

Faith In Action

A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

Bong Bringas

When Bong began his studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary, he was charged to describe his faith journey. Students were told at the time to expect that their description would change in a few months or years. Bong quickly noticed that his faith journey description had changed into a dynamic document.



Bong grew up Roman Catholic but he says he was a “nominal Catholic” going to church only when he felt like it or when his mother insisted. At 33, Bong married his wife, Zha Zha. Out of respect for his in-laws, he joined her family every Sunday for worship in a Protestant church. The more he observed, the more he recognized that they were experiencing a personal relationship with God. He found it enlightening to interact with the pastors and the congregation. Their style of worship really defined fellowship for him.

In 2001, Bong came to the USA in advance of his family. His wife instructed him to find a church home. Bong found and attended Filipino Ministry of Eagle Rock, a new church development of PC(USA). His experiences there brought the Word of God and a relationship with God to him personally. He felt challenged to study the lessons referenced by the pastor. When asked to lead Bible study, Bong realized that he was not just to share the Word as he read it, but he was being guided to present the Word in a simple, big-picture fashion. He yearns to present the Good News in ways that are easy for people to grasp so he decided to pursue a Master of Divinity degree in 2007. He is very committed as he knows seminary will be preparing him to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Before seminary, Bong viewed humans as either sinners or saints. His attitude softened and he was touched by God in an area just where he had been struggling. Now he sees people as broken, but loved in spite of their brokenness. Bong is hopeful that, besides just helping people understand who God is, that he can be an agent of healing and transformation.

Those who work with Bong on projects observe his attitude of service, his openness, his availability, and that he is hardly ever worried about limitations. While completing school, he still wants to focus on how to serve. Bong previously was an intern at San Marino Community Church and after it's completion, asked if he could return as a volunteer intern which he is currently doing. Bong serves in many ways: as an usher coordinator for “The Gathering”, helping with ELEMENT, and sharing his time teaching conversational English. With enthusiasm and a commitment to serving the Lord, Bong is glad to serve God through SMCC in any way he can.

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