

JAN. - FEB, 1998

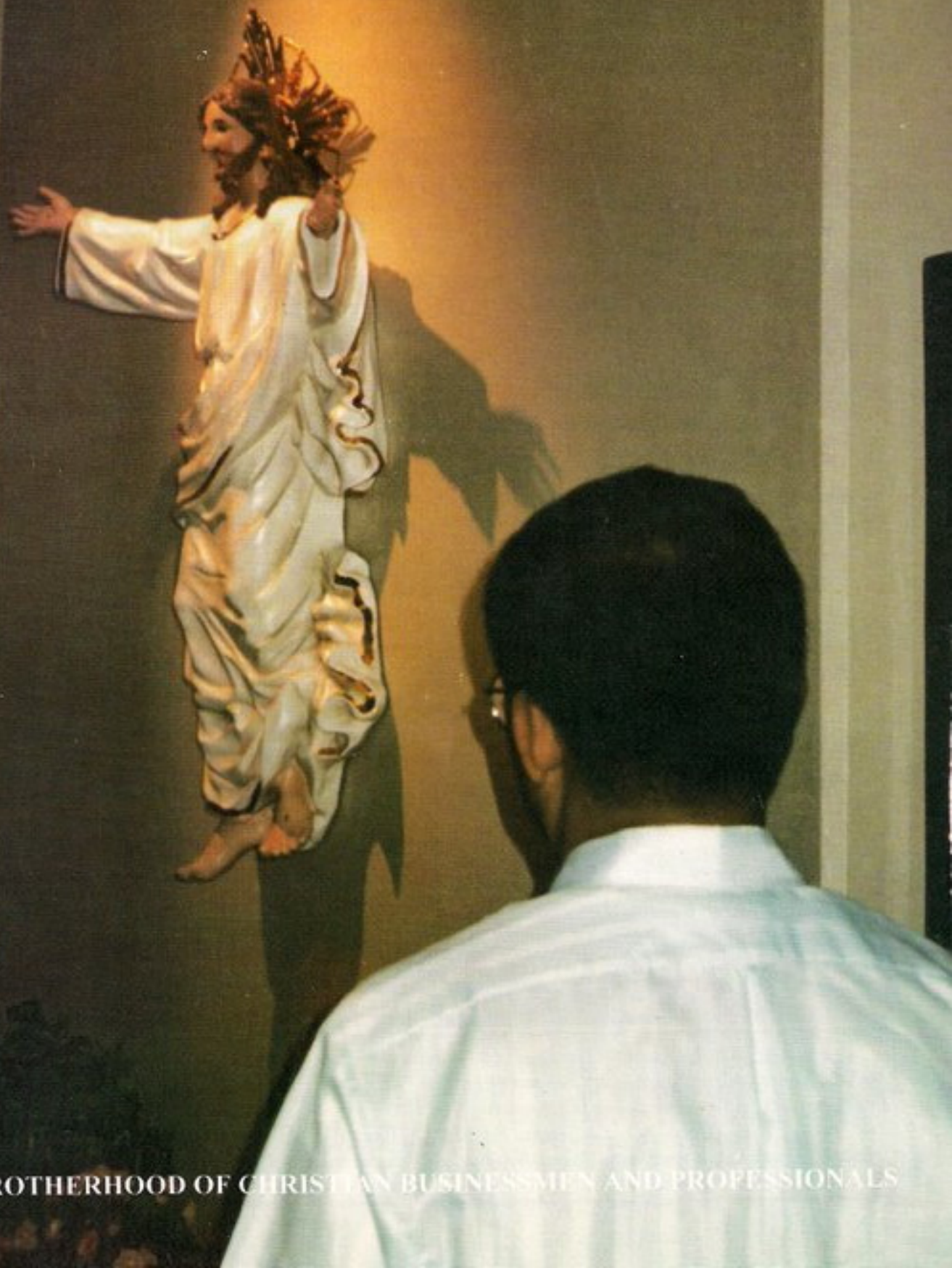
ISSUE FOCUS: PRAYER IS POWER

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VOL. XII, NO. 1

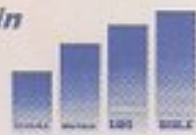


BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS



## VIEWS

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As I begin this new adventure in serving the Lord, I feel like I'm facing a blank page.
- 5 From My Desktop Files: Kapatiran Changing of Guards: God's Revelation** by Sammy M. Ulanday  
Why did Nancy Catan relinquish the Kapatiran editorship? Sometimes God works in mysterious ways to reveal His plans.
- 7 In The Marketplace: Using Sanctified Sense in Making Decisions** by Eddie Mendoza  
There are 3 guidelines in decision-making that distinguish sanctified sense from common sense.



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Our BROTHERHOOD celebrates its

★ 18th birthday on May 29 and 30 at the  
Sportslink Entertainment Plaza,  
M. Adriatico, Manila.  
BE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENS!

# KAPATIRAN Magazine

VOL. XII, NO. 1 JAN-FEB., 1998

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### Our Core Values

**LOVE FOR GOD, LOVE FOR COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT TO THE LORD'S WORK**

The KAPATIRAN Magazine is the official publication of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. It is published once every two months in the Philippines with editorial and business offices at Rm. 31 P & L Condominium, #5598 South Super Highway corner Arellano Avenue, Palanan, Makati City, Metro Manila with Tel. Nos. 804-0611 - 12 loc. 216 & 242, DL/Telefax No. 551-1973 and Fax No. 521-5645, E-Mail Address: [becbp-nc@i-manila.com.ph](mailto:becbp-nc@i-manila.com.ph). Contributions are encouraged, however, they shall be subject to editing and selection. Pictures and illustrations are welcome.

*Editor's note...*

As the lyrics of a popular song go: where do I begin?

The New Year beckons with its challenges and each and every one of us is again brought face to face with the reality of living up to these challenges with the help of Our Lord. Prayer is definitely called for!

And so we are focusing this first issue of the New Year on Prayer, its power and the ways it can affect our lives. In support of our focus articles, our newest section, BCBP Life, takes a close look at the Prayer Series, BCBP's most recent teaching track.

The Christian's life is best lived in community with others. Rollie Ona calls it "the 'we' solution" in his provocative feature on community life.

In the News section at long last we are publishing the audited financial statements for the year 1996 — better late than never!

I am excited and eager to hear from all of you, your ideas for a better magazine, your sharings, news from each chapter and outreach ... or just plain greetings. Your input is what will make the Kapatiran really responsive to your needs.

May you have a blessed New Year!

RONNIE CABALLERO

**FOCUS****\*PRAYER IS POWER\***

- 3** **Prayer is Power** by Alexis Carrel  
Prayer, our deepest source of power and perfection, has been left miserably undeveloped. Prayer must be a way of life and the truest life is a way of prayer.
- 10** **The Perfect Tune-up for Busy People**  
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**UP**  
**NEXT**

MAY - JUNE  
Deadline: Apr. 15, 1998

Issue Focus:  
BCBP 18th Anniversary

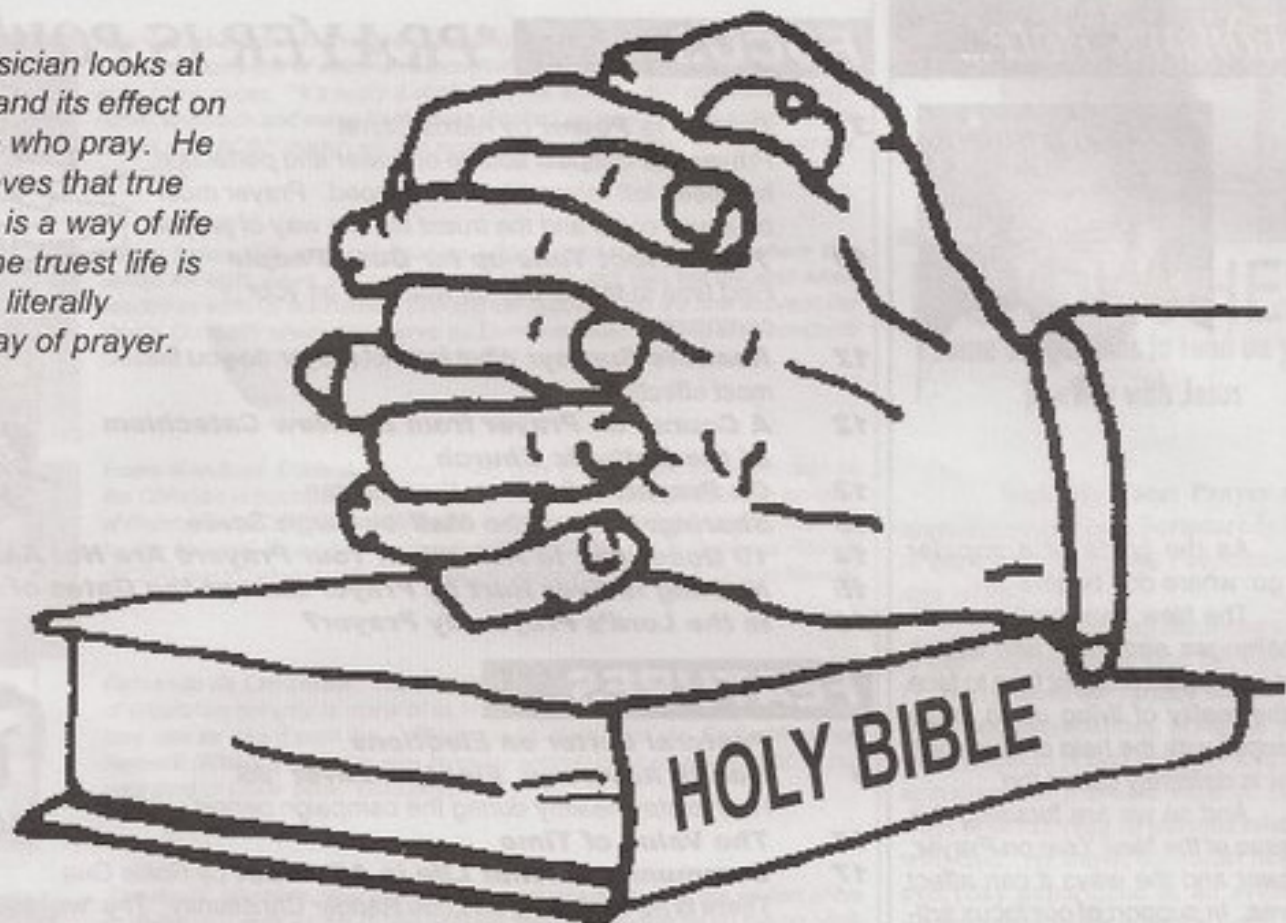
Readers Survey:  
If there was one thing that  
you could add to  
Kapatiran, what would it be?



**Pray,  
and pray  
unceasingly**

Everytime we communicate with God in any way, or think about and meditate on His wondrous deeds, His love, His forgiving heart, or simply gaze at His image, we are indeed praying.  
In this issue, we give you a collection of articles that deal with prayer.

A physician looks at prayer and its effect on people who pray. He believes that true prayer is a way of life and the truest life is literally a way of prayer.



# PRAYER IS POWER

— Alexis Carrel —

Prayer is not only worship; it is also an invisible emanation of man's worshiping spirit — the most powerful form of energy that one can generate. The influence of prayer on the human mind and body is as demonstrable as that of secreting glands. Its results can be measured in terms of increased physical buoyancy, greater intellectual vigor, moral stamina, and a deeper understanding of the realities underlying human relationships.

If you make a *habit of sincere prayer*, your life will be very noticeably and profoundly altered. Prayer stamps with its indelible mark our actions and demeanor. A tranquility of being, a facial and bodily repose, are observed in those whose inner lives are thus enriched. Within the depths of consciousness a flame kindles. And man sees himself. He discovers his selfishness, his silly pride, his fears, his greed, his blun-

ders. He develops a sense of moral obligation, intellectual humility. Thus begins a journey of the soul toward the realm of grace.

Prayer is a force as real as terrestrial gravity. As a physician, I have seen men, after all other therapy had failed, lifted out of disease and melancholy by the serene effort of prayer. It is the only power in the world that seems to overcome the so-called "laws of nature"; the occasions on which prayer has dramatically done this have been termed "miracles." But a constant, quieter miracle takes place hourly in the hearts of men and women who have discovered that prayer supplies them with a steady flow of sustaining power in their daily lives.

Too many people regard prayer as a formalized routine of words, a refuge for weaklings, page 10 ➤

[Condensed from *East & West Series*, January 1997, and reprinted in *The Theosophical Digest*, 1st Quarter 1998]

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**T**he blank page.

As I begin this new adventure of serving the Lord in this unique way this is what I'm staring at. A new editor's cold feet? ..uncertainties...questions...doubts...regrets? This is but the human side of any new endeavor a man takes in this world. Let's go back...in time. Your first day in kindergarten...I cried and clung to the skirt of my elder sister. Your first try-out for the varsity team...I doubted and looked out to the others wondering if my talents were at par or better. Your first day in college...not a single friend or acquaintance in sight, not a familiar face...I wanted to go home too! Your first day on your first job, with the old-timers and experienced hands surveying your every move...I smiled nervously and got the courage to start asking all the silly questions to start me off in what is now a 20-year career and still counting!

All of us we moved on, we managed, we grew up, we matured but still THIS IS DIFFERENT! Why? Because this is the Lord's work. So, should we worry? Definitely not! Last night I was thinking of this as we came home from the baptism of the Holy Spirit of BCLP 27 in Makati. I was thinking of the people we had just prayed-over, God's people. I just marvel at the power of the Spirit, the love he shows, the forgiveness, mercy and peace one sees in the birth of a new creation, a new heart. One cannot help but stand in awe as God wipes a slate clean and says, "Open the door and I shall dine with you." The Lord of Hosts!

A clean slate! A new life! A blank page? Here then lies the difference with all the new endeavors of the Spirit! In his light, in his path, in his love we will find the way to the Eternal Kingdom. As we start

page 4 

THE BLANK... from page 3

to fill the pages of our new life in the Spirit, doubts, uncertainties and fears will still be there. BUT! His Word will be there, too! **"To him whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine — to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end. Amen."** Ephesians 3:20.

Almost 12 years of renewal have passed for me and I still marvel at how the Lord filled all those blank pages of my new spiritual life. Just like in Ephesians 3:8 I believe the Brotherhood has been given the grace to preach "the unfathomable riches of Christ." This is what I sense the new Kapatiran to be, a spiritual vehicle that will carry the wonders of a God who reveals himself to his people. A God who desires to write his name on the blank pages of our new and exciting life with him. A God who is mysterious and adventurous in calling all sorts of people to preach his Word and glorify his name. And over the 18 years that the BCBP has existed, the wonders and miracles of the Lord have to be retold and cherished to strengthen his people in mission. Those pages are with you and we have a responsibility to share them. As the written Word had spread Christianity from the times of the early believers, so shall we do our part in sharing the Gospel to the marketplace.

So there you have it. We, your servants at the Kapatiran, do not intend to write the magazine all by ourselves. We have to do it together. Because we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Because we share one baptism and one Spirit. Because we must be united as a family as God wills it even beyond the borders of Tuguegarao and Davao.

A final word before I close this greeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank a wonderful lady who has unselfishly given of herself in extending the written Word to others. She has kept close to her heart the feeding of the disciples in the marketplace as a personal mission. Luckily, dear brothers and sisters, we have a permanent place in her heart, so she has agreed to continue writing for us, sharing her experience and wisdom. If ever there will be a time when the Brotherhood will forget the 8 years that Nancy has given the Kapatiran (which is highly unlikely) I am sure that God will never forget the love that Nancy has shared with all of us through her stewardship of Kapatiran. So, to Sis. Nancy Catan, God bless you in your new ministries and remember all of BCBP loves you!

And with this I send my warmest greetings to all my brothers and sisters in the BCBP. *-Ronnie Caballero*

**BCBP 18TH NATIONAL  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
May 29 - 30, 1998  
Sportslink Entertainment Plaza  
Adriatico St., Manila**

**May 29, Friday: (Venues to be announced)**

**Morning - Sports Competition: Golf, Bowling, Tennis**  
**Afternoon - 5:00 pm Welcome Worship**

**May 30, Saturday**

**Morning - Simultaneous Anniversary Breakfasts in the Seven Metro Manila Chapter Venues**

**Afternoon - 1:00 - 5:00 pm, Sportslink Entertainment Plaza - Bazaar, Family Day Celebration, Games**

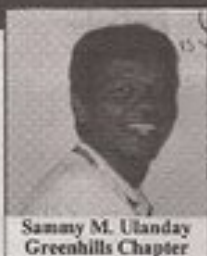
**Evening - 5:00 pm - EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION**

**- 6:00 - 7:00 Dinner**

**- 7:30 - Program - BCBP Theme Song Writing Finals,  
Awards and Recognition  
- BALLROOM DANCING**

**Please inform your chapter/outreach heads regarding  
your arrival, hostings and accommodation.**

**ASAP**



Sammy M. Ulanday  
Greenhills Chapter

# KAPATIRAN

## K A P A T I R A N CHANGING OF GUARDS: GOD'S REVELATION

**G**od works in mysterious ways. We proclaim this in faith, that when things don't go the way we humans think they should, in faith we say and believe that it is God's work and it is all part of His plan for the good of everybody. He never leaves us in the dark though, and in His time, reveals to us His ways, sometimes in the most unlikely, mysterious ways.

When the word finally came out that Nancy Catan had resigned from her seat as managing editor of the Kapatiran, some members have asked me the reason for her decision. Although no one gave any speculation that some possibly negative issues were connected with this move, I could see on their faces the puzzlement. Why would she do it? Were there pressure groups who wanted her out of the magazine, being one of a "brotherhood"? Did she have any encounters with anyone, particularly the BCBP leadership, which may have triggered her decision? Did she get any unfair or derogatory treatment? Was there encroachment in her assigned responsibility and authority? As far as I know, there were none, or at least none that I know of, none in the last four years or so that I've worked with her.

In her November-December Editor's Note, Nancy stated that she is, "... being called to embrace new areas of ministry and service in her life journey and in the BCBP." And the service she mentioned was her husband, Jun's, appointment as the outreach head of BCBP - Manila.



So, what seems to be so mysterious? Isn't God orchestrating all these?

Well first, I, personally believe that it may seem to be a bit "unconventional" for Nancy to do such a thing. I have never seen her "running away" from a responsibility, especially from a task that God Himself fashioned. I recall that in the Kapatiran Jan-Feb 1995 issue, we carried a feature article about her, where there was a brief rundown of her history. Among other things, the article mentioned the fact that in her earlier life in Vermont, USA, that, "unknowingly she was readying herself for Kapatiran editorship by being editor of her high school and college newspapers". This being so, her Kapatiran work is God's authorship. Why is she giving it up?

Then a twist of fate appeared as we may say, when Jun's appointment as Manila outreach head came. As far as BCBP policy is concerned, no one is allowed to hold two major services at any given time. Being the wife of an outreach head already demands so much, and being the editor of a national magazine at the same time would make it even too taxing. Both responsibilities are considered majors. A choice had to be made. I firmly believe that Nancy's choice was anchored on prayers, discernment and faith, and I would even strongly say that she wouldn't have given up Kapatiran if not for the full affirmation that it was God who told her so. But in the same breath I'd say she loves the Kapatiran! This is the least I could say.

Nancy loves the Kapatiran. She loves it so much that she had done a lot of things for it. She had put her life into it, so to speak. She has gone the extra mile to work for and improve the magazine. Perhaps many of you don't know but Nancy is not receiving any stipend for this monumental task. In fact, she is the one shelling out a few hundred pesos every now and then, voluntarily and with no reservations at all.



vested a few thousand bucks to get herself a good camera to use, and take the pictures herself! At one point I wondered where she gets those clippings, articles, tidbits, etc. that she puts in the Kapatiran. I learned that she had invested some amount to procure the source publications.

Nancy loves the Kapatiran. When submissions become scarce (which is often the case), she goes out of her way to knock on every possible member's door to scoop items. She strives to be in any BCBP activity to cover the event, wherever it maybe, from Tuguegarao to Davao at her own expense! And when there's no more to scoop, she writes the articles and stories herself just so there will be a regular issue. And yet at some point, we have even received comments that the Kapatiran was becoming more like an "exclusive family magazine".

Nancy loves the Kapatiran. She writes, edits, rewrites, data encodes, does the dummy layout, proofreads. Being meticulous and a perfectionist may be an understatement to describe her desire to make the Kapatiran appreciable. Except on rare occasions, not a single unwanted period, comma, hyphen, misalignment, too dark or too bright pictures, unbalanced layout, would ever escape her eagle eyes.

If she so loves the Kapatiran, why would she leave it? Or perhaps the better question to ask is why would God create a situation where Nancy had to make a choice that would eventually lead to her decision to give up Kapatiran? This is the mystery. The mystery that I believe was revealed to her exclusively by God.

It may appear that I am putting more weight to Kapatiran work than on being an outreach head. Yes, I am. For in fact it is very close to my heart having started there to where I am now. I, too, have put my best foot forward for the magazine. It was (and still is) for me a livelihood and a service dedicated to God. The opportunity to work fulltime for Kapatiran (and BCBP) came at a time when I was at my lowest ebb in life. I was given a new leash in my career. Both Nancy and I in tandem threw the best of our resources and capabilities into the service. Now somehow I feel orphaned.

For example. I have two boxes of BCBP pictures in my files for Kapatiran, about half of these came from her. Cost of films and processing alone is so much and she never even hinted that she'd be reimbursed. On top of this, she even in-



But then God once again revealed His presence, consolation and love. Kapatiran is neither Sammy's nor Nancy's. It's God's. And He sees to it that it will never simply go down the drain. He has in fact opened new doors for Kapatiran to flourish further. As Nancy felt, "... it is time that new ideas are injected to let it continue to grow dynamically."

At the time I received Nancy's resignation letter, I personally didn't know of anyone who has the same capacity that she has to take over the cudgels. Although she strongly recommended Ronnie Caballero to take her place, I was a bit uncomfortable with the idea, for I know Ronnie is very much qualified for a leadership position of a different genre. He is spiritually mature, a member of good standing having been a chapter head of Makati, has good writing and communications skills and has the time to say the least. But being a magazine editor may not be his cup of tea. And this is where another mystery was revealed.

As I poured over the situation, I was led to circumstances where God reiterated to me some lessons learned before. Likewise, a couple of luncheon meetings proved to be the venues chosen by God to reveal His thoughts, and for me to know Ronnie a lot better, and uncover the work of the Spirit in him.

**Lesson One.** When things become so pleasant and habitual, it's time to re-evaluate the situation and re-focus our attention to God. I must admit that my work relationship with Nancy has become so casual and complacent that it had graduated into a personal struggle for me to promote my talents, and put to the sidelines the One who gave the talents in the first place. I have become too used to Nancy's "editorial caprices" that I was trying more to please her than please God. Thus, it came to a point that when I do an illustration, a cartoon, a title design, a page layout, I do it to prove that I already knew what was in Nancy's mind - that I could beat her thoughts or ideas with my pre-conceived designs. Not that Nancy's directions were without spiritual guidance. But

I must have forgotten the fact that both Nancy and I are only instruments, blessed with talents, and together commissioned by God to work for Kapatiran. Neither one of us should scale ourselves up at the expense of God.

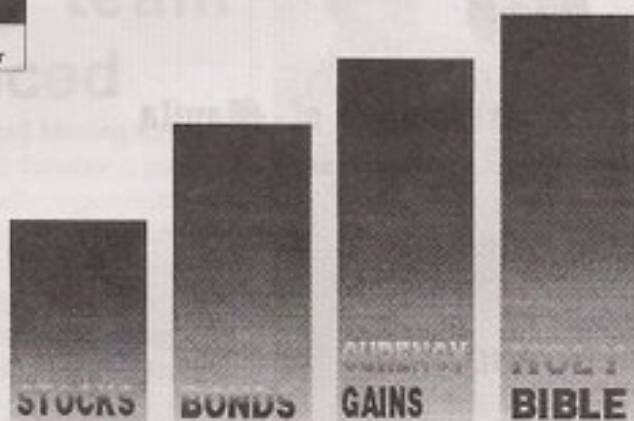
**Lesson Two.** The Holy Spirit speaks to us through other persons. In this case I met a person through whom I believe the Spirit worked. I sensed the empowerment that Ronnie received from the Holy Spirit. He had openly admitted his deficiencies and set backs in handling the assignment. Yet I saw in his eyes the glow of confidence that he can do it with the help and







Eddie Mendoza  
Greenhills Chapter



### 3 guidelines for the Christian businessman

# Using

# Sanctified Sense

# in making decisions

**B**usinessmen are faced with hundreds of decisions every week. As Christians, we ought to be sensitive to whether these decisions carry a moral dimension or not.

For the many decisions that have a moral dimension to them, the proper Christian response to these decisions is to observe God's will as dictated in scripture and through church teachings. All of us members of the BCBP are supposed to be fully knowledgeable about biblical injunctions, prohibitions, models, patterns and principles that pertain to matters of doing business, dealing with people, handling finances, and setting goals. In these cases, therefore, when explicit ethical and moral issues come into play, there should be no doubt about the decision. Decisions may be difficult to implement, I know, but they are supposed to be easy to make, because the choice is clear.

Even when we are unable to find the appropriate scriptural response, we can simply follow the advice found in James 2:1-13, where he lays down the pattern by which one can decide. In his article entitled "Biblical Instructions That Can Be Applied to the Business World," author Henry Krabbendam points out that James wants us to first apply "sanctified sense" (not common sense). See if a decision makes a holy man or a blasphemer out of you. Sec-

ond, James measures the decision by the law of love, namely love your neighbor as you love yourself and so on. Finally, James applies the standard of the Ten Commandments, which gives substance of course to the law of love. But there are other kinds of decisions which have no moral dimension to them, nor would there be appropriate biblical data. For example, what color of roof would I recommend to my client, whom should I promote, where should we locate our next branch, and so on. In these cases, how should one be guided in making the decisions?

As created in the image of God, man is endowed with creative imagination, and he should use it in business. Of course, these decisions would still have to go hand in hand with sanctified sense. For some decisions, one should be knowledgeable; for others, one should possess skills; for all, one should count the costs.

But as Christian businessmen, we recognize that God is always in control, and that God has a plan for each one of us, a plan for our businesses. But His thoughts are not always our thoughts, nor are



## The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila

121 Arzobispo Street, Intramuros  
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### REFLECT AND PRAY

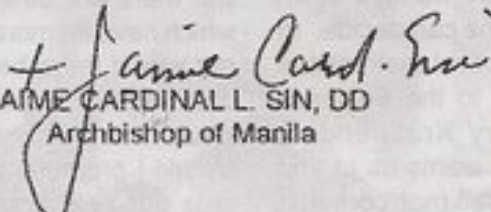
Soon it will be election time. We shall again be choosing the people who will govern us. We shall also be choosing the kind of future we want for ourselves. Our future depends most of all on our choices, and especially on our choice of leaders.

It is the moral obligation of the Church leaders to shepherd and guide their flock towards a spirit-guided and meaningful political decision on the basis of Christian values and beliefs. We have already previously pointed out that the candidate we should vote for should be MAKADIYOS, MAKATAO, MAKABAYAN AND MAKAKALIKASAN. To enable our people to tell the difference between one presidential candidate from another, we ask our people to form their judgment with the help of the following questions:

1. During the EDSA peaceful revolution, on whose side was the candidate? What did he/she do to uphold the democratic principles at that time of danger and commitment?
2. Does he /she subscribe to the pro-life stance of the Church and the Philippine Constitution? How strongly and consistently committed is he/she to this stand as shown by his/her actions and pronouncements?
3. Based on his/her qualifications and performance, especially in the field of economic management, is the candidate competent to lead the country into the 21st century?
4. Is the candidate a person we can be proud of and look up to as a person worth imitating? Is he/she an ideal role model for our youth?
5. Can he/she unite the people towards a common vision for the nation, and get them to act together to achieve that vision?

Once again, I appeal to all our Catholic faithful to pray and pray hard before you make your decision this May 11. Listen to the voice of conscience and do not be intimidated by survey results. Our choice for president will show what kind of people we want to become.

I am praying and offering sacrifices for our May 11 elections. Please join me.

  
+JAIME CARDINAL L. SIN, DD  
Archbishop of Manila

March 25, 1998

# Health Advisory: ELECTION FEVER '98

*Reprinted from HealthBeat, a Dept. of Health publication.*

## SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

### A. For Wannabe Politicians:

1. Lock jaw due to persistent smiling
2. Calloused hands because of consecutive handshaking
3. Arm sprain due to carrying babies
4. Sore throat due to making several empty promises
5. Constipation for trying to eat with the masses
6. Sunstroke for staying out too long with the people
7. Tension headache for wanting so bad to win in the elections

### B. For the Voting Public:

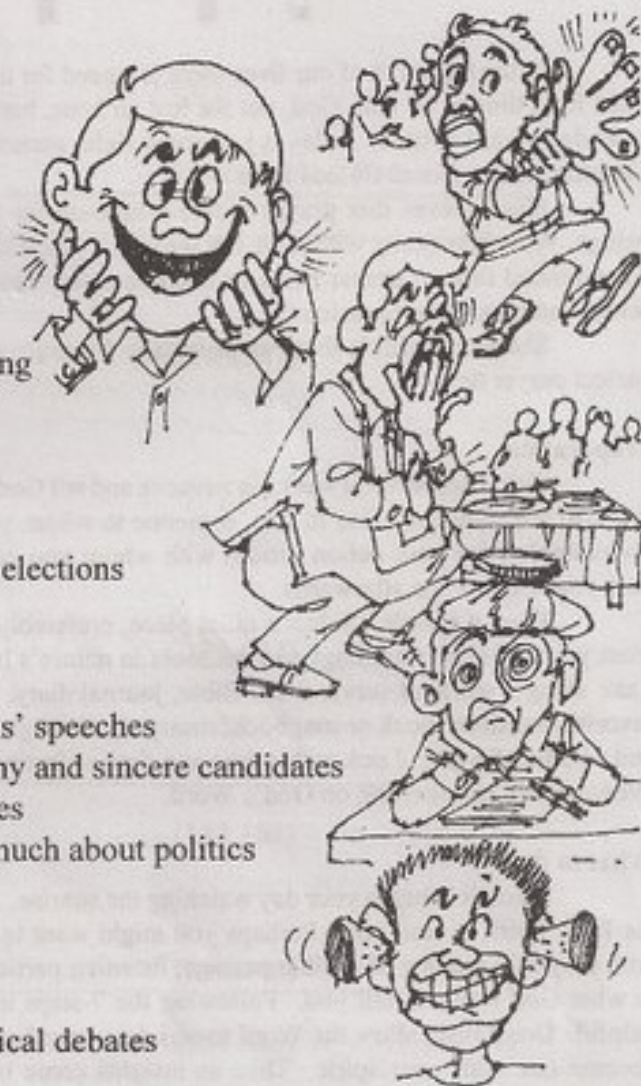
1. Impacted eardrums for hearing too many politicians' speeches
2. Mild migraine for worrying about the lack of worthy and sincere candidates
3. Babies suffering from *usog* due to politicians' kisses
4. Tension headache due to reading and hearing too much about politics

## PREVENTION

1. Trust your instincts, do not get into too many political debates
2. Decide early on who to vote for and support
3. Accept all the money and other benefits a politician gives then vote for the other candidate

## TREATMENT

**On Election Day, go out and vote!!**



# The perfect TUNE-UP for busy people

In the busyness of our lives there is a need for us to go apart for a time to be with God, not for just an hour, but for an extended period of time. A day is just about right, according to Christian author Lonni Collins Pratt.

She believes that prayer is like a tune-up for human beings. We might get by without it, but we won't function fully. An extended time of prayer helps us become more "God-conscious" and less "me-conscious".

She recommends these steps to take for enjoying the perfect prayer tune-up.

## Preparation.

Pick a date several weeks in advance and tell God about it. Also tell someone close to you, someone to whom you are accountable (like your action group) with whom you can discuss your experience afterwards.

Keep it simple. Select a quiet place, preferably away from your usual surroundings and outdoors in nature's beauty. Take along a spiritual survival kit: Bible, journal/diary, pen, a favorite devotional book or songbook, rosary. Pack a light lunch and a bottle of water. Look at this time as a time of fasting from everyday life and feasting on God's Word.

## What to do.

If possible begin your day watching the sunrise. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. Perhaps you might want to begin with prayerful reading of a Bible passage, listening particularly to what God wants to tell you. Following the 7-steps may be helpful. Don't rush, allow the Word to sink into your heart and become one with your spirit. Then as insights come to you, write them down freely.

Instead of taking a coffee break, take a song break — walk around, smell the fresh air, inhale the perfume of nature, sing praises to God.

## Ending your day.

Near the end of your day of prayer, record your feelings, what you understand has happened, and make commitments or plans according to any discoveries God has given you.

Don't think you have to have an extraordinary experience or blazing new insights. Just by being present and available to God, you will cooperate with God the best you can. The result of scheduled, frequent prayer days will be an increase in everyday prayer since prayer produces a desire for prayer, Lonni Pratt asserts.

PRAYER IS POWER.... from page 2



or a childish petition for material things. We sadly undervalue prayer when we conceive it in these terms, just as we should underestimate rain by describing it as something that fills the birdbath in our garden. Properly understood, prayer is a mature activity indispensable to the fullest development of personality — the ultimate integration of man's highest faculties. Only in prayer do we achieve that complete and harmonious assembly of body, mind and spirit which gives the frail human reed its unshakable strength.

The words, "Ask and it shall be given to you," have been verified by the experience of humanity. True, prayer may not restore the dead child to life or bring relief from physical pain. But prayer, like radium, is a source of luminous, self-generating energy.

## Addressing the Infinite

How does prayer fortify us with so much dynamic power? To answer this question (admittedly outside the jurisdiction of science) I must point out that all prayers have one thing in common. The triumphant hosannas of a great oratorio, or the humble supplication of a hunter begging for luck in the chase, demonstrate the same truth; that human beings seek to augment their finite energy by addressing themselves to the infinite source of all energy. When we pray, we link ourselves with the inexhaustible motive power that spins the universe. We ask that a part of this power be apportioned to our needs. Even in asking, our human deficiencies are filled and we arise strengthened and repaired.

## Not for gratification

But we must never summon God merely for the gratification of our whims. We derive most power from prayer when we use it, not as a petition, but as a supplication that we may become more like Him. Prayer should be regarded as practice of the Presence of God. An old peasant was seated alone in the last pew of the village church. "What are you

waiting for?" he was asked; and he answered, "I am looking at Him and He is looking at me." Man prays not only that God should remember him, but also that he should remember God.

How can prayer be defined? Prayer is the effort of man to reach God, to commune with an invisible being, 'creator of all things, supreme wisdom, truth, beauty, and strength, father and redeemer of each man. This goal of prayer always remains hidden to intelligence. For both language and thought fail when we attempt to describe God.

We do know, however, that whenever we address God in fervent prayer we change both soul and body for the better. It could not happen that any man or woman could pray for a single moment without some good result. "No man ever prayed," said Emerson, "without learning something." One can pray everywhere, in the streets, the subway, the office, the shop, the school, as well as in the solitude of one's own room or among the crowd in a church. There is *no prescribed posture, time or place*.

"Think of God more often than you breathe," said Epictetus the Stoic. In order really to mold personality, *prayer must become a habit. It is meaningless to pray in the morning and to live like a barbarian the remainder of the day. True prayer is a way of life; the truest life is literally a way of prayer.* The best prayers are like the improvisations of gifted lovers, always about the same thing yet never twice the same. We cannot all be as creative in prayer as Saint Theresa or Bernard of Clairvaux, both of whom poured their adoration into words of mystical beauty. Fortunately, we do not need their eloquence; our slightest impulse to prayer is recognized by God. Even if we are pitifully dumb, or if our tongues are overlaid with vanity or deceit, our meager syllables of praise are acceptable to Him, and He showers us with strengthening manifestations of His love.

Today, as never before, prayer is a binding necessity in the lives of men and nations. *The lack of emphasis on the religious sense has brought the world to the edge of destruction. Our deepest source of power and perfection has been left miserably undeveloped.* Prayer, the basic exercise of the spirit, must be actively practiced in our private lives. The neglected soul of man must be made strong enough to assert itself once more. For if the power of prayer is again released and used in the lives of common men and women; if the spirit declares its aims clearly and boldly, there is yet hope that our prayers for a better world will be answered.#



*Prayer,  
like radium, is a  
source of luminous  
energy.*





## C.S. Lewis on Prayer

For most of us the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model. Removing mountains can wait... The petition, then, is not merely that I may patiently suffer God's will but also that I may vigorously do it... "Thy will be done — by me — now!"

I must often be glad that certain past prayers of my own were not granted... If God had granted all the silly prayers I've made in my life, where should I be now?

We must lay before Him what is in us, not what ought to be in us.

In praying for people one dislikes I find it helpful to remember that one is joining in His prayer for them.

### Readers Survey

What form of prayer do you find most effective?

- The Our Father, being a complete prayer, and also the Hail Mary.
- Conversational prayer.
- Verbal worship in a group gathering; contemplative, meditative or reflective silent prayer when alone. Both should follow the ACTS...adoration, contrition, thanksgiving and supplication.

- My kind of prayer is the silent type (strictly between God and me) and also our family prayers during meal times. I have been doing this for the past 60 years and for all of the things I really needed and have asked from our God, He has always answered favorably.

*Many thanks to these survey respondents from Iloilo. We can't recognize them by name as the results were returned unsigned. May God continue to bless your prayer life. - Editor*

## Kahlil Gibran speaks on Prayer

You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.

For what is prayer but the expansion of yourself into the living ether?

And if it is for your comfort to pour your darkness into space, it is also for your delight to pour forth the dawning of your heart.

And if you cannot but weep when your soul summons you to prayer, she should spur you again and yet again, though weeping, until you shall come laughing.

When you pray you rise to meet in the air those who are praying at that very hour, and whom save in prayer you may not meet.

Therefore let your visit to that temple invisible be for naught but ecstasy and sweet communion.

I cannot teach you how to pray in words. God listens not to your words save when He Himself utters them through your lips.

*Source: THE PROPHET by Kahlil Gibran*

## A course on prayer from the New Catechism of the Catholic Church

(Numbers refer to specific numbered paragraphs in the NCCC)

<b>Prayer in the Old and New Testaments</b>	#2629-2633	Petition
#2559-2565 What is Prayer?	#2634-2636	Intercession
#2570-2573 Abraham and Prayer	#2637-2643	Thanksgiving & Praise
#2574-2577 Moses and Prayer	#2663-2672	Way of Prayer
#2578-2580 David and Prayer	#2673-2679	In Communion with Mary
#2581-2584 Elijah and Prayer	#2697-2704	Vocal Prayer
#2585-2589 Prayer and the Psalms	#2705-2708	Meditation
#2599-2606 Jesus Prays	#2709-2719	Contemplation
#2607-2615 Jesus teaches us to Pray		
#2616-2619 Jesus hears us; Mary's Prayer	<b>More on Prayer</b>	
#2759-2865 The Lord's Prayer	#2725-2728	Objections to Prayer
	#2729-2733	Difficulties & Temptations in Prayer
	#2734-2741	Are we being heard?
<b>Forms of Prayer</b>	#2742-2745	Persevering Prayer
#2626-2628 Blessing, Adoration		

# GOD

at the

# mall

*Margie A. Seville, Legazpi Outreach*

I guess I've been one of those people harboring bad impressions and prejudice about rock bands but now that I've met God in the mall, I've reversed that misconception.

Last year my son promised to give me a good guitar, and to fulfill his promise he gave me the money for it when he visited me June 1997. I went right away to SM North Edsa, the nearest one to where we live. On the way I prayed for God's help and guidance so I would be able to buy a good guitar or at least get the most value for the money I had.

Since I wanted a Yamaha guitar I went to the Yamaha store first. They didn't have many stocks left and would only be getting new instruments sometime in October. So I went to other stores.

At the third one, I found a guitar that looked good and sounded good only it had steel strings and I wanted a folk or classical guitar with nylon strings. The salesclerk was a young, pretty girl with a limp and she could dish out a very good sales pitch. In short, I decided to get that guitar.

Suddenly a group of young men came in and started to assess the guitars displayed. I asked them to help me since they seemed to know guitars. It turned out they had just had a concert the night before and were in the mall to relax and pay their phone bill at BayanTel which was directly across the music store I was in. They told me that the guitar was good but that it was very expensive. Then they went out.



I completed the deal and offered my Bankcard to pay but the store was not accepting credit card transaction since it was only newly opened. I went out to withdraw money from an ATM located in the main building.

On the way I again prayed for help and guidance to insure that I was buying the right guitar, one that I could easily learn to play so I could sing praise songs.

When I got back to the store, there were the young men again, this time with their bandleader and his girlfriend. This couple took me aside and whispered that the guitar was too over-priced, that I would be able to get a good guitar at a more reasonable price elsewhere. They told me that they were willing to help me find one.

I left that store after paying for a music stand and went with the group. I had some reservations because two of them had long hair and their band happened to be called "The Naked and the Dead". Actually they were really rather sheepish and reluctant to tell me the name of their group.

There I was, wary and scared to go with them, then I remembered my prayer and the fact that they were there at the exact time that I needed help. So I asked the Lord's forgiveness for doubting His capacity to answer and went with the group. I had an enjoyable hour with them although we were not able to get a guitar that afternoon.

When we parted ways, this young man told me to get a Yamaha guitar to be sure that I would be getting my money's worth. I left the mall light-hearted and happy even though I had failed to find and buy a guitar. I extended to the group my heartfelt thanks for their gracious help and blessed them. They in turn told me "...ingat kayo, Ma'am, please be careful."

Now I have a Yamaha C60 guitar and I praise God in my songs for opening my eyes to see Him that day in the mall.#

*What is God doing when He seems to be ignoring our prayers? What's going on when prayers are unanswered? So much more than we could ever imagine.*

Ten  
Questions  
to Ask When

# Your Prayers are NOT Answered?

**1** *Is God listening?*

David knew the answer to this. He was certain that the "Lord will hear when I call to him." (Ps. 4:4) How could David be so sure? He knew that it is the nature of a loving God to give full attention to the one He loves — at all times (Ps. 89:34).

**2** *Does God care?*

Again we turn to the Psalms for our answer. Psalm 77 silences our doubts: "I will not take my love from him, nor will I betray my bond of loyalty...the promise of my lips I will not alter." (77:34-35).

**3** *Am I praying in God's will?*

All those heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 were men and women of prayer and faith in God. Yet some of them were tortured, stoned, sawed in two, put to death while others received back their dead, raised to life again. But no matter what the outcome of their prayers, all "were commended for their faith" (Heb. 11:35-40). If we look to the Scriptures for guidance and pray with all our heart, then we can pray with confidence in God's will.

**4** *How is timing involved in the answer?*

We must realize that God's timing does not usually coincide with our sense of timing. Why does He delay His answers? Because He wants God's glory and the highest possible good for His friends. He has a far greater purpose in mind for us than just answering our sometimes petty petitions.

**5** *Is God answering this prayer in a different form than I would expect?*

We pray for a healing miracle. God may make us wait so that we can develop patience and more godly character. Since God allows freedom of choice, we often run into

detours of self-will. Faulty thought patterns have to be torn down before we are ready to make decisions that lead to health and holiness. The alternatives or ways to answer our prayers that God has in mind are fathomless. We wait in expectant faith.

**6** *What does God want to accomplish in me?*

Prayer is not merely a transaction between God and man; prayer is an *interaction* between God and man. David understood this very well. In the psalms we see him pour out his anger, disappointment, fear, confusion, wonder, the whole gamut of his feelings to God. And as he did, a deep healing process began (Ps. 94:18-19). His faith was continuously strengthened during his interaction with God.

**7** *Is there anything hindering this prayer?*

Besides God's answer not coming within a definite time frame, there may be other reasons for delay. The prophet Isaiah laments: "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear" (Is. 59:1-2). Sin and Satan can hinder God's answers to prayer. These barriers we need to take care of in order to clear the way for God's answers. Prayer is spiritual warfare.

**8** *How is God working right now?*

We know what we want God to do — and the sooner the better. This attitude tends to narrow our focus. We only look for what we expect to see. And so we overlook what God is actually doing at that moment in our lives. We may not be ready to receive His big answer right away and so He showers us with lots of little bits of encouragement and upliftment to keep us going. Let us not be unmindful of the little everyday miracles He works in our lives while we are waiting for the big answers.

**9** *Is God asking me to do something to answer this prayer?*

When the Israelites, camped by the Red Sea, saw the Egyptian army in hot pursuit, they blamed Moses bitterly. Moses, in turn, cried to the Lord. "Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground" (Ex. 14:15-16). We must not leave everything up to God for He expects us to do our part.

**10** *Can I trust God with the outcome?*

We take refuge in various Scripture passages when this question comes to mind, foremost of which is Psalm 23 and Psalms 91 and 92. Whatever happens, God cares for us. It's impossible for God to be negligent or unkind.

What's going on when prayers are unanswered? So much more than we could ever imagine.

*Adapted from an article of the same title by Helen Grace Lesheid, published in the Discipleship Journal, Issue 68, 1992.c*



# NOTHING

## Is ever hurt by prayer except the gates of Hell

**A** missionary on furlough told this true story while visiting his home church in Michigan...

While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, every two weeks I traveled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This was a journey of two days and required camping overnight at the halfway point. On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city where I planned to collect money from a bank, purchase medicine and supplies, and then begin my two-day journey back to the field hospital.

Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries and at the same time witnessed to him about our Lord Jesus Christ. I then traveled two days, camping overnight, and arrived home without incident.

Two weeks later I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated. He told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said, "Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that you were surrounded by 26 armed guards." At this I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone out in that jungle campsite. The young man pressed the point, however, and said, "No sir, I was not the only person to see the guards. My five friends also saw them, and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone."



At this point in the sermon, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and interrupted the missionary and asked if he could tell him the exact day that this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date, and the man who interrupted told him this story:

"On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here in Michigan and I was preparing to go play golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact, the urging of the Lord was so strong, I called men in this church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for

you. Would all of those men who met with me on that day stand up?" The men who had met together to pray that day stood up. The missionary wasn't concerned with who they were — he was too busy counting how many men he saw. There were 26.

This story is an incredible example of how the spirit of the Lord moves in mysterious ways. If you ever hear such prodding, go along with it.

Nothing is ever hurt by prayer except the gates of hell.

Source: the Internet

# The value of time

Imagine if there is a bank which credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every cent, of course!

Well, everyone has such a bank.

It's name is T I M E.

Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds.

Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose.

It carries over no balance.

It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you.

Each night it burns the remains of the day.

If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back.

There is no drawing against the "tomorrow".

You must live in the present on today's deposits.

Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success!

The clock is running.

Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR,  
ask a student who has failed a grade.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH,  
ask a mother who has given birth to a pre-mature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK,  
ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE DAY,  
ask a daily wage laborer who has kids to feed.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR,  
ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE,  
ask a person who has missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND,  
ask a person who has avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLI-SECOND,  
ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special; special enough to have your time...and remember time waits for no one...

Yesterday is history,

Tomorrow a mystery.

Today is a gift

That's why it's called the present!

## Still on Prayer

# Is the Lord's Prayer my prayer?

I cannot say **OUR**

if my religion has no room for other people and their needs.

I cannot say **FATHER**

if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily living.

I cannot say **WHO ART IN HEAVEN**

if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot say **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**

unless I am truly ready to give myself to His service here and now.

I cannot say **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**

if I ignore the genuine needs of my neighbors.

I cannot say **FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US**

if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**

if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say **DELIVER US FROM EVIL**

if I am not prepared to stand for the right.

I cannot say **THINE IS THE KINGDOM**

if I fear what my neighbors and friends may say or do.

I cannot say **THINE IS THE POWER**

if I do not open my heart to receive the power of God in Jesus Christ and show that power through loving others.

I cannot say **THINE IS THE GLORY**

if I am seeking my own glory first.

I cannot say **FOREVER**

if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot say **AMEN**

unless I can honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer."

# COMMUNITY

## Is what life is all about

Rollie Ona, National Council



*What does it mean to be part of a community? Is it necessary for a Christian to belong to a community? Is there such a thing as a model community? These are some of the questions Rollie Ona addresses in this article based on the several talks and teachings he has given on "Community Life" to different parish groups and to the BCBP members.*

Community is an everyday "catchword" that appears to mean different things to different people. We hear of living in "community" with other like-minded people. We hear of community associations, community organizations, community activities, community values and mores. Parishes are spoken of as communities. There are the church organized BEC, Basic Ecclesial Communities. But how many of us really understand the full meaning of "community", the meaning of the term as Jesus teaches us?

### The "we" solution

The Gospel of John, chapter 6:1-15 about Jesus feeding the 5,000, tells us what a community is all about.

In this account, Jesus proposed the "you" approach to test the disciples, "Where can you buy enough food?" Philip offered the "I" solution as he said in effect that he didn't think there was a solution: "There is not enough money to buy bread for all these people." Andrew was a little bit more creative in approach when he found a boy with five small loaves and two small fish but he didn't know what to do with them.

Jesus then introduced the "we" solution. He blessed the food and encouraged everyone to share what little they had with each other. And as we learn, there were twelve baskets of leftovers!

Jesus shows us by example that there must be opportunities for sharing, learning and growing together in any gathering. He teaches that the "I" solution and/or the "you" solution are not enough to solve a problem. The only thing that works is the "we" solution, when each one of us becomes part of the solution instead of being part of the problem. The "we" solution is what community is all about.

### Community is unity

The word "community" comes from the Greek word *Koinonia* that means unity of heart and mind in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. From the early times, people gathered together and did everything in common (Acts 2:44) forming the earliest communities of believers. Later on as more and more communities developed, they became Church with Peter assigned by Jesus as head of the Church.



COMMUNITY... from page 17

Even in those times we can clearly see that there were different people with different backgrounds, of different cultures forming themselves into unified groups. The only thing they had in common was Jesus Christ. And yet even in times of persecutions — the time of the early martyrs, the reign of Hitler, the suppression by non-Christians which we see in Saudi Arabia and other non-Christian countries today — these groups of people survived as they drew on the strengths of the community.

The letters of Paul are addressed to communities of people, not to individuals, for he clearly believed that the Gospel must not only be proclaimed but also lived together with others in unity and harmony, growing with one another, benefiting from one another's unique gifts, and nourished by the care and concern of brothers and sisters in Christ.

There is commonality in the lordship of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is an individual, created uniquely and given the gifts and talents that he/she will be best disposed to use. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, chapters 12-14, about the use of such gifts for the good and growth of the community, the Body of Christ. It is in the Christian community, in the commonality of the lordship of Jesus Christ, that God intends these gifts to be best used.

**A sharing of values**

When like-minded people band together for a common purpose, there results a sharing of values. How does this happen?

Initially each one develops a deep personal relationship with the Lord. One does not have to be knowledgeable in theological matters to do this. One only has to have sincerity of heart and the desire to be with Jesus. Then they begin to realize that the life they have does not belong to them, it is just passing. They come to the realization that everything they have, even the life that they enjoy, is God's and belongs to God. This feeling is

so strong that they naturally and spontaneously come together to express in praise and worship their gratitude and love for God. They want to share with each other this love that overwhelms them.

From this love spring three basic values that exist in all Christian communities: love for God, love for others, and commitment to the Lord's work. In the BCBP we call these Core Values because we believe that these three values touch the very core of our being a community.

**Love for God**

This word "love" has been much abused and has come to mean everything, anything and nothing. We trace its origin to the Greek words *filia* — love for family, *fides* — love of country, *eros* — the love of man

and woman, and *agape* — the loving concern for another.

When we speak of love for God in community, we refer to the *agape* kind of love, the loving care and concern that we have for one another as we acknowledge that God is in complete control of everything. Nothing exists in this world without His order. As we attribute all good things to Him, then the gift of faith grows and grows in us and through us to others.

We live out this love for God through a consistent prayer life, regular reading of Scripture, faithful observance of the Sacraments, and the leading of an orderly life. This involves constantly examining, renewing and balancing our life in the areas of relationships, finances, intellectual development, health and spirituality.

**Love for others**

The love for others has meaning and substance only insofar as there is the love of God, because man by nature is selfish. When a child is born, he sucks his thumb and wants to put whatever he can reach into his mouth. He wants everything for himself even if he doesn't realize what it is. But when that child grows and



is satisfied more often, he begins to realize that man does not live by being alone. He learns to depend on others to satisfy some of his needs.

Love for others, or as we say in the BCBP love for community, essentially means loving our brothers and sisters in Christ. We show this love by being present and participative in all chapter life activities as well as community-wide gatherings. We share what we have with others by the generous giving of our time, our talents and financial support.

This love for others and love for community also bears with it the value of submission to authority, the human authority which, in faith, we know flows from the ultimate authority of our Lord. For it is in the exercise of authority that we can put order into our activities and into our relationships with others. Our God is a god of order and therefore, we must be orderly, too.

### ***Commitment to the Lord's work***

Here we need to examine just what the Lord wants us to do. Depending on your business or profession or the community you are in, your commitment to do the Lord's work may have different thrusts. Some evangelize, some teach, some are homemakers, others are parish administrators, still others care for the elderly or abandoned.

We believe our community, the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, faces the distinct challenge of bringing our Lord in a visible way into the marketplace. We not only commit to bring fellow businessmen and professionals into the community, but by our own personal witnessing in our places of work we endeavor to transform, little by little, our respective work environments.

### ***Two basic attitudes***

One evident outgrowth of how we live in community can be seen in the development of two basic attitudes: that of being a servant of the Word, and that of discerning the will of God.

We need to develop a genuine love for the Word of the Lord. As we live in love and grow in our love for God, we become servants of His Word. We are not anymore slaves of our own opinions or the opinions of others. It is the Word of God that evangelizes and transforms, my opinion will never evangelize or transform someone else.

The second basic attitude is that of discernment of God's will for us. This attitude is a quality found in practically all the

# COMMUNITY

saints and probably is best known from the writings of St. Theresa of Avila. It's very simple really. The discerning question is, "Will this thing, this activity, this conversation draw me closer to God?"

This puts our degree of commitment into sharp focus and makes our decision areas clearer. If it draws me closer to God, then I should do it. If it does not bring me closer to God, then I should not do it. Simple, isn't it?

### ***The model community***

I believe it is God's intention that we are all part of a community. After all, He gave us the model for community in the Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are three persons in one God and they live in perfect community. They differ in their respective attributes and roles with the Father being the Creator, the Son the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier. Yet all three blend together in perfect unity.

It's like coffee with milk, they are so homogeneous that once mixed it is very difficult, if not impossible, to separate one from the other. The coffee, milk and

water are separate and distinct, but when blended together they become homogeneous and impossible to distinguish from one another. This is like the homogeneous relationship of the Trinity. This is also a characteristic of the community of which we are members.

### ***No longer alone***

There is no such thing as Lone Ranger Christianity. Unless we are hermits living

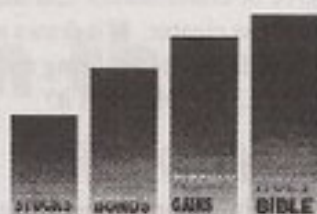
in a cave in the mountain or the desert, our Christianity needs the fellowship of others. We need to be part of a Christian community because this is where we learn from each other, share experiences with one another and strengthen and draw strength from each other. This is simply living out the two great commandments of God which are to love God and to love our neighbor.

And remember that the priorities are very clear. We must love God first and foremost, this is an absolute and everything else is secondary to that. Second priority is to love our family for God himself gave them to us to care for. Our family is the primary part of the generic term "others". After our family comes the rest of the "others" — our neighbors, those in our community, our workplaces, our friends.

To me, community is really what life as a Christian is all about — a life spent loving God, loving others, and doing the Lord's work. I would like to close with a favorite saying, "Indeed our life will surely pass, only what's done for Christ will ever last."#



## USING SANCTIFIED... from page 7



His ways our ways, remember. By keeping this in mind, a Christian businessman should be sensitive to God's providence. Many times, we look for solutions from new things, when in fact, God may have already provided the answer to our quests. And so, let's be careful not to rush into decisions before counting our blessings.

Of course, it may be necessary to make bold, creative moves when the time appears right, when "sudden" opportunities arise, or when deadlocks require a breakthrough. Krabbendam says, however, that by-and-large, God's long-term providence serves His long-term Kingdom plan. If God is not in a hurry, why should we be?

Especially since we know that God produces only goodness, then we can surely wait on the Lord — who created the universe and all that is in it (in seven days!).

Krabbendam, however, warns us, brothers, that creative imagination and careful consideration to divine providence will not always lead to successful decisions. In the

first place, and apart from the element of risk that every entrepreneur takes, he says no decision will ever be truly successful unless it meets three conditions.

First, it must be made on the bedrock of holiness, which includes integrity and kindness. Prov. 3:1-3 says, "My son, forget not my teaching; keep in mind my commands, for many days and years of life and peace will they bring you. Let not kindness and fidelity leave you; bind them around your neck."

Second, decisions must be made in total trust in and acknowledgment of God. Prov. 3:5-6 continues, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; in all your ways be mindful of Him, and He will make straight your paths."

## Decisions must be made out of delight in God and His causes.

And thirdly, decisions must be made out of delight in God and His cause. Psalm 37:3-4 says, "Trust in the Lord and do good, that you may dwell in the land and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will grant your heart's request."

Krabbendam concludes if a business flourishes with a decision-making process of this sort, God receives the glory, and His Kingdom stands to gain. If — in spite of it — a business fails, God will still accomplish His purposes and still receive the glory. The Kingdom of God never experiences defeat. #

## KAPATIRAN... from page 6

guidance of the Holy Spirit. This erased my doubts and gave me the assurance that the Kapatiran is being ceded into good hands, hands chosen by the Lord.

Finally, the reward we get when we please God. I am certain that God was so pleased with Nancy's work in the Kapatiran, that she now deserves to be given a greater assignment. Although on the surface, being an outreach head may appear to be "local" or lesser in nature as compared to Kapatiran editorship which is "national" or wider in scope, the work involved in being an outreach head demands distinctly greater responsibilities. It borders around being a surrogate parent, counselor, financier and model, aside from having to possess the prerequisite management, leadership and administrative capabilities, and of course spiritual maturity. All these, and more had been achieved by and ingrained in Nancy. She now deserves a "promotion".

And so the future looks bright for Kapatiran. In the process right now are new directions that are envisioned to further improve the national magazine. Ronnie, my new boss, has started building up a system to have a dynamic representations in the Kapatiran from all chapters and outreaches nationwide. More so, critical involvement of individual chapters and outreaches in a given issue may soon be put in place. A battery of new sections and items that will encourage effective exchanges between the national leadership and the members, have been submitted to the National Council for consideration, and hopefully will soon be adapted. At the moment we are experiencing what we may term as transition pains, and we pray for your understanding and support. We shall soon hurdle this and the Kapatiran will be back on its track, better, bigger, and God willing, oftener.

And Nancy? She continues to write and shall now be the consultant for Kapatiran. What about the Manila outreach under Jun and Nancy's stewardship? As of this writing they are planning BCLP 3. To my understanding, the outreach boasts of having a quality music ministry complemented by a full rhythm band with electric guitars, keyboards, drums and all. The outreach is going places by leaps and bounds. I am not surprised. I should know, I've worked with Nancy long enough.

New assignments have begun, both for Nancy and Ronnie. Let us all give thanks and praises for this wonderful work of God and pray for more success for them. #

### New Year

Dear Father,

We humbly ask that,  
as we know You, we may  
imitate You.

as we experience You, we may bring  
You to others.

as we hear You, we may answer  
Your call.

and may these, O Father, lead us  
and make us...

not only believe Your Gospel, but also  
follow Your Word.

not only learn Your commandments,  
but also obey them.

not only profess our faith,  
but also practice it.

not only know You, but much more,  
love You.

These we ask through Your son,  
Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## Letter to the Editor

*Hi! Just want to let you know how much Rey and I really enjoy reading the KAPATIRAN. We learn so much in faith building, even business, relationships, practical tips, updates and more. I especially appreciate the quotations and words of wisdom found at the bottom of the page. Some may not notice them, but it helps to read them, and I know it's not easy to come up with quite a number every issue.*

*You know, Tita Nancy, some readers may not be consciously reading them, but their subconscious is absorbing that information if you follow the theory on subliminal communication. Anyway I have been using some quotes as breakers in the SNN Newscenter in Southern Mindanao on the SNN Channel on Sky Cable. Warm regards and more power!*

*Rey and Mabel Acosta  
Devaso Outreach*



## The Brotherhood in the Philippine Centennial

# KEEPING THE REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY ALIVE

*Luis J. Morales, National Council*

**L**et us go down memory lane of the Centennial Freedom Trail.

The "Cry of Pugadlawin" on August 23, 1896, marked the start of the Philippine revolution. The Supremo, Andres Bonifacio, and a thousand katipuneros tore their cedula in a united act of defiance against the Spanish colonial forces.

November 17, 1898, Visayan revolutionary leaders raised the Filipino flag in the town of Sta. Barbara in Iloilo province to echo the revolution against Spanish rule—the first time the Philippine flag was raised outside Luzon. The existing historic church and convent, which was used as a military hospital as well as the general headquarters of the revolutionary forces, served as a witness to this event.

On the night before his execution and alone in his cell at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila, our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal wrote *Mi Ultimo Adios* to remind us of his love of fellowmen and country.

This year, 1998, we remember these significant events in more practical ways. An integrated socio-economic, human resource and cultural program for residents of Bgy. Pugad Lawin in Project 8, Quezon City, site of the "Cry of Pugadlawin," will be put in place. Meanwhile, the site of the first flag raising in Sta. Barbara will be developed to include a spatial structuring program and landscape improvement of the plaza. Rizal's last walk from Fort Santiago to Bagumbayan for his execution will be highlighted with signs along Plaza de Armas through Gen. Luna — the scenery, the people he saw and the emotions he felt on his way to death.

Some of the other infrastructure projects lined up in the freedom trail include: the restoration and development of Dapitan in Zamboanga del Norte where Rizal was exiled and his ancestral house in Calamba, Laguna, which currently houses his personal mementos and memorabilia; the transformation into a nature park of Biak-na-Bato in San Miguel de Mayumo, Bulacan where the Constitution of Biak-na-Bato was approved; the expansion into a museum of the Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine in San Juan where the first revolutionary battle took place on August 29, 1896; construction of a 3,000-square meter amphitheater with murals depicting the first major victory of the Katipuneros in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite, site of Lt. Gen. Edilberto Evangelista's victory in 1896 over the Spaniards; the establishment of a three-storey cylindrical structure featuring the history of the Philippine flag, battle colors and other flags used by the Philippine army.

As we rekindle the spirit of 1898, our calendar of activities — which featured the Boy Scout jamboree, PBA Centennial Cup, horticulture exhibits, Acapulco-Manila and Philippine regatta races, Expo Pilipino exhibits, arts and dance festivals among others—also reflects the diversity of activities that span history, tourism, culture and the arts, sports and education. These are organized and implemented by different government agencies, private companies and educational institutions.

# A funny thing happened on the way to the movies (except no one's laughing)



Annie Salvador  
Makati Chapter



Nico, our eldest, has always loved dinosaurs. He was heartbroken when he missed Jurassic Park — it was rated PG-7 and he was only five at the time. Another source of frustration was in Universal Studios when we discovered we were two months early for "Jurassic Park — The Ride." And so, his dearest wish became to be able to watch the movie's sequel.

Having earned 20 stars (see "Building Habits," Sept-Oct 97 issue), we promised him that as soon as it showed in the theaters, we would take him to see The Lost World.

**Lesson #1:** Think before you promise.

It turned out, however, that The Lost World was rated PG-13. Learning this, Nico's face crumpled up like a prune and big, pea-sized tears rolled down his cheeks. He was five years shy of the mark. But that was not the reason he was crying: "You promised! Why do you make a promise when you're not going to keep it?"

Nelson and I looked at each other, devastated. Our son did have 20 well-earned stars and all he really wanted was a movie. We so much wanted to reward this responsible and diligent boy who never needed to be told to do his homework. In fact, many a time, he even tutored his brothers and made reviewers for them. Besides, most importantly, we did promise. So we decided to give it a shot.

**Lesson #2:** *Mag-ingat sa pusong mamon.*

We chose Ever-Gotesco in Commonwealth Avenue where we assumed the



moviegoers would be less scrutinized. We chose the last full show, when we assumed the movie guards would be tired and less strict. We even chose to "prompt" the boys — we brought Tono, turning seven along — telling them that we would try to pass them off as older boys and that "Daddy will do all the talking." We assumed it would be easy and simple.

All our assumptions proved wrong. From the ticket vendor to the checker and even the security guard, the boys' ages were questioned. We lied. We said Nico was 13 and his brother 12. Nico, tall for his age, passed muster, but having spied Tono, the checker asked him directly about his age. Dear Tono, in turn, gave him a smile and a look that was unmistakably First Grader. We were refused entry and had to refund our tickets and leave.

**Lesson #3:** Crime does not pay, but it costs plenty.

In the van going home, we were quiet. Then as if on cue, Nelson and I simultaneously began talking to our sons.

We told them that lying was wrong. We admitted that it was a mistake to think that lying can possibly be okay, even for such a purpose as to give a loved one pleas-

ure. We went through the events of the evening, judging each of our actions as right or wrong. We told them that we had other alternatives, like admitting their true ages, waiting for a taped copy, or even not watching. And then we apologized for bringing them into our sin.

**Lesson #4:** Romans 8:28 (You don't know? Look it up!)

There were many, many more lessons that we gathered from that experience. Mostly however, we received a conviction that, gladly and hopefully, makes us better parents to our children.

The value of living rightly as a Christian adult is doubled when one is — or claims to be — a Christian parent. It may be that in the eyes of our children, we are perfect, but that is not so. Whether consciously or not, we do wrong, we sin. And the sooner this fact is brought home to our children, the better. They will realize it anyway, so best make it through our own honest and open admission.

Oftentimes, we are so unaware of how this truth touches our lives. Perhaps we instruct the maids to tell our callers we're not home. Perhaps we're nice and smiling to someone and the opposite after he's gone. Perhaps we spew out censurable words in angry moments. Perhaps we lie about our children's ages to get them into a movie.

Whatever the manifestation our children witness, it makes them wonder. And unless we set the record straight for them, they will probably come up with their own quite imaginative — and quite incorrect — explanations, and that's the last thing we want.

Truth and reality — that's the ticket. No false answer, regardless of how logical, insistent or convincing it may be, can undo an impression of hypocrisy. No lesson can be gained, no progress can be made, no good can be imparted without an admission of the error.

Indeed, in child-rearing, as in everything in our lives, the way of Christ is the only way to go. #



"Daddy, how much do you make an hour?" With a timid voice and idolizing eyes, the little boy greeted his father as he returned from work.

Greatly surprised, but giving his boy a glaring look, the father said: "Look, sonny, not even your mother knows that. Don't bother me now, I'm tired."

"But Daddy, just tell me please! How much do you make an hour," the boy insisted. The father, finally giving up, replied: "Twenty dollars per hour."

"Okay, Daddy. Could you loan me ten dollars?" the boy asked.

Showing his restlessness and positively disturbed, the father yelled: "So that was the reason you asked how much I earn, right? Go to sleep and don't bother me anymore!"

It was already dark and the father was meditating on what he said. And was feeling guilty. Maybe, he thought, his son wanted to buy something. Finally, trying to ease his mind, the father went to his son's room.

"Are you asleep, son?" asked the father.

"No, Daddy. Why?" replied the boy, partially asleep.

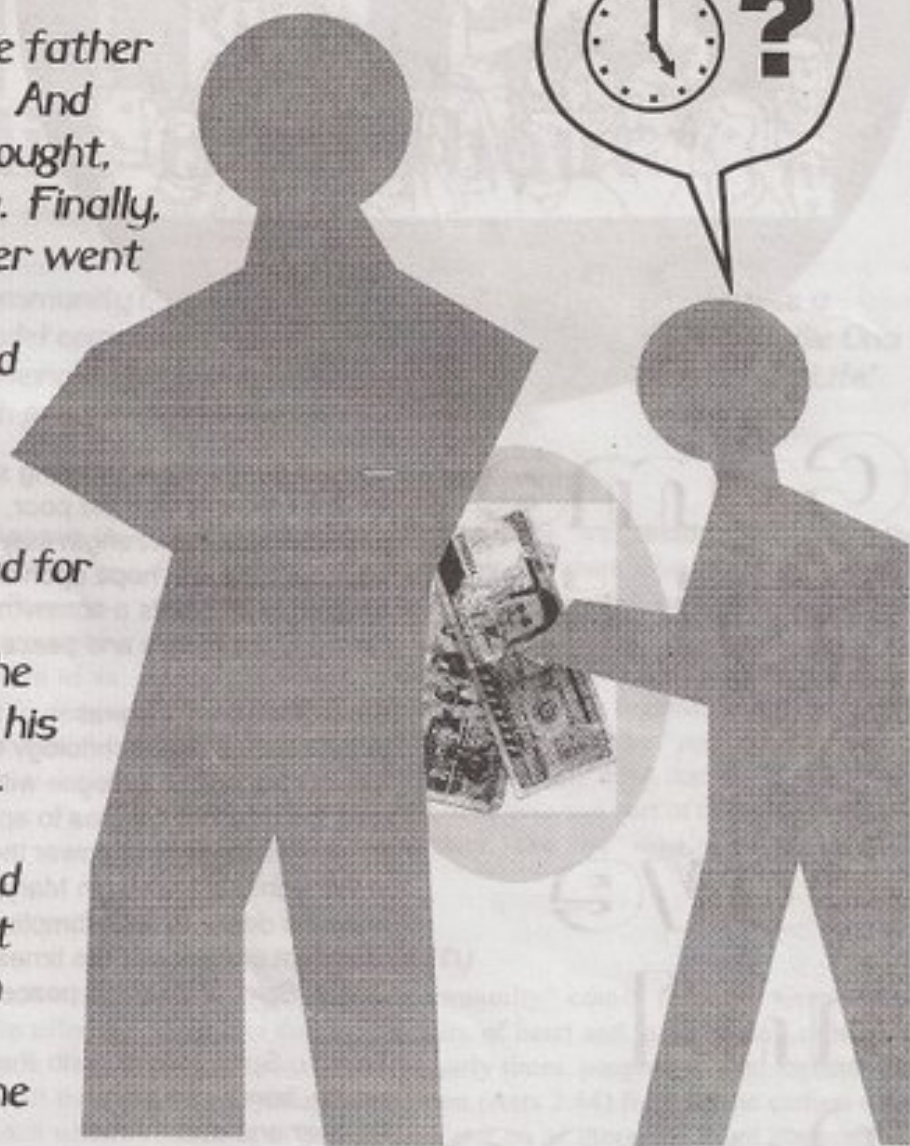
"Here's the money you asked for earlier," the father said.

"Thanks, Daddy!" rejoiced the son, while putting his hand under his pillow and removing some money.

"Now I have enough! Now I have twenty dollars!" the boy said to his father, who was gazing at his son, confused at what his son had just said.

"Daddy, could you sell me one hour of your time?"

# Father and Son



Source: Internet

Prayer of his Holiness Pope John Paul II for the second year of preparation for the Great Jubilee of the year 2000.

**H**oly Spirit, most welcome guest of our hearts, reveal to us the profound meaning of the Great Jubilee and prepare our hearts to celebrate it with faith, in the hope which does not disappoint, in the love which seeks nothing in return. Spirit of truth, you who search the depths of God, memory and prophecy in the Church,

lead mankind to recognize in Jesus of Nazareth the Lord of glory, the Savior of the world, the supreme fulfillment of history. Come, Spirit of love and peace!

Creator Spirit, hidden builder of the Kingdom, by the power of your saints guide the Church to cross with courage the threshold of the new millennium and to carry to the coming generations the light of the Word who brings salvation. Spirit of holiness, divine breath which moves the universe, come and renew the face of the earth. Awaken in Christians a desire for full unity, that they may be for the world an effective sign and instrument of intimate union with God and of the unity of the whole human race. Come, Spirit of love and peace!

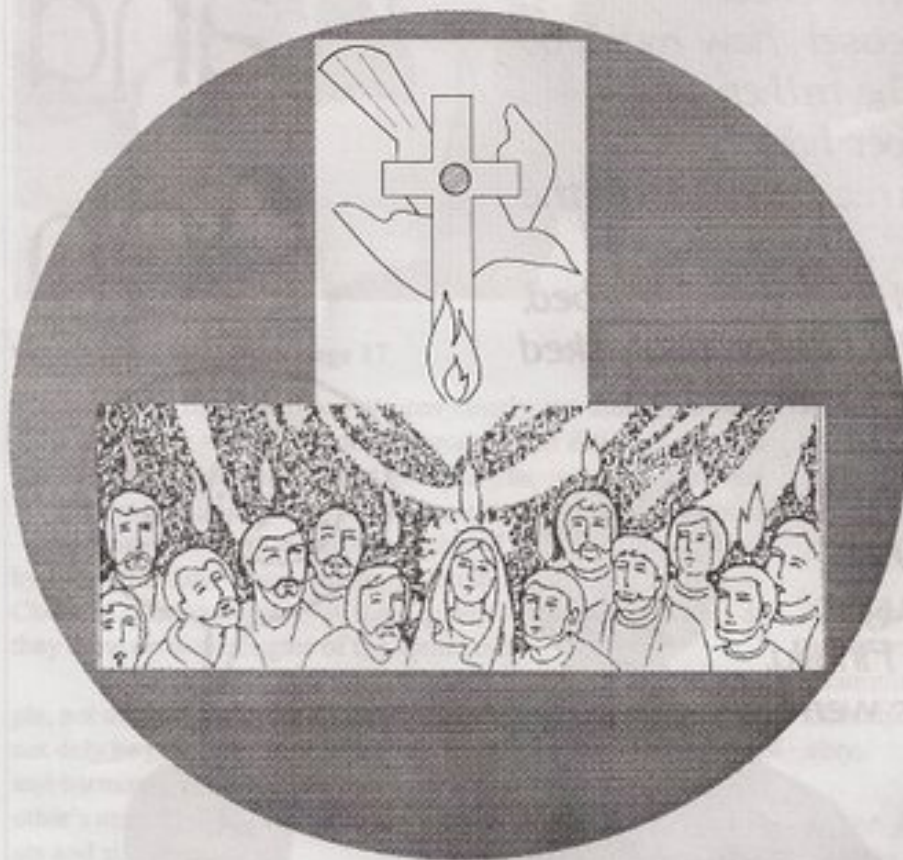
Spirit of communion, soul and strength of the Church, grant that wealth of charisms and ministries may contribute to the unity of the Body of Christ; grant that laity, consecrated persons and ordained ministers may work together in harmony to build the one Kingdom of God.

Spirit of consolation, unfailing source of joy and peace, inspire solidarity with the poor, grant the sick the strength they need, pour out trust and hope upon those experiencing trials, awaken in all hearts a commitment to a better future. Come, Spirit of love and peace!

Spirit of wisdom, inspiration of minds and hearts, direct science and technology to the service of life, justice and peace. Render fruitful our dialogue with the followers of other religions, lead the different cultures to appreciate the values of the Gospel. Spirit of life, by whose power the Word was made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the woman of attentive silence, make us docile to the promptings of your love and ever ready to accept the signs of the times which lace along the paths of history. Come, Spirit of love and peace!

To you, Spirit of love, with the Almighty Father and the Only-Begotten Son, be praise, honor and glory. Forever and ever. Amen.

Source: World Mission Magazine



# Come, Spirit of Love and Peace

As 1998 is the Jubilee Year of the Holy Spirit, our Back to Basics section begins a series of writeups on the Holy Spirit. In Tertio Millennio Adveniente, Pope John Paul II declares that the goal of the celebration of this Jubilee Year is a renewed appreciation of the presence and activity of the Spirit, who acts within the Church, both in the sacraments and in various charisms for the good of the Church.

If you have any questions you would like addressed about the Holy Spirit and His role in our Christian life, please let us know and we will try to include them in this series. -Editor

#### First in a Series

**W**hen asked to describe God the Father, we can easily visualize an elderly fatherly figure seated on a throne surrounded by angels. When asked to describe Jesus the Son, this is even easier for there are many artists' portrayals of Jesus. But what about the third person of the Holy Trinity? If asked to describe the Holy Spirit, what will we say? A dove, tongues of fire, a wind? Is it possible to describe a "spirit"?

In the Brotherhood and in other charismatic movements, one of the high points in our journey with the Lord is our baptism in the Holy Spirit, for most of us an intensely moving experience that we treasure for the rest of our lives.

Almost all Christians want to be full of the Holy Spirit. Only a few want to be filled with the Spirit, says Christian author A.W. Tozer in his book *Keys To The Deeper Life*. But how can a Christian know the fullness of the Spirit unless he has known the experience of being filled? And how useless to tell anyone how to be filled with the Spirit unless he first believes in the Holy Spirit. And how can anyone believe without a basic knowledge of who the Holy Spirit is and what His role in God's plan is?

I am not an expert on the Holy Spirit, this I want to make clear from the very beginning. I wonder if anyone could make this claim, considering that



# Who is the Holy Spirit?

Nancy R. Catan

while we may know the name, titles and symbols of the Holy Spirit and how He can make a difference in our life, the Holy Spirit still remains somewhat of a mystery to mankind.

#### *The breath of God*

Several weeks ago I was giving a Steward Leaders Training to about 30 of our managers at the Highlands Resort in Mabinay, Negros Oriental, halfway between Bacolod and Dumaguete. This is a beautiful natural refuge perched on top of the mountains with six lovely man-made lakes all connected by a series of waterfalls and

surrounded by a mahogany forest. The place literally exudes serenity and the presence of God.

As was my custom I awoke early and went out to have my prayer time lakeside to watch the dawning day. It had rained the evening before and as the sun rose through the trees, a thick mist formed over the lake. The mist began to move over the water from the right side of the lake to the left. Although the mist swirled steadily across the lake in front of me, I could not see where it came from or where it went. It was just there, mystically dancing to greet the first rays of the sun.

# He is the Person-Love, Person-Gift

This is how it was in Genesis, I thought to myself in awe, as my mind was filled with the majesty

of the first verse in the Old Testament: "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind (the breath of God) swept over the waters." Gen. 1:1.

From darkness to light, with the breath of God clearing away the shadows of night...isn't this how the Spirit has been manifest in my life? In my meditations that morning I praised God for the Holy Spirit Who showed himself to me in such a loving and gentle manner.

## Who is the Holy Spirit?

He is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son. The Nicene Creed proclaims the Holy Spirit as: "The Lord the Giver of Life who proceeds from the Father and the Son."

John Paul II explains that in the Holy Spirit the intimate life of the Triune God becomes totally gift, an exchange of mutual love between the Divine Persons. It is the Holy Spirit, who is the *personal expression* of this self-giving, of this being-love. He is the Person-Love, Person-Gift.

The Spirit proceeds as Breath of Life, the Son proceeds as the Word or Image of the Father. Thus we speak of the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, one in being with the Father and the Son. (Handbook on the Holy Spirit)

## The voice of God

I like to think of the Holy Spirit as the voice of God. When God the Father speaks, he speaks through the voice of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus

sent out the twelve, He said, "Do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in

that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you" (Matt. 10:19-20).

Benny Hinn, in his book *Good Morning, Holy Spirit*, puts it beautifully when he says that the Holy Spirit is the one who communicates heaven into our hearts. He points out that he believes we could not bear it if God the Father ever spoke to us audibly. He doubts that we are even prepared to hear the voice of Jesus, described as "the sound of many waters" (Rev. 1:15). When John heard it, he fell at His feet, "as dead" (v. 17).

The Holy Spirit, however, takes the voice of the Father and the Son and makes it quiet, lovely, and perfectly clear. Elijah heard the voice of the Lord as a "tiny, whispering sound" (1 Kings 19:12). We may hear Him speak to us gently in our hearts, or lovingly during praise and worship. For me, I know it is the voice of the Spirit when I feel a sense of peace, joy and love envelop me. Even if I don't particularly like what the Holy Spirit is telling me, still the feeling of peace and love is tangibly present. #

## References:

CBCP Monitor (February, March issues contain reprints from The Handbook on the Holy Spirit prepared by the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan.)  
Catechism of the Catholic Church. (ECCCE & Word & Life Publications, Manila, c1994)  
*Good Morning, Holy Spirit* by Benny Hinn. (Thomas Nelson Pub., Nashville, c1990)

# Bible Sharing



## What a difference the Spirit makes!

Years after Jesus announced the arrival of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers, Paul described what a Spirit-filled life looks like.

Read Romans 8:5-14 and Galatians 5:16-26.

Make a simple chart by drawing a line down the center of sheet of paper making two vertical columns. Label one column "Spirit-controlled" and the other "Flesh-controlled". Then list down the contrasts Paul makes between a Spirit-controlled life and a flesh-controlled life.

1. With what sin are you currently struggling?
2. How is your flesh telling you to respond?
3. What is the Spirit urging you to do?
4. In what practical ways can you "set your mind on the Spirit"?
5. Compose a prayer to God. Thank Him for His Spirit. Tell Him about an area in your life where you especially need the Spirit's touch, then surrender that area to Him in faith.

**Do you have products to sell?  
Services to offer?  
Unique merchandise?**

**Why not join the CBCP 18th  
Anniversary *Mini-Bazaar*  
on May 30, 1998?**

**Call the CBCP Center for  
more details.**

Larry de Larrazabal  
Makati Chapter

# Has a mother's role changed?

*"They must teach the younger women to love their husbands and children." Titus 2:4*

In certain segments of our modern-day society, a mother's career is looked down upon as a second-rate role for women. Staying home with the children is considered boring and unproductive, according to them. They underrate mothers who devote their full time caring for the family. Because of their convictions, more and more of the younger wives are out working in the marketplace, leaving their children in the hands of maids or to fend for themselves. To some, financial needs have priority over family needs. While in some cases there are no other alternatives, in many others the reasons are just plain selfish ambitions. In many of these marriages, the results are disastrous. Divorces, separations are the end results, leaving children to grow up with one parent.

A mother's role encompasses practically all the activities needed to run the home. She is wife and mother, maid, cook, part-time nurse, overseeing the children's schooling — these are some of the many things she does, and does well. How can anyone underrate or consider boring and unproductive the role of wife and mother?

Many of these contemporary wives end up competing with husbands in the role of provider and leader in the home. This conflict is a disturbing influence in the life of the children, where they lose track of the concept and importance of the role models of father and mother.

Wives and mothers are gifts of God to the family where they assume the central obligation of molding and keeping the family together.

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, I thank you for the gift of family. I have an endearing spouse and wonderful children. Our family has had its ups and downs, but thanks to you, Lord Jesus, we have remained faithful to one another. I pray that we continue with this joyful union till death do us part.

## Musings

Cynthia Matas  
Cavite City Outreach

# PAIN

Pain...it comes and goes... It's there to remind me of my being human and alive...there to tell me that I need balm... to show me that I need time for private moments with myself and with my God who is my source of strength and comfort.

In a world of clashing forces and ideas I am bound in my weakness to feel pain sooner or later...but it merely becomes my signal to draw closer to the very embrace of my savior...then all the pain, hurts and disappointments inside me will be calmed by His love and comforting words.

He reminds me, "Rejoice forevermore; pray without ceasing; give thanks in everything..." The joy and prayer and thanksgiving of being a child of God and a Christian are not optional...I realize that this is what He demands of me...

And so in my pain I search for joy, when besieged by hurts I pray, and when fraught with disappointments I thank Him for caring for me enough to remind me of His love... I am human and alive and my God loves me... and that's enough for me.

## Thoughts & Quotes

Nitz Butao  
Butuan Outreach

# Welcome, New Year!

Here are a few thoughts from my scrapbook to help us begin the New Year and see it through victoriously.

*"Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of wait."* When waiting for God to work, we must exercise patience and steadfast faith, leaving matters in His hands. I have found that patience means awaiting God's time without doubting God's love. God seldom does great things in a hurry, unlike most of us who delight in doing things in a great hurry. God will reward us for our patience but not too soon nor too late.

*"Character is shaped by what the mind takes in."* When we allow wrong thoughts into our minds, we open ourselves to sin. This New Year let us only fill our minds with good and pure thoughts. When we submit to God and resist the devil, we can say "No" to tempting thoughts.

*"To be rich in God is better than to be rich in goods."* Continued spiritual progress requires that we honestly recognize our spiritual poverty. This is the year of the Holy Spirit and who better is there to ask for guidance?

# SGV & Co

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co  
An Arthur Andersen Member Firm

The Board of Trustees  
The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood  
of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc.

6760 Ayala Avenue  
1226 Makati City Philippines  
632 891 0307  
632 819 0872 Fax

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets, liabilities and fund balance of The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc. (a nonstock, nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 1996 and 1995, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in fund balance and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are prepared from the accounts maintained by the Foundation and are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits, which were limited to the transactions recorded on such accounts.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 2 to the financial statements, the Foundation's policy is to prepare its financial statements on the cash basis of accounting, except for the inclusion of depreciation on property and equipment, amortization of deferred charges and accrual of certain assets and liabilities. Consequently, certain revenues and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and fund balance of The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc. as of December 31, 1996 and 1995, and its revenues, expenses and changes in fund balance and its cash flows for the years then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 2.

*SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co.*

PTR No. 8886523  
January 9, 1997  
Makati City

November 25, 1997

**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.**

(A Nonstock, Nonprofit Organization)

**STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

	December 31	
	1996	1995
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	P1,652,002	P2,016,550
Accounts Receivable from Members	164,248	138,624
Musical Instruments and Office Equipment (net of accumulated depreciation of P841,672 in 1996 and P673,990 in 1995)	240,118	191,360
	<b>P2,056,368</b>	<b>P2,346,534</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		
Accounts Payable	P28,074	P24,853
Advances from Affiliates (Note 3)	23,043	23,043
Fund Balance	2,005,251	2,298,638
	<b>P2,056,368</b>	<b>P2,346,534</b>

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.**

(A Nonstock, Nonprofit Organization)

**STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**

	Years Ended December 31	
	1996	1995
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Donations and tithes received	₱5,994,640	₱6,682,378
Interest	23,768	33,204
	<b>6,018,408</b>	<b>6,715,582</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Trainings, seminars and conferences	3,386,762	3,542,051
Transportation	868,002	241,124
Donations	399,504	400,573
Salaries and employee benefits	374,418	366,267
Kapatiran	334,171	287,864
Rental	209,656	176,867
Depreciation	167,682	211,102
Office supplies	166,184	123,420
Professional fees	144,000	152,080
Others	261,416	256,952
	<b>6,311,795</b>	<b>5,758,300</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>(293,387)</b>	<b>957,282</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>2,298,638</b>	<b>1,341,356</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>₱2,005,251</b>	<b>₱2,298,638</b>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.



**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.**

**(A Nonstock, Nonprofit Organization)**

**STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**

Years Ended December 31

1996                      1995

**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<b>(P293,387)</b>	P957,282
Adjustments to reconcile excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	167,682	211,102
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable from members	<b>(25,624)</b>	11,418
Increase (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	3,221	(5,445)
Advances from affiliates	-	10,000
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<b>(148,108)</b>	1,184,357

**CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITY**

Additions to musical instruments and office equipment	<b>(216,440)</b>	(155,159)
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<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>	<b>(364,548)</b>	1,029,198
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<b>CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>2,016,550</b>	987,352
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<b>CASH AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>P1,652,002</b>	P2,016,550
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*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.**

**(A Nonstock, Nonprofit Organization)**

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**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**1. General**

The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc. is a nonstock, nonprofit corporation organized to promote, to support and to encourage the: (a) human development and value formation of businessmen and professionals; (b) improvement of Filipino marital and family life and community consciousness; (c) total human development and value formation of the youth and students and all others who may be so interested therein; and (d) to foster and maintain fellowship and goodwill and unity among its members and all those with whom the Foundation and its members may interact.

As a nonstock, nonprofit organization, the Foundation's revenues are exempt from payment of income tax as set forth in Section 26(e) of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC). The Foundation, however, is subject to the corresponding internal revenue taxes under the NIRC on income derived from any of its properties, real or personal or any activity conducted for profit regardless of the disposition thereof.

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**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Method of Accounting

The Foundation prepares its financial statements on the cash basis of accounting, except for the inclusion of depreciation on property and equipment, amortization of deferred charges and accrual of certain assets and liabilities. Consequently, certain revenues and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Musical Instruments and Office Equipment

Musical instruments and office equipment are carried at cost or at fair market value at the time of donation (in the case of donated assets) less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the properties. The cost of maintenance and minor repairs is charged to income as incurred; significant renewals and betterments are capitalized.

Donations and Tithes

Donations and tithes are recognized as revenues when received.

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**3. Related Party Transactions**

The Foundation, in the normal course of business, receives advances from certain affiliates.

## LEGAZPI

# Chapter-in-training team announced

Outreach head Maning Lorenzo during the outreach's January 3 governance meeting formally announced the composition of the governance team that will oversee the transition of the outreach to its becoming a chapter within 1998. Presently the outreach has been designated as a chapter-in-training by the National Council.

The governance team includes: Outreach head Manina/Pat Lorenzo; mission head Dofel/Lyn Banares; life head Meds/Emy Reynoso, secretariat Noel/Amy Bolinas; treasurer Ludy Sabater. Unit heads are Fedy/Amy Siapno, Bon/Cora Navera, Ely/Tety Salazar, and Benjie/Beni Santiago.

Support ministries heads are Bong/Pita Pacres - music; Bon/Cora Navera, Bert/Remy Padilla - breakfasts; Emong/Sen Moral - formation; Benjie/Beni Santiago - community fellowship; Ric/Zeny Lee - family life; Cookie/Issa Robles - children; and WOC coordinator and director respectively Noel/Amy Bolinas and Joel/Nes Ogao.

Presently the chapter-in-training has 14 action groups.

## WOC as outreach of BCBP Legazpi

The Workers of Christ (WOC) has been officially recognized as an outreach of the BCBP Legazpi.

This was announced after the outreach's governance meeting on January 3. Noel/Amy Bolinas have been designated as WOC Coordinator, with Joel/Agnes Ogao serving as the WOC Directors.

A WOC Life in the Spirit Seminar was held on December 27-29, 1997 for the workers of Shelmed Cottage Treasures. The next LSS is scheduled for March 13-15, 1998.

## TUGUEGARAO



*Tuguegarao Outreach head Didi Perez delivers a talk during Leadership Management Seminar at Callao Resort.*

## Callao conference identifies 1998 priorities

After attending the conference in Baguio in early January conducted by the National Council, the four representatives from BCBP Tuguegarao gathered the Tuguegarao outreach leaders at the Callao mountaintop resort on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 for a brainstorming conference. 50 mem-

bers participated in the planning workshop. Outreach head Didi Perez, mission director Ninoy Carag, chapter life director Peping Taguba and Ronnie Coballes conducted the workshop that focused on identifying and committing to the outreach's 1998 priority programs.

## BCLP 6 adds twenty eight

The Tuguegarao outreach added 28 new members to its membership on December 13, 1997, during commitment ceremonies. Some members from the mother chapter Paranaque were also present.

For the first time since its inception as an outreach, the course was con-

ducted with local speakers and all discussion leaders and servants coming from Tuguegarao.

Course director Oca and Tess Bannaban were ably assisted by head servants Dar and Helen Navarro.

## 1st children's fellowship well attended

The first Children's Fellowship of the Legazpi outreach held on December 14, 1997, was attended by 31 families with a total of 59 children of all ages, shapes and huggable sizes. The activity started with a 6:30 a.m. Holy Mass at the Albay Cathe-

dral after which the group proceeded to Cagsawa Resort, Daraga.

The KKB sharing affair was emceed by Kay Cabria and Babes Banares with a full day of programmed activities, games and an exchange-gift-affle for both children and parents.

## ILIGAN

More than a month of strenuous preparations preceded the big day with outreach head Bobby Borromeo spearheading the activities. Committee chairmen were kept on their toes with regular reminders, and an infectious spirit of competition was stoked to raise the proceeds of the souvenir program advertisements to its limits.

Finally, the big day came. Guests began arriving the day before, Friday Nov. 21. First arrivals included the Manilans and members of the National Council: BCBP president Manny Banigan, Haydz Banigan, Rollie Ona, VisMin director with wife Emma, VisMin Dep. Director Sadie Saguisag with wife Ester, national secretary Sammy Ulanday and national treasurer Bobby Lavina with wife Marite. Early arrivals also were the Ilonggos, all 12 of them, the Davaoenos and the lone Tagum outreach delegate, Ruben Bunacan.



*Bobby Borromeo, with wife Nenen, delivers his acceptance speech as chapter head of BCBP-Iligan*

# Chapter installation: a historic and happy day

Friday evening activities began the installation festivities with a mass, praise and worship program and a talk on tithing by Bobby Lavina at the ISK chapel. Dinner and fellowship ended the evening.

At 7 am the next morning, BCBP members and guests started arriving for the breakfast at the 6th floor function room of the Maria Cristina Hotel. A record-breaking 272 attendees heard and were touched by the life sharing of Bobby and Marite Lavina.

Immediately following the breakfast at the same venue the 4th Quarter VisMin Conference was held with the council members facilitating workshops on the handling of large chapters that are heading toward splitting into two, on membership retention and recruitment.

With the brothers busy at the conference proper, the ladies tackled questions like how to handle problems in attendance at action group meetings, how to handle dual memberships and the additional responsibilities of a new chapter. The ladies' sessions were held at the Al Fresco on the southern side of town.

On Saturday afternoon the out-of-towners were treated to a tour of the city's sites, especially its newest pride, the recently developed Tinago Falls. Meanwhile, other delega-

tions and guests from Cebu, Mactan, Tagbilaran, Ormoc and Maasin came via Cagayan de Oro by boat, while those from Butuan, Bukidnon and Ozamiz came by land.

By 6:00 p.m. that evening the Maria Cristina Hotel Ballroom was already filled to capacity. Mass promptly started with Msgr. Emilio Bataclan, Bishop of the Diocese of Iligan, officiating. His homily was full of earthy humor, pull-down practicality and sobering reminders of the past, present and the future.

The installation rites were incorporated into the mass with the bishop giving his blessing to "Bobby Chap" as Banigan prefers to call Bobby Borromeo, Iligan's new chapter head.

A sumptuous dinner followed the mass highlighted by a whole roasted cow that prompted various "holy smoke" jokes

throughout the evening. Exotic cultural dances performed by the Kalimudan Dance Troupe of Mindanao State University headed the program of song and dance numbers. Especially touching was the presentation by BCBP Ozamiz that expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the labor of love displayed by the Iliganons in organizing the BCBP in Ozamiz.

The members of BCBP Iligan would like to express their thanks to everyone who graced the Iligan installation and who helped make the weekend such a historic and happy occasion. Space does not permit acknowledging each one by name.

The evening ended with fun-filled dancing. The Iliganons were delighted to find out that the BCBP national leadership was not composed of grim-looking, fun-hating personalities. They all danced and laughed and enjoyed themselves. Sadie Saguisag was even seen doing a mean boogie with a Davaoena. Which was as it should be. After all, Jesus himself was a warm-hearted, feast-loving truly human Person, who has promised us that He will prepare a feast for us in heaven. -P.M. Lluch, Jr.

*BCBP-Iligan members and guests during installation.*



## PUERTO PRINCESA



Another changing of the guard: Fuji Rodriguez hands over the headship of Puerto Princesa to Edwin Tan as Manny Banigan looks on.

## New chapter head for Puerto

Edwin Tan, a graduate of the first BCLP conducted in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, and the chapter's life director for the past nine years, was appointed as the new chapter head by National Council president Manny Banigan during the Commitment Ceremony for the graduates of BCLP 10 last December 18. He serves as chapter head-in-training until June 1998 when he assumes full headship of the chapter.

Tan succeeds Roland "Fuji" Rodriguez who has ably and with inspired

dedication served the community since its inception nine years ago seeing the chapter through its growing pains as an outreach into full chapterhood in 1996.

Banigan explained that the leadership in the Brotherhood does not take a definite career path. Servanthood in the organization is an anointment that is discharged in the spirit of love and service for the Lord and the community. A process of discernment and prayers are undergone before any chapter leadership is changed.

## "Make your commitment total"

"Make your commitment total; you cannot just commit yourself to a few selected items or BCBP activities." This was emphasized by BCBP national council president Manny Banigan during the commitment ceremonies of the BCLP 10 graduates last December 13, 1997. The thirty new members who joined the Puerto Princesa chapter at that time were each

gifted with a Community Bible and the blue BCBP songbook.

The evening was capped with mini-sharings from the graduates. On the lighter side, the graduates presented song and dance numbers while the BCBP Puerto Princesa Choral Group treated everyone to praise songs to the beat of reggae and rumba.

## MACTAN

## Chapter splits into two areas

Sometime in late 1997 Mactan chapter of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals took a bold step to split the chapter into two areas, namely Mandaue and Mactan, to accommodate the ever-growing number of members. New action group leaders were assigned and trainings are on-going for speakers, sharers and servant-leaders.

This growth upsurge resulted from two successful BCLPs conducted by the chapter in May and September 1997 with the membership strengthened through two BCMRs held in August and December. Each batch brought in new members who immediately became active in strengthening the different ministries that sustain the chapter.

## 200 filled the night with thanksgiving

On January 2 all throughout the country, the BCBP Community simultaneously gathered together for the annual BCBP thanksgiving night.

The Holy Family Church in Mandaue saw about 200 BCBP Mactan members gathering for the thanksgiving event which included rafter-shaking praise and thanksgiving followed by the members recommitting themselves by signing the new covenant card. Fellowship and snacks ended the evening.

## DUMAGUETE

## Outreach setup for '98

Jayvee Imbo, BCBP Dumaguete outreach head, recently announced the composition of his outreach team for 1998. Breakfast head is Ely Dejaresco, Teddy Cortes is mission director. Paul Ong serves as the chief servant while Wading

Buenavista heads the Dumaguete music ministry team and Dodong Navarro the Dipolog music team.

The 3 units of the outreach are manned by ULs Cesar/Lilia Concepcion, Boy/Abie Diputado, and Ely/Anne Escorial.

Moning/Ching Somoza handle the secretariat. Frank/Liza Cabaron take care of liturgy while Cesar/Lilia Concepcion head the intercessory prayer warriors. Information team head is Ely Dejaresco.

## MAKATI

# Joint SLT begins 1998

Thirteen participants from the Makati chapter and Cavite and Manila outreaches joined to attend the Makati-sponsored Steward Leaders Training on January 23-25, 1998 at Villa Julia, Cavite. The live-in course was facilitated by Beth Ginete of BCBP Makati and Nancy Catan of BCBP Manila.

A second course is calendared for May 1-3 to accommodate the clamor of those who failed to attend the first course.



## DAVAO

# Going back to Jesus

One hundred thirteen members attended Davao's 2nd Annual Recollection held last November 30, 1997 at the Benedictine Sisters Retreat House in Ulas, Davao City.

With the theme "A Journey Toward the Inner Self", retreat master Fr. Al Botero, DCO ushered the members into a spiritual experience in preparation for the Advent season with emphasis on "...preparing not so much for the Lord's coming, but rather for our going back to Jesus who has always been waiting..."

## Welcome

### BCLP 9

#### Davao Outreach

Abella, Lillian  
 Ancas, Tessie  
 Banzale, Flordeliza  
 Biebl, Luzviminda  
 Brevia, Eloiza  
 dela Cruz, Margarito/Thelma  
 dela Paz, Leticia  
 Go, Nilda  
 Gregorio, Eric/Edna  
 Inting, Priscilo/Ramona  
 Jamora, Ernie/Alexis  
 Latayan, Janette  
 Loos, Ma. Lorna  
 Peralta, Antonio  
 Robillo, Eduardo/Olivia  
 Santamarina, Felomina  
 Tirol, Agnes  
 Valdevieso, Mac Jane

# BCLP 9'ers join the outreach

BCLP 9 of the Davao Outreach harvested 23 graduates who last Dec. 6, 1997, committed to live out the BCBP vision and lead our mission in the practice of their respective professions and work in the marketplace. Commitment rites were held at the Carmelites Church. BCLP 9 course leaders were Gus and Fe Dacudao supported by chief servants and assistant course leaders Ram and Mila Cinches.

Fr. Allen O'Brien, CSSR cel-

ebrated the mass which outreach head Tony Garcia and wife Betty led the welcome of the new members to the Brotherhood. Manolet Siojo from BCBP Greenhills gave the commitment talk; he and his wife Carla doubled up as the breakfast sharers on that day.

The dinner fellowship and Christmas party that followed was held at the Lanang Golf and Country Club just across from the Carmelites Monastery.



Participants of Davao's 2nd Annual Recollection at the Benedictine Sisters Retreat House, Ulas Davao City.

Don't forget. May 29 - 30, 1998 -  
 The Brotherhood celebrates its 18th National  
 Anniversary in Manila.  
**BE THERE WHEN IT HAPPENS!**

**W**hat is prayer?  
There are really many definitions of prayer that I could cite. But I like to think of prayer as:

- a hunger for God's presence in my life; it is a loving connection with the Source of my being and faith.

- an act of love, a love that demands the wholeness and integrity of my life as a creation of God.

- the communication channel through which I worship, ask forgiveness, give thanks and seek help; it is the channel that puts me in touch with God. It is where I reach out to Him and He holds me in His embrace and listens to me.

- a gentle way by which I come to realize my faults and become aware of my strengths. Through prayer I can deal with my weaknesses, lean on the healing power of God, and become stronger in my faith.

- a powerful lamp which throws light on my problems, which enables me to know myself and other people better, and thus be a channel of grace, love and help to others.

In his booklet on Living Moments of Prayer, J. Maurus cites Ernest Gordon as writing: "Prayer is not just speaking, but hearing; not just a receiving, but a giving; not just a seeking, but a finding; not just a monologue, but a dialogue; not just a resting, but a striving; not just an escape from the turmoil of life, but a challenge to battle."

### Why do we as Christians need to pray?

If we scan the headlines today in any newspaper throughout the Philippines, even throughout the world for that matter, we are confronted with a melange of corruption, killings, wars, AIDS, cancer and other deadly disease epidemics, crime, fear, immorality, in fact all kinds, sizes, shapes, varieties and descriptions of sin and evil practices. And these things have existed since man existed. They are not new. Just read Romans, chapter 1 ... many of the sins that are being accepted socially today are those

With this article we begin a new section in the KAPATIRAN Magazine in response to a felt need among members for articles to support the BCBP teaching tracks. Since the focus for this issue is coincidentally on prayer, we are featuring the BCBP Prayer Series together with various notes to help you should you be called upon to give one of these teaching talks.

Please refer to the teaching outlines to flesh out your talk with bible verses and other pointers. Remember that any teaching can be improved with several personal mini-sharings that highlight the emphasis of the talk. I have also found that using "I" more than the dictative "you" is an effective way of keeping the interest of the audience. -Editor

# PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF A BCBP Member

Nancy R. Catan, Manila Outreach

which God has given up on.

What is the root of all this? Basically, it is man's disobedience to God's commands, man's rebellious acts against God's loving concern, man's demand for complete freedom and independence from anything he can't understand and know with his five senses. What was once perfect in God's sight has now become distorted, ignored or remade according to man's lusts, greed and worldly pursuits.

Mama Mary in all her messages exhorts us, begs us and constantly reminds us to pray to her Son for forgiveness and enlightenment so that God's anger will not be finally aroused against us and the whole world.

We have to realize that we cannot change the world, we cannot even change our neighbors or our spouses or our brothers and sisters in the BCBP. The only one I can change is myself. And

prayer is how I can do it.

Prayer is indispensable for us, for if we neglect our dealings with God, little by little our spiritual life begins to languish. Blessed Escriva tells us that "If you abandon prayer you may at first live on spiritual reserves and, after that, by cheating." (Escriva, *Furrow*)

### How do I pray?

As with most Christians and BCBP members, I pray in a variety of ways. I think that using only one method would sooner or later result in boredom...and boredom in any relationship spells disaster.

There is community or public prayer — BCBP gatherings, mass and other liturgical celebrations with the parish community, participation in the sacraments, and the more intimate prayers in family gatherings like reunions and parties. We should not be hesitant in

## PRAYER... BCBP... from page 37

offering to give the invocation at a business gathering or social function; we should always make known our desire to pray before a meal, be it at a restaurant with friends or at a banquet surrounded by people we don't know. This is our chance to witness our faith by our actions.

Prayer in company with other Christians ought also to be personal prayer. While we recite the prayers with our lips, our minds should be reflecting on the content and intent of the prayer instead of wandering around in our thoughts.

Most of us have been brought up to practice some kind of private or individual prayer, whether it be prayer before meals, prayer to our guardian angel, prayer of the sign of the cross, or a short bedtime prayer. Sad to say, many times we mumble them quickly as a matter of routine, using them more as a form of charm to ward off evil than as an open, sincere attempt to talk with God.

Setting aside a regular, quality, private time to spend one-on-one with Our Lord is a necessity in our lives as Christians. How can we come to know Jesus better if we do not spend time sitting at his feet ... in adoration, in respectful and loving silence listening to what He has to say to us, in contemplation on His divinity, love and power. We need to speak to Him a great deal. We need to walk with Him even as we ask Him to walk with us. Without prayer, how difficult it is to accompany Him.

How do I pray? I find early morning a good time before the world starts to stretch itself awake. I have a corner in

my room with some treasured religious pictures and items, a candle, my bible and several devotional books.

I frequently resort to the Gospels or other devotional books to help me focus on the Lord. Even St. Teresa said that for years she always began her prayers with a book until such time that communicating with God became for her a mystic experience. I have heard devotional books referred to as "prayer

crutches". This used to bother me until I realized that many times when I am wounded by the pains and problems of life, I need a crutch to help me heal.

I also have a timer that I set when I begin; this way I am not concerned about time, I don't have to interrupt my prayer to look at my watch (I take off my watch and leave it somewhere else), I can just concentrate on being with my Lord.

I don't feel I have to follow any particular format or prayer form since I believe that prayer is not a question of what I say or feel, but a matter of love. Just by being fully and consciously present with the Lord tells Him that I love Him, many times just being there is enough.



### Praying with the Scriptures

Carmen Rojas in her book "Daily Prayer Companion" sets out practical and helpful guidelines for using the bible as a basis for a stronger prayer life. She recommends the Psalms as a great resource for our personal prayer life because of their personal tone and their ability to get straight to the point of the problematic situation.

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### CENTENNIAL... from page 20



we're Filipinos. The Philippine Centennial year is a most appropriate time for national self-reflection to remind us of our moral duty to perpetuate the inherent nobility, wealth and strength of our heritage. What have we done to deserve this freedom? What do we do to preserve our legacy? The National Centennial Commission has come up with a comprehensive program for this event.

Second, we're men of good will. As professionals and businessmen, we have so many resources within our means to help develop and preserve the symbols of our forefathers' struggle for independence. Good corporate citizens, what is our little contribution toward this direction? We can fight a new, peaceful revolution by doing away with our favorite bad habits and negativism. There are a lot of other practical ways to do this by supporting the various centennial committees.

Third and most important, we're Christians. As a people united in the body of Christ, we proclaim this unity by keeping the revolutionary legacy alive in our hearts and minds. The Philippines is the only predominantly Christian nation in Asia, and thus, our struggle for independence is also symbolic of our struggle for emancipation from the clutches of sin and all the evils around us. With

What's the significance of all those to us in the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals?

First and foremost,

poverty, criminality, graft and corruption staring us in the face, we may have failed to see the face of Jesus in the people that we meet everyday.

What is our Christian duty and obligation in meeting the challenges of the National Centennial? In ourselves? In our own family? In our society? How do we bring about national transformation in our midst especially since 1998, the year of our centenary as a free nation, is also incidentally Election Year?

Where does God sit in our life? Is He in the center of our universe? Do we enthrone Him in our heart? If we do, do we seek out His most perfect and holy will in all the decisions and choices that we make? Do we act in accordance with the brotherhood that we share in Christ Jesus?

Brothers and sisters in the Lord, this is the year that the Lord has made! As we celebrate the Centennial of Freedom, may we never forget that heroes like Rizal, Bonifacio, Aguinaldo and their lesser known contemporaries all stood for one thing:

They gave us our identity as a free nation. Never again will we allow a foreign power to overcome and enslave us. We will preserve our legacy as a free people in more concrete terms.

In a similar vein, as Christians, we have found our identity in Christ, as strengthened and nurtured by our brotherhood and the power within us to say "No!" to sin because of God's grace. We can no longer be enslaved by sin. We can say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) Soldiers of Christ, let's keep fighting to preserve our inheritance in the kingdom. #



## PRAYER..BCBP... from page 38

She says that by praying the Psalms as our own prayer, we open ourselves to the action of the Holy Spirit who is then able to pray through us to the Father in Christ.

I have found, too, that memorizing key verses is very valuable. Many times while seeking the Lord's guidance on something, a memorized verse will pop into my mind and be the answer from the Lord.

There are many good books available either from the Word of Joy or at any of the St. Paul's bookstores that can guide you on praying with scriptures, praying with the saints, praying with the Holy Spirit. I recommend that you find one that jumps up and speaks to you, really touches you with its insights...that is the one for you to use.

There are also books on the liturgy, on the Holy Mass, on the Lord's Prayer and other prayers that, as your prayer life begins to come alive, you may find them insightful, informative and helpful. See bookshelf on p. 40 for some suggestions.

### Worship is a form of prayer

One activity in the BCBP that we all should treasure and participate in is the monthly praise and worship assembly. We come before Him in an assembly of people to offer our praise and gratitude, to confess our sin and confusion, to offer ourselves, full of love and wonder, to offer our vulnerability to God's desires for us, and to listen to what He wants to tell us.

As we come together, God responds to us by assuring us of forgiveness, by comforting and healing us, embracing us, teaching us and sending us out to serve.

One comment I've heard is that "I don't like to attend because I don't like our worship leader." Even when leaders don't help us as they should, each of us can take practical steps to improve our own experience of worship and to help those who worship with us. We need to more clearly understand what it means to worship, prepare ourselves for the worship experience and expect to participate gratefully and joyfully during the actual assembly.



Since knowing and experiencing God in prayer and worship is such good news, we celebrate. The Bible tells us of a great heavenly banquet that we'll enjoy when Christ's reign comes to full flower, a feast to end all feasts (Is. 25:6; Rev. 19:9). Worshiping together is the potluck we keep in the interim, and it is filled with the joy and triumph that Christ's presence means even now.

At a potluck (we call it K.K.B.) as in worship, we don't come privately to eat our own baon. We bring something to share in "agape", and we feast on what others have brought as well. We tell each other of God's goodness, and we laugh and shout and sing and pray. We're serious, but not grim. In the midst of it all God — God among us — is the life of the party.

Our prayerful worship, therefore, is our response to God's presence at the party, at His presence in our lives. The different forms of prayer that we find in a BCBP assembly or action group meeting include spontaneous prayers of praise and thanksgiving, prayer in tongues, scripture readings, sharing about how the Lord is leading one's

life, spontaneous prophecy or inspired words of wisdom, intercessory prayers, silent reflection, responsive prayers or litanies, songs and singing in tongues.

### Direct line to God

In summary, our prayers serve as our connection to God. Jeremiah gives us the number of God's direct line. Jeremiah 33:3 — *"Call to me, and I will answer you. I will tell to you things great, beyond reach of your knowledge."*

I don't think it is so much a matter of form, of time of day or night, of how many minutes or hours I spend in prayer, or the kind of prayer or whether or not I use a "prayer crutch" that is important. I feel that the important thing in prayer is to PRAY. People and books can tell me how to do it but until I set time apart and actually do it, actually sit down to pray, I am not able to feel God's presence in an intimate way.

Prayer to me is now a necessity in my life. I pray that prayer becomes a necessity in yours, too.#



**Ronnie Caballero.** As the new managing editor of the *Kapatiran*, Ronnie likens his assumption of editorial responsibilities as opening a book and looking at its blank pages. "It's really a challenge," he admits. But with Ronnie's dynamic approach and many fresh ideas, backed up by his commendable track record as a BCBP leader, we can expect many good things to happen to our magazine.



**Nancy Catan.** Although relinquishing editorship of the *Kapatiran* where she served for eight years, Nancy continues to write and help out the staff when needed as editorial consultant. She and her husband Jun are now active in the Manila Outreach where they serve as Outreach Head. Nancy also conducts Steward Leaders Trainings, averaging one course a month.



**Eddie Mendoza.** Eddie continues to find time to share with us his insights on the Christian in business despite his very busy schedule as one of the top men of Phinma and BCBP Greenhills chapter head. Additionally he has been tasked by the National Council to finalize the BCBP Christians in Business Retreat (BCBR) and to help out with the review and revision of the BCLP Course Manual.



**Fernando de Larrazabal.** Tito Larry's "One Minute Meditations" are a source of inspiration not only to many of us in the BCBP but also nationwide where they can be heard over the different radio stations of the Radio Mindanao Network (RMN). Plus he is now finishing another book on the subject. Is this your third or fourth book, Tito Larry?



**Sammy M. Ulanday.** Now you see him, now you don't! Sammy as part of his multi-faceted work as the BCBP SecGen seems to always be on the go, visiting chapters and outreaches all over the country. In his column he shares insights and reflections on how God works in mysterious ways to enrich and strengthen the Brotherhood.



**Annie Salvador.** Being a Christian parent is not always easy. In her down-to-earth way, Annie tells us about her joys and travails as a parent of five active youngsters. Annie shares work and home responsibilities with her husband Nelson. They are also unit leaders in the BCBP Makati chapter.



**Nitz Butao.** Nitz continues to share with us bits and pieces from her scrapbook of inspiring thoughts and quotations. A member of the Butuan BCBP outreach, she writes a weekly column for the *Northern Mindanao Chronicle*.



**Cynthia Matas.** Mother of four and wife to Dioko, an active military officer, Cynthia likes to write and has kept a personal reflection journal for years. Based in Sangley Point, Cavite she and Dioko are unit leaders in the Cavite City outreach where she also serves in the teaching and formation ministry of the outreach.



## BOOKSHELF

Some suggestions to read on your journey with Jesus

**Seek My Face: Prayer as Personal Relationship in Scripture** by William A. Barry, S.J. (St. Paul Publications, Manila, c1989)

In delving into the mystery of how to gain intimacy with God through prayer, Fr. Barry takes up various scriptural incidents and personalities, brings in personal experiences in prayer and uses scripture imaginatively to illustrate some of the many ways of developing an intimate relationship with God. He shows the reader how to use everyday experience as an avenue to a deeper relationship with the Lord.

**The Ten Commandments of Prayer** by Rev. Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. (St. Paul Publications, Manila, c1984)

This little booklet grew out of a course on contemporary prayer, says Fr. DeGrandis, as he gives pointers for reflection and implementation in one's daily prayer. Each "commandment" is anchored on scripture with practical comments shared on how best to put it into action. Fr. DeGrandis also discusses getting into the prayer habit, what to do after the 'honeymoon' period, and perseverance in prayer. Easy reading and handy to carry with you.

**Praying Our Experiences** by Joseph F. Schmidt, FSC. (St. Paul Publications, Manila, c1980)

Praying our experiences is the practice of reflecting on and entering honestly into the day-to-day events of our life to become aware of God's word in them and to offer ourselves to God through these events. In this book Schmidt gives a positive rationale and practical suggestions for using life experiences as the content of our prayer. He also explains how the Scriptures, ministry, and faith are part of our personal prayer.

### CLARIFICATION

In the November - December issue under the Partners in Mission Section, the article was furnished by the PIM Council, and was then copied verbatim. Therefore, the text printed in the Section is exactly what appears in the original manuscript. - Editor.

# The BCBP Breakfast



## THE SPIRIT OF THE BCBP BREAKFAST

*The Breakfast is unique to the BCBP. There is no other organization that is known to have instituted a breakfast that has changed the lives of so many businessmen and professionals. The BCBP has the singular distinction of having introduced and sustained the breakfast system to bring the Gospel of Christ effectively to the marketplace. From this concept of a "Christian breakfast" evolved a potent renewal organization, the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals.*

*The Breakfast is a basic entry point for personal renewal. This is an important objective of the breakfast. It must continue to be the easiest way to a person's search for spiritual renewal. The simplicity of form and the effective delivery of the Gospel message through the "sharing" are key to the painless introduction of a businessman or professional to the door of Christian renewal.*

*The Breakfast is a means to continue upbuilding the members of the BCBP. The breakfast attendance is not an "option" for BCBP members but rather a commitment to the evangelistic culture of the BCBP. As members we are bound to not only evangelize in the breakfast but equally important to "fellowship, share and upbuild" our brothers and sisters through attendance and participation in the breakfasts. This is an inherent part of the BCBP culture which we have sworn to propagate in the marketplace. Every breakfast where we share our work experience with one another strengthens and upbuilds our members. This confirms the support that they are not alone in the resolve to actively bring Christ to our marketplace.*

### MEN'S BREAKFAST (7:30 A.M.)

Wednesdays - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club

Thursdays - GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills

VILLAMOR: Villamor Golf Club (1st & 3rd)

Fridays - MANILA: Racks, Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila

Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club, Muntinlupa

BACOLOD: Roli's La Salle, Bacolod

BAGUIO: Prime Hotel, Session Rd., Baguio (2nd & 4th Sat.)

BAYBAY: Angelicum (1st & 2nd Sat.)

BUKIDNON: Taipan Restaurant, Valencia (1st Sat.)

Pines Hotel, Malaybalay (3rd Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Consuelo Steak House, Corales St. Cagayan de Oro

CALAMBA: Max's Restaurant

CEBU: Ding Qua-Qua Rest., Gen Maxilom Ave. Cebu City

DAVAO: Kuya Eds (2nd & 4th Sat.)

DUMAGUETE: Ma. Luisa Plaza, Dumaguete City (1st & 3rd Sat.)

ILIGAN: Maria Cristina Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500, BF Resort, Las Piñas

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel, Legaspi City (2nd Sat.)

LUCENA: Halina Hotel & Rest., P. Gomez, Lucena City (1st & 3rd Sat.)

MAASIN: Valtevan Restaurant, Leyte (1st Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel, Cebu City

OZAMIS: 1st and 3rd Sat.

PARAÑAQUE: The Village Restaurant, Cabarus cor. Palanca, BF

PUERTO PRINCESA: Asiaworld Resort Hotel

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill, 119 Rocas Avenger cor. Morato

RIZAL: View Square, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin, Justice Jimenez St. (2nd & 4th Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: Mel's Kainan

MEN'S LUNCHEON (12:00 NN)

Saturday - DAGUPAN: Celebrity House, Arellano St.

MEN'S MERIENDA (4:00 P.M.)

Saturday - TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn's Restaurant (2nd & 4th Sat.)

### LADIES' BREAKFAST

Wednesdays - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club (2nd Wed.)

Thursdays - GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills San Juan (3rd Thurs.)

Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club (2nd Sat.)

BACOLOD: Quan, La Salle Bacolod City (2nd Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Tia Nanang, Corales St. (2nd & 3rd Sat.)

CEBU: Ding Qua-Qua Restaurant (1st and 3rd Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel (4th Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (1st Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: The Village Restaurant (4th Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (2nd Sat.)

RIZAL: View Square, Sumulong, Antipolo (1st Sat.)

JOINT BREAKFAST (7:30 A.M.)

Wednesdays - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club (1st Weds.)

Thursdays - GREENHILLS: Club Filipino (1st Thurs.)

Fridays - MANILA: Racks Restaurant, Malate, Manila

Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club (4th Sat.)

BUTUAN: Carl Patrick's Hotel and Restaurant (4th Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, Capt. Vicente Roa St., Cogon, Cagayan de Oro City (3rd Sat.)

CAVITE: Emperor Restaurant, Cavite City (3rd Sat.)

DAGUPAN: Celebrity House, Arellano ST. (3rd Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (1st Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel, Legaspi City (2nd Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (2nd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: The Village Restaurant, BF (2nd Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (4th Sat.)

RIZAL: View Square, Sumulong, Antipolo (3rd Sat.)

SAN FERNANDO: Cafe Rustico, Olongapo-Gapan Rd.

# THE BCBP COUNTRY

