



ENGLISH DEACON CANDIDATE

MARIA COQUINCO

1. How did you become a believer in Jesus Christ?

I grew up as a Catholic, went to a Catholic school, was very religious but did not know anything about the Bible and about having a personal relationship with God. When my husband and I moved to Canada, we had high hopes of becoming a doctor and a dentist but the realities of life set in. We needed to work to raise up our 3 children. I worked as dental assistant and my husband accepted many menial jobs. God humbled down our proud hearts in many ways. We decided to buy a small business with the help of my father. The business was bankrupt after a few months. It was during this time that my husband accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior through one of his employees, his life was changed dramatically and the business started to grow. God has brought us to our lowest and rock bottom to let us know that He is there for us. He started reading the Bible and invited me to join a Bible study group. That made me realize that I knew nothing about the Bible and didn't know God in a personal way. The more I read the Bible, the more I realized I needed a Savior. When I was watching Billy Graham on TV one day, he gave an invitation to accept Christ as Lord and Savior, and I bowed my head, closed my eyes in prayer, lots of tears crying and surrendered my life to Jesus singing "I Surrender All". God provided us with different Bible study groups and we grew to know Him more, decided to profess our faith through baptism and dedicated our life to serving Him.

2. What made you decide to accept the nomination to be a deacon candidate?

When I was approached to be a deacon, I know I didn't want to do it knowing there would be a lot of meetings but I said I would pray about it to see if this is what God wants me to do. Amazingly, God gave me three different confirmations:

(1) As I was doing my daily devotions from the "The Power of His Presence" by Ray Stedman. Psalm 50:14 said, "Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High."

(2) A sister in Christ from church and BSF, who never calls me, called me out of the blue and said, “Maria, I remember you said when you stepped down from being the TL of BSF, that you want to serve the church.” She was inquiring about her daughter’s SS, but it spoke to me so clearly that this is what I said to the Lord.

(3) Then as I was doing my BSF lesson one day, Matthew 5:33 said “Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.”

The Holy Spirit has convicted me of the promise I made to the Lord to serve Him so I said yes in obedience.

2. Share 1-2 areas you have enjoyed serving at FEC. - Sunday School Teacher

3. Share a verse from God’s Word that is meaningful to you.

This is God’s personal promise to me. Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous, do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”