

REFLECTION

BLD NEWARK COVENANT COMMUNITY

GOD'S INVITATION

On the same day that Jesus called Matthew, he gave a feast to which he invited Jesus and His disciples, and his fellow tax collectors. Jesus, the Almighty, the holy man, the miracle worker, a friend to the sinners, had chosen Matthew. *Follow me*: two simple words with a powerful meaning. People longed to be picked and chosen by Jesus. Praise the Lord for each of us has been called despite our sinfulness.

A year and a half ago I attended a marriage encounter weekend with my husband. I did not know then that the Lord was the one who invited me. It was a very tough change in lifestyle for my husband, my two children and myself. We were invited to the BLD community when we had a full plate and really had no room for anything else. My desire from that weekend was to be closer to my husband with God's help.

Then, we were asked to attend the BLD Friday worship. Again, I thought it was a one day commitment. We adjusted our schedule so we can attend. Besides Mass on Sundays, this was the only other time that I praised and worshipped the Lord. I was in awe because everything was very strange to me. People lifted their hands to God, spoke in tongues, and were slain in the Spirit. I observed everyone and everything throughout the worship.

During the next Fridays, I got the courage to ask my questions on anything and everything that was puzzling me. After a while, I looked forward to our Friday worships at BLD. Rain, snow, sleet, tolls and high gas prices will not keep us away from driving an hour and a half to go to worship.

I had wholeheartedly served the Lord in a variety of ways in the past. Now I have entered a new phase of being a committed disciple of God. I am a sinner just like many, yet was nonetheless called by the Almighty Lord.