

LIVE OUT LOVE: THE COMMANDMENT AND COMMISSION

BY: JOJI PANTOJA

Good Morning!

My husband sends his greetings to you. Mindanao is still under Martial Law, and our new President is out to implement his war on Drugs at all cost. We have heightened military activities in Mindanao. Tribal communities and farmers that are in the areas of the communist movement, are suffering from unjust killings. Sometimes you ask yourself, Is there Hope?

Slide 1: I do not come here to preach, but rather share an insight that I have learned from this passage. I call it LOL. "Live out Love".

Slide 2: As a young girl at the age of 10, I knew that I wanted to "live out love". I just love God so much and wanted to serve him. Seeing the examples of my mom, when we go to poor communities in Manila, giving out food and sharing the gospel, I knew then, that I wanted to become a missionary. Together with like-minded people, we called ourselves "Christians on the Move". We wanted to do something. We wanted to serve.

Slide 3: In Living out Love, the **main idea is that the content and value of the great commission** is the greatest commandment.

Slide 4: The greatest commandment says: MATTHEW 22: 37-39
*"LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND.
THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT.
AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.*

Slide 5: Linking this to the Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and **teaching** them to obey everything *I have commanded you*. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Note: Main verb is make disciple. As we go as part of our daily walk, MAKE DISCIPLE. How? Teaching them. What? LOL!

Slide 5:

So, if I want to **live out love** and communicate the message of our loving God who died on the cross for us, how do I do it? It has to start from me!

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I have to deal with my **being** first, before I do something. Who am I? What is my purpose in life? My concept of love was very shallow. I define it according to my own capacity.

I thought that if I marry somebody who loves God, and knew God's word more than I do, that I could learn to live out love! But no. My love was anchored on somebody (my husband), that if I play as a support person, that I was loving God. Yes, that is part of it at that time that we were raising our children. I was loving God by being a wife and being a mother. Love is learned and it evolves. As you mature and grow, the level of understanding what love is, also grows. It starts from your **BEING**. Knowing your worth in front of God. Being complete. Then this leads you to **DOING**, your acts of service. Your acts of service produce impact, and that is your **HAVING**. Seeing people happy...

Slide 6:

As we serve God as missionary, **Live out Love** seems to be a challenge. Loving someone who is lovable is easy. Loving the others who are different from you is another thing.

I remembered the times at Richmond Center Mall, one early morning, after bringing my children to school. I went in there just wanting coffee and kill time. I saw a big group of Chinese, Japanese people doing Tai-Chi. I have lots of question, but one of them was, how do I show love to these people without expecting in return. I do not even speak their language.

During those times, I just relate with them by joining the Tai-Chi exercise, then Yam-Cha (Dimsum). I was merely listening to them and relating with them. I helped senior citizens and new immigrants file their taxes. I did my social responsibility as a good citizen of this world and my service to God on the talents that God gave me.

In spite of all the things we are doing as missionary, something is still missing. There are still more that we wanted to do to express our love to God. Then one day, Dann asked me if we could work with the Muslim people, and my feelings were mixed. I carry a baggage of fear that I did not know was there because of my up-bringing.

Also, at that time, I do not want to leave my comfort zone. I like living in Canada. This is heaven for me.

I told Dann that I did not hear God's call, and that I am willing to support him and he could go for 6 months and come back here for another six months, and I'll stay here.

But God changed it all. Suddenly, I had that rush to obey him in spite of my fear, my questions of the unknown, and my readiness to give up comfort.

Slide 7: IKEGAI

A Japanese concept of Reason for Being

That which you love: Your Passion and Mission

That which the world needs: Mission and Vocation

That which you can get paid for: Profession and Vocation

That which you are good at: Profession and Passion

And when you can blend all four: That is your **IKEGAI= Reason for Being**

Slide 8: To be able to apply this love, and to live out LOVE, I have to go back to basic. I need:

1. Love-energized harmony with God

God's love energizes spiritual transformation

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Slide 9:

2. Love-energized harmony with one's being.

Our harmony with our creator designer transforms our being

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The Life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Slide 10:

3. Love energized harmony with others

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Our harmony as human beings are better humanized in Christ
through the Spirit's power

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Slide 11:

4. Love-energized harmony with creation

Our Stewardship of the creation ought to be a healing touch to God's creation.

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Slide 12: LIVE OUT LOVE has to start from us.

Slide 13: LIVE OUT LOVE is willingness to obey and trust the one who called you.

Slide 14: Mt. Apo Cluster Community

We started working with them in 2013, through the invitation of Catholic Relief Services. They have coffee but they have no market for it.

We agreed to work with them on the condition that they take Peace and Reconciliation as foundation for what they do.

After three years, Peacebuilders and Coffee for Peace elevated their livelihood earning from \$85 per month to \$420/month. They are building stone houses that can withstand storms, they are sending their children to school, and they are practicing peace and reconciliation in their community.

Slide 15: Two powerful women who leads their tribe to a sustainable path of redeeming their environment and their culture.

Now they are passing the knowledge to these two leaders who were their enemies. These were the marginalized people from Mount Apo. The original dwellers of the land.

We are working with them right now and have built a processing area in their community to teach them coffee farming.

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Slide 16: Helping them to realize their dream of redeeming their culture, and arts, and dances that is sustainable and will give them dignity.

Slide 17: Bukidnon Cluster Community

The presence of our Peace and Reconciliation workers, Pastor June and Clay Rojo, which we support financially (50%), will soon be fully sustainable and getting their mission support from the Kalinaw Center.

Slide 18: This center will serve as meeting area for the young people, Sunday worship center for Beyond Borders Community Church, and a coffee shop, so that they can support their ministry.

Slide 19: Kalinga Cluster Community

Started by one of Peacebuilders intern that when she went back to her village, she wanted to apply the model that we are using.

Twinkle Bautista started sharing about Peace and Reconciliation among the tribe that her whole clan are now into Peacebuilding and coffee.

Slide 19: LIVE OUT LOVE IS CONTAGIOUS

SLIDE 20: THE WORLD WILL KNOW AND RECOGNIZE THE LOVE

Slide 22: LIVE OUT LOVE means dying and letting GOD live in our life

Slide 23: Community Transformation Catalysts Video

<https://www.facebook.com/coffeeforpeace/videos/10155830568789471/>

Slide 24: Thank you and may we become Catalyst for change!
Live out Love