

## Boyfriend Turned God's Friend



He is Justy to friends and relatives but is known as Bob to those who know the late 1970s boy band called **The Boyfriends**. Bro. Justy Guzman started playing in bands at the age of 16. He was first part of **Orly Ilacad and the Ramrods** then of **Cinderella** with famous songs *TL ako Sa'Yo*, *Boyfriend Kong Baduy* and *Bato sa Buhangin*. This was the Manila sound era. In 1978, he joined The Boyfriends with an instant first big hit *Dahil Mahal Kita*. They became like the local version of the Bee Gees with songs *Sumayaw Sumunod*, *Bakit Labis Kitang Mahal* and *Salawahan* to name a few.

With the popularity came the worldly pleasures of vices with peers like drinking, smoking, gambling, womanizing and the likes. Despite the fame, he felt empty inside with no peace of mind. He recounts, *"ang buhay ko noon ay parang waste basket na binalutan mo ng magandang gift wrapper."* In the middle of the praises and crowd cheer, he was searching for an answer on how to get out of the mess he was in. The Lord used their former backup drummer to enlighten him.



*"I told him all about my problems and he told me to try Jesus. He invited me to attend their Bible Study. Medyo hesitant pa ko. Sabi ko sinubukan ko na lahat, subukan ko kaya ito?"* He joined the Bible Study in a small garage. *"I was warmly welcome, was seated in front and listened to the preaching of the pastor about the love of GOD na kahit na ikaw na ang pinakamakasalanan ay mahal ka pa rin ng Diyos. Handa ka Niyang patawarin at linisin sa iyong mga kasalanan. Babaguhin Niya ang iyong buhay, just surrender to His love."*

As he continued listening, his hardened heart melted. *"I cried, nawala ang pagka-macho ko."* He accepted the invitation of the pastor to go to the front. *"I followed the sinner's prayer. Tears were falling because I felt the forgiveness of God. Parang niyakap Niya ko and there was that real joy and happiness because I found that the real answer was JESUS."*



### Life After The Acceptance

It was a 180-degree turn for him. *"Lahat ng masamang bisyo ko, ugali, masamang barkada ay nawala. Ang pinakamahalaga sa lahat ay hindi nawasak ni satan ang aking pamilya."* He started

reading the Bible, other Christian books and magazines. He attended Bible studies and Sunday worship services. *"Bitin pa nga ako noon sa morning service pati sa hapon at evening uma-attend pa rin ako sa ibang churches. Pati sa Christian music seminars, symposium and prayer gatherings."* He also followed water baptism.

*"Then I gave back to God the talent that He gave me---guitar playing. I joined the praise and worship team not as a guitarist but as a tambourine player. Naging humbling process ang pag-play ko ng tambourine and I thank God for that. My pride has changed and I faithfully did my role. As Jesus said in Matthew 25:21 "You have been faithful in few things, I will put you in charge of many things."*

Bro. Bob continued serving the Lord. He put him in charge of playing the guitar again, made him a band leader, choir member, choir director, and became the music director of a small Bible study group named **Called Out Fellowship**. When the members increased,

*"hindi na kami magkasya sa garage, nilipat kami ni Lord sa much bigger lot at napatayuan ng church building."*

They changed the name to **Mandaluyong Christian Life Center (MCLC)**. He also did some support ministry by teaching music in Pasig, Navotas, and Taguig affiliations of MCLC. God also appointed him as one of the deacons in that church. When the music ministry was established in MCLC by 1996, God sent him to Novaliches to support **Novaliches Faith Fellowship (NFF)** because it needed a musician then. *"So I faithfully followed the Lord and stayed in NFF until 2008."*



He prayed for God's leading and attended several churches nearby Novaliches but his family was directed to **Novaliches Christian Fellowship (NCF)**. *"On the first Sunday of February 2009, we attended the worship service at NCF and nag-witness sa heart ko and my family na dito kami gagamitin ni Lord. As we attended the services, I talked to Pastor Mark Dantes na dito na kami magpapa-member."* On May 10, 2009, they officially became NCF members. *"Again God moves at the right time and place because Bro. Noni Lazo who was the guitarist of NCF was sent out to be the Pastor of Pangarap Village Southern Baptist Church. So Sis.Gigi Dantes asked me kung pwede akong mag-play ng guitar to fill up the vacancy. Sabi ko if that's what GOD is telling you, I will do it."*

At age 63, he can still jam with the young members of the praise and worship team. He is enjoying the new ministry that God has given him and will support the work of the Lord in NCF.

## Being A Christian Celebrity

For Bro. Justy, it was not that hard being a celebrity and a Christian at the same time. *"I don't compromise, I maintain my testimony sa harap ng mga kapwa ko celebrity like praying before a show, concert or before meals. I thank GOD and give Him the glory first before accepting an award or recognition, or signing autograph for fans by writing--- Try Jesus, He loves you or God loves you. Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God."*

Bro. Justy became a record producer after The Boyfriends went on separate ways. After his work retirement in 2002, he missed playing. He and former member Gary reunited as The Boyfriends in concerts locally and abroad. They have gigs once in a while. They are also busy with a new group called Superband composed of two members each from the bands VST & Co., Wadab and Cinderella.

He has this message for everyone, *"don't try to do anything by yourselves, surely it would not work. Jesus said 'without me you can do nothing'. TRY JESUS. Ano man ang situation o kalagayan ng iyong buhay at kung naghahanap ka ng tunay na saya, kapayapaan, tamang direction sa buhay mo, TRY JESUS."* In John 8:32 Jesus said "then you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

He also encourages everyone to enjoy and continue serving the Lord even at old age. Caleb said on Joshua 14:10-11, "Now then, just as the Lord promised, He has kept me alive for forty five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty five years old, I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle as I was then"

Bro. Justy is married to Percy and has two kids, Fender, 32, (named after a famous electric guitar) currently based in the US and Hannah Guitar, 24. *"Masaya ko sa buhay ko ngayon pati na ang pamilya ko because in good times and bad times GOD IS GOOD all the time."*

