

Michelle L. Olza 戴慧英



Once there was this ordinary person who had a commitment to God. She submitted and obeyed to serve Him fulltime. Looking back at my first few days in BSOP, it was said that after staying a year, one can get adjusted to seminary life. Now, I can say that throughout these three years, by God's grace, I have been continually adjusting to the many challenges that came my way. I can truly attest that God has been and is ever faithful. He sustained me and provided for my needs throughout those sleepless nights of writing long papers, or doing readings and reports and in serving Him; He gave me ideas how to go about it and share His Word to His people.

God was always present and guiding me. I realized how important it is to remember to focus on God and cling to my personal relationship with Him, trusting Him as the days go by. Not a single day will one be able to survive if God is not with him. When all else fails, God never fails to work in every aspect of my being. He has molded me into who I am today.

My life in BSOP has not been smooth sailing, but rather, more of rough edges being pruned and of climbing huge mountains. I could not have accomplished everything on my own, however,

God is good all the time. He is love. I am thankful for how God sent people into my life to encourage me to go on despite the obstacles placed in my path. It is easier to love when you know that people love you too. But I have learned that sometimes, it is not about other people's love, it is because God loved us first and deep enough to teach us and enable us to love people even though it hurts. God is sovereign in allowing me to accomplish His purpose for my life as I went through training in the Seminary. To God be the glory for all the wonderful things He has sufficiently done. He let me finish the race and keep the faith. Hallelujah!

Nikko C. Chu 朱宗明



Biblical Seminary of the Philippines has become a fiery furnace that God has allowed me to go through in my life. You may be wondering what I mean by "fiery furnace"? I do not mean the place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, i.e., hell. I take Isaiah's interpretation of the furnace that a nugget of unrefined gold needs to go through a long purifying process to filter out impurities to come up with a high quality gold. The nugget represents God's people, the purifying process refers to afflictions, and the high quality gold signifies the newly filtered (more mature) Christian. God allows His people to experience severe hardship in order for that person to become better and more effective in shining for the glory of God's name and power. This was what I experienced while facing the challenges at BSOP. Before I entered the Seminary, I was a fresh college graduate and my attitudes and character were still like a young immature boy. I was ignorant of the Holy Scriptures and of the knowledge about God. My priorities were still corrupted with

selfish desires hence I was still unequipped to lead people to know more about God.

Yet everything changed when God placed me in BSOP to be cultivated like a dirty worthless rubble of gold ore needing to be refined. God used various individuals and events at BSOP like the teachers, staff, workers, students, roommates, summer and weekend ministries, missions, school events, academic requirements, fellowships, outings, mentoring, discipleship, and so much more. All these, God in His sovereignty predestined for me so that I would realize my weaknesses, develop my leadership skills, enrich my knowledge about God and His Word, polish my character, and set my priorities toward God. BSOP has become a part of my life, a fiery furnace where God trained me to be more equipped in serving God's church and in proclaiming God's kingdom to the ends of the earth. This institution has been the starting point of my never-ending journey to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. I am now ready to embrace more fiery furnaces coming up my way and I believe that the Triune God will guide and see me through for His glory.

Christopher C. Beltran 吴天恩



When I was nominated for eldership in 2008, I asked what qualified me to be nominated. I was told that I was 45 years old and had finished two terms as a deacon. After being elected and in my first year as an elder, I was not guided on what to do so I did what I saw others were doing: serve during Communion, head a department, be an emcee. I did not realize the significance and importance of being an elder until I read a book, *The Elder and His Works*, and found out that an elder is quite similar to a pastor. Elders are called to be shepherds and spiritual leaders. They are supposed to be models of what God wants EVERY man in the congregation to become. They are the measuring rod of what godly Christians should be. They're also like a pastor, shepherds of the flock of Christ.

The most difficult part was convincing myself to go back to school. I also did not have a good track record while studying before. God used three pastors to encourage me. They started studying at the Seminary during their 60's and are now successful pastors in their churches. I decided to try and take two subjects thinking that if I fail, at least I gave it a try. So in 2011, I started my first day in BSOP and was the oldest in class. Yet God is so good, He just changed my thinking and my heart into seeing the importance of being equipped so that I gave my very best in all my classes..

"Lord, I'm not qualified. How can I be a model if my spiritual life is not consistent? How can I lead people if I am not trained to do it? And Lord, I am too old to enroll in a seminary." One by one, the Lord broke down my defenses and excuses. "Since you have chosen me as an elder, Lord, strengthen and equip me, humble me, guide me so that I can be the best elder, the best example for others to emulate."

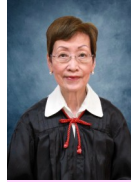
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Praise God for using me even while I was still studying in the Seminary. Through my ministry with the Filipino-Chinese Christian Foundation, I met many pastors who encouraged and invited me to share God's word in their churches. In my own church, I try to be a model of a biblical elder, able to shepherd, teach, preach, visit the sick and the elderly, and to effect changes and return to the biblical qualifications of elders and deacons.

I will always consider my four years at BSOP to be the best years of my life, for God has molded and sculpted me into the person that He wants me to be. All the subjects that I took have in one way or another added insight to my future ministry. I majored in Counseling because I believe I can best serve people if I know how to counsel them.

When faced with challenges or obstacles we have two choices: move forward or backward. Many of us choose not to face the inconvenience, difficulty, getting out of our comfort zones, or feelings of incompetence. Let us be like David when he faced Goliath. He could have retreated but he didn't, and God honored his commitment. God will honor your commitment as well. He will never leave or forsake us. I truly experienced this during these past four years at BSOP. To God be all the glory!



Juanita Lo Chan 陳李呈瑞

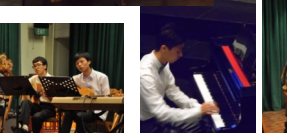
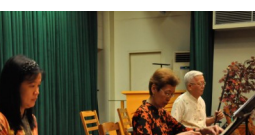
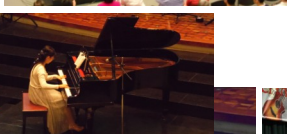
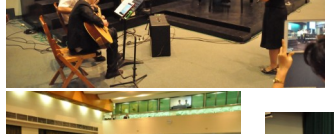
I am now in my retirement years, feeling that my time of serving the Lord is getting shorter. I have been a deaconess at the United Evangelical Church of Pasay for forty years. I have never refused to serve as long as strength permitted me, because the Lord's grace upon me has been boundless. But one cannot serve without being equipped, hence I decided to be trained in the seminary. Many BSOP faculty members encouraged me, but I felt inadequate, so I took one course only every quarter. In 2013 I was unable to study because of pancreatic cancer. I was told I couldn't live beyond a year, but my faith was strong and I believe God would preserve my life, because I have not completed what He entrusted me to do. In BSOP I learned "faith," "Prayer," "Love," "Humility" and "Obedience" and these lessons will endlessly serve me well. I thank all the teachers of BSOP for their diligence in teaching and training God's workers. Graduation is but a stage of learning, may I serve Him more fervently throughout my days, glorifying His name until I see Him face to face!

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On February 15, 2015, the annual Students' Recital was held at BSOP Auditorium from 3-5 pm. Guests from many churches attended the affair. Board member Elder Chan Ching Bor, his wife Juanita (who is graduating this year), and their daughter Cherry rendered the special number using traditional Chinese music instruments.



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