

# HAZEL TABIN

GCNext Leader  
Los Angeles, CA

## Background:

**How do you serve in GCI? What is your role in your local congregation or the denomination as a whole?** I am part of the GCNext team representing the Western Region. Locally, I serve as a worship leader in Grace Communion Fellowship (GCF), Los Angeles, CA. From time to time, I speak and share with the congregation what God has been teaching me. I also assist with the children's ministry and I cherish laughing and learning with them!

**How did you connect with GCI?** I was born in the church!

**What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** I love that GCI is one big family. I love that this family is willing to support each other. I love that our church challenges and equips the future generation! I love that we know that Jesus is the head of the body, allowing each member to participate in His work. It is truly in and through Christ that we serve and love His bride. These are some of the reasons why I am here at GCI and the common denominator in all these is the presence of the Spirit's leading and love.

**Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry?** Grace Life's Associate Pastor, Jillian Morrison, has been my mentor for the past two years! It's a blessing to have someone I look up to walk alongside me as we live our callings as Jesus' beloved. God has tremendously used my local congregation, as well, to affirm the gifts He has given me. I feel empowered by the Spirit to continue to step out of my comfort zone as I serve in the church. What a beautiful thing, to see where God leads us, even if that means we are never going to be the same person again, for His love surely changes us.

**If you could describe your congregation in one sentence, what would you say?** A community, a family, and one body eager to serve God and each other with hearts full of joy and love.

**Is there something unique about your church services that connects with your community?** After every worship service, we have a potluck that draws people to come and fellowship with one another. By word of mouth, we are able to meet new faces from our local community. We have several homeless people who came to church for (physical) food, but stayed because of the spiritual nourishment they received. I remember multiple stories in the Bible where food became an invitation for thousands of people to know more about Jesus, and I see how that is present in my local congregation, too. A present-day miracle.

**What does your community look like?** In terms of my community of people, they look like Jesus to me. They're a bunch of image-bearers whose full dependence is on our Abba Father, ready to lay down their lives for others, and would show their love for me as they laugh at my jokes occasionally.



## Get to Know Hazel

**AS A WORSHIP LEADER, I FELT THE CALL TO INVITE PEOPLE TO COME JUST AS THEY ARE, TO LEAD THE CONGREGATION TO BE AWARE OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE, AND TO REMIND THEM THAT WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT US BUT ABOUT THE ONE WE OFFER IT TO. I HOPE TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WORSHIP IS NOT A PERFORMANCE BUT A DEEP COMMUNION WITH OUR TRIUNE GOD. WHEN WE ARE FOCUSED ON THAT TRUTH, NOTHING ELSE BUT HIS PRESENCE MATTERS, WHICH MOVES US TO BE IN AWE OF HIS GLORY.**



1.

**For what are you most grateful?** My family who constantly encourages, pushes, and inspires me to be a better me.

2.

**What is one of your greatest accomplishments?**

I've run three marathons (26.2 miles/42km) so far!

3.

**What are 5 things you can't live without?** My half-gallon hydro flask, Spotify, my journal, Google Maps, and rice. Yup, I am undeniably a Filipina.

4.

**How do you experience God?** When I worship alone. That could look like: 1) journaling every thought that comes to mind, 2) praying out loud, 3) soaking in the beauty of nature, or 4) singing my heart out in the shower.

5.

**Struggle or life lesson you would like to share:**

Life Hack: Everything changes when we start to be mindful of the fact that each person we encounter is made in the image of God. When we remind ourselves that each human being is a walking form of a miracle, as the Creator of the universe looks at all that exists and thinks there is a missing piece until that person is made, we start to wonder how we could appreciate that masterpiece more. When we take Christ's perspective and look at our neighbors as worth dying for (regardless of what they look like, talk like, dress like, and think like), we stop asking the question if they are worthy of love, and we start following Jesus' footsteps, affirming each one of their belovedness.



**DON'T FRET OR WORRY. INSTEAD OF WORRYING, PRAY. LET YOUR PETITIONS AND PRAISES SHAPE YOUR WORRIES INTO PRAYERS, LETTING GOD KNOW YOUR CONCERNS. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, A SENSE OF GOD'S WHOLENESS, EVERYTHING COMING TOGETHER FOR GOOD, WILL COME AND SETTLE YOU DOWN. IT'S WONDERFUL WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CHRIST DISPLACES WORRY AT THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE. - PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7**



GRACE COMMUNION  
INTERNATIONAL



GRACECOMMUNION



WEAREGCI