

4. Life is endlessly open. Believe in the possibilities of the future.

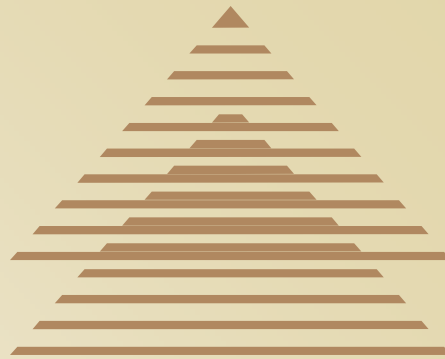
Life is never locked up, even when someone has made terrible mistakes. Without belief in the possibilities of the future, anybody can be stuck in the mistakes of the past. The right attitude consists in drawing lessons from the past, taking advantage of the present situation, as long as it serves, and building the future.

5. Recognize the past for what it is and take the next right step for your life. Learn to forgive yourself and turn your life around.

It is important to move forward and never look back again, unless when it is about a lesson someone can learn from the past. In order to build a new future, one needs courage, determination and the will to change what went wrong in the past.

6. Count on yourself, on relatives, friends and your faith, and build a new future for your life.

The key to success in life resides in you and in your will to assume with clarity of thought the ups and downs of your life. It would be a mistake, however, to think that you can do everything alone without the help of family and friends. The support that comes from faith is of great importance; its value is inestimable for whoever wants to rebuild anew one's life.



If you think this program can be of some help for your teen and the problem you are living with him/her, we would be more than happy to help. In advance we assure you of all our prayer and support. Please feel free to contact us either by phone 970-635-5803 or by e-mail: mbalafe@gmail.com

Fr. Felicien I. Mbala, PhD, STD



**LET THEM COME
TO ME AND LIVE**
(LTCL) Mark 10, 13-16



HISTORY:

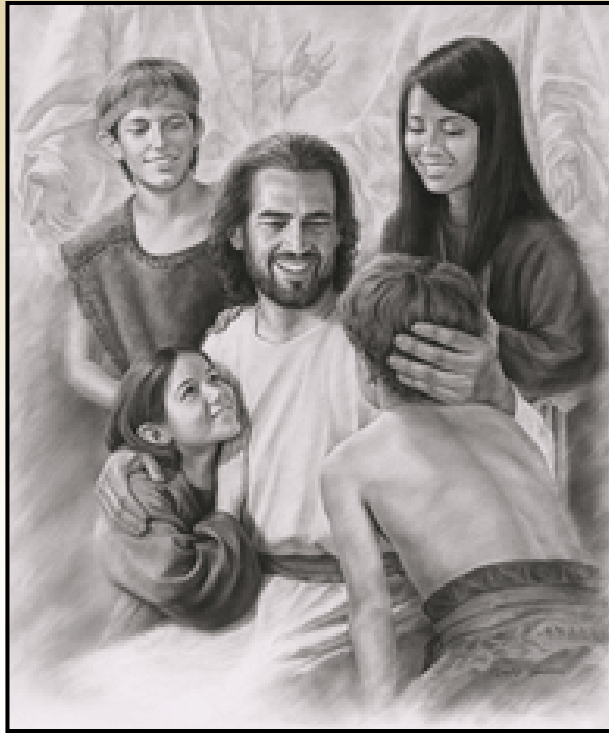
“Let Them Come to Me and Live” is a program of pastoral counseling that aims at helping the teens who are struggling with the problems of addiction and crisis of life in order to recover and build the future anew.

The program “Let Them Come to Me and Live” is inspired by the attitude of Jesus who wants the children to come to Him and receive His blessing. It draws its insights from the word of God that enhances life and gives always a second chance to those who have been lost in order to build the future. It is based on psychological knowledge, especially on the psychology of development that believes that the meaning of life cannot be consumed by one step of human development.

The program is born as a response to a continual demand from parents who wanted to obtain help for their teens in crisis of life. Most of the teens brought to our care have abandoned school and left their homes to live with less commendable friends who could not always be of help to them.

Following our past experience as a Principal of High School and our spiritual formation as a Priest, we have developed a program of pastoral counseling that focuses on helping the teens to regain trust in themselves, to courageously confront the crisis of life and to believe in the possibilities of the future.

The program is built around a few guiding principles whose main motivation is to bring the teens to recognize the gravity of the situation in which they live, to convince them that such a situation can be changed for the best, and to help them build a new future based on self-reliance, the support of the family and the guidance of the word of Jesus.



INTRODUCTION:

The approach starts with an invitation to the teens to talk and tell the story of their life. Such an approach presupposes their cooperation without which no help can be successful. The goal pursued in the telling of the story is to bring the teens to accept and to take full responsibility for what their life has become.

The acceptance of the responsibility, in turn, aims at encouraging them to see objectively the facts that have contributed to the crisis of life and to examine with them how they can be worked out in order to give a new orientation to their life.

PRINCIPLES:

1. There is more potential in you than you think; there are more positive things in you than the negative you see.

The drama of life can never be resolved when one doubts himself, but when one believes in the potential he has. Human experience shows that the negative of life is just one aspect of the human reality. The whole picture of a personality is made up of the positive and the negative trends. Therefore, it is good to believe that there are more good things in a person than the bad that appears in the compromising situation of life.

2. Life is reversible, but its success belongs only to those who believe it possible.

No life is lost provided that there is hope that it can be reversed. Therefore, it is important to keep hope alive and to believe that it is always possible to give a new direction to one's life.

3. Life is made up of the past, the present and the future. To confine the whole meaning of life in the past is to shut the door to the possibility of the future.

What makes life wonderful is its continual trajectory toward the future. If life was only past, it would be terrible to live it, because nothing could be rebuilt or repaired once a mistake is done. Because the past, the present and the future exist, the meaning of life is not all consumed in the mistakes someone has made, as bad as they might be.