



- Upon mom's passing in 2016 God put a call in my heart to see mom's two remaining sisters. Auntie Sine who is 94 in Birmingham, Alabama and this is Auntie Chit who is 90 in Bacoor, Philippines.
- We saw Auntie Sine October 2017 and through some detailed planning and God's leading and grace we were blessed to arrange a trip back to the Philippines December 2019, before the Taal Volcano blew up!!!
- You know when God puts something in your heart or smacks you on the "hinny", you just have to go do it! Just like me getting up here in front of all of you today!!!

- Last time I was home was 47 years ago when I was 12.
- What a joyful time to reconnect with the Navarrete side of the family in the Philippines since most of the Samoy's emigrated to the US.
- Mom's side of the family grew their wealth and position in the community through fishing and producing salt, in salt beds. My great grandmother Lola Ensa, otherwise known as Nanay Tanda, which means "old mom" was the matriarch who established the family.
- Since my mom's mother passed when she was only 8 years old, Nanay Tanda raised them as children.



- Anyway the Navarrete's owned a lot of property in Sineguelasan the town they lived in. Sineguelasan is a fruit and there were groves of trees in their area hence the name. The family was also evangelized into the Protestant faith by missionaries who witnessed in a predominantly Roman Catholic country.

- So some of the Family property was partitioned to family members and the other half was given to start and build the church and school just next door.



- Attending Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services in a worshipping and thriving Church and School of about 400 children deeply touched my heart and soul. With tears of joy, I thanked almighty God for the faithfulness of Nanay Tanda and the legacy the Navarrete Family left. Which made me think and reflect on what kind of legacy will you be leaving Joey?
- What will your Legacy be? What will your children, grandchildren, and God willing great grandchildren say you left behind?
- What is your Main Purpose?
- What are all of the Little Purposes that hopefully align to your Main Purpose?
- Led by my parents and grandparents in my early years, and later by my beautiful loving wife, Sue (I'm so thankful God led you to pick me to be your husband!!! You are the love of my life!!!) I wanted to grow and be a disciple of Jesus. To faithfully follow Him.
- Lately, as I mature at the ripe old age of 59... (that's almost 60!!!) I want more and more to share my faith. For people to see, hear, taste, know, and feel Jesus and His love. I still can't believe I asked John if I could be up here! What was I thinking?! Actually what really happened was jet lag, lying awake from 2am-5am listening to God telling me Joey you just have to share this.
- John has been on fire preaching powerful Sermons on contentment, generosity, and last week we heard Pastor Andy speak on gratitude... I want to share my philosophy on "things and money" that I have developed and adopted over the years...



- First, God created a material world and He called it good. Personally I think God's creation is pretty freaking amazing!!! Don't you agree? Yes, that's a rainbow He blessed us with!!! And all I can do is get down on my knees and respond in thanksgiving, praise, and worship!
- We live in that world, but when the worldly things become more important than God, that is when we start having problems.

- Second, Everything is the Lord's on loan to us...the money, house, cars, clothes, stuff. If all of God's abundance brings us closer to Him and each other, then its good, it's ok. It's when we let all of this stuff come between us and the Lord and each other then that's not good. And man do we have a lot of that stuff...

- Third, I am a rich man, not because of all that stuff...then why?

- I am fascinated by survival shows... and again and again they affirm all you really need is air to breathe, a little shelter, you have 3 minutes to keep your core temp, you can go 3 days without water, and 30 days without food or you will die. But look at how much God loves and provides His abundance for us! He lays a feast before us of rice, charcoal grilled blue fin tuna, shrimp, mussels, pork, melons, pineapples, bananas, and even eggplant salad! Have you ever had eggplant salad before?!



- Everything else is completely icing on the cake, but don't we love icing!!! And it tastes really good but not necessarily the best for us.

- And finally, fourth, Find your main purpose: Jesus says in Mark 12:30-31: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

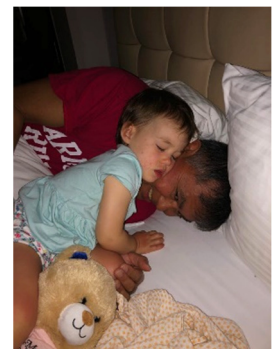
- And one of my mom's favorites which I have adopted for myself as well, related to money, things and stuff: Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God and His Righteousness and ALL these things will be added unto you...

- Ever hear term "God Math"? It's very unlike Engineering Math, which I studied a lot!

- So again why am I a rich man?

- Consider this and many of you will know exactly what I'm talking about.

- When you haven't see your 20 month old granddaughter Elsie, who lives thousands of miles away for months in Northern Ireland, and you see each other in a completely different country thousands of miles away like the Philippines, and she approaches you with her little legs with arms outstretched and you pick her up and she lays her head between your neck and shoulder and wraps you up as much as her tiny arms will grasp and just lays there on you... with pure unspoken love flowing between you...if that isn't the kingdom of God then I don't know what is!!!





- That folks is why I am a very rich man! And we, Sue and I, have been blessed with 4 of those! That's God Math!
- So I ask you: What is your Main Purpose?
- What are the little purposes that align to that main purpose, your compass?
- What kind of legacy do you want to leave? Because guess what folks, we are all going to leave.
- God sees and cares about the heart more than the amount.
- He knows the sacrifices we make to give.
- He gave the ultimate sacrifice in His Son Jesus already.

- I do an Our Daily Bread Devotional and I will never forget one of the lessons I learned about the widows offering of two very small copper coins worth only a few cents that she gave...It's not how much you give that determines what kind of giver you are but how much you have left... think about it...
- What are we going to return to The Lord to serve and glorify Him in love? As Pastor John says, "What are we going to give generously, sacrificially and joyfully to the Lord?"

You all have been very kind to give me this opportunity to share...Thanks for listening! God bless you and keep you!

To God be the glory!!!
Amen and Amen!!!

