

TESTIMONY:

A Business Surrendered to God

Jaque Dy with Damples Dulcero-Baclagon

I became a Christian when I was 9 years old when I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. I was born in a Christian family. Both my parents are actively serving in the church. I grew up knowing Christ as my Savior and Lord and to obey Him is the best way to show my love for Him. I was raised to be a church-going and Christ serving believer.

Growing up, I lived with my grandmother till I was 12. She was the one who taught me how to pray and sing hymns. She also hosted many missionaries traveling in our area in her home, and taught me to love God's people. I saw her how she took care of them as an opportunity to serve the Lord. She also encouraged me to attend church conferences to know more about God.

After college, I pursued Masters of Arts in Biblical Studies in Singapore. While studying I worked part time in a church training volunteers on how to be Sunday School teachers. When I completed my studies, I went back home to help my father in his business. Dad taught me how to work with confidence and excellence. I also helped our church to start a pre-school. After teaching pre-school for 3 years, I got married.

After 3 years of being married, my husband and I started our business. As a start-up business we did well, we became busy, and thought our business will flourish.

A BIG BURDEN

Five years later, in 2007, the business that we thought would take off went bankrupt. We lost everything we had and we were even left with loans to pay the banks and our parents. It was a heavy burden placed on our shoulders. This life's episode taught me how to surrender to God literally. Ironically, when I look back I realized that I surrendered everything when I had nothing- and yet God accepted that, and it started the transformation in my life. I realized that it's not our own personal talent, skills and knowledge that we can rely on to succeed, but only with God. His way, His will, His truth. I believe this experience was the turning point in my faith. As the Lord led us step by step out of our darkness and bankruptcy, I got to see how true His Words are, how alive they are that we can touch, hear, see and experience them.

When I chose to obey God and follow His lead, things slowly came into place.

I remembered one morning when my husband told me the good news that we finally started earning. My reply? I told him how can we be earning when I was

not getting any salary all these years. My negativity and hopelessness was so evident despite surrendering to God, my heart was not always right.

TURNING POINT

Then one day, he told me that we were overstocked with an item. I told him sarcastically I will pray about it. After a few days, a retailer called me to ask if I had that item, so we delivered the same. After a few months, the sales were so phenomenal that I had to tell Aldy, my husband we need 1,000 cases. He looked at me with disbelief because we were just moving it out a few months ago. The rest they say is history.

I remember asking God all the time in my prayers, what to do, and how to do things according to His will. I will go on my knees early in the morning even before the crack of dawn to seek him, and cry out to Him. Many times, I would be praying and I will see images in my mind which I believe the Lord sent. And when I go to my office, I would start to compute and come up with a promotion or a strategy to promote our products. I have learned to hear His voice. It is true that when you seek God, you will find Him.

There were times when we were so desperate, nothing seems to be going right. I would go back to God and kept asking, kept seeking Him in prayers and through Bible reading. I learned to ask God for everything . Big or small. Even asking Him for simple personal things like when should I have a haircut, or how can I solve a problem in the office or at home and I will not move until I hear Him clearly.

And as I became closer in my walk with God, one of the learnings I had was I would easily well up with compassion for the lost, the needy, to speak with love, kindness and gentleness. This led me to another step to fulfill God's call. During this time, we would be very vocal on what God is doing in my husband's and my life in our office. In our company meetings, we started to pray and sing worship songs with our employees. We also became very vocal about our faith and would be testifying how the Lord is opening doors, and providing for our every need. Sharing, talking and putting God in our midst became a habit. Over the years, we have continuously declared that we are nothing without God, to our employees, our clients, our vendors, and everyone we get to talk to about Heavenly Products Inc.. During the pandemic, there were devotions on the Word of God every day in our offices and branches, Our employees had break

out groups, to learn God's word and to pray. These are our employees' discipleship groups. This didn't only help them go through the pandemic, but also develop their relationship with God and with one another.

The pandemic led us to find our calling to minister to our employees, vendors, clients and whoever God sends to us. My husband, Aldy and I decided as a couple with faith in Christ to make this our mission, to not just share the gospel and mentor, but to lead people to know about discipleship and to become disciple makers of their own groups. We started discipling members of the management committee in our company, and today they already have their own discipleship groups. This is multiplication!

HEAVENLY MISSION



Our company mission is to elevate the lives of our fellow Filipinos with world class quality products that have fair value and affordable prices and continuously innovating and developing products to fulfill the same. I manage the company with my husband, Aldy and our consultants Emilio Macasaet III and Cathee Acero. We also have declared that we are a Christian company with the H Logo of Heavenly that depicts a high priest worshipping God. It also symbolizes a full surrender to God.

Our employees have grown from 20 to 250 and we now have 3 offices and 2 more warehouses. Our products are distributed nationwide in several supermarket chains, local key accounts and distributors.

We praise God for saving us and bringing us this far. Heavenly, our company's boss is the Lord. We all follow Him and His ways. Its success and revival is all because of Him.

MINISTRY IN BUSINESS

Having considered that our business is a mission. We have organized our process of Evangelism, Discipleship and Multiplication basing on the Operation Christmas Child ministry where I am also serving as National Prayer Coordinator for the past 14 years.

In our company we have the following ministries:

1. **Discipleship** - particularly the management committee and the managers and supervisors under me. It is part of our daily work at the office and also we encourage our employees to have a separate time to do discipleship with others.

2. **Prayer** - I mobilize prayer groups to pray for the company, our country and missions. We gather prayer requests from our employees and pray for them during our discipleship group meetings. Then we share God's answers to our prayers to encourage each other of God's amazing grace. Our other activities like team building and company annual strategic planning, we also include devotions, prayers and worship to teach our employees that everything we do is to glorify the Lord.

3. **Church Worship** - We invite our teams to worship God in the church. Our team goes to Victory Christian Fellowship and other Christian churches in their areas. We also have discipleship and worship in the warehouse where a pastor monitors and mentors them.

4. **Bible-based Recruitment** - since our consultants for warehouse and sales are also Christians, the company follows the Biblical leadership principles and are applied during recruitment and selection. This biblical principles are adapted from the high impact training of Al Newell.

5. **Women's Ministry** - our ministry with women has been a very fulfilling and rewarding experience. I have seen women grow in their faith, I have seen God move, change and transform women into having more time in prayer and devotion. We also meet other women quarterly to mutually encourage them and be accountable in discipleship ministry.

BUSINESS AS MISSION

Throughout the years of operating our business we learned the following:

1. Business is a ministry itself

The Bible says, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3;17) Since our lives had been fully surrendered to God, we included our business too and everything we do for it.

We realized that we have created a ministry of our own in our business. We started to organize our concept on how to make our employees undergo discipleship activities by incorporating prayers, and singing gospel songs in our meetings. Then we started to invite our management people to

discipleship groups during their break times. We also started evangelism for the rank and file and if they find themselves interested to hear more about the gospel, they are invited to the discipleship group with some of their colleagues.

We also extended our business as mission to our distributors and other business partners. We invite them for business meetings that includes sharing of God's work through blessings and problem solving and attest to them that all things were orchestrated by God who knows everything. Our testimony of God's grace and salvation are always heard during our meetings.

Our suppliers are also included in our mission. Since our products are imported from other countries, we take trips to our suppliers/vendors and we bring with us our stories of God's way and will in doing our business. In one of our trips, while we were checking the factory, our supplier told me that our marriage saved theirs. The wife confided to me that she was in a "cold relationship" with her husband for many years. In fact they were about to divorce. But she told me that we as a Christian couple is like her model when it comes to husband-wife relationship. She observed how I talk to my husband, give food to him, inquire of him first before making decisions and others. Then she tried to copy doing these things to her own husband. So her relationship with her husband began to change and improve. She and her husband now are doing well. This Chinese couple is grateful for how we were able to help his wife and turn their marriage around. We were also blessed by God for having a continued relationship with them as our supplier/vendor and that they treat as well and give us good business deals.

In another business meeting with our Chinese vendors, God allowed us to minister to her and her 17 year old daughter who is preparing for her studies overseas. The Lord led me to listen to the daughter and her pressures and struggles just to be able to go through the difficult process – especially as 2 of the students in their school committed suicide from all the pressures of making it. Our conversation led me to share Jesus Christ and how God can help her with the pressures and difficulties in life. I also told her about the love of Jesus to her and how God can give her forgiveness of sins and salvation. We would like to think talking and sharing Jesus to this young lady was such a great way to end this work trip. It maybe labeled as a work trip, but it is always a heavenly God-led trip whether it be work, rest or family trip. God is always in the equation.

2. Business as mission is a big opportunity to serve God and others

Just like Lydia in the book of Acts, we see our business as a big opportunity to serve God and others. Lydia was quick to perceive that what had been hers before her conversion home, business and possessions – now belonged to the Lord.

- She had a new partner – the Lord Jesus
- A new purpose – to serve him
- And a new satisfaction – seeking to be effective and successful in order to glorify the Lord. (<https://www.thenivbible.com/blog/lydia-from-the-bible/>)

In our company, we treat our employees as family and disciples. We teach them about God and how to be good workers and stewards of His resources. Even if we are their employers, they can approach us for their prayer requests and for help whether personal or work-related. Our business is a good stepping stone to share our lives and love for the Lord to our other business partners as well. They know that we are honest and God-fearing in our dealings. We do not only share our faith to others, we also share our Godly values and God-sent resources to others. We know we have to do everything according to God's Words.

3. Doing Business and making it your mission is a reflection of your commitment to the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20)

As believers of Jesus Christ, we know we have a calling. We are God's missionaries. And we know that we can obey this calling through our business. This is the reason why we are passionate with our discipleship program in our company. Many people may see us as a regular business operation. But to us our business is a means to obey God and His commandments.

We envision Heavenly to be a company that is used by God to bless others spiritually and through it many will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace. We have branded one of our products as BLEST, the old English word for blessed, because we wanted others to see God's blessings in every opportunity and in everything. We make sure that this is the reason why we keep on doing our business and this is the purpose why Heavenly Products Inc. exists.



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