

Discipling at 19 Begins With a Bang at NCF Main

A small garage, a pulpit, a few chairs, a pair of guitars and a small piano. That was all they had to start with when 15 Christians gathered on a fateful Sunday of August, nineteen years ago.

Their Pastor was then-27-year-old Mark Dantes, who now looks back to God's grace despite their humble past. He now presides over around two-hundred strong membership of Novaliches Christian Fellowship Main – or rather, around two hundred and still counting, which makes a fitting start for NCF's theme this nineteenth year: Still Discipling at 19.



And indeed, God's sustenance was seen when the congregation began the anniversary Sunday with a roar of praise and worship, led by the songleader trio of Sisters Hannah Jade Nueva, Dana Christine Palting and Hannah Guzman. They were accompanied by the dancers under Sis. Jackie de Silva.



Visitors were aplenty that morning, from fellow workers, families and pastors from other churches to the enthusiastic students from nearby schools.

After the songs and worship, Pastor Dantes exhorted fellow workers and believers on the nature and dangers of losing heart, reading the warnings from God's Word and the rewards of perseverance.

Taking the examples of missionaries and athletes, he also took from his own experience as he strongly related that had he not heeded God's call to the pastor's mantle, he wouldn't have been standing before the congregation that day.

Speaking of not losing heart, the church's

various ministries kept the lively atmosphere from being dampened through a sumptuous Love Feast, thanks to the efforts of Sis. Julie Nueva and both the Housekeeping and Ushering Ministries. Special dishes were made available up front – Lechon, Paella, Pansit, Adobo and others made both young and old



feel at home.

Meanwhile, the Special Events Ministry under Sis. Dang Baldonado revved up the celebration with games and prizes, especially in the afternoon's first ever FamiLYMPICS.

The celebrations for the first day are but a taste of what is to come – not only on the next celebration Sundays but, more importantly, the blessings that NCF claims by faith throughout its nineteenth year in God's service.

