

Kapatiran



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What is important in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving.

Oliver W. Holmes



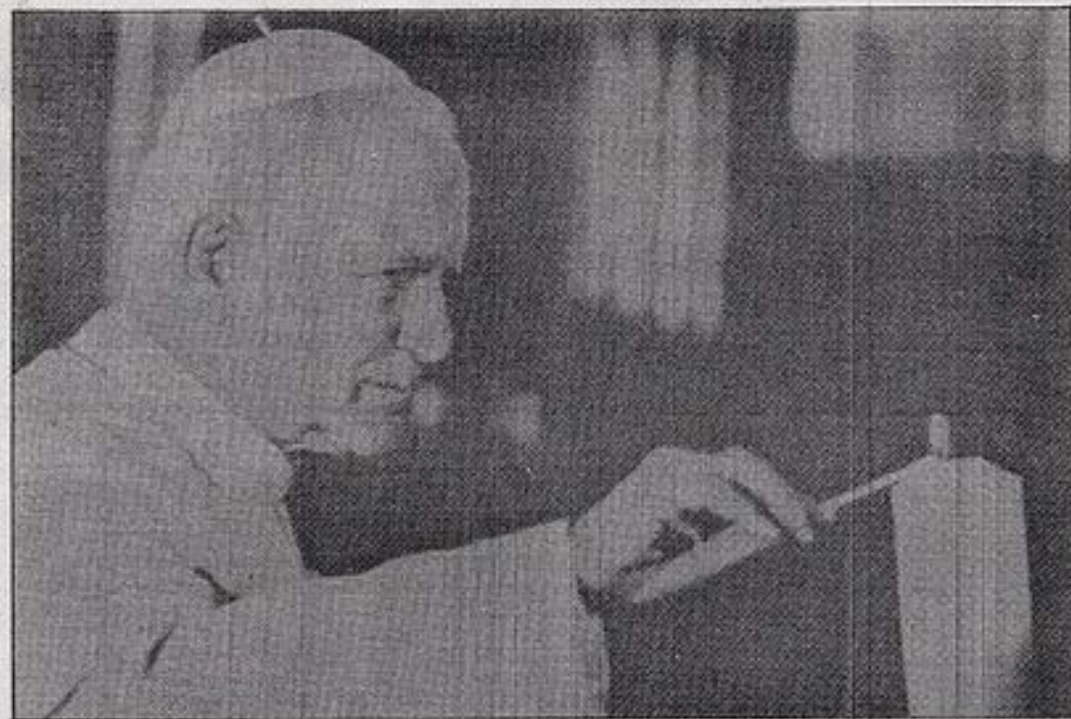
Cagayan de Oro CLP 1 discussion groups are intently sharing on their relationship with God.

HERE WE GO CAGAYAN DE ORO!

This was the inspired battlecry during the vision is being realized. the commitment and fellowship night of The Christian Life Program No. 1 held the BCBP Cebu CLP No. 1 in 1988. Now *cont. on p. 21*

Be An Easter Person

Mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Examine your conscience. Forgive a friend. Manifest your loyalty in word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Forsake envy. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind; be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Pray a lot. Give up a bad habit. Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Go to church. Sing at least one song every day. Participate in the Sacraments. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again. Trust in God. Be an Easter person. Praise God!



THE CHALLENGE OF RENEWAL

*Pope John Paul II's Address to the Philippine Bishops,
Nov. 19, 1990 - Excerpts*

In my meetings with other groups of Philippine Bishops I referred to your pastoral leadership in helping your people acquire a deeper knowledge of the Church's teachings so that the message of the Gospel may continue to penetrate and uplift Filipino society. The challenge is particularly acute in the area of priestly formation.

But it is also pressing as regards the spiritual and doctrinal preparation of suitable lay leaders whose special role it is to apply the truths and values of the Gospel to the realities of the economic, social and cultural life of the nation.

The "evangelization" of a people's culture includes the external and popular expression of devotion in rituals of life based on religious motives, but it must go even further to the very heart of human behavior, to a clarifying of human problems in the light of Christ and in an interior personal renewal in the "new life" which has its source in the very spirit of God.

That new life is life in the Body of Christ, which is the Church. It embraces each individual who is baptized into the life of grace. But it is not a merely private matter. The ecclesial and catholic nature of the Christian life needs to be clearly presented to the faithful, especially in the face of contentious tactics used by organizations and sects with which there is generally little or no possibility of dialogue, and which are often a serious obstacle to ecumenical efforts.

As Bishops, you understand that the proper response to the proselytizing activities of these groups lies in the genuine renewal of your own communities, whereby they become more fraternal, more caring about the real situation of their members, more lively in their love and fellowship, and more outgoing and witnessing in their profession of faith.

I encourage you to pursue (this renewal) in all ways possible, by seeking to use all available resources in the enterprise of deepening the Christian formation of your people.

THE BISHOPS' MOVES

+ **JAPAN:** Tokyo Diocese Celebrates Centenary. From September 29 to 30, 1991, Tokyo diocese is celebrating its centenary. In a letter opening the jubilee commemoration Archbishop Shirayanagi invited Catholics to "remember the past with gratitude, face the present with courage and look into the future with hope."

+ **TURKEY:** Ecumenical Center for Dialogue with Muslims. The John XXIII Ecumenical Center in Ankara is fostering dialogue between Christianity and Islam. Founded by Fr. Michael Thomas, the center promotes the knowledge of Christian and Islamic faiths and operates a library specialized on both religions.

+ **CHINA:** Arrests Confirmed. The arrests of 15 underground Catholics were confirmed; they took place in the district of Fu'an, Fujian province. Arrested during a meeting scheduled to discuss the problems of the diocese were bishop Xie Shiguang of Xiapu, nine priests and three deacons. In another development bishop Huang Schoucheng of Fuan was also arrested.

+ **BOLIVIA:** Hand in Hand. The Catholic Church in Bolivia is working hand in hand with the people to find solutions to the overwhelming problems of injustice, dependency and poverty. The Bolivian Bishops' Conference rejected the government's economic adjustment program: "As a church we cannot permit human dignity to be trampled as a way of solving economic problems," the bishops stated.

+ **AFRICA:** A Decade for Children. The present decade 1990-2000 has been declared "Decade of the African Children" by African governments. The initiative aims at intensifying vaccination campaigns and primary health care for children in the continent.

+ **INDIA:** Celebrating Centenary. The Catholic Church in northeast India is celebrating its first centenary. Declaring the celebrations open Archbishop D-Rosario said that "During the past 100 years God has immensely blessed northeast India with 8 dioceses, one Khasi bishop and many local priests, nuns and catechists." The celebration honors the German Salvatorian Missionaries who pioneered evangelization in the region, and were later joined by the Jesuits and the Salesians.

Information taken from the WORLD MISSION MAGAZINE, December and January issues.

THE CHURCH IN THE 1990s

The Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences after a recent assembly held in Bandung, Indonesia, issued a four-point guideline to Christian communities on the new way of being church in the coming decade. The new way consists of:

- Forming small Christian communities that embrace the laity, religious and clergy in close communion.

- Recognizing the gifts of the Holy Spirit and encouraging their use by the faithful; being a participatory Church in which all members are active in the sacraments and community activities.

- Witnessing in faith and love to the Risen Lord; reaching out to other faiths in a dialogue of life toward the integral liberation for all.

- Being the yeast of transformation, a prophetic sign, that dares to aim the faithful toward the kingdom of God.

Greenhills Chapter

SERVING THE LORD

"Serving in the LSS was really inspiring. We experienced joy and happiness in serving God." **Soc and Edith de Guzman**

"While serving as discussion leaders, we got more than what we gave. We gave a portion of our God-given resources such as time, effort and talent. In return, we received spiritual nourishment, joy and peace. This is what you get for doing God's work and surrendering what you have for His greater glory and honor." **Ruben and Susan Reyes**

"It's hard to describe that wonderful feeling of seeing your brethren listening to the talks, sharing your experiences, singing praises and glorifying the Lord with openness and candor." **Pearlie de Guzman**

"Serving in the LSS opened my eyes to a new dimension of God's love for us. There was so much camaraderie and unity. God was there, living and present, in all His glory." **Dean Ablan.**



Alabang and Las Pinas CLP participants seek to more clearly understand God's will for them.

Greenhills Chapter

FIRED UP WITH THE SPIRIT

"This year, 1991, is the time for harvest."

This message from our Lord has come to many of our brothers and sisters. And if the success of the recent Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS) conducted by the Greenhills Chapter is any indication, the fire of the Holy Spirit will be burning bright in many hearts this year.

Twenty-five participants with ages ranging from 22 to 35 underwent the LSS held on January 25-27 and Feb. 2 at the Center for Peace. The participants came from nine different companies and from a wide range of professions which included, among others: architects, civil engineers, computer programmers, an accountant, a secretary and account executives.

But in spite of their different backgrounds, they were united by one objective: to know the Lord more and be much closer to Him. During their group discussions, they spoke freely of how the Lord was making a difference in their lives. During their one-on-ones, they were asked to write a letter to our Lord. These letters were then offered during the mass preceding their baptism.

Following the LSS, the participants will now be meeting every Monday for either a Bibliarosal, assembly with prais-

ing, worship, sharing or a mass with teaching.

Eric and Kathy Teotico served as team leaders with Buddy and Lily Halili as assistant team leaders. Cesar and Bing Liza took charge of the speakers while Gus and Fely Leonardo handled administrative matters.

The speakers and their respective topics were: Cesar Liza, Explanation Session; Gus Leonardo, God's Love; Manny Manalo, Salvation; Buddy Halili, The New Life; Cesar Liza, Receiving God's Gift; Eric Teotico, Praying for Baptism in the Holy Spirit; Gerry Tabares, Growth; and Mark Katipunan, Transformation in Christ. There were also mini-talks on praying, praising and the raising of hands.

Discussion leaders were Soc and Edith de Guzman, Danny and Precy Lazo, Ruben and Susan Reyes, Luth de Castro and Jun Esposito. Pearlie de Guzman and Mitz Tabaquero took charge of food arrangements and registration. The music ministry was led by Ben Aganon (see related sharing on page 15), Dean Ablan and Punch Mamonluk.

At least three more regular LSS's are planned for the year by the Greenhills chapter. Two special LSS's that will be brought directly to a particular office or company are also being scheduled.

THE ENNEAGRAM: How the Spark Was Kindled Within Me

Cora P. Balingit, Dagupan Chapter

To write about my reflections on the Enneagram-Discernment seminar sponsored by the BCBP Dagupan mission team last Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 is to write about the best Christmas gift I have ever received. To borrow Victor Frankl's words in his book *Man's Search for Meaning*: "For the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth --- that love is the ultimate and highest goal to which man can aspire; that the salvation of man is through love and in love."

When I was approached by one of our unit leaders to contact Fr. Venancio Calpotura, S.J. to give the retreat for the members of the BCBP and some multisectoral leaders of Dagupan, I was hesitant because of the difficulty involved in convincing people to take a "pause" from the reconstruction of their business concerns to journey into the self. But by grace, I reluctantly "peered out into the mist", saw His figure of mastery and hope and I heard Him saying: "Bring them to me!"

Being a member of the mission team and deeply inspired by the heart and guts of faith, I battled the "heavy sea" and went out advertising and collecting in advance for the seminar. My struggle then now reminds me of the apostles struggling on the stormy seas one dark night on the Sea of Galilee. When December one came, sixty participants for the Enneagram and twenty for the Seminar on Discernment were fully paid. As Fr. Calpotura stood there to introduce Miss Techa Nieves who conducted the Enneagram, it was as if Jesus was walking on the water

saying: "Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid to see yourself as you really are, I'll walk with you."

The term "enneagram" is derived from the Greek word "enneas" meaning nine. According to the Enneagram system there are nine, and only nine, types of human personality. Each personality type is identified in a negative way though it also has positive characteristics. The identifying negativity stems from a specific compulsion ingrained in one's self-concept and

having a great influence on one's behavior.

In a nutshell, it is a process of self-examination and revision of one's map of reality --- exposing oneself to the criticism and challenge of other map-makers.

I experienced the journey as a kind of 'death', a giving up of old habits and patterns of behavior the moment there is an unveiling of one's personality as a "sin type". Discovering the negativity of my personality was like reaching the end of my rope, but it was also a coming into the beginning of God. For I began to understand my real motives and the underlying drives of my arrogance. My willingness to have this basic defensive strategy so carefully hidden to be exposed and reflected upon

resulted in opening doors to a new freedom because now I can freely decide whether or not to follow my compulsion.

Facing head-on this driving force of my compulsion was extremely painful and threatening. It is going deeply into the process of life --- the paschal mystery. Through the discovery of my Enneagram type, there awakened in me a whole new sense of needing salvation, instead of simply having to rely on my own strength and God's. I realized that I also need others to help me become my true authentic self.

The importance of a life of wisdom, that is, one of contemplation coupled with action, was impressed on me very deeply. I came to understand that the sources of danger to the world lie more



within me than outside of me and that life is a continuous and never-ending stringent self-examination vis-a-vis the world through our relationship with others.

As the whole process of the Enneagram unfolded, I felt the touch of God slowly straightening out the tangled perspectives of my mind. This "hour with God" helped me see the important things in life, helping me distinguish them from the unimportant. I was led to distinguish between what I am and what I am not responsible for in this life.

All my life, my desire to win had served me in good stead, for I had won many things. I had never been comfortable doing things unenthusiastically. Yet somehow I had felt that it was time to change. My enthusiasm, my competitive-

LAS PIÑAS MONITOR

New Las Piñas Structure

The new organizational set-up is leaner as the original five units were collapsed into three. This became possible when a number of action group members, mostly singles, opted to transfer to the Alabang Chapter. Two of the original five unit leaders also opted to serve full time in Mission.

The new units are headed by Bobby Dee, Perry Domingo and Lito Francisco. Actions groups under Bobby Dee are served by Louie Casimiro, Boy Martinez, Milt Mendoza, Lino Ongteco, Jimmy Porciuncula and Lee Romero; those under Perry Domingo are served by Vic Apale, Cora Celicious, Evi Illustre, Rene Leandro, Frank Nuguid and Efren Trilanes. Action group leaders under Lito Francisco are Mar Ciabal, Rudy Eco, Louie Fernando, Milo Panlilio, Francis Portugal, Manny Sison and Jerry Vidal.

Rem Gopez remains as head of the Las Piñas Mission Team. Louie Casimiro's action group continues its service as Secretariat. Pons Fallarme and Charito Garcia continue as chapter treasurer and secretary respectively.

One Last Look at 1990

1990 was a start-up year for the Las Piñas Chapter, beginning with the month of April, its inaugural month. The period from April to December was spent in organizational renewal and spiritual strengthening. The influx of "new blood" through the graduates of CLP 17 was the only major internal activity of significance for the year.

Planning for 1991

January 1991 began with earnest efforts of the chapter leadership headed by Manny Banigan, chapter head, and Rem Gopez, mission team leader, to address the chapter's reorganization needs in preparation for the Brotherhood's second decade of evangelism. An added concern during the period was the need to prepare for the eventuality of a national emergency induced by the Gulf Crisis.

In a series of governance meetings, the chapter leadership finalized a new organizational set-up and began mapping out ways to anticipate the chapter's needs.

Initial 1991 Activities

First Saturdays are set aside as joint breakfast days. On February 2, the Las Piñas couples heard a husband-and-wife sharing. The Men's Breakfasts continue during the other Saturdays of the month. New venue is the Lee Garden Restaurant located at the RFC Building along the Alabang-Zapote Road.

Weekly sessions from February 2 through mid-March are being held for the series of culture talks for the graduates of CLP 17. Venue is also at Lee Garden Restaurant.

MARCH 5

Deadline for submission of news, articles, letters, sharings, pictures and advertisements for the April-May KAPATIRAN

ness and my seriousness were part of a behavior pattern that was working and would continue to work toward alienating my husband, my children, my friends. If I were not able to modify this pattern, or move against my compulsion to always be in control, there would be times of tears, bitterness and conflict.

The seminar's theme: "Kindle the Spark Within" was what I was looking for. It rekindled in me the desire to love and make others happy, even when there was no emotional return or reassurance of gratitude. Most especially, it was a time for sitting quietly at the feet of God. In His dynamic presence I felt the touch of His grace within me. I heard Him say: "You have fed the hungry, you have tried to love your enemies in my name -- all these are great virtues but now you have to listen to that cry within you, the poorest of all the beggars, yourself who cries out in need of the alms of your own kindness."

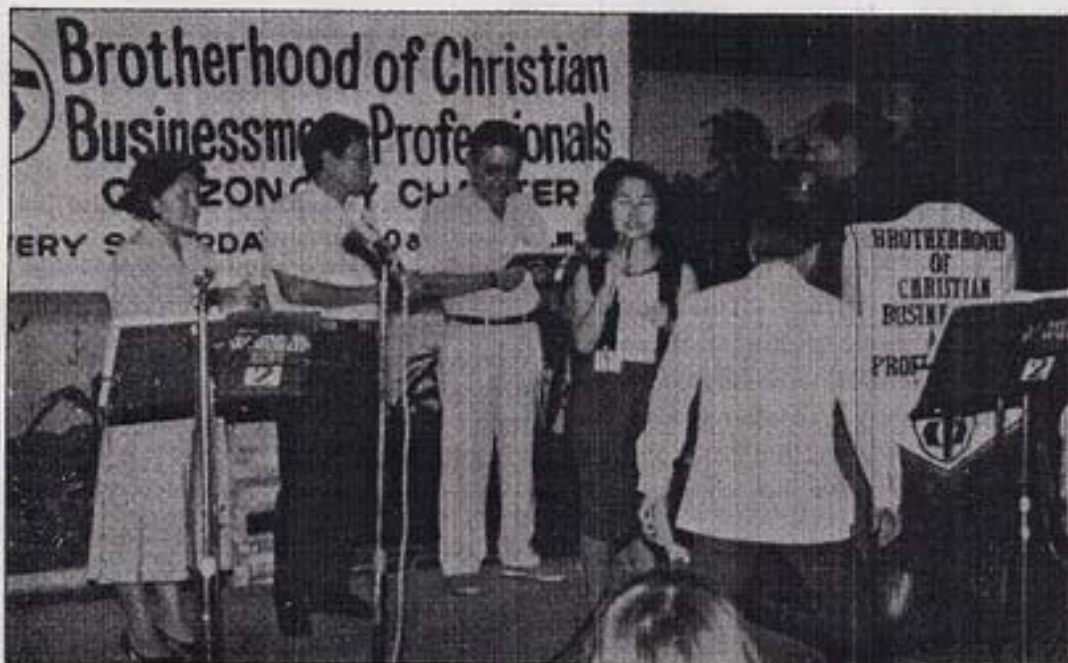
And then I realized that the most impudent of all the offenders, the very enemy, was myself. I have to love and forgive myself, too. This to me was truly "getting to know" God.

There during the seminar, twenty-two days before Christmas, I humbly stooped and entered the cave in Bethlehem where the Babe lay. I felt His arms encircle me as He told me how much He loves me. This is truly the greatest and best Christmas gift in my whole life.

I praise and thank the God-Child and the BCBP mission team for giving me this most beautiful and meaningful Christmas gift.



Las Piñas breakfast goers listen intently to their sharer.



Awards time during Q.C. anniversary breakfast.

Quezon City Chapter

ANNIVERSARY BREAKFASTS AND AWARDS

1990 achievement awards were given out during the anniversary breakfasts of the BCBP Quezon City chapter on Feb. 9, 1991, at Alfredo's Steak House. The men's breakfasts celebrated their third year; the ladies observed their second year of breakfasts.

Mission director Art Orlina delivered the welcome remarks. Roy and Janet Calleja were the couple sharers, and chapter head Benjie Quinto gave the closing remarks. Music was provided by the music ministry headed by Jun Capacillo.

Achievement awards were handed out in recognition of outstanding service and evangelization work accomplished during the year by chapter members. The "Fishers of Men" award for bringing in the most number of new comers to the men's breakfast went

to Ric Galing, Dodo Sta. Maria and Danny Roldan. The corresponding "Harvester" award for the women's breakfast went to Cecille Tabares and Nene Ocampo. "Perfect Attendance" awards were given to Louie Rodrigo and Troffy Lino for the men's breakfast and Virgie Viscarra, Elsa Sabas and Delia Ignacio for the ladies' breakfast.

Special recognition for service in the breakfasts of 1990 were awarded to Vic de Veyra for music ministry, Boy Alina for emceeing, Val de Guzman for registration in the men's breakfast and Maan Aragon for heading the ladies' breakfast during the year, and Mila Balaoing for registration and allied services.



Q.C. music ministry renders a song during anniversary celebration.

LIGHTER MOMENTS

Efficiency Plus

As she was passing through the pearly gates, an efficiency expert announced to Saint Peter: "My work on Earth concerned economically utilizing time and motion."

"Here, time is an eternity," the gatekeeper reminded her.

Rubbing her hands together in anticipation, the expert said, "Well then, I'll just have to speed it up."

Dad and Son, Partners (?)

A son wanted to follow in his father's footsteps - until he realized Dad was wearing work shoes instead of loafers.

The Job Interview

Personnel manager to job seeker: "And what are your good points?"

"I was fired ten times."

"What does that prove?"

"I'm no quitter."

Let's Go Fishing

The religion class was studying about Noah's ark, and the teacher asked the children how they thought Noah might have whiled away those 40 long, dreary days.

"I bet he spent a lotta time fishing," suggested one youngster.

"He couldn't," retorted his friend. "He only had two worms."

Supermarket Diplomacy

A woman standing in a supermarket checkout line was pushed aside by another shopper, who demanded that the checker "ring up my ten cans of cat food, quick!"

Turning to the startled woman, the rude customer then said, "I hope you don't mind waiting."

"Oh no," the woman replied, smiling sweetly. "Not if you're that hungry."

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CYA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A Crossroads Retreat for college students was held by the CYA on Feb. 9 and 10 at the de Meester's retreat house. The whole CYA community gathered again on February 24 at ICA, Greenhills, for worship, sharing and talks.

These activities are examples of the activities that Christ's Youth in Action, CYA, a partner in mission with the BCBP, conducts in reaching out to young people on more than ten university campuses in Metro Manila offering the students an alternative to the chaotic world through personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Aside from weekly prayer meetings and frequent one-on-ones with CYA staffers, the CYA also holds regular recollections, Days of Renewal, worship, sharing, sports fests, fellowship and teachings.

Tina Angeles, a college student from the Univ. of the Philippines, has this to say about her experiences with the CYA.

"When I joined the CYA, I didn't know what to expect. I attended a prayer meeting out of a healthy curiosity about God and Jesus. After that meeting, there was an announcement that there will be a CLS (similar to the BCBP CLP - editor.) later that afternoon. We were invited to join.

"By the time we arrived, there was a crowd of people around. I quietly took a seat near the door and was introduced to others near me. Then we began with a song of praise, followed by prayer, a sharing, a teaching and a discussion period. This is what happened every meeting over the weeks.

"With each consecutive meeting, we were introduced to Christ. They showed us where to look, to see what He did and why He did it. He became our friend. He became my friend. Through the biblical passages we learned that He loved us with a perfect love. Then we were intro-

duced to the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent in His stead to be with us always. We learned about the miracle that takes place in the lives of those who ask Jesus into their lives.

"Ever since I attended this seminar, I felt the presence of that Omniscient Being in my life. With a suddenness that at first confused me, then later bemused, I found my conscience working overtime, telling me where I'd been going wrong. My laziness and procrastination suddenly became an uncomfortable habit. Bringing smiles to my parents' faces and hearing my sisters laugh now seemed of major importance. Schoolwork became more interesting and I found joy to be able to do errands for my parents.

"Suddenly, I began to notice my surroundings with great attention to detail. Everything took on a wondrous luster, nature's beauty became a fascinating discovery.

"I could see, as if for the first time, without any prejudice the reasons behind the actions of my family. I perceived why they became irritable, and instead of reacting in the same manner as I usually did, I would try to soothe them by answering as reasonably as I could, without losing my temper.

"CYA, through the CLS, has made an astounding difference in my life. It has made me more sympathetic to the needs of others and sensitive to the daily miracles that God has been creating to make the world beautiful and happy. Since I invited Jesus into my life, it has become something precious to be savored and remembered, touched as it is by the wonder that only God's splendor could bring."

*To reach a high spot, you need a ladder.
So, to reach the height of greatness, use
the ladder of humility.*

- St. Augustine

6:15 FELLOWSHIP NOW WEEKLY

The 6:15 Fellowship is now being held weekly at the Arc Cuisine (formerly Dates n' Nuts), along Jupiter Street in Bel Air, Makati. Innovations in the program's format have been made; instead of a guest sharer, at least 2 or 3 regular BCBP members give impromptu testimonies or mini-sharings about how the Lord is working in their lives.

Dinner and fellowship are from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.; the prayer meeting follows with worship and sharings.

In yet another innovation and in response to many requests, the 6:15, formerly an all male fellowship, has opened its doors to women. Those attending are mostly single men and women from the various Metro Manila chapters who bring along friends, acquaintances, office mates and relatives as guests. The group also welcomes married men and women in the Brotherhood to attend and to bring their professional children, single or married, along with them.

We Apologize: The newly appointed Mission Director of Dagupan is Nelson Yuchongtian, not Ramky Yupangco as reported in the Dec.-Jan. KAPATIRAN.

Bacolod Outreach

THE RHYTHM QUICKENS

1990 saw an increase in the Bacolod outreach activities. Christian Life Programs were held in the months of May and November graduating 34 and 46 respectively. 15 couples joined the Cebu outreach for the BCMR.

49 men's breakfasts were held with an average attendance of 67 businessmen and professionals. The Bacolod ladies' breakfasts began in July and were held every first Saturday with 80 to 90 women usually attending.

Hermie Rodil, Alabang's Bacolod outreach coordinator, says that more CLPs are being scheduled for 1991 with the objective of building up the Bacolod brothers and sisters to then reach out to Iloilo.

Keeping In Touch PEACE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Nene P. Tayag, Alabang Chapter

Shalom! May God's peace be with you, brothers and sisters. I find it aptly fitting to start with the greeting of peace. And speaking of peace, isn't it what we are all praying for at this particular time? God's peace is what we need especially now when everybody gets caught up in this crisis we are presently undergoing.

With the start of the new year, God gives us His peace not the way we want it but as He wants it in His own way. In my prayer time, I came before the Lord to ask the Holy Spirit to fill my mind with His thoughts so I could give Him honor and glory as I write my column for this issue. I was taken aback when the thought that came was about the recent death of my mother-in-law who died last January 10 of cancer of the liver and pancreas.

Again in prayer I asked the Holy Spirit to remind me of my experiences of life and not of death. The answer was clear through the first line of the refrain of the song entitled "We Belong To God", which goes, "for both in life and death we belong to God." The lyrics are taken from Romans 14:8: "If we live, it is for the Lord that we live, and if we die, it is for the Lord that we die. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."

At first I was hesitant to write about the subject of death. Honestly, I

never enjoy talking about it, the more I don't want to write about it. But I realized that, in faith, I should follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Death of a loved one brings sorrow. This sorrow I have indeed experienced. But the Lord tells us that death is the beginning of eternal life. St. Paul writes in 2 Cor. 5:1: "For we know that when this tent we live in - our body here on earth - is torn down, God will have a

house in heaven for us to live in, a home I himself has made, which will last forever."

Every time I attend a burial, I experience peace as the mortal body is being laid to rest. I am confident that when the body of our earthly dwelling place lies in death, we gain an everlasting place in heaven. God has promised us this very thing and He has given us His Spirit as pledge of making His plan be fulfilled in us.

Jesus chose to die on the cross out of love for mankind, for you and for me. In Romans 6:4 we learn that by our baptism, we have been buried with Jesus and shared His death in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. God has given us a Helper, the Holy Spirit, that we may receive

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Romans 6:8-9



power to share not only in Jesus' death but also in his resurrection.

Because of this, I have always anticipated Lent and Easter celebration with utmost peace and joy. I look at Good Friday not as a day of sorrow but as a day of joy for I share in Jesus' death on the cross. After Good Friday, I always anticipate Easter Sunday with greater hope that again I will be assured of a share in His resurrection.

It is only when I learned to understand the true meaning of peace that I can accept death as my way of being united with my Creator.

How can I find true peace? Not by my will but by God's will. My way of life is not the way I want it but as God wants it for me. Whatever God sends my way each day, with God's grace I should be able to accept it with a joyful and obedient disposition.

The closer I come to God, the more prone to trials and sufferings I become. But as long as I hold on to God, He gives me His strength which enables me to endure all kinds of trials like physical ailments, material difficulties, sin areas that seem unyielding, death in the family. With God's peace in me I can accept whatever comes my way.

Being at peace with God has inspired me to welcome death not only for a loved one but more so for myself. Each night as I come before the Lord, I never fail to say this beautiful prayer.

"Dear Jesus, please stay with me as you lay me into a restful sleep and if You will to take me in my sleep, into your hands I commend my spirit. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of a peaceful sleep. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of a peaceful death. Only then will I find true happiness when I may see you face to face. In you, my God, my body will rest in hope that I may share with you a glorious resurrection. Amen."

BCBP QUEZON CITY NEWS

FAMILY SUNDAYS SET FOR 1991

The morning of the fourth Sunday of each month has been designated as the Quezon City chapter's Family Sunday. However instead of fun and games, the spiritual formation for members and their children is the emphasis.

The typical program every fourth Sunday begins with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. followed by a short break during which snacks will be served. Then age groupings will be formed for prayers, spiritual formation teachings and workshops on Basic Christian Living.

Romy Limuaco, head of the Family Life Program Ministry, said that the family members will be divided into four groups for purposes of formation. The children of the members will be grouped into three age classifications: eleven years old and below (children), twelve to sixteen years old (young adults) and seventeen years old and above (college and young professionals). Formation and teaching activities will be tailored according to the age group needs.

Assisting Romy and Nancy Limuaco in Family Life are Art and Lally dela Cruz, Ramky and Kathy Yupangco, Joey and Norma Tabarangao and the chapter's single men headed by Emy Magdangal.

1991 SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Benjie Quinto, chapter head, recently announced several new appointments in chapter service ministries for 1991. With the expected increase in membership due to the planned holding of three CLPs during the year, these appointments will help to streamline and strengthen the chapter's service to its members.

Nani Magbanua has been appointed to head the liturgical services ministry, tasked with the main responsibility of overseeing and assisting in Eucharistic Celebrations for the chapter. Jun Capacillo assumes the position as head of the music ministry to take over from Vic de Veyra who will be handling the teaching services ministry. Assisting Jun and Vic are Rayben Mague and Jay Brillantes respectively.

Other new appointments are Lito Consunji who will assist Emy Magdanga in the external services of the chapter. Oca and Mila Balaoing as couple head for the chapter's secretariat. Cenon Sambalido serves as head of leaders' formation assisted by Val de Guzman, and Gerry Tabares and Roy Calleja for the LSS teams.

A new unit has been added under the headship of Roy and Janet Calleja, service heads of CLP 16.

Quezon City Chapter CLP No. 17

Starts February 23, 1991
(Orientation Day)

2:00 p.m.

Venue: Alfredo's Steak
House, Tomas Morato Ave.,
Diliman, Q.C.

Service Team Head: Gerry
and Cecille Tabares

CHAPTER SERVICE ASSIGNMENTS

March	Alabang
April	Greenhills
May	Las Pinas

FAMILY & SPORTS DAY
Makati and Greenhills

June	Quezon City
July	Makati

11th ANNIVERSARY
Alabang and Las Pinas

During my early life I was not aware of God's plans for me. I had my own plans: marry a good man, get a good job, earn a decent income, become a loving wife and mother, and be a credit to the family. On the other hand, I

had a list of things I wanted God to do for me; protect my babies; give me patience; teach my husband to spend more time at home; bring peace to my parent's home, and many others. In short, I had a one-sided relationship with a distant God.

Things began to change, however, with the CLP. My father-in-law requested Eddie and me to join the BCBP's Christian Life Program, a request which I silently supported, but which my husband chose to ignore until the last minute. But Eddie's father set him up because for Papang's birthday, he made only one request of Eddie - attend the first CLP session as his gift to his father.

The CLP had a strong impact on us and this marked the beginning of our spiritual growth as a couple and as individuals. Of course it was not an overnight process. For me, in fact, it was a slow and overpowering process.

God Became Real to Me

In His own way, God used the CLP to transform my faith by literally making Himself come alive in my daily life. I watched as He revealed Himself through the many teachings during the CLP, through the songs we sang, through the discussions that we had. He was revealing Himself to me when I started to read the Bible with my heart. He was showing me what He was like, pointing out to me what He wanted. He often explained how much He loved me.

I then realized that all along throughout my life He was holding me by the hand and carrying me through difficult times. Through the CLP I discovered that God really does love me and -- for the first time in my life -- I learned that I could have a personal relationship with the Lord. I

CHRIST IS NOW OUR BYWORD

Daisy Mendoza, Greenbills Chapter

used to simply believe that God exists (the same way that I believe that Venus is a planet that orbits the sun). But now I know He exists (the same way that I know I have a husband who cares and whom I can turn to for love and comfort).

He Is My Friend

Through regular prayer, I have developed a sense of being one with Him. Whereas before my renewal my prayers were mere recitations, now my prayers have become true dialogues with the Lord. I learned how to do this from the examples of sharers, from the characters in the Bible, and from Christ Himself.

God has shown me that He is not a distant God-King but a loving God-friend. I used to think of Him as a supreme, un-touchable Being, ready to punish when sins are committed. But I was wrong; God has shown me that He is a patient, forgiving, merciful and loving God.

And when He showed me how patient He had been with my own failures and weaknesses, I became less critical of other people. For instance, at home I used to in-

*God is not a distant
God-King
but a loving God-Friend.*

sist to the maids that, whenever they wipe the figurines on our shelves, they should return them in the exact same place. If not, mainit na ang ulo ko. However, the Lord, acting just like a concerned friend, taught me my lesson in a gentle but effective way. When I was asked to help someone else clean

up her room, I found it hard remembering where everything was kept. Then I realized how hard it must have always been for my maids. As I silently asked for God's forgiveness, the Lord healed me

of that anxiety.

Order In My Daily Life

I now believe that God is the source of all that I am and all that I have. Thus I have learned to pray for anything and everything, no matter how trivial: the household budget, the weekly men-relationships with maids, and so on. I often refer to Philippians 4:6-7 for strength.

For instance, I used to get so anxious preparing for special events at home and at school for the children. Things would have to be in order a day before. When some last minute thing would go wrong, I would panic. Now instead of panicking, I pray and let God do the rest for me and somehow, as if miraculously, things would turn out better than if I had planned.

I learned that problems need not come in big proportions before they are turned over to God. I know my husband expects a lot from me being a full time housewife. Twenty-four hours in a day are sometimes not enough time to do all I must do and want to do. Some days I work hard all day without seemingly accomplishing much; other days I find myself bored with nothing to do.

I used to be defeated by all these ups and downs in my schedule but I have found that praying as soon as I wake up, offering the day to the Lord, gives me peace and order in the home. I experience calmness in handling the day's activities, my priorities fall into place, and tolerance, patience and understanding prevail.

My Desires Have Changed

Before, I was one frustrated window shopper as there were so many things I wanted and my budget was so limited. I loved beautiful things like housewares,

clothes, shoes and jewelry.

With God's grace, I still desire beautiful things but my attitude toward beauty has changed. Now I experience great joy just seeing flowers, fields, towering mountains, azure skies, happy faces, chirping birds, every little and great thing of God's creation. I echo the psalmist who sang: How manifold are your works, O Lord; in your wisdom you have wrought them all! (Psalm 104:24)

My Family Life Is Renewed

I can see that God is truly working in the lives of people close to me. Since Eddie's renewal, my workaholic, strict and impatient husband has begun to redirect his priorities in favor of the Lord, of his family, and of his service to the Lord. Eddie makes dinnertime an occasion for us to thank God for every thing that has occurred during the day. Every Sunday after Mass, he takes us all out to have fun together. We have become open to each other emotionally, financially and spiritually. We pray together and attend Mass even on ordinary days. This is one of God's greatest blessings which I have received, namely, the time that Eddie now spends with me and the children.

In our home, Christ has now become the byword. The children talk about Him, pray and live His word in their own innocent ways. And they continue to listen with awe to the stories about how God has affected our lives and the lives of others. This has made them more sensitive to God's hand in their own lives. They, too, have learned to share their experiences with us.

Through the renewal and the Brotherhood community, the Holy Spirit has helped our family grow in the knowledge and love of Christ. And because we have submitted ourselves to God's Kingship over our home, He has seen fit to reward us with a foretaste of His Kingdom of peace and love.

In Jesus' Presence

I was touched when I read the sharings in the Dec.-Jan. KAPATIRAN because I found my own experience echoed. When I was young, I loved the Sto. Nino, and I knew that He was following me wherever I went. This was the beginning of my realization of Christ's presence in my life. So even before entering the Brotherhood I was asking to see Jesus.

During my baptism in the Holy Spirit and since that time, Jesus has come into my life in a new way. As I kneel during my prayertime He comes in His flowing white robes and stands in front of me. Now I can see Him and I have found great happiness and peace.

Susan Olarte
Makati Chapter

Thank You for Your Prayers

I would like to thank all my brothers and sisters in Christ for their prayers for my Mom's operation and my safe return to the Philippines. My mother underwent a total knee replacement on Nov. 29 and now can walk normally even without a cane. I thank God for her successful operation, quick recovery and for regaining the full use of her leg.

My two-month's stay with Mom in upstate New York (7 miles from the Canadian border) was a working vacation for me as I was nurse, housekeeper and moral supporter as well as mother and tutor to my 9 yr. old granddaughter Bianca whom I had brought with me. I thank God that inspite of it being my first winter (averaging -20 C) in 28 years and Bianca's first experience in cold and snow, we did not catch even a mild cold. Our trip back was uneventful inspite of the war jitters.

One thing I missed greatly during this visit to my Mom's was our BCBP community activities and fellowship. I realized then what a great difference and impact the Brotherhood has made in my life. I continue to thank God for bringing me into the

Full Time for the Lord

Everytime I visit Citibank after I retired in 1986, people would ask me, "What are you doing now?" To which I answer, staying home, counting grandchildren and spending more time in church work. Inevitably their rejoinder, "How nice to be able to work 'full time for the Lord!'"

This comment jolts me because I believe that in whatever we do and wherever we are, the Lord expects us to be working 'full time' for Him. Pertinent scriptures come to mind: Col. 3:23 and Matt. 6:33. By putting His Kingship over us, letting Him be the Top Boss, somehow things naturally fall into place leading us to experience His brand of peace and freedom from want and anxiety.

For me, personally, the realization that my time is pure gift from the Giver of all good things, came as a bit of a shock. I used to think I was the sole proprietor of MY time, only to find out that that, too, is a free, unmerited gift (and I don't even know how much time I've got.) Like all gifts, I am accountable for it!

If we profess to be Christians, we have to make a point about it -- in all that we do, in how we render service. I believe that it is God's plan for us to have control, to "have dominion over all creation" and this includes our work, whatever that work happens to be, because that's what He wants us to do for the moment.

We must be full-time Christians in our work, our pastime, our hobbies, our home and family life. In all we do, He is the Top Boss and we are accountable to Him. He expects us to be working full time for Him! Are we?

Tita Cerdania
Alabang Chapter

BCBP and for each of you who make the community alive in Christ.

Nancy R. Catan
Makati Chapter

CREATIVITY IN THE MARKETPLACE

A Better Business Strategy for Effective Nation Building

Creativity in business is not only an important factor for business progress but is also a needed catalyst for effective nation building. We see placards with calls for national discipline, reconciliation, belt-tightening, better garbage disposal and peace, yet what is needed as a starter is more creativity in business. This is the point that Dr. Aurora H. Roldan, president of the Talented and Gifted Philippines Foundation, Inc., sets forth in her paper on creativity in business published in the December 1990 issue of the Manila Digest.

Bright Ideas That Work

Dr. Roldan defines creativity as "the production of novel and useful ideas by an individual or small group of individuals working together". Creativity is "effective innovation; bright ideas that work." As such, creativity requires an attitude of flexibility, an open mind, a propensity toward innovativeness and original thinking.

These are precisely the qualities that are needed for approaching the problems facing the nation today. But many times people in government hesitate to try new and fresh approaches for various reasons, and if they try, their efforts get lost in the very nature and structure of government that requires sufficient time to study, evaluate, approve and implement changes. And then there is the budget to consider, the different politicians involved, and the pervading political environment.

But, Dr. Roldan says, business organizations are presumed to be more open to new ideas and innovations than other institutions. They have the resources to make changes, and most businesses realize their social and moral obligation to uplift the society around it.

"The results of our survey of 50 business leaders (selected on the basis of that definition of success) bore out our hypothesis quite convincingly. Knowledge one can acquire. Technical skills one can train for. Even inter-per-

sonal techniques one can study to develop. And, in truth, these abilities may even enable a hard worker to rise through the ranks and win the top position in an organization."

The Extra Spark

"But it takes an extra spark, a special something, to make him or her truly successful as a business leader -- and cause the organization to shine as a result. That extra spark is creativity."

Dr. Roldan believes that the business world, which prides itself in being responsive and "in touch" with things, should set the example in sparking and keeping the light of creativity alive. She would like to see the firms of progressive business leaders tapping the great numbers of gifted and talented among our Filipino youth. Business could provide them with practical, relevant, and socially-responsible endeavors to utilize their great abilities, fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Creativity training should be stressed among upcoming business, social and political leaders. "I believe that with such training, our nation's economic future need not be as bleak as it seems today," she says.

"Creativity as a people calls for a reworking -- not a mere throwing out -- of ways we have grown too accustomed to, of mindsets we have become too comfortable with, of values and traditions we have been upholding without questioning why. It will entail reorientation of what is best in ourselves, a rebirth of our identity as a nation with dignity and integrity."

These are big words, big hopes. However, Dr. Roldan throws out the challenge to the Philippine business world, specially to business and professional leaders, to begin cultivating an atmosphere of creativity in their businesses and professions and to take pride in making new ideas work. Then, perhaps, we can look forward to duplicating these innovative projects and programs and show the way for government to do the same.

The Best and The Greatest

- The Best Day - Today
- The Best Play - Work
- The Greatest Puzzle - Life
- The Greatest Thought - God
- The Greatest Mystery - Death
- The Best Teacher - Experience
- The Greatest Need - Common Sense
- The Finest Thing in the World - Love
- The Best Town - Where You Succeed
- The Most Ridiculous Asset - Pride
- The Secret of Production - Saving Waste
- The Greatest Loss - The Ten Commandments
- The Most Dangerous Person - A Hypocrite
- The Most Disagreeable Person - A Complainer
- The Cheapest, Easiest Thing To Do - Find Fault
- The Biggest Fool - A Person Not Willing to Learn
- The Greatest Invention of the Devil - War
- The Greatest Deceiver - One Who Deceives Himself
- The Worst Bankruptcy - The Soul That Lost Enthusiasm

Bosses vs. Leaders

Bosses drive their people . . . leaders coach them.

Bosses inspire fear . . . leaders, enthusiasm.

Bosses say, "Get here on time," . . . leaders get there ahead of time.

Bosses fix the blame for the breakdown . . . leaders fix the breakdown.

Bosses say, "Go," . . . leaders say, "Let's go."

Bosses use people . . . leaders develop them.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR BETTER HEALTH

1. Quit smoking.
2. Eat a variety of foods.
3. Exercise more (body and mind!).
4. Watch TV less. Read a good book.
5. Worry less, plan more, pray even more.
6. Drink more water, drink less alcohol and coffee.
7. Promise never to say "I'm too old for that" again.
8. Reduce fats and cholesterol in your diet.
9. Think of a new way to spice up your love life.
10. Cry more, laugh more, hug more, smile a lot.
11. Walk more, drive or ride less.
12. Tie up the emotional loose ends in your life (the "If only I had" and "I wish I'd said") now.
13. Improve your posture.
14. Eat a better breakfast.
15. Wear only shoes that fit.
16. Never kill the urge to be silly.
17. Write more, phone more, make more friends.
18. Trust completely in the Lord.
19. Sing at least one song every day.
20. Walk in the presence of the Lord.

23RD PSALM

A Japanese Translation

The Lord is my Pace setter - I shall not rush
 He makes me stop for quiet intervals
 He provides me with images of
 stillness which
 Restore my serenity.
 He leads me in ways of efficiency through
 Calmness of mind
 And his guidance is peace.
 Even though I have a great many things to
 Accomplish each day, I will not fret,
 For His presence is here.
 His timelessness, His all importance, will
 Keep me in balance.
 He prepares refreshment and renewal
 in the midst of my activity.
 By anointing my mind with His oils of
 Tranquility,
 My cup of joyous
 Energy
 Overflows.
 Truly harmony and
 effectiveness
 Shall be the fruits
 Of my hours
 For I shall walk in
 The Pace
 Of my Lord
 And dwell in His
 House
 Forever.



THE MEGABLESSING

Mari R. Caballero, Makati Chapter

"Iyan lang! (referring to my impossible demand), the Lord will give that! he who measures the universe with the span of his hand will give that. I'll pray for that intention and you'll see."

I countered with, "If He will give it, it will be the sign that I was meant to serve in the Brotherhood ... and I'll even be willing to share at the Ladies' breakfast."

Behind my impossible demand were a lot of frustrations at work. I have been a diligent and devoted employee for the past 9 years, but have had very little to show for it. I had been bypassed twice for promotion by people who were junior to me and less experienced in those particular jobs. I experienced a lot of discrimination from my former bosses who openly played favorites to people who excelled in office politics rather than in professional skills.

But deep in my heart I felt the Lord was watching and seeing all this happen and with encouragement from my spouse who kept on assuring me that the Lord is just and faithful, I kept my silence and trusted in the Lord.

One of my prayers was answered when an opportunity arose for a transfer of department within the company. At least it breathed some fresh air into my career putting me into better working hours, better colleagues and a new dimension in my career. It put me also in touch with many kinds of people, mostly businessmen with whom I am also able to share about the Lord and the renewal.

Still, I could not leave behind easily the injustice which I had suffered in the past and continuously hoped for the Lord's faithfulness. One of my fantasies was to be awarded the Managing Director's Award, which to me would already be an all-time career accomplishment, some sort of a vindication for the

past injustices as well. The award was looked upon as a Nobel Peace prize within the company. But the odds against garnering the award were huge. No Singaporean had won it. No Filipino in all the existence of the company had gotten it. A very strict committee reviewed all nominations in codes to guard against any favoritism.

But there wasn't anything wrong with trying plus my new boss, a go-getter, supported my nomination. We typed it out together at the last minute and mailed it to the head office with our prayers.

On Sept. 24, 1990, I reported early for work. Our station manager approached me and handed me a letter simply saying that it was for me and that he wanted me to read it immediately. THAT WAS IT! I had been selected to receive the 1990 Award and my spouse and I were invited to personally receive the award in Singapore. PRAISE GOD!

I looked at the date of the letter: September 10, 1990. That meant that almost to the very day that my husband exclaimed in faith that the Lord would give my impossible demand was the day I had been selected by the committee to receive the award. What a truly faithful and just Lord He is!

In the day of my distress I call upon you, for You will answer me.

Psalm 86:7

I immediately called up my husband in his office to tell him the good news and he shouted, "You see! You see! I knew He would give it!" And sheepishly I added, "And that means I have to be in the Brotherhood." And that "You must share!" he added in a tone that suggested "I gotcha!"

Actually, he explained that it had been his prayer intention since the start of our leave that the Lord enlighten me with an eye-opening experience which will restore me to love and service in the Lord. He also explained that my heavy concern for my career injustices had hindered my spiritual growth to the point that serving had become a burden.



Mari R. Caballero is awarded the 1990 Managing Director's Award of Singapore Airlines recently in Singapore. Handing her the award is Managing Director Dr. Cbeong Cboong Kong. This award is the biggest form of recognition given to an individual who has consistently provided outstanding service on the ground to the airline's passengers. Mari is the first Filipino to receive the award.

Spiritually, I was worn out. In spite of my husband's insistence that I was in the midst of trial and oppression from the evil one, I felt I could not cope anymore with the pace that was needed to remain in the Brotherhood. Pressure from my workload did not help either, I was just going through the motions in complying with my commitment card.

We discussed the matter and reluctantly he acceded to my request for an indefinite leave from the Brotherhood. I was so burned out from pressure on all sides that I set an impossible demand as a condition for my return to the Brotherhood -- that I receive the Singapore Airlines Managing Director's Award. It was very close to saying "Pagputi ng uwak!" One positive thing about it was that my husband supported me by saying that he would go on leave himself, as a gesture of putting the "house" in order before becoming active in the chapter life again.

But in the same breath he said in faith

But the Lord in transcending all the odds showed that beyond all our earthly concerns, He would want us all to do our share in serving His people and keeping Him in the center of our lives.

*"For he is a living God, enduring forever;
his kingdom shall not be destroyed,
and his dominion shall be without end.*

*He is a deliverer and savior,
working signs and wonders
in heaven and on earth,
and he delivered Daniel from the
lions' power."*

Daniel 7:27-28

Note: Last January 9, 1991, Marl and Ronnie Caballero delivered a joint sharing at the Makati Chapter Breakfast. They are now back in the BCBP serving as Action Group Leaders.

AN EXPERIENCE IN GOD'S HEALING

Ben Aganon, Greenhills Chapter

When Eric Teotico asked me if I could join the service team to lead the Music Ministry in the first Life in the Spirit Seminar of the Greenhills chapter for their mission to be held at the Center for Peace, I said, "Yes." My wife and I prayed to the Lord that He might grant us the time and strength to serve in that LSS as we knew that the devil's tricks would surely test and try to prevent us from being in service for the Lord.

As the LSS drew nearer, my wife and children got sick, pressures mounted from the office. We experienced financial difficulties. And I felt worse than usual; I had been diagnosed with a kidney problem and had been having constant pain in my body for the past six months. Similar oppressions were happening to other members of the service team, too. We continued to pray and with God's loving care and concern, everything took a turn for the good.

The LSS started and proceeded smoothly. As I listened to the speakers, events flashed in my mind about the wonderful miracles of the Lord that are happening even today. It was Sunday afternoon. While we were waiting for the participants to finish their one-on-one with their discussion leaders, I was asked to proceed to the vigil room to pray and intercede for the participants.

In the vigil room with everyone praying and praising the Lord, the Holy Spirit's presence was really felt. Suddenly I found myself praying, not for the participants, but for myself, asking the Lord for healing. I could not control my tears as I begged the Lord to touch and heal me. Then, brothers and sisters started laying their hands on me and began praising, interceding for me, claiming and believing in the

healing power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

As the prayers continued, I remembered a verse in the Bible that I had come across before the start of the LSS. It reads: "When you pray and ask for

something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for."

A warm feeling enveloped my body; I could feel the touch of the Holy Spirit upon me. Yes, brothers and sisters, I asked the Lord for healing, believing that He would heal me, and He gave me

the healing! That same moment the pain disappeared and I knew that I was healed. I thank God for His marvelous ways and this great blessing He gave to me and my family.

This experience has deepened our faith and strengthened our commitment to do God's work. As I was reflecting on my healing, I came across the song titled "Lord, Here I Am." The words are so appropriate for those of us who are serving the Lord.

"Lord, here I am to answer your call.

Lord, here I am to serve and love you.
I have left everything just to follow you.

Here is my heart, here is my soul, here is my whole self.

I am for you and you alone."

I remember in my prayer in the vigil room, I offered my body and soul to the Lord and the good Lord took them and replaced them with a new body and a renewed soul. To the only God, to Him be honor and glory forever and ever, Amen. Praise God!



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THE BIRDS OF THE AIR

One of my favorite pastimes at my Mom's home in Chazy, New York, is watching the birds come to eat at her three bird feeders. The feeders are placed right outside the kitchen window so we can watch the birds whenever we sit down at the table to eat. Every morning I would sit at the table, watch the sun rise over the distant snowy mountains, read my Bible and have my morning prayers. By the time I had finished the birds would be coming for their morning meal.

The yellow finches come in flocks and nervously perch on the feeders, easily quarreling over the desired place on the feeder. The chickadees are smaller and plumper than the finches and not as nervous in their feeding. Sometimes there would be sparrows, once in a while a woodpecker and some purple finches.

It was most interesting to watch these small birds try to find the birdseed when the feeders were covered with several inches of snow. In community they flew around the feeders brushing the snow away with their wings until they could get at the seed. When a feeder was empty, they would keep returning every few minutes to check if we had filled the feeder yet; they didn't easily get discouraged. They trusted that we would not let them go away hungry.

As I watched the antics of these lively little birds, I was reminded of the verse in Matthew 6 where Jesus tells us: "Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they?"

We also have a feeder with abundant food in it to go to: the Word of God.

How do we approach this source of our spiritual food? Maybe we should imitate the birds in their natural ways. We need to look for the food that will nourish us, to keep coming back and searching for it until we find it. The birds did not get discouraged; why should we get discouraged if at first we fail to understand what we read in God's Word?

The birds come to the feeders usually in flocks; one bird alone cannot brush away the snow to get at the birdseed. The Brotherhood is our flock, our community. What I may be unable to understand of God's Word by myself, many times together with my brothers and sisters in Christ and in community His message for me becomes clearer and easily understandable.

Different birds prefer different seeds. I may like the Psalms and the letters of Paul; others may find inspiration in the gospels, or in the books of the prophets. But all of us may be nourished through God's Word.

God uses my Mom as the channel of His grace for those small birds. She keeps the feeders filled with birdseed throughout the cold winter season. The birds know where to come when the weather turns cold.

And God watches over us as He does the birds. When He sees that our stomachs or our souls are empty or dry, it is not long before He supplies what we need. He sends us what we need via different channels: spiritual nourishment and inspiration through the bible, guidance and teaching through the Church, and the blessing of Christian fellowship and community in the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals.

How great is our God! N.R.C.

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**OUR LORD REIGNS!
MAY HE BE PRAISED
ALWAYS!**

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed herein are those of the writer and should not be read as the official opinion of the Brotherhood.

It takes a serious reading of Fr. Herb's Message in the latest Annual Souvenir to really know and understand the mission of the BCBP. His message clarifies the issue of priorities in the Brotherhood's set of goals and objectives.

For our second decade of operation, Fr. Herb prays that we may put into concrete actions the Gospel values we have internalized from the BCBP formation and teaching tracts. This means actively manifesting these values in the exercise of our specific charisms -- as stewards of material and human resources which must be so organized and deployed as to glory and honor to their Creator.

Agents of Change

Fr. Herb also prays that our efforts may seep down to the benefit of the least among our brothers and sisters in our society. In other words, there ought to be more emphasis now on the application of the Word in our business and professional lives such that all of us may become effective "agents of change" in the service of God's Kingdom.

This reflection somehow provides a fitting context to the observation of some Las Pinas Mission Team members during a recent planning meeting. They noted that certain substantive aspects of the Brotherhood's evangelization thrust are practical by the same as those of a sister organization. Aside from conducting CLPs, the latter also allegedly has an evangelization program designed to bring the Gospel into companies, similar to the BCBP's "Business Evangelization Service."

With Eyes of Faith PRIORITIES AND SCENARIOS

Kytt Mier, Las Pinas Chapter

The "Men's Breakfast" seems to be the only differentiating elements between the two organizations.

This observation leads to the inescapable conclusion that there must be a duplication of activities somewhere. If this is so, what does it make of the BCBP? How could this situation be resolved?

Among the several alternative approaches in addressing this question, the following seems to be the best: to encourage and assist our sister organization in their current evangelization thrust, including "Business Evangelization." In view of their numbers and geographic spread, they may be more likely to succeed in this endeavor.

New Orientation Scenario

The BCBP, on the other hand, could now start retooling its teaching and formation services in order to concentrate on doing what it is intended for in the first place -- to actively influence the socioeconomic and political milieu through members who will apply Gospel values in their decisions.

It will be interesting to project a possible scenario for this "new" orientation. The revised teaching tracts of the Brotherhood will most likely include talks on "The Christian and His/Her Investment Decisions," "Productivity in the Christian Enterprise," "Gospel Values in Public Service," "Media as Christ's Mouthpiece," "The Service of Christian Soldiers," "Stewardship and Political Power,"

"Beyond Social Action: Serving the Underprivileged through the BCBP's Special Charisms," and others. The objective of these talks is to arm the BCBP members so that they can effectively apply Gospel values in their respective work places.

This teaching thrust will be complemented by a leadership program designed to enable the various BCBP chapters to organize, mobilize and sustain capital and resources around socioeconomic structures and activities that can maximize Gospel values and minimize the influence of the world in business. It is also designed to give professionals in BCBP, particularly those in public service, a support system where they can draw immediate strength in their daily struggle to become effective instruments of God's Will as they participate in shaping public policy.

Gospel Values in Real Life

The BCBP Breakfast will be retained in this scenario. However, it will now serve more than being an entry-point for new members. It will also become a venue where businessmen and professionals would sit down to really plan out their approach to certain BCBP programs or projects. The usual sharing will remain, but the sharing itself will focus more and more on how Gospel values were applied to specific, real-life situations particularly in the workplace. After the sharing and announcements, those brothers/sisters with projects to undertake could stay around to discuss common undertakings in a way similar to the "Kapihan sa Alabang" of old.

Action Group Meetings and chapter assemblies shall continue to be held, retaining their basic purpose of providing spiritual and psycho-social support for all BCBP members.

Scenarios are like dreams. They do not happen unless people move to make them into realities. But so is the BCBP's Vision and Mission, which will remain as beautiful statements on paper while awaiting for us members to grow up and be equal to their challenge. The young Samuel could not have grown into a powerful Judge of the Israelites, had he stayed silent and still in his bed after hearing Yahweh's call.

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ONE MINUTE MEDITATIONS

Fernando de Larrazabal

(1)

"For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

What makes a good Catholic? There are some who measure their religiosity by the number of masses they participate in or by the sinless life they have led. These are people who have never killed, have never stolen, have never committed adultery, nor have ever harmed anyone.

Up to this point they should be commended, but Christianity does not end with acts of piety. What is relevant is whether they have done any good. Avoiding evil is not sufficient, doing good is also part of our Christian heritage and commitment.

Christ's life exemplified what Christians are expected to do. The gospels reveal how Jesus went around doing good. Our Catholic faith teaches us that good works is part of our tradition and commitment. The Lord will judge us by what we have done to the least of his brothers.

(2)

"You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14)

This is one of the ten commandments of God. But this is one of the most abused of his commandments. People don't seem to take this one seriously. In fact, there is an ongoing joke about an imaginary 11th commandment which is, "Thou shall not get caught." But who is kidding who? Does anyone believe that he can escape from God's watchful eye?

Marriages have been destroyed and families set apart by these indiscretions. The enjoyment of the moment has split apart the foundation formed through years of loyal commitment. The trust once lost is difficult to regain. The innocent children are the big losers. Sometimes they are wrenched from one of the parents and this separation forms a scar that they carry throughout their lifetime. Are these results worth the enjoyment of the moment? What about God's judgment?

These Minute Meditations are part of an ongoing series by BCBP Exec. Director Fernando de Larrazabal. They are translated into several dialects and are aired several times daily, nationwide on 42 stations, free of charge, through the facilities of the Radio Mindanao Network.

How Old Is Your Church?

IF YOU ARE a Lutheran, your religion was founded by Martin Luther, an ex-monk of the Catholic Church, in the year 1517.

IF YOU belong to the Church of England, your religion was founded by King Henry VIII in the year 1534 because the Pope would not grant him a divorce with the right to re-marry.

IF YOU ARE a Presbyterian, your religion was founded by John Knox in Scotland in the year 1560.

IF YOU ARE a Protestant Episcopalian, your religion was an offshoot of the Church, of England founded by Samuel Seabury in the American colonies in the 17th century.

IF YOU ARE a Unitarian, Theophilus Lindley founded your church in London in 1774.

IF YOU ARE a Mormon (Latter Day Saints), Joseph Smith started your religion in Palmyra, N.Y. in 1829.

IF YOU ARE a Baptist, you owe the tenets of your religion to John Smith, who launched it in Amsterdam in 1605.

IF YOU ARE of the Dutch Reformed church, you recognize Michaelis Jones as founder, because he originated your religion in New York in 1628.

IF YOU worship with the Salvation Army, your sect began with William Booth in London in 1865.

IF YOU ARE a Christian Scientist, you look to 1879 as the year in which your religion was born and to Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy as its founder.

IF YOU belong to one of the religious organizations known as "Church of the Nazarene," "Pentecost Gospel," "Holiness Church," "Pilgrim Holiness Church," "Jehovah's Witnesses," your religion is one of the hundreds of new sects founded by men within the past fifty years.

IF YOU ARE Roman Catholic, you know that your religion was founded in the year 33 by Jesus Christ the Son of God, and it is still the same Church.



*Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth,
and the Life."*

John 14:6

A NON-SMOKER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank and praise you, loving and merciful Father, for giving me this day in which to live. Everything could have been perfect today except for a persistent problem which I want to tell You about.

I felt very bad again about a brother who has this nasty habit of smoking in the office. His smoke fills the room we're in and it makes me cough. In the afternoon, after a whole day of this, I feel nauseous and tired, my eyes hurt, and my hair and clothes smell foul.

I try hard not to think bad about him, Lord, but what can I do? When he asks me if I don't mind his smoking, I can't tell him straight how much I hate his detestable habit. This is because, his smoking habit aside, he is, like the rest of us, also a regular guy.

Lord, I'm helpless in this situation. I need you to strengthen me and give me courage to work for a better environment in our office, and in the world.

Forgive all of us for our weaknesses. Most of all, forgive my smoking brother for defiling his own body, which is Your temple. I try to remind him about this, but my efforts are in vain.

Forgive him for thinking only of his own relief and comfort, unmindful of the fact that he is hurting and slowly killing me and my other non-smoking office-mates with his deadly habit.

Forgive him also for possibly hurting and slowly killing members of his own family -- those You have given him to steward, particularly the children -- who, out of love for him -- or in spite of it -- are unable to speak out or convince him to change for good.

Forgive all those who, for gain and profit, encourage and reinforce his smoking habit: the manufacturers, the vendors, the advertisers and the numerous other smokers who share his vice.

Loving Father, give my brother the grace to be freed from this deadly bondage so that the energy he expends in puffing that useless and stupid smoke may be channeled instead to really giving You honor and glory in a life lived in purity and unadulterated service to You.

As for me, I need Your grace of patience and charity to continue forgiving him, and to persist in working for a truly clean and Christian environment in our office, in our country as well as in the whole world.

This I beg of You, Father, in the Mighty Name of Jesus. Amen!

Kytt Mier, Las Pinas Chapter

Passive Smoke Tied to Deaths

Reuters

DALLAS—A new medical study estimates that 53,000 nonsmokers die in the United States each year from diseases caused by inhaling tobacco smoke from others and that office workers are especially vulnerable.

The study, published in the January issue of the American Heart Association journal "Circulation," blames some 37,000 deaths annually from heart disease, 3,700 from lung cancer and 12,000 from other forms of cancer.

The authors said the study showed that passive smoking was now the third leading preventable cause of death in the United States, after active smoking and alcohol.

41 Get Prison Terms For Riots in Morocco

Agence France-Press

RABAT, Morocco—more people have been arrested by a court...

Gulf War Fears

...Mr. Hussein could find... rendering Kuwait, Iraq... other costs in trying to... Security Council. The... of getting other Gulf gov... to cancel Iraq's debts has...

Passive Smoke Tied to Deaths

...esday, the UN deadline for Iraq... to withdraw from Kuwait... Prime Minister John Major, who... just returned from a... to the Middle East and Foreign... Secretary Douglas Hurd will speak... during the debate...

CHAPTER NEWS

BCBP MEN'S BREAKFASTS

- Wednesdays - McDonald's, North Mall, Ayala Ctr., Makati
Thursdays - Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan
Fridays - Malacanang Canteen, Malacanang
Saturdays - Alfredo's Steak House, Tomas Morato Ave., Q.C.
- Ayala-Alabang Country Club, Alabang
- Lee Garden Restaurant RFC Bldg, Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Pinas
- Rolly's Restaurant, Bacolod City
2nd Thursdays - Phil. Navy, alternating venues, check with Navy coordinator Jun Catan, Makati chapter

MEN'S LUNCHEON

- 2nd, 4th Saturdays - Pinkee's Restaurant, Dagupan City

6:15 FELLOWSHIP

- Thursdays - Arc Cuisine, Jupiter St., Bel Air, open to both men and women

JOINT BREAKFASTS

- 1st Wednesdays - McDonald's, North Mall, Ayala Ctr., Makati
1st Saturdays - Lee Garden Restaurant, RFC Bldg, Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Pinas

LADIES' BREAKFASTS

- 1st Saturdays - Cafe Negrense, Bacolod City
2nd Saturdays - Alfredo's Steak House, Tomas Morato Ave., Q.C.
- Ayala-Alabang Country Club, Alabang

LADIES' LUNCHEONS

- 1st Thursdays - Arc Cuisine, Jupiter St., Bel Air
3rd Thursdays - Beijing Garden, Shaw Blvd (Ctr. for Peace), Mand.
3rd Saturdays - Pinkee's Restaurant, Dagupan

Note: At presstime, the schedules and venues had not been confirmed for Cebu, Cagayan de Oro or Palawan. However, regular breakfast or luncheon activities are on-going. Please get in touch with the chapter/outreach coordinators for details.

Makati Chapter

ORGANIZING FOR GROWTH

During the February 15 chapter assembly, chapter head Rolly Ona announced some organizational changes in the Makati chapter's structure, saying that these were made to help streamline and strengthen the chapter. "We need to more fully utilize our resources so that we can meet the growth challenges of 1991," he said.

Jess Manalo was appointed Mission Director, taking over from Jun Catan who will concentrate on building up the Navy outreach. Treasurer is Jules Villamor; Emma Ona will handle the secretariat. Ronnie Caballero serves as men's breakfast head while Nanette Ferreria is the ladies luncheon head. Jun Balingit leads the music ministry. Jun Catan heads the newly formed Worship Committee.

Fellowship activities will be handled by the unit of Joe Ferreria. Designated service team is composed of the action groups of Jules Villamor and Cheng Legaspi. Joy Maloles and Nancy Catan head the Teaching and Formation Ministry activities of the chapter.

The six units of the chapter are led by unit leaders Nards de Guzman, Joe Ferreria, Art Olarte, Vic Cuna, Joy Maloles and Lito Saguilayan.

Makati Chapter

NAVY OUTREACH SAILS ON

January 17 saw the Naval Support Command in Fort San Felipe, Cavite, hosting the monthly value formation breakfast for navy men and women as part of the ongoing joint military and BCBP's Navy outreach of the Makati chapter, reports Jun Catan who handles the Navy outreach activities of the Makati chapter. Sister Agnes Baizas shared her walk with the Lord with the group, emphasizing absolute trust and faith in the Lord's management of one's life.

The February breakfast participants, held on February 21 at Fort San Felipe, Cavite, heard Msgr. Gorgonio Zapatos, Jr., H.P., Naval Chief Chaplain tell of his recent experiences in attending the 2nd Plenary Council. Nancy Catan was the main sharer. Hosting the breakfast was the Naval Support Command.

The Philippine Fleet will sponsor the March breakfast. The date is March 14, the venue at the Naval Base in Cavite.

Makati Chapter

FORMATION ACTIVITIES LINED UP

The Makati chapter formation and teaching ministry has put together a program for the first semester of 1991 that includes a Lenten recollection, culture talks for CLP 16, orientation for new discussion and action group leaders, and a music ministry workshop.

March 5 sees the beginning of a new series of talks by Fr. Gerry Tapiador who will discuss the topic: Scriptural Basis of Catholic Doctrine. The series offered to all BCBP members will be held for 13 weeks, every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's church in Bel Air.

After this series is completed, the chapter will hold growth talks twice monthly for all chapter members on the practical application of Christianity in personal, family and business lives.

Second semester activities still being planned are a BCMR, a leaders' formation series, evangelization training, and Joy of Discovery workshops.

When We Cannot Pray

Sometimes a soul is unable to pray when in pain. This does not mean that it is any less attached to God.

It must be remembered that when we are well, we very often have a sensible feeling of our devotion and love of God.

When we come closer to God, this sensible feeling leaves us, and we are joined more to God, not by the interior or the exterior senses of the lower part of our soul, but by pure spirit.

- Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

WELCOME TO THE BCBP!

BROTHERS AND SISTERS of Cagayan de Oro CLP 1

Ping and Precing Almonia, Ed Abastas, Romy Bualat, Ed and Lita Canlas, Joe Mari Castellano, Dito and Tata dela Cerna, Boy Entece, Fanny and Demie Escara, Benjie and Fabs Gorospe, Joe and Vangie Herrera, Lynda Lugod, Fin and Nene Magaro, Amping and Nitz Magtajas, Tony Malferrari, Boy and Cenas Montellano, Bob Neri, Jess and Nena Paras, Frank and Nieva Penaflor, Dodong and Rita Racaza, Baby Raypon, Dee and Joie Raypon, Ric and Ellen Roa, Benny and Nene Roxas, Daisy San Jose, Maya Canlas and Nono Montellano.

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts. Marcus Aurelius

Alabang Chapter

A BUSY YEAR AHEAD

The Alabang chapter has a busy year ahead of it. Plans are underway for the doing of 3 CLPs, in the months of March, July and October, each to be followed by culture talks and BCMRs, announced Louie Morales, chapter head.

Two retreats are scheduled: the first semestral retreat will be a deepening retreat while the second semestral retreat will focus on spiritual growth.

The chapter's regular activities such as the men's and women's breakfasts, action group meetings, monthly Lord's Day celebrations, and quarterly chapter fellowships will continue in their usual rhythm.

Planned evangelization activities for 1991 include support for the newly opened outreach in Cagayan de Oro and the strengthening of the Bacolod outreach. The mission team headed by Tony Pedro also plans to reach out through Bacolod to Iloilo within this year.



On board the Asta-Japan boat on their way to Cagayan de Oro the Cebu BCBPers enjoy lively fellowship.

Cagayan de Oro

cont. from page 1

in Cagayan de Oro on January 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9 and 10 graduated 41 participants. The combined mission teams of BCBP Cebu and Alabang organized and conducted the CLP and were led by Sadi Saguisag of Cebu and Louie Morales of Alabang. The sessions were held at the Manresa retreat house (Xavier University) run by the Carmelite sisters.

Among the prominent businessmen and professionals who took the CLP No. 1 were Ed Canlas, president of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial Polytechnic State College, and Pablo Magtahas, Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City.

Course leader was Nap Polotan of Cebu, assisted by Ed Canlas of Cagayan de Oro. Ed Lising was head servant, Jhun Wong the recording secretary. Discussion leaders were Nap Polotan, Tito Nemenzo, Romy Du, Joc Eco, Kit Garcia, Ester Lising, Rose Tagulao, Elvie Du, Marite Congmon and Jimmy Escano.

The men's breakfasts began on January 12 at the La Estrella Hotel with 94 attending the first joint breakfast, 31 from Cebu, 6 from Alabang, and 57 from Cagayan de Oro. Lito Urgino inspired and greatly encouraged the group to attend the CLP. Men's breakfasts continued every Saturday thereafter with an average attendance from Cagayan de Oro of 35 men.

Sharers for the Cagayan de Oro breakfasts and CLP included Lito Urgino, Abel Santiago, Rey Datu, Elvie Du, Rene Almendras, Manny and Haydz Banigan, Tita Cerdania, Louie Morales and Sadi and

Ester Saguisag. Fr. Frank Tucker celebrated the Commitment Mass on Feb. 10.

Ed Canlas, newly designated outreach head, was instrumental in putting everything together for the birth of the Cagayan de Oro outreach. It was in August 1990, while attending a retreat in Cebu, that he learned about the BCBP activities through Romy Du, a BCBP Cebu action group leader. In August 1990 the first survey group of Nap Polotan, Romy Du and Ed Lising from Cebu together with their newly met Cagayan de Oro friends met with Bishop Jesus Tuquieb and received his blessing. Subsequent trips and orientation briefings were held in Cagayan de Oro on Sept. 10, Oct. 26, and Dec. 2 with the details for the men's breakfast and the CLP being finalized on January 4, 1991.

The Alabang mission team for the opening of the newest BCBP outreach was composed of Louie and Lili Morales, Tony and Fely Pedro, Bill and Dindy Gamboa, Charlie Carballo and Orly Neri.

Cebu volunteers for the mission and service teams were: Sadi and Ester Saguisag, Nap and Tellie Polotan, Ed and Ester Lising, Rene and Marides Almendras, Larry and Dedit Veloso, Romy and Elvie Du, Rene and Marite Congmon, Joe Eco, Romy and Rose Tagulao, Tito Nemenzo, Kit and Luming Garcia, Joe Catan, Jhun Wong, Jimmy Escano, Jeff and Flora Villa, Pilar Puno, Leo Luche, Romy Pepito, Butch and Roslyn Chiongbian, Mari and Chichi Martinez, Buddy Monteclaro, Connie Selma, Helen Yap, Fred and Meng Dela Cruz. Fr. Frank Tucker, Jojo Veloso, E.J. Polotan, Dodong Legaspi, Nonoy Concha, Tessie Gerona, Lynn Liu, Sol Dela Torre, Diane Acedo, Iris Polotan and Jingle Benitez.

THE BROTHERHOOD IS PEOPLE . . .

People of God . . .
People in community . . .
Brothers and sisters . . .
You and me . . .

