lord opened the way for His lost sheep to come back to His presence as they heard His Word that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. In the last day of the retreat, students decided to follow the Lord Jesus and as their first step, they took the challenge to undergo water baptism.



Colossians 3:15 (NKJV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.

# WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

Antonia Ashly P. Alarcio John Matthew F. Aloba Glenn Ryan D. Aristorenas Aliyah Jean L. Arriola Cheizzere Chin B. Belarmino Hyacinth Pearl B. Buenafe Bella Kristiana A. Bulagnir Jaden Rhyss A. Bulagnir Hagea Soffhiea B. Canoy Abigaile N. Castro Ma. Alia Gabrielle B. Cero Mary Nicole C. Clemente Mary Allyza S. Cordero Zen Kaleb C. Cortes Carl Justine G. Cortez King Khamire James S. Dalangin Sofia D. De Guzman Janine Kaye E. Dela Rosa Ulysses Harold N. Fajardo Valerie D. Fortaleza Sophia Beatrice H. Gonido Ysabella Marie H. Gonido Jason Nielle S. Ifurung Evan Sabrina D. Injego Nel John A. Jaron Akisha Shantice G. Jimenez Sam Eros O. Jurane Kate Ashley L. Lete Jelo V. Lumen Ma. Angelica C. Mañacop Eifratz M. Melecio Chezca Ive N. Monteclaro Xed Willow P. Muñoz Mikaela Audrey M. Nadonza Christina Nicole L. Ngo Mireille Cielo D. Nido Jan Solo S. Nogot Shin Berry F. Oblena Aaron James L. Ocampo Charly Maurice C. Ocampo Sophia Laurein Prieto Thalia Giullana G. Robale Angel B. Ruiz Angel Sophia D.C. Salvador Tweety Yuniz V. San Diego Julia Laurent J. Santos Princess Cecille Suarez Joel James O. Sy Dustin Reid M. Tique Dartagnan R. Valloso



As it is written, the Lord draws near to those people who draw near to Him. Students who experienced the love of Jesus Christ through the UCA Retreat 2024 expressed how the Lord touched their hearts and how they are blessed to be loved by a faithful and wonderful God.



Tweety Yuniz San Diego GRADE 9

Naranasan ko ang Lord this retreat. Noong habang umiiyak ako ay nalabas ko ang mga dati kong dinadamdam. Nang naiyak ako ay naramdaman ko pong may gumaan sa loob ko.



John Vincent Allere

The best experience ko ay iyong pinaranas ng Lord yung presence Niya sa akin. Sa una ay pinaalala Niya sa akin ang mga dati kong kasalanan na may kirot po talaga sa akin. Noong lumapit na po ako ay unti-unti na pong nawala ang sakit.



Allen James Salazar GRADE 12

Naranasan ko ang Lord when singing and as I have faith in Him. Ang pinakaimportante kong natutunan ngayong retreat ay iyong pagpi-pray na mayroong pure heart at pure faith. The best experience din sa akin ito dahil mayroong peace. Iyong iyak ko ay tears of joy.



Samantha Castillo

Nangibabaw sa akin ang forgiveness dahil coming back to the Lord ay sobrang gaan. Iyong mapatawad ang mga kasalanan ko, assurance ito sa akin na at some point everything will be okay because the Lord is there to guide me.



Ulysses Harold Fajardo GRADE 6

Bago sabihin ni Ptr. James ang, "Come, if you want to follow God," mayroon akong narinig na voice sa puso ko na nagsasabing "My child, come to Me."

Then, nag-step forward ako at doon na ako umiyak ng umiyak.



Mireille Cielo Nido

I felt the presence of the Lord and I also get to know more about Him, learn from the Word of God and have faith in Him.



Chezca Monteclaro

Ang pinaranas sa akin ng Lord this retreat ay freedom and forgiveness. Katulad din ng sinabi nga ni ptr. James, faith comes by hearing the Word of God.



Jellian Mae Silagan GRADE 12

I am very grateful na mabigyan ng chance na maranasan po ang tunay na peace. At maraming salamat sa Lord dahil naramdaman ko talaga ang Kaniyang presence at gaano niya ako kamahal.

<sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV)

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Sophia Adrieana A. Villafranca

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# Abigaile Castro GRADE 10

Ang pinaranas ng Lord sa akin ngayong retreat ay pag-release ko ng hatred and

sadness ko sa sarili ko. During praise and worship, noong sinabi ni pastor na, "Come", nag-hesitate ako noong una kasi feeling ko hindi ako tatanggapin ng Lord dahil makasalanan ako. Napaluhod ako sa sobrang iyak at unti-unting nawala ang nararamdaman kong mabigat sa buong taon.

# Dartagnan Valloso

I experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit. It was an answered prayer. Night

before, I prayed that His presence will fill the entire place and all people will experience Him, and we all did.

# Adrian Renei Ani

Pinaranas sa akin ni Lord na kahit ano pang nagawa kong kasalanan

papatawarin parin Niya ko. Ang sarap sa feeling na alam kong napatawad na Niya ako.

# Ma. Angelica Mañacop

Ang pinaranas po sa akin ni Lord ay iyong presence Niya. Habang nagko-confess

ako ng kasalanan ko ay naramdaman kong pinatawad Niya ako.

# Akisha Shantice Jimenez

At first, I didn't think I was ready to follow God yet. But when I was about to be

water baptized, I felt really invited. I was scared at first, but it was a warm invitation, so I decided to accept the invitation now and follow God.

# Xian Jacob Arguelles GRADE 6

Naramdaman ko ang presence ni God at pinatawad Niya ako. Binuksan ko rin ang

puso ko sa Kaniya.



### Jelo Lumen

Nagpawater baptize po ako dahil gusto ko nang sumunod kay Lord. Noong nagpa-

water baptize ako ay gumaan ang pakiramdam ko.

### Angel Ruiz GRADE 7

Ang naranasan ko kay Lord ay forgiveness at ang presence Niya. Sobrang saya ko

ngayon dahil naramdaman ko ang pagmamahal ni Lord na matagal ko nang hinahanap.



## Hyacinth Pearl Buenafe

Ang pinaranas sa akin ni Lord ay comfort. Hindi ako showy sa ibang tao pero

noong pinaranas sa akin ni Lord na nandiyan Siya, I felt comforted.



# Sam Eros Jurane

Kaya po ako nagpawater baptize para makalapit ako kay Lord at maiwanan ko

ang dati kong mga kasalanan.



# Janine Kaye Dela Rosa

I feel really relieved from the Retreat. I am really happy that I can finally say that I

surrender my life to the Lord.

Jeremiah 7:23 (NKJV) But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.'



The retreat is indeed a joyous event full of fun-filled and exciting activities that the participants surely enjoyed. Officially closing the program, the winners for the Banner Making Competition, Cheering Competition, and the overall winners were announced. They were awarded food prizes to celebrate their victories. Students did not only enjoy, but also found a family in Jesus Christ.



If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:6 (NKJV)



Students from Grade 5 to 12 enjoyed each other's company. To conclude the program, they also gave encouraging and thank you messages through the Write on My Back activity, which serve as their souvenir from the retreat. This piece of paper will surely bring them back to this moment.



Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

# Paglaganap ng Salita ng Diyos

**P**itong tahanan na ang nagbukas ng kanilang mga pinto sa taong 2024 para sa gawain ng Home Bible Church (HBC). Sa mga darating na buwan ay mas inaasahan pa ang pagdami nito at mas marami pang kaluluwa ang makakasumpong sa pagmamahal ng Diyos.

Ngayong linggo ay muling pumalaot ang mga manggagawa ng UCF sa pagbabahagi ng Mabuting Balita at maging ang masigasig na pagsasaliksik ng Salita ng Diyos. Ang mga HBC sa iba't ibang dako ng Laguna at Tagaytay ay buong pagsisikap na binibisita ng mga butihing pastor at manggagawa ng UCF.

Bilang isang sambahayan, kagalakang tunay na si Hesus ang sentro ng tahanan. Dahil dito ay nagiging patotoo ang bawat pamilya sa ibang tao kung paanong buhay na kumikilos ang Panginoon sa kanilang mga buhay.



### PUROK 1 **Brgy. Casile, Cabuyao** Biyernes | 4:00 PM HBC LEADER: Rev. Fidel Dillo Sis. Niña Murillo

### BRGY. **CALABUSO**

**Tagaytay** 

Martes | 10:00 AM

Rev. Ricardo Jacob Sis. Roselyn Villaraso &

Sis. Marina Geguillan





PUROK 18

**Brgy. Dapdap** West, Tagaytay

Martes | 6:00 PM

Rev. Fidel Dillo Sis. Rosa Vibar

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

John 10:27 (NKJV)

## **PUROK 15**

Brgy. Dapdap East, Tagaytay

Martes | 6:00 PM

HBC LEADER:
Rev. Ricardo Jacob
HBC HOSTS:
Sis. Dorothea Hernandez &
Sis. Zandra Hernandez





### PUROK 3

Brgy. Casile, Cabuyao

Martes | 5:00 PM

HBC LEADER:

Rev. Morrell Estrellado

UPC HOST

Bro. Orlando De Sagun & Bro. Crispulo Medina

### PUROK 17

Brgy. Dapdap East, Tagaytay & Sitio Balagbag Araw, Calamba

Biyernes | 5:00 PM

HBC LEADER: Rev. Ricardo Jacob

Sis. Amelia Atienza & Sis. Elsiemae Talisik





### **PUROK 5**

Brgy. Casile, Cabuyao

Martes | 6:00 PM

Rev. Morrell Estrellado

нвс ноsт: Sis. Angel Belmonte

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV) This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

COMMUNITY VISITATION

# Pag-abot za mga kaluluwa

inggo-linggo ay binibisita ng mga manggagawa ang komunidad ng Laguna upang sila ay imbitahan sa gawain ng UCF Mt. Tabor Church. Daan din ito upang ang bawat pamilya ay mabahagian ng Salita ng Diyos.





### God Blessed Us

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We can only bless God according to His words. We cannot contribute anything to our salvation, not by our works so that no one can boast. We cannot share in God's glory.

### **Ephesians 2:9**

Not of works, lest anyone should boast.

The first blessing of God to us is Jesus Christ. He gave His Son Jesus Christ to save us.

He blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, not necessarily with physical or material blessing on Earth. God only promised to provide our basic needs. Material blessing comes when we obey God and serve Him.

### 1 John 2:15-16

15Do not love the world or the

things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the

### Colossians 3:1-2

'If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

### Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

How then can we bless God? Blessing God means to speak well of Him, to praise Him, to thank Him, to share and do good.

### Hebrews 13:15-16

<sup>15</sup>Therefore by Him let us

continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. <sup>16</sup>But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

II. God has blessed us by choosing us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless.

Why did God choose us? He chose us not based on merit or good works, but it is based on His sovereign pleasure.

We cannot choose God unless God chose us first. Election is unconditional like grace.

### Ephesians 2:8-9

<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest anyone should boast.

### Romans 11:5-6

<sup>5</sup>Even so then, at this present time

there is a remnant according to the election of grace. <sup>6</sup>And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer

Jesus also said that no one can know or come to Him unless He wills it.

### Matthew 11:27-30

<sup>27</sup>"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. <sup>28</sup>Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

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But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)

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### God Blessed Us

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All these blessings come to us "in Christ". Christ is the center of it all. God called us in Christ. He justified us in Christ. He sanctified us in Christ. He will perfect us in Christ. He will glorify us in Christ. We have everything in Christ, and we have nothing without Christ.

### Romans 8:28-30

<sup>28</sup>And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup>For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup>Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

### **Revelations 3:5**

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I

will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

#### Revelations 13:8

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

If God chose us for salvation apart from anything that we do, then can we live as we please?

Certainly not! God has called us to be holy and blameless. God's seed remains in us, so we cannot sin.

#### 1.John 3:7-9

<sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. <sup>8</sup>He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. <sup>9</sup>Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because

he has been born of God.

#### Conclusion

#### Hebrews 4:11-13

"Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

The essence of holiness is love. Love is the virtue of a true Christian. It brings forth fruit.

### **Romans 13:10**

Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

#### Galatians 5:22-26

<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

#### Colossians 3:12-17

12Therefore, as the elect of God. holy and beloved, put on tender mercies. kindness. humility. meekness, longsuffering; 13bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17And whatever vou do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.









