

## STRENGTHENED BY GOD IN A FOREIGN LAND

*(Ami Cardinoza and family have been in NCF for 14 years before migrating to Canada in 2008.)*



I'm Ami Cardinoza --- a sinner saved by the grace of God. I am married to Eduardo Cardinoza. Together we have been blessed with two children, Christine Joy and Christian Jay. My children and I have been here in Canada for a year now while my husband has been here for 5 years already.

I grew up in a devout Catholic family. My father accepted the Lord as his Savior and was instrumental in starting a church.

I came to faith in Christ through the testimony of a member of that church. This lady, a former drug addict, shared how the Lord made a difference in her life. I grew in my knowledge of the Lord and served Him as Sunday school teacher in Novaliches Christian Fellowship.

When we first arrived in Canada, I asked God what His purpose was in bringing us here. I wasn't sure as to what it was. This uncertainty was made worse with my difficulty at work. My first and current employer has not been fair in treating me. I have experienced humiliation at work. In addition to this, adjusting to the weather has been difficult for me. I have experienced waiting at a bus stop at minus 40.

I found myself crying many nights. I told my husband that perhaps we should go back home to the Philippines.

But I firmly hold on to God's promise in Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God work for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

I sense that God's purpose for us here in Canada is connected with this church. ( South Gate Alliance Church. ) God brought us to this church family not just to meet nice people but to serve Him in His ministry.

We joined the small group headed by Jun Sampang. After participating in our 40 Days of Missions, God revealed to me why we are here and that is to continue serving Him for His glory. The Bible says in 1 Peter 4:10: "God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to other God's many kind of blessings.

So I am making myself available to teach in the kids' Sunday school and as a small group facilitator as well.

Please pray for my job situation in a day care centre. Because of the unfair treatment of my boss, I am thinking of quitting. However, I realize that quitting and finding another job are not the solutions to my problem. With God, nothing is impossible and so I am trusting that He will change my job situation.

God is impressing upon me that perhaps my mission at work is to reach out to my boss. I am asking God to give me the heart to forgive her, to pray for her, and to love the unlovable. The Bible says in Philippians 2:5: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus".

Fulfilling God's purposes in our lives is tough but we must not give up for His rewards will last forever. Philippians 1:6 says "God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure He will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again."

To sum up my life's purpose statement: It is to be a member of Christ's family, a model of His character, a minister of His grace, a messenger of His word, and a magnifier of His glory.

