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Subject: Thank You West C!

7 January 2010

Dear brothers and sisters,

Thank you for the opportunity to have served you in West C as Sector Head.

It was just slightly over 2 years ago in 2007 when we transitioned from the CFC-FFL conflict that left WC with wounded members and leaders who stood by CFC's vision & mission and the truthful accounting of events.

WC regained stability from the challenges of 2007 because:

1. Many MCG members went on mission trips to provinces in Luzon, in the Visayas and in foreign countries. We had no less than 40 mission trips, each mission team composed of 4 to 5 couples. Some Unit Heads and Household Heads even joined.
2. We pursued the pastoral formation tracks and even invited an outside resource, Ed Villacorte, of the Center for Spiritual Leadership to conduct 2 live-in leadership and capacity building sessions. We all agreed that our awareness, commitment, and appreciation of our roles as empowered leaders were heightened.
3. We fed no less than 12,000 persons in the various Feed My Sheep campaigns the Sector initiated through Jun Simon and launched by the SGT for people living under bridges, the rugby boys, the squatter areas and in fire relocation sites in Quezon City and Valenzuela City.
4. We now have 18 GK sites in operation with programs running, with people working as volunteers, with many foreign guests coming not only to visit but some even staying here.
5. We have dedicated people in the family ministries who volunteer their time and resources in encouraging attendance to life-giving activities.
6. We consciously conducted CLP's and created households for young couples.
7. We gave younger leaders the chance to pursue the evangelization and mission work.
8. We learned to open our homes to hosting local guests from Eastern Visayas, and foreign nationals from Asia, Africa & Europe.
9. We showcased and shared our talents in big events. In the Leaders Conference in January 2008, the WC Band, Kenosis, performed on stage and in the Leaders Conference in January 2009, our own Rodriguez family composed of 16 family members did the opening number, a song rendition of Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now.

All these kept the joy of service at boiling point and kept the group morale going. The past 26 years of learning, accepting, adjusting, obeying, embracing all the service assignments be it in the family ministry, the social ministry, the admin work, and the normal service progression from household head to unit head to cluster head and sector head kept the passion burning because I served whenever and wherever the Lord led me. It was only as PAH in Leyte and as WB sector head that I finally was able to take on GK work. Was it coincidence that in Eastern Visayas, in WB, and in WC, audit reports would note that in general all contributions were accounted for and project deliveries were okay? It was simply because of an encouraging and embracing attitude, of love for the work, of people like Ben Gamez, Tito Santos, Winston Mungcal and Loloy Aboyme to name a few, and the caretaker teams.

When our community started our work with the poor in Bagong Silang in Caloocan, I had my doubts as to where this would bring CFC. I read and reread FAP's books; listened to the talks; attended whatever activities; met and witnessed transformations. I can clearly recall what Tony Meloto said, "This work with the poor will separate the men from the boys"...and it came to pass.

As early as end January 2009, I talked with JT that I sensed and was concerned with another brewing conflagration. It would be good for the Metro Manila sector heads to ask GK, namely TM, Luis, Issa, Mike anything they'd like to ask whether it be status of funds, delivery or non delivery of units, commitments and it would be good for JT and TM to talk. This led to the Layforce event in February. This same occasion where I invited JT to be present and he refused, then relented then rescheduled suddenly became an IC initiated activity. Sensing the tense situation that would arise as each party had a different objective, I sought out Fr. Ben Nebres to mediate. He agreed if 2 of the 3 parties would agree, the initiator (me), JT and TM.

I was very happy with the Solidarity statements of JT and TM in the MCG in April. Then the Moving Forward and Letting Go IC statement of April 30, the Q & A 1&2, the May 7 general guidelines re CFC and GK, then the June 2 directive re ANCOP and so on. Little by little as the memos came out, as the words and the actions became inconsistent and confusing, the unity I dreamed of became elusive. Then there was the summit, the letting go and the take on.

Three months ago, I received a post mailed Thank You letter for services rendered in Eastern Visayas from Joe Yamamoto, Executive Director and Philippine Mission Head, and my pastoral household head. I did not ask why, knowing this is the prerogative of the appointing authority of the IC. In one among several one on ones that transpired with JT over a period close to a year, he said I make JY "uncomfortable".

Then I was requested last Sunday by Joe Tale, CFC Chairman and Metro Manila Mission Head, to step down as Sector Head for WC because my heart is in GK and they have to appoint someone who is "aligned" with the directions of the IC. According to him, I have been identified as pro-GK, the very same label given me by the leaders who formed FFL. I hope what he meant was pro-GK, the movement and not pro-Tony Meloto. This labeling / branding is a great disservice to the many GK workers & volunteers who spend their weekends, their weekdays, in

the sites when I only open my mouth to encourage, to empower, to recommend how a situation can work, to give a literal pat on the back, a visit, put partners together with PD's This is my modest contribution .

Titles do not define who I am. I have no aspirations to any office in CFC. I want to make the most of my life content with quiet service, serving Him in new ways. I am pondering about what has become of my leaders, Joe Tale and Joe Yamamoto, who in October met with the WC SGT , asking how the sector is, maybe surprised that there is no confusion at all in the sector . But then, they had to determine who was best fit to replace me; then this December “secretly” met with some Cluster Heads and inviting only some of the SGT. These acts have planted the seeds of suspicion and mistrust. It left some WC leaders baffled. But then, the new SGT team was already being formed. I know that the Spirit is not one of division nor of confusion. The best way was simply to say by next year, we need to have a younger leader “aligned” with IC. Perhaps to my mind I was being replaced due to an imagined future offense...what if I would start a CFC-GK... fears imagined, fears coming true in certain provinces; or a judgment call that ANCOP will not fly because a pro-GK person sits as Sector Head. Won't ANCOP benefit the poor and so it must be good and let it fly; or the many observations I have taken up with JT made me seem belligerent.

In the many communications, it is clear that GK work is voluntary. First there was letting go, then taking on. There were instructions “Do not fly the GK flag in the CFC Anniversary; Do not mobilize for the GK Expo, Do not go to the GK Boston Summit, Do not entertain TM and Luis.” I asked JT what spirit , from where is this coming from because a seeming pattern was emerging that left me perplexed and troubled. In conscience, I cannot douse the fire of spontaneous excitement coming from people on the ground. I cannot compromise the principles ingrained in me by this same community. But of course JT said, he will investigate and he said there exists so much hurt on both sides.

I look around me and ask myself in silence... is this community that purports to be a loving community the CFC I grew in? I look at Ernie Maipid emotionally struggling at the center because his former brothers in the IC have not even assigned him to a MC household. I hear the words dysfunctional, discordant, inimical, not aligned ... (popular labels of 2009) ... It pains me that CFC is losing members first in Cagayan de Oro, in Davao, and in Bacolod. In many provinces, despite pressure from their provincial councils and the IC, CFC members serving in GK refuse to either drop their service or their acceptance of the GK leadership in GK work. Isn't it voluntary ? I hope this will be the end of it. Why is this happening ? I have held the fort for a year and kept my peace.

When there is no longer joy in service, it really is time to leave the service because one can no longer inspire. For how can you inspire when, in my case, the very leaders you look to for exemplary spiritual leadership confuse you, label you, cast aspersions on your motives and efforts to raise the bar in this sector, and in my perception require personal loyalty and passive acquiescence .

I did not question JT when he told me I was being replaced. Since October, I sensed that the Lord

no longer needs me as Sector Head because of a heaviness in my heart. My task is finished. The sector is strong and WC can withstand the crisis. CFC has to morph in accordance with His design and His timing. And so I will continue to be a member in WC and see where God leads me. I know where it is now, an ordinary member of CFC where I will not be beholden to anyone except the God of my service. At the same time, I will strive to be a dedicated worker in the Lord's vineyard for the poor, to share God's love and joy with them.

I am a CFC member ready to follow what is expected of an ordinary member of the community. While they continue to be my brothers in community, I am relieved to be disassociated directly with the IC and look with hope and optimism on my new Sector Head. I am happy to know that a good man with a good heart from our SGT will be taking over. Let us all welcome him and pray the Lord to guide him wisely and lovingly.

God bless,

Delfy