## **CONVENTION 2022**

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# **SCATTER THE SEEDS OF TRUTH**

Rosali Pérez speaks on the importance of allowing one' self to be used by God to spread the gospel - p. 3

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Xiomara Clausell writes about the modern struggle with social media addiction - p. 8

### EP. 6 OF **ESTE FIRESIDE**

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THE CREATION OF SOMOS ESTE MAGAZINE IS FOR THE SPIRITUAL **EDIFICATION OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF AJEC RE. MAY THIS** MAGAZINE SERVE AS **AN INSTRUMENT FOR** GOD TO GLORIFY HIMSELF AND FOR **YOUNG LIVES TO BE** CHANGED EVERYWHERE.





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# **VERSE OF THE MONTH**



SCATTER THE SEEDS OF TRUTH



CONVENTION 2022



IDOLATRY AND ADDICTION



DI PR DEPT. VOLUNTEERS





**JOSHUA 1:9** 

"HAVEINOT **COMMANDED YOU? BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS. DO NOT BE FRIGHTENED, AND DO** NOT BE DISMAYED, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."

# SCATTER THE SEEDS OF TRUTH

# WRITTEN BY MIN. ESP. ROSALI PEREZ, JR.

In a world full of pain and hurt, the world's deep need of a Savior can only be met by willing workers that are prepared to scatter the seed of truth. It is already within you; God wants you to release it.

"Michelangelo The term. the Phenomenon," has been coined and attributed to the famous artist of the Sistine Chapel, Michelangelo. It has been said that Michelangelo approached the craft of sculpting with the conviction that a unique and beautiful piece of art already existed within the stone, and his job was only to release it. The Bible teaches in the book of Genesis that, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). With only His word, "God said, 'Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind on the earth.' And it was so" (Genesis 1:11). Despite their seeds contain within small size. themselves all the commands necessary to sprout to life. Under proper conditions, a seed is capable of growing into something new. Something so unique and beautiful that only God has destined.

The creation narrative found in Genesis shows a creative God. A God who fashioned a working environment and gave specific instructions "to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). From the very beginning, work is God's way to draw out the potential within. It is through work that God opens the door of possibilities and teaches a person how to use their talents and abilities to meet the manv responsibilities of life. We can consider Adam the world's first agriculturist as he had to tend the earth (Genesis 2:15). We can even call Adam the first zoologist as he was tasked with the care and naming of the animals (Genesis 2:19). Extracting the untapped potential within is a process that requires work. The Bible does not give a simplistic, prescribed set of rules about what ministry must "look" like. Author Adam Bond said, "A call is that unique demonstration of God's desire to work with you in service to humanity. God calls.

The call will lead you somewhere - to someone." The call of God upon my life and the burning desire to serve came at the tender age of ten. Living in a hostile neighborhood plaqued by gangs in the Southside of Chicago and tired of being afraid for my safety and the safety of those around me, I prayed a prayer unto God that would give way to the public servant that I am today. At the age of ten I praved, "Lord, let me do something about it." Though my heart's desire was to be a pilot, the burning desire to serve my community and God's leading to a life of public service was more intense each and every day. Every job I held, led me closer to God's purpose for my life. Without me knowing it, God was preparing the way and opening doors to purposefully answer the prayer I had prayed for so long ago.

Work is not a new concept for us. Since the fall of humanity due to disobedience, God declared that with "the sweat of our brow we will eat" (Genesis 3:19). Work was all too familiar to the disciples as well. According to the Gospel accounts, while the disciples were in their boats, fishing and mending their nets, Jesus called the disciples to "follow him so that he would make them fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Accepting Jesus' invitation, the disciples were entering into a life of faithful obedience, unwavering commitment and sacrificial devotion. As followers of Christ, we are placed in strategic places to plant seeds of truth. People might not walk into a church or read the Bible, but you and I have been sent into this world to meet the world's deep need of needing a Savior. The pulpit becomes that very place where God has allowed us to be. It can be the classroom for



the teacher, the garage of a mechanic, the words on the screen for a blogger, the opening argument of a lawyer, and the floor of the factory for the factory worker. Regardless of where God has called us to be, the call of God does not end when you step off the altar after preaching a sermon or you leave the office at the end of the day or even when you take off your uniform. The call of God is a living, burning desire deep within that allows us to hear God say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8). Only a life willing to obey God's voice to go wherever God leads and a heart willing to truly commit by sacrificing their own desires can respond joyfully, "Here I am! Send me."

Wanting to see a change within my community, I first started working as a volunteer through the Explorers Program at the Police Department. I found grace with a Commander who asked me to apply for a recently available position in the Police Lock-Up, and, as a Detention Aid, I started working as a civilian worker processing the arrestees. As God continued to open doors and make a way, majoring in Criminal Justice, I worked the midnight shift to put myself through college. By the grace of God, I graduated with honors. Having my college degree, passing the entrance exam and the grueling physical training, I was able to attend and graduate from the Police Academy. After months of training and testing, I was sworn in as a Police Officer. I have now served the Police Department for the City of Chicago for the past twenty-one years. This career was not what I chose or what I set out to become. but what God called me to be. God answered that heartfelt prayer that I prayed when I was just ten years old to "let me do something about it." God has entrusted me with His authority to work in one of the most dangerous districts in Chicago. With God's backing and protection, I serve those communities that no one wants to go into. God has allowed me to be a light of hope in the midst of darkness and despair. Though being a Police Officer has been frowned upon by some of my fellow Christian brothers and sisters, I am living proof that obeying God is its own reward. Even while wearing the uniform, the Spirit of God has spoken and ministered to the lives of the people I come across on the job. There isn't enough writing space to go into details, but I have had to respond to people wanting to take their lives by jumping from bridges, assist victims of gun and domestic violence.

In moments of desperation and dire straits of my fellow coworkers, God has allowed me to respond in these situations and His working hand has delivered us from harm. God leads, it is up to you and me to follow Him faithfully in making sure that those steps that the Lord has ordained we plant the seed of truth in the lives of those we encounter. The Lord ordains our steps and those steps guides us to lives that need ministering. On the job, we use the police code "10-01" to signal for police needing assistance immediately. Police Code 10-01 signifies a sense of urgency. The responding officer must drop everything and respond immediately for a life is at stake. God's "10-01" signals us to urgently respond to His leading. God's plan to strategically place His people at the right place and the right time is so His power is manifested in making a way for signs, wonders and miracles for a soul is at stake.

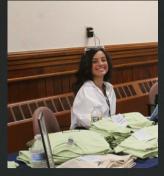
In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus teaches his disciples about the abilities that God has given us, that raw talent that is within us. By means of the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus teaches us that God always gives us everything we need to do for us to accomplish what He has called us to do. Just like the seed already has within itself all that is necessary to sprout to life, you and I have within us the ability to accomplish God's will and plan. Being successful in fulfilling God's will only comes from the product of our work, our willingness to be God's servants. We work for the Master and not our own selfish purposes or desires. We are all called to serve God as best we can wherever we are. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

We may not know where God is leading, but to answer God's call you must follow with obedience and a step of faith. God needs to know that you can be trusted to do your part for we will be held accountable to what we do with what God has given us. Burying your talent or your gift will not yield fruit.

# WHERE DO YOU STAND?

Where do you stand? Where do you feel God leading? Where has God planted you to spread the seed of truth to those around you? The Psalmist penned, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholds him with His hand" (Psalms 37:23-24). You and I are the light of this world (Matthew 5:14). We cannot shy away from and bury what God has placed inside of us. God has placed you where you are to impact a person. In a world full of pain and hurt, the world's deep need of a Savior can only be met by willing workers that are prepared to scatter the seed of truth. It is already within you; God wants you to release it.

























# 66TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

RELENTLESS

# ROMANS 8:37



# **IDOLATRY AND ADDICTION** The Perils of Social Media

By: Xiomara Clausell



"Those who regard vain idols forsake their faithfulness." - Jonah 2:8

Surely we have regarded vain idols, surely we have forsaken our faithfulness. Saved, "saved," and unsaved alike — we have inadvertently succumbed to the subtle yet lethal grips of social media. Although many may argue that social media is simply a tool for communication and is marketed as so, social media is indeed a diabolical weapon of mass distraction, deception and conditioning. The enemy has surely modernized his tactics against humanity. And with every scroll, like, and comment we stir further and further away from the truth.

### PAGE 9

As youth, we must challenge corruption, defeat giants, abstain from eating delicacies, and enter the king's court unsummoned.

And yet we are currently in the greatest spiritual exile of our lives unbeknownst to us. The enemy does not need shackles and yokes when he has bounded the mind. Social media has undoubtedly taken precedence in our lives. having detrimental effects on our physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual health. Our vision has been impaired, our perception of reality has been distorted - our emotions desensitized to current events. Posting has subdued prayer, reels have made reading the Bible rare and the following has fazed out fasting; partaking in frivolous content: selfies, fine dining, milestones, and memes - seldom sharing the word of God. We are subjugated to emulating the latest ideologies, styles, and fashions; the glam and the gadgets. In turn, offering strange fire at the altar. There is no time to waste, and yet we waste plenty. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." -Ephesians 5:11; 15-17(NKJV).





We are living in perilous times, the love of many has grown cold and the fear of God is scarce. The lack of discernment and confusion is evident. In these last days, hours, and minutes God is in search of a people — of a youth. A relentless youth, who will not bow, who will not break. Who will stand firm in the word of the Lord? A youth fierce in battle who will renounce the earthly accolades for the heavenly ones, for His honor, and His glory. God is calling, and He's calling you. Will you answer?

# ESTE FIRESIDE EP.6 LIVE





DISCUSSING THE BASICS OF WHAT MISSIONS IS, WHO HAS TO DO IT, HOW TO DO IT AND SO MUCH MORE!

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