

Eunice Angeles Bautista Laureano
Born: January 25, 1935
Orion, Bataan



I could have died at birth. I came out blue and not breathing; held upside down by my feet and slapped until I cried. My parents prayed earnestly for a miracle and sincerely vowed dedicating me to serve the Lord.

Growing up I wanted to be a journalist, but God had other plans! Father entered the ministry when I was 10, while mother was a deaconess. As a Pastor's kid I was fully exposed to church work. My parents took me with them to church events on weekends.

I came to know church workers at various levels – from lay leaders to missionaries, deaconesses, pastors and bishops. In high school, I attended youth groups, Christmas Institutes and IDEI (Inter-District Evangelistic Institute). I taught children's Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and sang in the choir at 14. Mom and deaconess Lucina Yambao taught me organ playing. Inspired first by my parents and other church workers, my love for church work grew and developed. I entered Harris Memorial School in 1952, majored in Kindergarten Education and graduated in 1955 with highest honors.

Church Appointments

1955-57 – Bagumbayan Episcopal Methodist Church (now St. Peter UMC), Navotas, Rizal, Metro Manila as Kindergarten Teacher, Choir Director and Christian Education Director. I served with the Rev. Moises Rodriguez.

As Kindergarten Teacher

The kindergarten school at this church had been closed for some time. I was tasked to lead its reopening with the support of the church officers. The young people helped prepare the school physically – from cleaning to painting, etc. After mobilizing the church, the school opened with twenty students.

Class sessions were held in the mornings only. I used the curriculum material I prepared while a student at Harris. Afternoons were spent preparing lesson plans, making home visits to members and homes of kindergarten students, as needed.

As Choir Director - selected anthems for choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings, Saturday afternoons. Prepared music for church anniversary and Christmas concert.

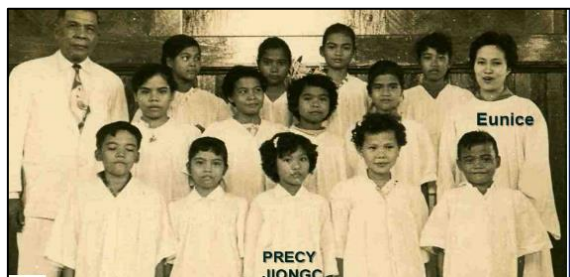
Other Tasks - back-up organist at vesper, mid-week services, funerals, prayer meetings and church socials. Home and hospital visitations; provided support to various church groups such as the MYAF, MYF, MM, Methodist Women.

As Christian Education Director - Supervised all school classes, held teacher trainings.



1955-1957 – Instructor at the Inter-District Evangelistic Institute (IDEI), a month-long summer school for young people with potentials in church work held at the Edna Thomas Hall in San Fernando, Pampanga.

1957-1958 – Tangos First UMC, Navotas as a Christian Education Director, Junior Choir Director. Worked with Pastor Ulpiano DePano.



This church did not have a Kindergarten School. My work concentrated in Christian Education and Junior Choir. It was probably during this time Precy Jiongco felt a nudge from the Lord to be a deaconess. I did much of the same activities for Christian Education as I did in my previous assignment in Bagumbayan. Tangos First UMC both had a choir director and

church pianist so I did not direct the adult choir, however, I fully supported my Pastor in his various church activities. I focused on preparing the Junior Choir for transition into the Youth Choir, eventually to the Adult or Chancel Choir. I directed the combined choirs of the KAMADA when evangelistic services were held.

1958-1963 – Faculty at Harris Memorial School



I was assigned to the Harris Kindergarten Laboratory School which served as a class demonstration center for student kindergarten teachers not only for senior Harris students but also for students from the Philippine Normal College. Student teachers observed while I taught. I taught 'Principles and Methods of Teaching' to both Junior and Senior student teachers.



Junior Class Adviser – Pose after Organ Recital

Organ Teacher. I gave organ lessons in the afternoons. Music Theory was integrated and given individually during organ lessons based on the need and skills of the individual student.

Supervised Junior Harris students to teach Sunday school at Children's Garden, an orphanage in Taytay, Rizal. This weekend assignment program provided on-the-job teacher training.

1972-1978 – after settling down to married life, I was back at Harris as a part-time Music Teacher and Faculty and Staff Choir Director. I remained a volunteer Choir Director at St. Peter UMC. St. Peter Chorale was organized during this period, thereafter, the group participated in community events.

Music Ministry

Choral group recipients of free choral conducting services are listed below: All salaries from churches with budgets for the position are either returned to the church treasurer, designated to Harris Scholarship Fund or donated to the church served towards its special priority projects.



1970-1978 Tangos Heralders, Navotas, Metro Manila



1970-1978 St. Peter UMC Chancel Choir, Navotas, Metro Manila



1979-1980 Filipino Ministry Choir, Rosewood UMC, CA



1980-1984 Filipino Ministry, Covina UMC, CA



1984-1987 First Fil-Am UMC Chancel Choir, Covina, CA



1987-1994 First Fil-Am UMC Chancel Choir, Hacienda, CA



1994-2003 Emmaus Christian Fellowship Choir, Covina, CA



2003-2014 Community Church Choir, Covina, CA



2014-2019 First Fil-Am UMC Choir of SGV, Hacienda, CA



Southern California Deaconess Association and Friends Choir

While teaching at Harris in 1975-1977, I went back to school at Philippine Women's University, completed my Bachelor of Science in Education degree, majored in Guidance and Counseling and graduated Magna cum Laude!

Life in California

I have lived in California since 1978 with my husband, Felizardo, our beautiful son, William (Willie) and daughter, Johanna Carol. We first attended Rosewood UMC in Los Angeles followed by Covina UMC where the Filipino Ministry Extension Choir was organized; I became its first volunteer choir director until 1994. I have continued volunteer work in various capacities: conducting choir/cantatas; Bible study coordinator, teacher, leader; Emmaus Circuit; and publishing.

I retired from the City of Los Angeles as the 'Personnel Records Supervisor' of the City Controller's Office after 25 years of employment where I started as a senior clerk.



Closing Reflections



God has never stopped to amaze me - how the Lord God has worked in my life. Every morning I wake up alive, I thank God for life which I almost lost at birth. God has used people in my life both to tear me down and to build me up – a good mix for one's life journey here on earth. These events in my life made me stronger each day; leaned more upon the Lord for spiritual strength and resolve to stay the course towards God. Nothing in me would have prepared me to remain strong at 84+ save only by God's grace and loving mercies. I have counted 10 near death experiences in my lifetime. I feel so genuinely blessed.

My whole life and abilities God gave me are not enough to repay for what the Lord has already done for me! The Scriptures and church music continue to provide me spiritual nourishment. I relish the messages in **Jer 29:11, Mt 6:33, John 3:30, 14:19, 15: 20, and Rom 12:1.**

My unending praises and thanksgivings first go to God Almighty; for my parents who were living examples of humanity saved by God's grace alone; **for God's planned gift of a life-mate** willing to grow with me in the knowledge and love of God – supporting me all the way through our life together, understanding God's calling for me; **for our two precious and God-fearing children, for special persons at home, work and our community of faith**, too numerous to mention, who have left deep-seated influence in my life and our family, as well. **Let our God who reigns eternally be praised forever!**