"GRANDPARENTS AS APOSTLES"

Binhi sang Pagtuo

September 9, 2013

Dear Friends,

Greetings! Happy Grandparents Day to all grandparents!

Last year I introduced my mother-in-law, Melida Agriam, to Dr. Lee Spitzer, a good friend and Regional Pastor of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. My mother-in-law introduced herself as an "apostle" who is doing "apostolic ministry." Lee was baffled and asked her "how could it be?" She answered that "apo" is the Ilonggo word for grandchild, and she is doing "apostolic ministry" because she is taking care of her "apo." Lee was visibly overjoyed by this explanation that he said that when he goes back to the US he will tell his daughter to give him an "apo" so that he too will become an "apostle."

Looking back at this conversation I reflected that in the truest sense of the word, grandparents are indeed apostles.

Apostle is defined as "one sent on a mission" or originally, an apostle is part of a "New Testament group sent out to preach the gospel and made up especially of Christ's 12 original disciples and Paul."

Naomi in the Old Testament and Lois in the New Testament are great examples of a grandmother. Naomi was the grandmother of Obed. Obed later became the father of Jesse and grandfather of King David. On the other hand, Lois was the grandmother of Timothy.

What they did was to pass on stories of their family so that the next generation will know their heritage. They also passed on the legacy of faith to their grandchildren.

Hopefully, we will have grandparents like Naomi and Lois - apostles sent on a mission to take care of their grandchildren.

May God bless us all!

Sincerely,

Rev. Francis Neil G. Jalando-on