

Gathering Together as a Christian Family
(Welcome to ECWA Annual Conference Patigi 2020)

By
Rev. Dr. G. K. Philips

Calvary greetings in the name of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It is exactly one year ago now that we were gathered on this mountain to worship God and to commune with one another. The Lord God has graciously brought us together here again so we could continue our worship of Him. Glory and Majesty are ascribed to our God and Father. Praise the Lord! As I usually say, we are gathered together here again as a Christian family in order to enjoy sweet fellowship together. Let each of us behave as a member of this godly family so our behavior and approaches would give Glory to God who has called us to serve Him.

We might, though need physical ingredients that will keep us fit physically, like food, water, sleeping place etc, but let us be mindful of the fact that all these are immaterial as our main purpose of being here is to be fed spiritually. Whatever we will do, let us remember ECWA's theme for this year: "Not by might nor by power but by my spirit" (Zachariah 4:6). Here God reminds us through Zachariah that we would succeed, not because of our human might and power, rather because of His Spirit. Hence, God is the source of our victories and successes. We are wiser when we welcome God's direction and strength through the Holy Spirit as we overcome the challenges of the year 2020 and beyond.

As usual, this year's conference is packed full with assorted programmes, ranging from sermons, teachings, reports, book launch, inauguration of various committees, sent forth sports and many more. I enjoin us to make participation of all of these our main priority of coming to this conference. Let us eschew absenteeism in all of these programmes. So we could go home satisfied both physically and spiritually too.

By the special grace of God full details of our achievement and progresses so far will come during my speech on Sunday.

Lastly, I commiserate with all of us who lost our beloved ones in between last year and this year's conference. I want all of us to stand on our feet as we observe one-minute silence in honour of our departed souls. May the good Lord grant all of us the fortitude to bear their loss. Once again, I wish all of us a happy conference. As I, therefore, declare this conference opened in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, amen; Let us stand and remain firm as we sing the ECWA anthem.

ECWA ANTHEM

1. Love for the dying and the perishing;
A call to save the lost we heed;
Through the raging storms and all uncertainties;
Our lives we freely give...
And through ECWA your name we glorify.
Oh God be glorified.
2. The Bible our authority, mission our identity,
Touching lives with what we preach.
In life and speech, faithful we shall be,
Drawing hearts of men to Christ.
And through ECWA your name we glorify.
Oh God be glorified.
3. Help the poor and homeless, clothe the weak and cold;
Giving all we have for Christ.
Our strength and substance we will not spare,
We shall draw all men to Christ.
And through ECWA your name we glorify.
Oh God be glorified.
4. The vision of our fathers will not die in our hands,
Like a candle in the dark we shine.
Breaking every stronghold till the end of time,
Till our Lord and King we meet.
And through ECWA your name we glorify.
Oh God be glorified.

Note: The Message is an excerpt from The Welcome Address of ECWA Patigi DCC Chairman, Rev. Dr. G. K. Philips (JP) During ECWA Patigi DCC Annual Conference Held from 27th February – 1st March 2020.