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Jesus Got Me

BY ANTHONY DON MAGBANUA

Throughout my college career, I wrestled with God about what career path He wanted for me. Although I was already a junior in the pre-physical therapy course at William Paterson University in New Jersey, I began thinking about switching my major to theology. I asked my youth director, Laffit Cortes, for advice on what to do.

“Is God calling you?” he immediately asked. The question intimidated me, so I decided to let go of the idea.

On March 26, 2011, my friend, Miriam, asked me to give a message for ONEighty, a youth vespers at her church. Afterwards, we engaged in conversation, and she said she and her prayer partner had been praying for me regarding my career choice. She believed I should study theology, but I was still reluctant.

In spite of my resistance, I continued to feel God’s presence in my life through a variety of common-turned-awesome experiences. One day, just before Thanksgiving, I arrived on campus unusually early and decided to take a nap in my car. When I woke up, I realized I had left my headlights on and, as a result, the car battery was dead. As I turned the key in the ignition for the third time, I clearly heard God saying to me, “Don’t worry about it,” He said. “Just go to class. I got you!”

After class, I decided to ask around for jumper cables. When no one had any, I finally surrendered and said, “Alright, God, You say that You got me.” I went back to the car and felt impressed to turn the key. I was amazed when the car immediately started. Again, the thought of changing my major and transferring to Andrews University crossed my mind, but I still decided to disregard it.

A few weeks later, I was conversing with Jesus about the testimony I would give for ONEighty the following night. When He told me Miriam would ask me again

about going into the ministry, I decided that if it actually happened I would know He was calling me.

The next night Miriam approached me. “So, Don, are you still thinking of going into theology?” she asked. I couldn’t believe it! I realized this really was what I was being called to do.

Just one week before classes started, I emailed Naomi Best, an enrollment coordinator at Andrews University. I told her I believed God was calling me to attend Andrews, and I was intent on transferring in time for the new semester. The next morning an unidentified caller awakened me on my phone. It was Naomi.

Naomi and I started to talk about paperwork. By Friday morning, all my paperwork was completed. I was even financially cleared. Miraculously, by Monday, I was ready to start my first day of classes.

When Jesus said, “Come, follow me...” and study theology at Andrews, it was easy to accept after experiencing Him in ordinary life. Why would I not want to experience the life He has called me into? I ended up in Berrien Springs, Michigan, because of a lot of common-turned-awesome experiences because of Jesus, and I know He will continue to be with me.

I am not a special guy, but if Jesus got me, Jesus got you!

Anthony Don Magbanua is studying theology at Andrews University.

