



Gloria ("Ria") Gonzales - My testimony

For those of you who haven't known me I'm Gloria Gonzales better known as Teacher Ria or "the Ate ng bayan!" I'm the youngest among the five (5) children of Pastor Joe and Mrs. Elizabeth Gonzales at syempre ako na lang ang single.

I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ when I was 10 years old so "ang tagal nang nagtitiis sa akin si Lord ☺ And I'm so thankful that I experienced God's love everyday as His princess. I have a simple life and some may think I have its boring but what I can say is that I can't imagine my life without God. For my long time friends, many thought that I'm too good to be true. I even have a friend who said that I care too much simply because I continuously experience the love and care of my Spiritual family. I know many of you had a roller coaster life before they came to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Me, if I remember it right, I'm so blessed to experience the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ in the early days of my life that it was during a wake of a dear relative of ours (burol ng aming kamag-anak), during my childhood I don't like to look at dead person inside the coffin because I'm afraid of death. After our visit, my father(Pastor Joe) asked me "why you don't want to look at our relative in the cuffin?" ("anak, bakit ayaw mo tignan yung patay?" kala ko ba sure ka na sa langit?") Of course, he is my father and I have intellectual knowledge about the salvation but I knew in my heart that I'm afraid to die. It's a real different thing knowing it and accepting it. That day my father led me to prayer of acceptance I took it seriously in my life. Because of that, I have accepted Jesus in my heart my forever begins. Usapang puso na yan!

My life is not perfect I face challenges mas dumami pa nga eh. Then when I was in high school I usually join the Bible Study led by my father. I remember SIKATT started 1998 so that time I usually have seen how important sharing the love of God to others. If you asked me who has the greatest influence in my life? Isn't it so obvious? Aside the fact na kamukha ko sya! He is not just my biological father; he is my spiritual father that always reminds me that I must go witness! He is an evangelist, and the first gospel tract of BBC was written by him. The famous Five Indispensible Truth (FIT)!!! I know most of you have heard that and if you have not go to the person who invited you here. In my college days, I made a goal to share the gospel to my classmates I'm surprised that many responded and most of them became Christian and now she is a church leader and youth worker in a Christian Organization.

Now as a teacher, I shared the gospel to my 500 students every year and it's a great privilege but of course a real challenge. One student once said, that "Mam, why is it that there are times you are angry with us I thought you are a Christian? (kala ko ba Christian ka?)" I replied "we can get mad because of the action but not to the person. When we do wrong we need someone to help us realize what we have

done.” There will be many hindrances in witnessing to others like the resources especially when I’m still a student I need to save some of my allowance (baon) to be able to invite my classmates; treat them for snack and grab the opportunity to share the gospel. Now I’m working the next hindrance is the time; both my friends and I were too busy to meet up. And the most challenging is the rejection and persecution I face every time I share the gospel.

But I praise God He is the source of courage and confidence. Many may not respond positively but remember success in witnessing is simple taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the result to Christ.



Remember that “God’s love is not limited to your status it is always available to everyone now and forever.” If you are experiencing it wag tayo madamot share it!!! Life is but too short not to share the God’s love. Alangan naman tayo lang ang may forever? Ang dami nga naghahanap nun. So what are you waiting for? Take the stand and share it!!!

Witnessing is not an option it is our obligation as a Child of God as what the bible instructed us to do in Matthew 28:19-20. “¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.

” Amen. ☺ to God be the glory!