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Born: December 17, 1935
Navotas, Metro Manila

Becoming a Deaconess



My mother was a school teacher. As a little girl of about six I emulated her teaching by gathering the children in the neighborhood and we played “school,” I was the teacher; I loved playing a teacher and I seriously thought I could be one. One summer, Ms. Leila Dingle, an American Missionary, spoke at our church about Harris Memorial School and the Deaconess Program. She challenged us youth to study at Harris and become church workers.

By the time I was to enter college I told my mother I wanted to attend Harris College and be a deaconess. She supported my decision. In June of 1954, I was accepted at Harris. I majored in Kindergarten Education and graduated in 1957.

Church Appointments

1957-1958 - Taytay UMC was my first assignment. I worked with Pastor Elejio Reyes.

There was no kindergarten school in Taytay at the time. The church was at the verge of splitting. Pastor Elejio Reyes, with his group of 30 families, and I held worship services at a member’s house (garage). The families were active in visitations, bible studies, and Sunday school extension classes on Sunday afternoons. The members were professional and somewhat affluent; they were very good and generous to me with gifts and allowances. I was happy and content, but became sad when I learned that my next appointment would be at far away Naga City in Bicol province.

1958-1959 – Naga City UMC, Bicol. My pastor there was Clemente Zuniga.

From my home to Naga, it took an overnight train ride; I did not think we would ever reach Naga (I also thought I was being punished for having a visiting suitor at my boarding house in Taytay, the reason why they sent me to a distant church.)

The church in Naga was very small made of nipa and bamboo with about 20 families. The church could not afford a kindergarten school at that time. The minister’s wife was the organist and handled the choir as well. To increase membership, the Pastor and I made home visitations to both the members and prospective members. We visited the neighboring barrios holding junior leagues, bible studies, and services. We walked up to the forest neighborhoods to spread the gospel. We were recipients of the poor folks’ humble hospitality: a meal of boiled cabbage or boiled fish at every visit.

For my own projects, two additional barrios became my regular teaching posts for Junior Leagues and visiting families.

There were about 15 young people in the MYF group at this church; activities for them were mostly held on Sunday afternoons. Like one Sunday for games, the next for singing, the next Bible studies, the next a picnic and service at the beach. There was also helping in the extension classes.

To make the church ready for Sunday services, I took it upon myself to clean the church on Saturdays. Scrubbing the pews and cleaning the floors as well as sweeping the yard and attending to the plants. I did this at one of my Sunday church assignments in Manila during Harris days, so I thought it was a good gesture to do the same at this church since no one was attending to the cleanliness of the property.

1959-1960 St Mark's UMC - Kindergarten Teacher, I served with Pastor Gillermo Manuel.

I was hired to set up a Kindergarten School. Finally, I could concentrate on the kindergarten business. Setting up a school was not a small task. One large room at the church building was dedicated for the classroom; the room was prepared with the tables and chairs and kid's modules. For publicity, we made a church announcement on the intended opening of the school. We also visited the members, sharing with them the importance of kindergarten education. Finally, we opened St. Mark's Kindergarten class with fifteen children!



How did I do it? I attended to the daily lesson planning, making visual aids, the preparation for the classes, prepared and handled the special programs like at Christmas and graduation that were some of my major activities. There were the field trips, the parent-teacher's meetings as well. Outside my kinder work, I made sure to help my minister in the visitations, bible studies and also at services.

It was at this church where I met my future husband, a wonderful man, Mr. Benjamin Gorospe. He was an active leader in the young adult group. He even directed a play there that met quite a success. He was also successful in his pursuit to marry me. However, I stressed that I aimed to complete my term of service at St. Mark's so I declined his proposal of marriage at that time. At the end of my term there, we got married.

Leave of absence - Raising a Family



God has blessed us with three beautiful boys! While on leave I was actively engaged in the WSCS groups. They elected me officer in the local and district levels.

With the household of boys to attend to and the full load of work with the WSCS, my husband noticed I was getting overworked. We did not have any help, but thankfully both Ben and I raised a healthy and happy family.



Back to Church Work

In 1979 I reinstated to active duty primarily to teach Kindergarten. The following were my assignments:

- 1979 – St. Paul's UMC; 1980 - Good Samaritan UMC Kindergarten School – morning and afternoon sessions;
- 1981 – Grace Park UMC; 1982 - Church of the Risen Lord at the University of the Philippines



Migration to US in 1984

I have been living in Southern California with my family since 1984. Sadly, I lost my wonderful and loving husband a number of years ago. My sons are keeping me close to them. I have held various jobs in my active years including Certified Nurse's Assistant for 13 year until I developed scoliosis in my back. I remain active in our Southern California Deaconess Association.



Conclusion



With my husband, Ben.

I thank God for all the many blessings in my life. For my mother who showed me good stewardship in church that I practiced all my life. I have shared the good news of Jesus Christ to others by sending copies of the **Daily Guidepost** to the sick and friends in the church. I continue to support the Bible study in Navotas by sponsoring their snacks and gift-giving to the attendees at Christmas.

At my home church, Nestor UMC, I continue to serve as Communion Steward, and occasionally speak at Sunday worship service. The Lord blesses us continuously! Praises be unto God!