



The Servants of the Word

Fall 2007



Nico Angleys: Responding to the Call of God

Following a Heavenly Mission Here on Earth

George Nicolas Maurice Angleys – whom many know as Nico – is a brother richly blessed with many names and even more talents. Nico has an exciting history. Born in Geneva, Switzerland, he spent some years as a toddler in Saudi Arabia but soon settled into a more picturesque life in France near the Swiss border and his beloved Alps. The first son of a French father and American mother, he decided to cross the ocean and do his university studies in the States at the University of Michigan. Four years of study earned Nico a degree in Aerospace Engineering and the right to say, “Why yes, I *am* a rocket scientist.”

It was while he was at U-M that Nico’s connection with The Servants of the Word began. Early in his studies he deeply committed himself to the work the Lord was about in and through University Christian Outreach (UCO). Within UCO Nico had the chance to develop friendships with several of The Servants of the Word and other young men thinking about the possibility of living single for the Lord. Nico responded to the call that the Lord put on his heart humbly and generously, eventually making his lifelong commitment with The Servants of the Word in the fall of 2003.

After graduating Nico put aside pursuing rocket missions to the stars for a heavenly mission here on Earth. Stepping into the gap after one year on staff, he accepted leadership of the UCO chapter in Ann Arbor ten years ago. And so our rocket scientist-turned-evangelist dedicated himself to helping students come to know the truth of Jesus Christ and Christ’s desire for relationship with them.

Campus outreach is not easy amid often apathetic and definitely besieged students. For the past ten years, both in Michigan and in London, Nico has been on the front lines of this work. Where lies and misunderstanding about God and Christ abound, Nico boldly speaks words of truth and life. When students struggle with feelings of isolation, depression, and lack of support, Nico is a steadfast friend and reliable support to many. His life is both a challenge and a question mark: Why is he here? Where does his joy come from?

Currently Nico is working regionally with UCO, helping to support chapters or potential chapters in about ten locations throughout the United States and Canada. His wisdom and experience are a great asset in developing the effectiveness and breadth of UCO work. He also has a significant role in the brotherhood, modeling a well-lived single for the Lord life and challenging young men to consider seriously whether the Lord might be calling them, too, to this way of life. In addition, since he abounds with energy, Nico is pursuing a graduate degree



God's Goodness Made Manifest!

Beloved family and friends of The Servants of the Word,

Our warm autumn greetings to all of you as we begin a new academic year in many of our locations around the world. Another summer of extraordinary grace has come to an end, and now a new season of active mission opens up before us, filled with hope and promise for what our gracious God intends to do in us and through us in the months ahead.

At the end of August, we joyfully welcomed into the ranks of our lifelong brothers two men from the Philippines – Abyong Calo and Jojo Baquiano – who have already made such an excellent contribution to our life and mission during their years of training and discernment. Four other brothers – Brian Laba, Brian LaLonde, Peter Jess Legaspi, and Marlon Castro – have renewed their year-long full commitments, and continue on the path toward their own lifelong promises

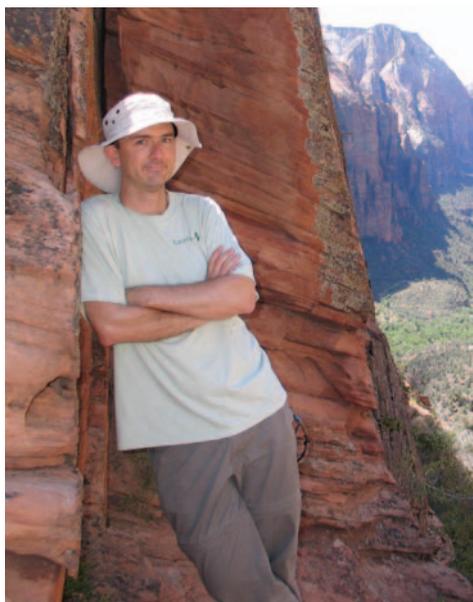
in the near future. All of these men are a great blessing to us from the Lord, and a source of joy and of hope for the future.

It is my privilege each year to begin the fall by spending the month of September in our central Formation House in Ann Arbor. This year, along with a number of Servants of the Word who are leading our university outreach, the Formation House includes two brothers from Mexico (Francisco Aguilar and Joaquín Cerda), a brother from Lebanon (Toufic El-Ramy), and a brother from the Philippines (Mark Aycoco). The resulting mixture of cultures and languages is both delightful and stimulating for all who live there, and these excellent young men are yet a further manifestation of God's goodness to The Servants of the Word.

You, too, are a manifestation of his goodness to us, and we are very grateful! Know that you remain continually in our thoughts and prayers. May you know even more of his goodness in your own lives! ▲

In Christ,

John Keating



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in theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. When taking a break, you might find Nico enjoying ultimate frisbee, amateur stargazing, a good game of chess, or cooking a fine meal. He's the most called upon chef for our brotherhood celebrations, and with good reason!

Nico's gifts and talents are many, but ultimately, it's by relying upon the strength of God and a dynamic relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that he lives in such a remarkably balanced way. Nico is pursuing heaven – and along the way he's helping many of us to do the same. ▲

–Brian Laba

While visiting the scenic surroundings of Ancestral Puebloans, Nico rests in Utah's Zion National Park.

“With All of Our Lives, For the Rest of Our Lives”: Celebrating Our Brothers’ Lifelong Commitments

This past August, The Servants of the Word celebrated the lifelong commitments of two Filipino brothers, Oliver “Abyong” Calo and Ruben “Jojo” Baquiano, at the brotherhood center in Chelsea, Michigan. On this same joyous occasion, the second year-long or full commitments of Brian Laba and Brian Lalonde were also celebrated; in September Peter Legaspi and Marlon Castro also renewed their full commitments in the Philippines.

Indeed, God has continued to bless The Servants of the Word, making our life and call as a brotherhood rich with his goodness, adding men from across the globe to our numbers.

Abyong is currently the Young Adults (YA) director of Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon (The Joy of the Lord) Community in the Philippines. The YA program is a big operation, which involves about 200 young people of the community ranging in age from 13 to 17. He also oversees the training of couples and single people who volunteer to serve on the YA staff. Besides his work as a YA director, Abyong is assisting the youth programs of other communities in the Asian region of The Sword of the Spirit. Last June he visited Singapore and this October he is working with communities in India.

I am grateful because the Lord has given me this opportunity to respond to his love in this way.

Asked whether his life has changed to any discernable degree since making his lifelong commitment, Abyong replies, “I have tried to live the life of the brotherhood for the past seven years, and now that I have committed to living it out for the rest of my life, I have experienced a greater sense of freedom. I am grateful because the Lord has given me this opportunity to respond to his love in this way. My constant prayer is that God will increase my capacity to love and serve.”

Jojo fills a wide variety of roles. In addition to serving on the staff of Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon (The Servant of the Lord), an outreach for young professionals in the Philippines, he is a regional director of this outreach in the southern part of the country, overseeing the work and development of the mission there. Together with his administrative work is his pastoral service in the University District of Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon. When not juggling his many other responsibilities, Jojo is the computer maintenance man for the brothers in the Philippines.



Peter and Marlon are also currently involved in the outreaches in their region. Peter mainly works with Christ’s Youth in Action (CYA), Ligaya’s student outreach, while Marlon manages his time as finance controller of the brotherhood in the Philippines and as a staff worker of Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon.

Back in Michigan, Brian LaLonde is the University Christian Outreach (UCO)-Lansing chapter leader serving the campuses of Michigan State University and Lansing Community College. He lives in Lansing and is a member of The Work of Christ Community. Brian Laba serves as the UCO-Ann Arbor chapter leader, is the mission supervisor for UCO-Grand Valley State University, and resides with the brothers on Catherine Street in Ann Arbor. He is a member of the Word of Life Community. 

– Mark Aycocho

Jojo and Abyong following their commitments this past August.

Lansing Brothers Move Into New Home Prayers and Persistence Pay Off

With God's help and a healthy dose of persistence, The Servants of the Word brothers in Lansing, Michigan, now have a new home. The residence located at 1225 Weber Drive in the Groesbeck neighborhood of Lansing Township was constructed in the mid-nineteen fifties. Although five decades old, the brick house is in very fine condition thanks primarily to the care given it by the previous owners. The home is conveniently situated between and just slightly north of Michigan State University and Lansing Community College, where some of the brothers engage in evangelistic and outreach work on those respective campuses.

“Though we have a new address, we still remain in the same, peaceful neighborhood, just one block west of our previously rented home of three years. Our neighbors were sad to see us leave, but on the other hand they were delighted to hear that we were only moving one block away,” notes Dan Rinke.



Purchasing a home only one block away from our former address greatly simplified the move-in process. Another added benefit to living on Weber Drive is that it is only a half-block walk to the Kairos office, a regular beehive of activity for some of the brothers.

The brothers, without exception, are grateful for God's provision. The extra space that the home provides is an added bonus. “We have so much room now that it's going to take us a while to figure out how we can use all of it,” said Brian LaLonde.

Brothers currently living in the house are: Mike Shaughnessy, Mike Kramer, Dan Rinke, and Brian LaLonde. Guests for the year include: Kevin Hadsall (Blaine, Minnesota), David Putnam (Lansing, Michigan), and Michel Dahan (Montreal, Quebec). 🏠

—Mike Kramer

WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP

The Servants of the Word gets its support through the financial earnings of the brothers as well as by donations from our benefactors. Many of our brothers work for sacrificial wages or for no pay at all. Please consider if you can become a financial sponsor of The Servants of the Word. Your prayers and support are appreciated in our work with young people and our community development work.

THE SERVANTS OF THE WORD

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