

July 2023

Dear Brethren:

Good day and greetings from the Philippines! It is an honor and a pleasure to be able to write for God's chosen people. I am blessed to have this opportunity to write a *Monthly Letter*/self-introduction for you, brethren.

Here in the Philippines, we are very grateful for the fact that after three years, Mr. Jon Brisby was able to visit us again, and this is historic for us because it was the first time we spent Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread with him. We have learned so much during his visit. We are also very thankful because we were organized and I was chosen as a new ordained minister. I wholeheartedly accepted it with cheerfulness, but I cannot deny the thought that I felt a little worried, because I know it is a big responsibility. But I know that God is with me, and He will be my guide in all my decisions.

I married Mariel Roque, the youngest daughter of the late Mr. Mario Roque, in December 2010. When I got married, it not only began my journey of being a husband and father, but it was also the start of my journey in the church. Every first Saturday of the month in Davao City, I attended our Sabbath service. That was the start of my hearing the words of God through Mr. Mario Roque.

During my childhood days, I already knew how important the Sabbath is, because my father would always listen to Mr. Herbert Armstrong on the radio and also watch him on TV. He would also receive *The Plain Truth* reading materials every month, and in later years material from other splinter groups. Among my four siblings, I was the one who was always at home with my father. As a young child, I was fond of looking at the pictures in the magazines and booklets. I would always ask my father details about them. My father would then explain the things he understood. He would always mention about the importance of the Sabbath, and he also taught me about unclean foods. A few years later, my family joined "Eglesia ng Dios," but later we parted ways. Many years passed, and my family and I did not attend church. However, I could see that my father continued to read the Bible. I knew that he still always prayed to God. He was the only one in our family who continued to have strong faith.

When I was in my late twenties, I had a job in the hotel where I met my wife, Mariel. We got married and lived in Davao City. That was the beginning of my attending Sabbath services with Church of God, The Eternal. I had begun to listen to God's words, and this was also the time that I started to help in the church in my own little ways.

In October 2014, during the Feast of Tabernacles, I decided to be baptized. During that time, I had offered to Mr. Ed Cambil that I was willing to give an opening prayer. After that, he would always call on me for a prayer. There came a time when Mr. Ed Cambil was not around because he was sick, we did not have an emcee, and Mr. Edgar Cambil (his brother) replaced him. I noticed that Mr. Edgar Cambil had difficulty breathing at that time. After our Sabbath service, I approached him and asked if I could emcee to help them. I saw in Mr. Edgar Cambil's eyes joy that I had offered myself to emcee. That is when I became the emcee every Sabbath, and it was also during that time that I accompanied the elders of our church on their travels to visit brethren. I have constantly heard God's words from them, and I have applied the church's teachings to myself.

At the 2017 Feast of Tabernacles, I was assigned by Mr. Roque to give a sermonette. After that, I gave sermonettes every time Mr. Roque would ask me. With all the things that I have ended up doing in the church, I realized that this must have been God's plan for me. Mr. Roque died shortly after Mr. Ed Cambil's death, in 2021. It has been so sad and difficult for us here, since we lost two wonderful leaders, but we have continued to follow God's teachings. I thank God that I am one of those who has been called and given the Spirit to become part of God's Family. I thank Him because He blessed me with strength and wisdom to continue the works of Mr. Mario Roque in the church. I am also very thankful to Mr. Jon Brisby because he is always there to help and support us every step of the way. I am happy and pleased to be able to serve God's people here in the Philippines, and will wholeheartedly give the best I can to be able to continue my responsibilities to God and to the church.

Your servant in Christ,



Rolando Flores, Jr.



Jon W. Brisby