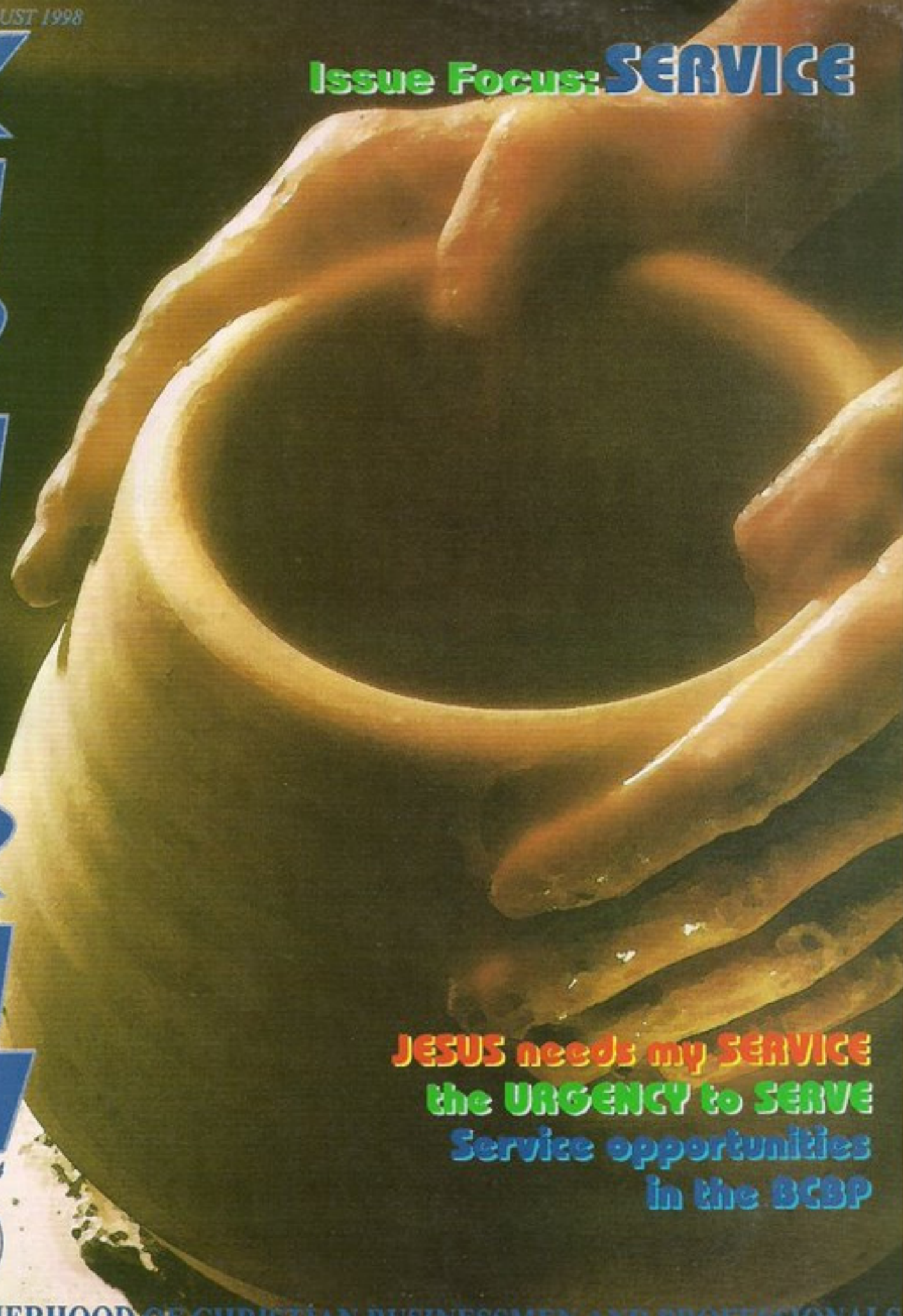


JULY - AUGUST 1998

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**Issue Focus: SERVICE**



**JESUS needs my SERVICE**  
**the URGENCY to SERVE**  
**Service opportunities**  
**in the BCBP**

VOL. XII, NO. 4



**BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS**



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**KAPATIRAN**

The national magazine of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals  
VOL. XII, NO. 4 JULY - AUG. 1998

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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 Ave., Palanan, Makati City, Metro Manila with Tel. Nos. 804-0611 - 12 loc. 216 & 242, DL/Telefax No. 551-1973 and Fax No. 521-5845. E-Mail Address: bcbp-nc@i-manila.com.ph. Contributions are encouraged, however, they shall be subject to editing and selection. Pictures and illustrations are welcome.

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

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**"Be Instruments  
of HIS Righteousness"**



## Editor's Note...

Greetings to all Brothers and Sisters!

Before anything, I would like to apologize on behalf of all the Kapatiran staff for the delay of the magazine incurred due to the 18th Anniversary. You see, the Anniversary is the only event in the year within Kapatiran has to wait before it comes out with the corresponding issue. This way the BCBP gets to have an anniversary issue every year, except that we have to deal with the delay because the occasion has to happen first. O.K.?



The other reason is that because of the issue focus which is SERVICE, we took time to reflect on its aspects because of its importance to our community. And I hope you do appreciate the care that we gave to all the articles and features. Somehow through the work of the Holy Spirit, we seem to be enjoying what we're doing.

As we have indicated in one of the articles, service is an opportunity to love and we're sure enjoying this opportunity because we do love you as our brothers and sisters. Thanks also to the words of encouragement, unsolicited advice (which I said we'd welcome) and voluntary, timely submission of articles. Just keep them coming!

Because also of your prayer, spirits are high. Nancy is back in her element after a long well-deserved vacation in the U.S. Look into her Back to Basics "Attitudes for Spiritual Wholeness" which you should find enlightening. Sammy never ceases to amaze me with his ideas for layouts and ever-incisive articles. He shares the beginning of his salvation in "Destiny in Davao". Our regular columnists also share their being spirit-filled through their steadfastness. Kuya Eddie, Tito Larry, Tita Annie and Tita Cynthia, you just make serving the Lord an ever-pleasant task.

As for Nena Paras' "Lamentations of a Manila Girl", it is bold step towards our becoming a community that shares its burdens and growing pains. We believe if one part of the body is hurting, the whole body hurts. And we should minister to each other in the Lord. Let us then pray for this concern as a community and seek the Lord's solution and healing to make us whole. Let us search our own conscience and weigh our commitment if it is pleasing to the Lord. Then, WRITE IT DOWN AND SEND IT TO US. BECAUSE NEXT ISSUE OUR FOCUS IS ABOUT: "THE BCBP COMMUNITY." WHAT YOU THINK MATTERS TO US. BECAUSE THE LORD GUIDES US THAT WAY. "FOR WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK FOR GOOD FOR THOSE THAT LOVE GOD, AND ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE." Romans:28

RONNIE CABALLERO

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Deadline: Just keep them coming

**Issue Focus:**  
The BCBP Community

**Readers Survey:**  
What do you think matters to us?  
What do you think is your most significant role as a member of the BCBP community?



We would like to thank Buttons Sison of BCBP-QC for the general concept of our cover. It depicts the basic element of our focus - Service. Our God as the potter, molds us, the clay. He molds us in His image, spicing us up with wisdom, courage, patience, perseverance and love, so that we too, as an individual, be able to share these with others in service. It is these elements that enable us to present ourselves for service for others in our community.



# In the Eyes of

# GOOD

**N**o matter what I do the image seems carved into my memory. Why? Well, for one reason I still did not have a lensman's instinct for a good picture and up to now I still regret not getting a picture of it. Serving in Kapatiran, one has to have the sense to write in the Spirit and likewise take pictures in the Spirit because the images provided by the Spirit are powerful and revealing. I'm still praying for an opportunity to present itself again.

The image goes this way. We were all waiting for our ferry to Maasin, Leyte where the VISMIN Council Meeting and Maasin Outreach Anniversary was going to be held. We were brothers gathered from all over the Visayas and Mindanao Chapters and Outreaches of the BCBP. And it was pleasant getting introduced and engaging in informal banter. There was a lot of free wheeling sharing, cracking of jokes, laughter and also seriousness. But all together there was a light, warm and easy feeling that you can relax, be yourself be-



cause you are among brothers. After a while the pre-departure hall slowly became congested; people preferred to stand in order to continue talking and the hum of the conversations trebled with every minute. As the first boarding call was announced, passengers jumped to pick up their handcarry luggage to jostle for the queue. After everyone settled in their seats, I heard an unfamiliar call, "Come, let's pray." Almost instinctively as the call was passed around brothers gathered around in a tight circle around Bro. Manny Banigan. heads were bowed down, and arms, instead of being

raised, are placed on the brother directly in front of you, linking everyone in a prayer circle. Eyes are closed in meditation and a brief silence awaited Bro. Manny to begin. I could not resist glancing around the crowded cabin (being the neophyte in the group) and I could sense a deep respect from the non-BCBP passengers for what was going on. Some of them even made their silent sign of the cross. Slowly, up came a prayer of dedication and protection. Deep in my prayer, I could sense a strong feeling of connectedness, of community and



*IN THE EYES... from page 2*

of mission. I felt like one of the knights of the Round Table on bended knee with my Lord's sword placed on my shoulder being dedicated for service. There certainly was something sacred in that moment and I cherish the memory of it.

Maybe it was the boldness of the common act, the willingness to be identified as one of the Lord's instruments and the deep respect everyone showed to the leader and the prayer, altogether touched me profoundly. It was so symbolic, so appropriate of everyone's call to service in the BCBP. We certainly are not called out of the marketplace to leave it for some remote monastery, but to serve within it, as a part of it, not outside looking in.

Jesus, in John 17, stresses this point lovingly. "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave me I have given them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them, I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I no longer will be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that scripture might be

fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you send me into the world, so I sent them into the world."

Jesus has a special place for those whom he sends out to serve him and the Father in the Spirit. Further in 1 Corinthians 2:14 St. Paul says, "the man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness for him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned."

If you are in service treasure it. It is a special relationship that you would want to keep. Nowadays, when there seem to be too many things which we cannot accept as "coming from the Spirit of God" such as trials which abound in these times of crisis,

it is easy to brush aside service until 'our' time is right, when we have seen the "light at the end of the tunnel."

Truth is, if we really have been forgiven and have experienced the mercy of the Lord because of the blood of the Lamb, we have seen the light not only at the end of the tunnel but at the beginning of eternal life with Christ Jesus. And such being so, we should serve the Lord in spite of the trials, in spite of the crisis and serve in God's time as he pleases. Because when we do serve, despite the lay-offs, despite the downtrends of business, despite the devaluation, we are expressing a faith in a God who is truly awesome, truly all-powerful, truly in-charge of any seemingly hopeless situations. And you know what? It does not have to be a flashy kind of service. What matters to the Lord is that he knows where our heart is when we choose to serve him in such a way or situation. As St. Therese of Lisieux said, "Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all with love." Just remember that he loves us in spite of our sinfulness. So, let us go forth and serve this great and loving God that we have!



*It's not how long you live that counts, but how you live.*





Eddie Mendosa  
Greenhills Chapter

*"Look how they treat one another with love, they must be Christians."*

# CULTURE

Let's say that you walk into a cocktail gathering of businessmen and professionals. And let's say that as you listen to the conversations around you, all that you could hear them talking about was genuine compliments to one another. Or when they would talk about some otherwise ordinary person whom you know, they honestly speak of his good and admirable qualities. Or as someone brings up the hottest and most controversial topics on the street, you hear these people discuss the positive aspects of these current events.

You will probably pinch yourself to see whether you are dreaming, and force yourself to wake up from this culture shock experience. And you will probably wonder to yourself whether these people are real, or wonder what cocktail they have been drinking.





CULTURE... from page 5

Then you hear them mention the word "God", or the name of "Jesus"— in this cocktail gathering — when they say things like, "God has been really generous to me," or "Jesus was clear about what he wanted me to do in this situation."

I bet that you will then immediately say to yourself, "No wonder they speak like that; surely they must be Christian businessmen and professionals."

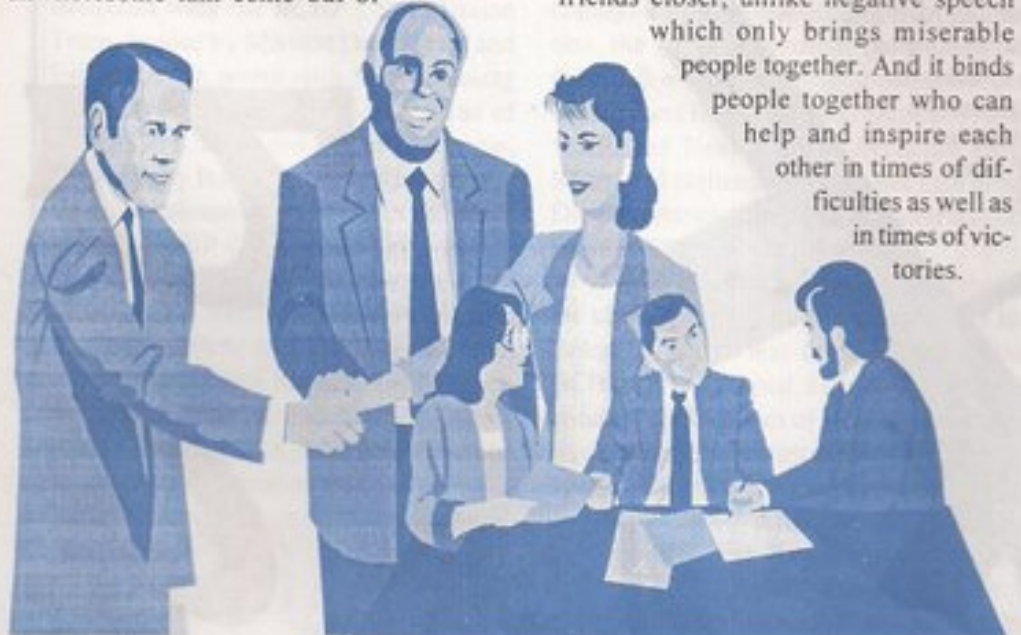
"Look how they treat one another with love, they must be Christians," was the comment of one observer of the New Testament disciples.

As Christ's witnesses in the marketplace, we live by very high standards — not only of moral behavior, but also of gracious speech. Most of the time we are more conscious of our behavior, when — in fact, it is our speech pattern that reveals more of our true character. And the very high standard that the Lord has set for us is found in Paul's letter to the Colossians (4:6) which says, "Let your speech be always gracious and in good taste, and strive to respond properly to all who address you." And in his letter to the Ephesians (4:29), he repeats the same message as he says: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of

when people say good things about them in person. Why? Because just as we're not used to giving praise we're not used receiving it either.

Yet it is precisely this culture that we strive to establish in our community. It is the standard that Jesus set for all His followers in Matt. 12: 33-37: "Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

It is good to begin again, to repent of our careless words and of our failure to use speech to build others up. Gracious speech is that which imparts God's grace and our own. It is constructive and full of substance. It almost always strengthens personal relationships in a positive way. It brings true friends closer, unlike negative speech which only brings miserable people together. And it binds people together who can help and inspire each other in times of difficulties as well as in times of victories.



your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." I suppose Paul would not have given that advice if he did not realize that the true tendency of people is to speak negatively of others. In fact, perhaps to prove this point, I have yet to meet someone who does not feel awkward

Speech that expresses praise and affection towards others is definitely filled with God's grace, and is a manifestation of the presence of His Holy Spirit as it yields the fruits of love and joy. Positive speech is one effective way that we can serve and love others, and so we can win others not only to our side, but more especially to Jesus. ☪

Profile of a senior

**WHO IS A SENIOR CITIZEN? What is one???**

A Senior is one who was here before the pill and the population explosion. We were here before television, penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics and Frisbees. Before frozen food, nylon, dacron, xerox, kinsey, radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards and ballpoint pens. For us time sharing meant togetherness, not computers, a chip meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hard wear, and software wasn't even a word. Co-eds never wore slacks. We were before pantyhose, and drip-dry clothes, before icemakers and dishwashers, clothes dryers, freezers, and electric blankets. Before Hawaii and Asia became states. Before men wore long hair and earrings and women wore tuxedos.

We were before Leonard Bernstein, yogurt, Ann Landers, plastic, the 40-hour week and minimum wage. We got married first and then lived together.

Closets were for clothes, not for coming out of, bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not volkswagens. We were before Grandma Moses and Frank Sinatra and cup-sizing for bras. Girls wore peter pan collars and thought cleavage was something butchers did. We were before Batman, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, and Snoopy. Before DDT, vitamin pills, disposable diapers, Q.E. One, jeeps, the Jefferson Memorial and pizza. Cheerios, instant coffee, decaffeinated anything, and McDonald's were all unheard of. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent. We were before Boy George, J.D. Salinger, and Chiquita Banana. Before FM Radios, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors, muzak, electronic music, disco-dancing and that's not all bad!

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was for mowing, coke was a refreshing drink, and pot was something you cooked in. If we'd been asked to explain CIA, MS, NATO, UFO, NFL, JFK, ERA, or IUD we'd have said alphabet soup.

We are today's senior citizens, a hardy bunch when you think of how our world has changed and of the adjustments we have had to make!





# DESTINY

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he first time I went to Davao was way back in the early eighties while working for a pharmaceutical company as district sales manager. Together with a colleague, we were to give a seminar on our new product. That was the time when the BCBP or any other charismatic communities had not touched my skin. I was so much in the world then that we practically spent the whole extended weekend looking for happenings. Our job was secondary.

We dared going out at night scouring the city for beer joints and girlie shows, braving the gun fire that could be heard every now and then. I didn't know who were firing those guns: some said the rebels, others said the military, while others pointed to the Muslims. We contracted a PU (a Minica two-door car with a fixed rate) to bring us around the city. I remember that the car was so small there was not much room for my long legs on the passenger side. I tried to squeeze in and hit my left leg on something hard and solid. Later I found out that it was an armalite rifle that my leg hit. The driver looked at me as I rubbed my leg to ease the pain; he even smiled and said, "Sorry sir, protection ko lang yan sir," he was referring to the rifle. At that moment my enthusiasm to "paint the town red" was doused. But not wanting to be taunted as chicken, I went along with our planned night out.

That was the first time I had come that close to a deadly weapon of such caliber and a man who could possibly cause someone's death. I tried to enjoy what was happening around, while constantly looking out of the window of the restaurant for the PU and the Armalite-toting driver who was waiting for us. "What if we encounter a check point? A gun battle could trigger and we could be mistaken as rebels or something, we could die then. These thoughts were running through my mind. I had even planned my alibis if caught with a man with a gun, and how I would run and protect myself just in case a gunfight ensued.





DESTINY... from page 7

Governance team of the newly installed BCBP Davao chapter unfurl their new banner.



I was so edgy the whole night and I downed one bottle of beer after another as the firing at the outskirts continued intermittently. At some point I thought the firing came close to where we were. It could have been the effects of the spirit I was gulping or my imagination.

I was not quite sure but the only thing I could remember during that tense moment was to utter a prayer, something like: "God save me, just in case."

The next time I was in Davao was during one of the Vismin conferences about a couple of years ago. This time was completely different from the first. The city was bustling. It had metamorphosed completely from the vivid picture I had some years ago into a blooming city.

I remember one thing I asked our host, Emil and Vivian Sison, was to show me the Apo View Hotel. The hotel had a special place in my heart, it was my sanctuary the first time I was there. I felt so secure inside that hotel after a fidgety night in the eighties. However, Apo View was not the way it had been. It had gone along with the progress trip and had transformed itself into a more luxurious hotel complex. I wanted to see its interiors hoping I could reminisce a bit but from the looks of it from the outside, I decided nothing much of the old had been preserved.

The third episode of my Davao trek series happened recently on the occasion of BCBP Davao's installation as a full chapter last August 15.

This time, I was hoping that I could be all by myself during my stay in Davao. This is quite an unusual wish as it is our culture to be hosted by visiting members of the community. I believe God was reading my thoughts and He granted my wish. I was offered to either stay at Wally and Tinet's place or be at the Regency hotel where the breakfast and Vismin conference would be held. I chose the second.

From afternoon to the late evening of rambutan, mangos-teen, and durian munching olympics at Wally's, I was brought to the hotel. Suddenly, I felt nostalgic. All by myself, I recalled the times I was in this very city some 15 years ago. I was trying to remember how fearful I was then, and at the same time rationaliz-

ing that I was just having a false fear that nothing could happen to me then. Was it? Was it false fear or simple cowardice at the sight of a rifle?

I walked up to the window of the room and unconsciously tried to listen for any gun fire, just like the ones I had heard before. None. It was so peaceful and quiet. I was in this state of musing when a clap of thunder struck and I suddenly snapped out of it.

My mind was filled with the thoughts of having been saved. I was saved way back in the eighties! It was not a false fear after all. I lay down on the bed and shut my eyes, and out from nowhere I could see that yellowish green PU cab driving away from the Apo View. And just a few seconds later, flashes of light enshrouded the cab, and then it was gone. I tried to ponder on that vision and the only thing that came into my mind was "I was saved, I was saved!" I really do not know what happened to the PU or to the driver.

The festivities of the breakfast and the conference proceedings occupied my mind the following day. The night's 'hallucinations' were behind me. So I thought.

As I watched the Davao members going in and out of the venue, I tried to imagine the efforts they had put into this occasion. I was amazed at the preparations, especially when night time came for the installation.

The Apo View Ballroom was full of action when I arrived there early. Toto and Lisa Tanogbanaua were there attending to the last minute tidbits of the affair; the music ministry was practicing beside the stage, while the registration ladies were arranging the forms and souvenir programs. In the background I could hear people conversing. "Where is this or that?" "What will we do next?" Others were explaining, giving directions, and ushering people. Some were busy giving instructions to the waiters on what to do at the buffet table, and another guy was doing the same thing at the other end of the ballroom.



Manry Banigan, BCBP president reading the National Council's approval of the recommendation to elevate Davao into a full chapter. With him are Haydz Banigan, Tony and Betty Garcia, BCBP Davao Chapter head and Joe and Hedy Coruña.



*DESTINY... from page 8*

I looked at the faces of these people, though seemingly exhausted, but not ready to let up. They were there to do something, to serve. "To serve" - this phrase kept ringing in my ear.


It was then that I realized what was the meaning of my vision the night before. God must have saved me from whatever it was that happened to the PU. He wanted me to serve Him. Just like the way He saved me from the fangs of the world during my dark days before BCBP - the times when I was at the brink of giving up because of failure in my career and life. The same way He spared the members of the Manila delegation from a twister that hit Davao just 30 minutes before our arrival. (Our flight from Manila to Davao was delayed for 30 minutes at the Manila Domestic Airport).

And Davao couldn't have chosen a better theme for the occasion. It was so appropriate and meaningful to me particularly. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you... Guided by the Holy Spirit".

Then I began to think of the 8,000 or so members of the Brotherhood. They are so lucky for I am convinced that they too are so blessed and are saved for God's purpose and use. I believe that this throng of struggling Christians have their own individual PUs and gun-toting drivers to contend with. But if they keep in their hearts that the Lord has chosen them, they should not in any way worry and be as scared as I was way back then, especially when they are living a life with Christ.

We need to remember that we are in the BCBP for a purpose, a purpose that God Himself has fashioned for each and everyone of us. Basically, this purpose is to serve Him, with His army of Christians. He who gave his own self for our salvation. Let us then be conscious of, and grab every opportunity when He calls us to serve Him through our brothers and sisters.

**Postscript.** After the installation I was back in the hotel happy and so thankful for what God had revealed to me about that episode of my earlier visit to Davao. It was already past midnight but I had a sudden urge to go out of the hotel.

I walked out of the Regency hotel and flagged down a taxi cab, no more PU, this time one of the later models with air-conditioning, stereo and more leg room. I took the passenger side and moved my legs all the way down and sideways. There was no ammalite and the driver was looking at me when he asked: "Asa man ta, sir?" "Sa Shell Select, mag-beer muna tayo." I joyfully answered. 

## REACTION

*This is in response to the article CHRIST, THE HEART OF THE BROTHERHOOD in the latest issue of Kapatiran (May-June 1998). As a new member of the BCBP, I cannot help but comment because you really drove home the point. When I gave my commitment to the BCBP, I had reservations and doubts whether I can fulfill my duties as a member. Your article is as raw and factual as it should be. Here are my comments on four items written:*

**\*\*BCBP is a symbol of something far greater for its members.**

*\* We should realize that when we joined the Brotherhood and gave our commitment, we were answering the call of Christ and not the organization therefore it is far beyond our limited comprehension. We need to pause and listen to Him amidst the noise of this world.*

**\*\*The Brotherhood represents Christ, that whenever we do something for the BCBP, we do it for Christ.**

*\* It is precisely why we are in the BCBP and that is to serve God. Others move from one organization to another all in service for the Lord but these people might be missing the point. If we chose to serve the Lord through the BCBP, then that must be His plan for us. We should remember He brought us to the BCBP and no one else.*

**\*\*We must always crave for every opportunity where we can offer ourselves to Him.**

*\* Naturally, we have a lot to thank Jesus for. Our service cannot even approximate the sacrifice He has done. If we value our time, such that we sometimes pass up opportunities to serve, maybe it is time that we give back to Him what we value most, our time.*

**\*\*BCBP is not simply a matter of meetings, conferences, fellowship, and association duties.**

*\* I am reminded of a story about a man who suddenly stopped going to Mass on Sundays. The priest went to him to ask why. He reasoned that most of the people are hypocrites. The priest calmly replied, "I am therefore inviting you to attend this Sunday's Mass because there is room for one more hypocrite." We are not forced to attend such gatherings but rather we are invited.*

*Thank you BCBP, oops, thank you Jesus. May you bless our spiritual journey upon the mountains and valleys of life.*

*Kudos to you too, Sammy.*

*Gelo P. dela Dingco  
BCBP - Paranaque  
August 31, 1998*



# COMMITMENT to CULTURE: Is the Handbrake on?



Manolet Siojo, National Council

In the many years that I have been driving, I could not think of any other frustrating experience than to run my car and suddenly feel that it was losing power or not going as fast as it should - only to find out that the hand brake was on. It was not only frustrating but embarrassing as well. I have used that same analogy with our client organization that has gone through the process of identifying and clarifying their corporate cultures and values. Many of you will agree with the basic premise that successful organizations have strong cultures.

The BCBP like any other organization has its unique vision and mission. But the question we need to ask is, "is the present BCBP culture clear, strong and shared enough to support the attainment of our vision and mission?" If it is not, then it is much like having the hand brake on. We want to move forward but we cannot because the present culture is not the ideal culture. It is in fact producing resistance or what we call "cultural drag." So whether an organization is for profit or non-profit, religious or civic, it needs a strong foundation, a strong culture for it to accomplish its objectives. The BCBP is no different.

*When we signed our commitment card we effectively bound ourselves by creating an expectation in them concerning what we say we will do for or with them.*

But what is culture? Marvin Bower (author of *The Will To Manage*) offers a very simple definition. He says culture is "the way we do things around here." That, to me, says it all. The way we behave is really a product of our shared values (what we consider important) and beliefs (how things work) that interact with our members, our organizational structure and systems. We see, brothers and sisters, that at the heart of our culture are our values. Without these shared values we don't have a culture. How committed are we in living out the BCBP culture? Or do we insist on having our own way of doing things in our chapters and outreaches? If the BCBP is to carry out and fulfill its vision and mission, it will need one unified culture. We need each and every member living out the core values of the BCBP.


One of the first lessons I learned was that authentic commitment cannot be forced, it is self-generating and usually develops through a feeling of involvement. First of all, according to Fr. John C. Haughey, authentic commitment involves a choice. I have discovered that every time I made a "have to" decision I would always end up miserable and frustrated. But it never failed that if I made a "want to" decision, I would feel happy and satisfied after. And this question I pose, brothers and sisters: did we commit to the BCBP because we felt we had to or because we wanted to?

Do you remember this song by Burt Bacharach? The first lines go like this, "Promises, promises, I'm all through with promises, promises now. I don't know how I got the nerve to walk out." What sounds like a lively and bouncy tune is really a sad song that depicts the pain and hurt caused by a broken promise. And this leads to the next important aspect of an authentic commitment -- that every authentic commitment involves a promise. Brothers and sisters, when we decided to join the BCBP, we made a promise to do certain things -- these are all contained into the commitment card.

According to Fr. Haughey, "unlike every other choice we make, what is unique about a promise is that it describes something we intend to do in the future." When we signed our commitment card we effectively bound ourselves by creating an expectation in them concerning what we say we will do for or with them. What we promise to do are all contained in the commitment card which represents the totality of our life and culture in the BCBP. But we also need to ask why. Why should I do all these things I promised to do? What should be my motivation? What is the pur-

pose behind the commitment card? Simply because of our Love for God, our Love for Community, and our Commitment to the Lord's Work. These are our core values. The heart and soul of the BCBP culture.

My last significant learning about authentic commitment is that freedom is very much compatible with commitment. This sounds like a paradox and I guess it really is. Fr. Haughey declares that, "it is only in the exercise of one's freedom that one assures it; by non exercise one runs the risk of losing it. To attempt to live one's life in a state of indeterminateness is the surest way of becoming unfree, because then one will be determined by forces outside of oneself." Do you agree with this, brothers and sisters? That in fact, to be free is to be committed and to be committed is to be free?

Brothers and sisters, I hope and pray that you will continue to commit to the BCBP culture everyday. And that you make this commitment because it is your own choice; you do so because you know you are making a promise to the Lord through the BCBP; and that you do so because you want to exercise your freedom to create something special, something irrevocable and eternal. Then truly you have chosen to go through the "narrow gate" that leads to life. 



We received the following open letter commenting on BCBP's 18th Anniversary Celebration held in Manila last May 30th and asked Manny Banigan for his response. Both are reprinted hereunder in entirety. - Editor

# Lamentations of a MANILA GIRL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*I would like to share with you my thoughts and feelings regarding the celebration of our National Anniversary held in Manila last May. Being a former Manila lady I readily anticipated that there would be difficulties and even confusion from among the hosting groups and the rest of the BCBP Chapters in attendance. Experience of Manila life took away the colored spectacles from my eyes and revealed to me the regular problems that plague Manila, which would make the hosting of such an event very difficult.*

*Traffic is always the first and worst obstacle as this posed the greatest inconvenience for brothers and sisters alike, who come from all around Metro Manila, in coming to the Anniversary sites. The second obstacle is the unavailability of places that could accommodate the expected number of delegates and the high costs for rental of these sites. The rain, welcome as it was for it heralded the end of the El Nino, caused even more problems - flooding, traffic jams and general inconvenience.*

*I decided not to be hosted because I opted to stay with my two college daughters who reside in Manila. Thus, no hosts meant, incorrect information for me as I was depending on the schedule printed in the*



*Kapatiran. I must admit though that this was my fault as I should have ascertained with the BCBP office for the exact schedule of activities before setting out to attend the prayer assembly in Manila Sports link on Friday evening when unknown to me it was held in nearby Fort Bonifacio.*

*So again, you may be wondering, why the lament? Having berated myself for not getting the exact schedule which caused me undue inconvenience, I realized that I was finally attending the National Anniversary of the BCBP on Saturday, greeting brothers and sisters who through the years have become an important part of my heart. This joy was enough to forget all the above. The mass was beautiful and meaningful, the stage and lights were beautifully done and*

*the choir brought all of us to a deeper appreciation of our spirituality. The dinner though long was of no consequence as it afforded us time to roam around and greet everyone else. But I noticed that after the dinner, the crowd started to thin out. People came and bid us farewell and this struck me as odd. "It's OK," I thought, "not everyone will make an exodus."*

*When the program began I looked around and realized that the only Chapters in attendance were provincial Chapters, the host Chapter and the National Council with a few other representatives of other Metro Chapters who happen to be hosting some Provincial brothers and sisters. Now this was and is my lament. It was as if the Na-*







*Eph. 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way unto Christ.*

*Eph. 4:25 No more lying, then! Everyone must tell the truth to his fellow believer, because we are all members together in the body of Christ.*

Many times we are afraid. We're worried that the truth will disturb the rest. Actually the truth throughout Scripture can be compared to light. Whenever we bring the truth to bear upon a problem or a particular situation, it brings everything into the light.

Most of the time, we'll find that when a person sees his problem in the light of the Word of God, he will want to see change if he is a true Christian, unless he is in deep rebellion against God. I believe that most Christians want to walk in the joy of the Lord and in the holiness of the Lord. Most Christians want to enjoy forward motion and deepening spirituality. But sometimes they simply don't know how and perhaps God in His grace may use us or anyone of us to help and encourage them by simply speaking the truth in love.

I guess, Nena's letter is an expression of Eph. 4:15-25. What a privilege to minister in the name of Jesus.

*Manny Banigan  
President, BCBP National Council*

tional Anniversary was being celebrated for the Provincial Chapters.

What happened to the joy of brotherhood among the rest of the members? To add to this, even provincial brothers understandably exited early as well, as most of them were leaving the next day and thus had some last minute chores to attend to.

So, I lament the lack of excitement for the National Anniversary among Metro Manila Chapters. I lament the fact that there seemed to be no response to the sacrifice and difficulties that our Provincial brothers and sisters went through to share 2 days with the rest of the Philippine BCBP delegates. Oh yes, in case you did not realize, most of the Provincial delegates took time off from their businesses, places of employment and professions just to be with other brothers and sisters in Christ. I also lament the fact that there is a great difference in the hospitality, the joy and love shared among delegates when in Provincial Chapters. You don't have to take my word for it. Just ask those who have attended at least one Viz-Min Council meeting. In fact, I encourage all brothers to witness these events to have a foretaste of what it means to truly experience the love of God between and among brothers in the BCBP.

So I hope you will excuse my musings and my lamentations. I have made this article in obedience to our supe-



riors who feel that this may serve as an eye opener to everybody. Who is best after all to share these lamentations but one who is from among you...a Manila girl? One who understands Manila's drawbacks, problems and difficulties? You and I, as well as the rest of the BCBP Provincial Chapters, know that these are all excusable. What keeps the pain nagging then is the unwarranted exodus, the seeming lack of concern, the painful reality that our brotherhood was not enough to make you want to stay with us.

I close this article with the prayer and hope that this will not create division among chapters and among regions but that it will instead unify and increase the intensity of our common love for God and for one another. Thank you for allowing me to bare my heart out to you. More power to us all in the BCBP!

*In Christ always,*

**Ma. Consuelo (Nena) G. Paras**  
BCBP Cagayan de Oro



*In search of a resource for a model for Christian service, Kapatiran chanced upon Fr. Aris Sison Jr., Minister of Social Affairs of the Archdiocese of Manila and Parish Priest. More importantly, under the klieg lights of trimedia and politician's ire, he answers issues for the Catholic church, the Archdiocese and speaks the mind of one of the most controversial figure of Philippine history, his Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin, our topic for servanthood. What better person to ask than ...*

## THE AUTHORITY ON SIN.

**Kap:** Kapatiran is featuring Cardinal Sin as he celebrates his 70th birthday. We are particularly interested in his coat of arms which bears the motto *SERVIAM*, Latin for "I will serve," which has a lot to do with this issue's focus, SERVICE. But before we go into that we'd like to know how long have you been with the Cardinal, Fr. Aris?

**Fr. Aris:** Well, I have been a priest for almost 11 years, 11 years this September 19, so I have been a priest of the Archdiocese for that long. But I have known him long before that, since I was in high school. I was very close to him when I was a seminarian.

**Kap:** In Illoilo?

**Fr. Aris:** No, here at San Carlos Seminary. I entered the seminary in '79. He had been Archbishop since '74. Then, I had the chance of serving him up close. You



# AUTHORITY ON SIN

*Ronnie Caballero*

know, there are a group of seminarians called pontifical servers, and I was one of them since my second year. We are the ones to serve him at his masses.

**Kap:** Oh, yes. Those seminarians who serve traditionally according to what we see at high masses. You've been following his career much longer than 11 years. So it would be appropriate for us to say that we have an interview with the authority on sin (Cardinal Sin that is). Kapatiran is particularly interested in the story why the Cardinal chose "Serviam" as his motto.

**Fr. Aris:** *Serviam* is Latin, for "that I may serve." And he chose this when he became Archbishop of Manila. This expresses his desire ... the main thing for him as Archbishop of Manila is to serve. I think it is patterned after the Pope's own title which is, *the Servant of the Servants*. One time I also heard him speak of his motto as the opposite of the devil's own motto, *Non Serviam*, or "I will not serve." To the Cardinal, the most important thing is that he is a servant

and he is here to serve. Nowadays, you may even see his personalized car plate which says, SERVE.

**Kap:** Oh, yes. I've seen that. But, Father, don't you think that it is obvious for someone with a vocation to really serve? Why the emphasis on his motto? What makes it special?

**Fr. Aris:** Well, you know, specially in Philippine society, a priest is given so much prominence. Sometimes a priest is put so high on a pedestal, he cannot serve at all. A priest is given the best of everything because the priest represents God. So if these things are done for a priest, more so for a Bishop. Even much more so for a Cardinal. I think it is a constant reminder to himself and to the people that he is here to serve, not to be served. *Ang ganda sa Tagalog yan, "Naparito upang maglingkod, hindi upang ....."*

**Kap:** "...lingkuran?"

**Fr. Aris:** *Hindi!... hindi upang magbusabos!*  
(Laughter)



# AUTHORITY ON SIN

**Kap:** So, I think there's a lot to be learned from that motto. In what ways do you feel he has embodied this motto?

**Fr. Aris:** Well, you know, as a Cardinal you are a prince. You're a prince of the Church. But the Cardinal is a very simple person, if only you'll get to know him up close. His tastes are very simple. His staple food is still *lugao*, and dried fish. He enjoys being with people. And he can be with people from all walks of life. He goes to the squatter areas, goes to children. He really spends a lot of time with his flock. That's one thing outstanding with Cardinal Sin.

**Kap:** Not really to put other Cardinals in a bad light, but I assume that some may be caught in a lot of administrative duties and paperwork. Right?

**Fr. Aris:** That's right. *Siya, masang-masa talaga*. I mean he has visited squatters in the slums. And he goes to all parishes rich or poor. I think he has been to all the parishes of the Archdiocese.

**Kap:** Does his Excellency's motto have any bearing on his becoming a controversial figure in Philippine politics?

**Fr. Aris:** Well, he considers his involvement in Philippine politics as part of his service, as playing his role both as a shepherd and as a Filipino. He would often say, if he would not do this, who would do it? And if he did not do it what would he say on Judgment Day if he would be asked, there was this opportunity and you did nothing ... Actually his service of his has entailed a lot of risk. I think calling the people to rally at EDSA was a very, very brave thing to do.

**Kap:** So, Father, the Cardinal's involvement in politics is something internally driven not something due to an exhortation from Rome or Church documents?

**Fr. Aris:** Well, it is inspired by the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel and inspired by the traditions of the Church. At the same time, you know, the Cardinal is a very prayerful person. And he does things by intuition. Sometimes, we are surprised by what he does. But later on we see the wisdom of his actions. So you can really see the Holy Spirit behind him all the time. You can really see how open he is to the promp-

tings of the Holy Spirit. There are some actions that we would not judge as wise, prudent or logical. Nonetheless, he chose them. But time tells us afterwards that they were the right things to do.

**Kap:** It's quite a challenge to be a spokesman for such a person. Have you had to undergo a lot of orientation and preparation to fit the role of spokesman?

**Fr. Aris:** Well, being spokesperson is only part of my role as Minister of Social Communications. The Cardinal saw that potential in me. So, he sent me to Rome to study communications in '89. And when I came back in '92 that was one of the tasks I had to do. Of course it requires that I be articulate in a variety of things. But it also requires knowing the heart and mind of the Archbishop.

**Kap:** How do you get to do that?

**Fr. Aris:** Well, I sit down with him as often as I can and ask for his views on certain matters. And since I had been in this work for many years, many times I am able to predict the issues that will come up. So, I am able to sit down with him and casually discuss issues so when the time comes, I know what to say. Also, there would be times when he would say, like I remember during the Anti-Charter Change campaign last year, he said directly to me that he would not grant any interviews, that he would just issue the statements and I would take care of the media. So, I made sure that I knew his line of thought and I just picked it up from there. But I am quite clear that I am spokesperson of the Archdiocese and it's not my own mind that I speak out but the mind of the Church, the mind of the Archbishop.

**Kap:** Well, there must be some batting average to that. Have you always been on the nail on that?



Picture Source: Philippine Free Press







that he would like to be remembered for as a servant?

**Fr. Aris:** Well, the priests would always remember him for his being a father. I remember when he visited us last Sunday, I spoke about him that it was timely that the Gospel was about the good father, because to me he really is the good father. He has always been a father to me. Very understanding, very caring. You know, he never misses to ask me, "Have you eaten?" And there have been times when he knows I have been working, he would call me and I would rush to him thinking there was something for me to do and he would say, "Aris, sit down.. Eat."

I believe the people will always remember him for being a leader, not just of the Church in the Philippines, but a leader of the Filipino nation. He has been there for many significant moments of our history and I think he has left a mark in the history, in the times and in the hearts of the people.

**Kap:** Who is your own model of servanthood aside from the Lord Jesus and Cardinal Sin?

**Fr. Aris:** Mother Teresa is one. I admire her for her simplicity in doing little things well. John Paul II is one. He has always left a mark on me. I met him up close in 1981. And he also struck me as a kind and fatherly figure. I admire him for his determination and courage. I wish he will be able to come back again so he can touch more hearts, more people.

**Kap:** So, I think, in essence, Cardinal Sin's being a father and being caring is the essential service - the heart of the matter of service.

**Fr. Aris:** Yes, that is right.

**Kap:** So what advice would you give to the people of the Brotherhood, for those who want to pursue a life of service.

**Fr. Aris:** Let me just say that once you've chosen to follow Jesus, once you've chosen to respond to his call, to live your life for God and for others, don't expect monetary or material rewards. But one thing I can assure you, that the rewards, they are out of this world. ☪

I believe the people will always remember him for being a leader, not just of the Church in the Philippines, but a leader of the Filipino nation.



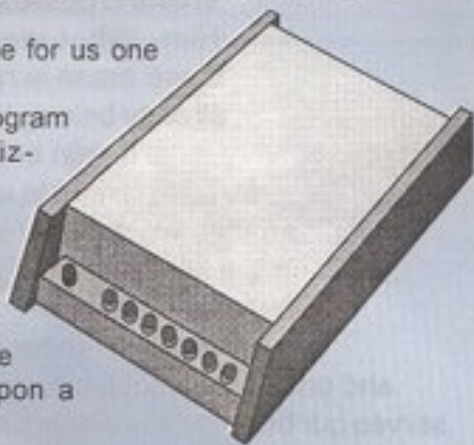
# Did JESUS use a modem?

Did Jesus use a modem at the Sermon on the Mount?  
Did He try to broadcast fax to send His message out?  
Did the disciples carry beepers as they went about their route?  
Did Jesus use a modem at the Sermon on the Mount?

Did Paul use a laptop with lots of RAM and ROM?  
Were his letters posted at a BBS at paul.rome.com?  
Did the man from Macedonia send an e-mail saying, "Come?"  
Did Paul use a laptop with lots of RAM and ROM?

Did Moses use a joystick at the parting of the Red Sea?  
And a satellite guidance tracking system to show him where to be?  
Did he write the law on tablets or were they really on CD?  
Did Moses use a joystick at the parting of the Sea?

Did Jesus really die for us one day upon a tree?  
Or was it just a Hologram or Technical Wizardry?  
Can you load the live action Video Clip to play on your PC?  
Did Jesus really die for us one day upon a tree?



Have the wonders of this modern age made you question what is true?  
How a single Man, in a simple time could offer His life anew?  
How a sinless life, a cruel death, then a glorious life again?  
Could offer more to a desperate world than all the inventions of men?

If in your life the voice of God is sometimes hard to hear,  
With other voices calling, His doesn't touch your ear.  
Then set aside your laptop, modem and all your fancy gear.  
And open your Bible, open your heart, and let your Father draw near.

From the e-mail center of BCBP  
Quezon City

*Congratulations! The Kapatiran is very well edited. I know from whom you got your talent in writing - your mother. We have been writing to each other for the past many years. She has a very good style, she follows the basic rule of journalism - write from the heart. Her style is so sincere that to make it really her, "she tells important things in Ibanag!" I am keeping all her letters because they reflect deep and religious faith in God, true love of family, people and the Church. She loves beautiful things - with reason, after all God is beauty.*



*Next time you come, please let me know in advance so that I will make sure I am in - the Fathers with me are always of service but I want to be of service to you and the BCBP. Our local outreach under Atty. Diddi Perez has been a source of joy and strength for me since they started it.*

*Let us continue praying for each other.*

*With my blessings for you, all your loved ones and work, I am*

*Devotedly yours in Christ,*

**+DIOSDADO A. TALAMAYAN, D.D.**  
*Archbishop of Tuguegarao*



"I understand your computer is down. I'm here to cheer it up."

Source: Chicken Soup for the Soul at Work

# JESUS

## needs my service



God created each one of us with a definite purpose in His Infinite Mind. Though He always sees a panoramic view of our entire lives, this knowledge does not prevent Him from seeking our wills and hearts.

When our neighbor needs us, it is because we have something to give him that he does not already possess. The thing we have to give may not be tangible, but we can fulfill a need none the less.

With God it is different. Everything we have in body, soul, talents and possessions is a gift from Him. What we do give Him in these areas is no gift at all for we already belong to Him.

It then becomes necessary for us to render to our neighbor those things we cannot render to God, and in the same manner as God gives His gifts to us.

We must render them gratuitously and unselfishly, not because our neighbor deserves our benefits, but solely because we want to imitate the Father.

Whether the service we render is tangible, like food and clothing, or intangible, like love, prayer, compassion, and patience, we need to do to our neighbor the services we cannot do to God. That is why Jesus will say on the last day, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to Me." (Matt. 25:40)







the

URGENCY



to

SERVE



Ronnie Caballero

I learned something that day during my sons' confirmation rites. I got fixed on the mention of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, which were the dove, the tongues of fire and the wind. The first two have been very familiar signs and manifestations, most specially in the charismatic movement. But hardly anyone writes about the wind save for maybe the prophet Elijah when he was hiding in a cave and of course the very event of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room, on Pentecost. So my focus always was on the tongues of fire and the dove as depicted by many in Christian art.

But that morning the significance of the wind seemed most prevalent. Bishop Yalung focused on the element of the wind that caused a forward motion as with the effect on a ship's sails when the wind gets behind them. The Holy Spirit does have that effect on our lives when it blows upon us and brings forth positive change as in *the winds of change*.

I gave some time to deepen my reflection on those changes which bring about stronger character, wisdom and a greater capacity to love in one's life in order to identify a common element in these changes, specially in what brought

them about. And with conviction I would say that the *winds of change*, this manifestation of the Spirit in my life has best been seen in SERVICE TO OTHERS. Service to others has been the wind behind the sails or if you like, the *wind beneath our wings*. The Holy Spirit through service has best been the cause of change and forward motion in the life in the Spirit. Nothing has been as valuable and instrumental as the sincere service which has brought about progress in knowing God and in loving him more through others. This is why I am grateful for the opportunities to serve in the BCBP and the fellow co-servants, which have made bearing burdens much lighter.



### **Opportunity to love**

Almost a year ago, in turning over a service I once held I recounted a scene from a movie where one of the characters who had tirelessly and unselfishly cared for her bedridden father, chastised her for her wasting her life on their bed-ridden father instead of enjoying a life of her own. Mustering up all her courage and wisdom, she responded by saying, "Wasted my life? No, I don't think so! Instead, I would like to thank God for giving me this opportunity to love." Unmasked, authentic service to others, specially rendered with unconditional love, *is an authentic opportunity to love.*

### **Urgency to serve**

This now brings us to the focal point of this issue, the urgency to serve. I give due credit to an anointed homilist, Fr. Larry Faraon, who in his daily broadcast, *The Sounds of the Soul*, on 105.1 FM every 5:45 a.m., includes this intention in his daily prayer, that God may grant us the urgency to serve. Why the urgency to serve?

Jesus, in Luke 6:6-11, confronts the legalism of the scribes and the Pharisees before healing the man with the withered hand. Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy

it?" Fr. Larry then points out that there really is actually an exemption in the law of the sabbath and that is when there is an emergency, a situation that is urgent. Jesus in healing the man with the withered hand demonstrated that one's salvation is always an urgent matter. Therefore, with Jesus himself as the example, he teaches us the urgency to serve, specially in loving unconditionally and in recognizing opportunities to love.

How much sensitivity do we really carry in living out our faith in the marketplace? Do we really see the urgency of service there? Or do we keep our service safely tucked away in



## **Service opportunities in the BCBP**

### Music Ministry

*Col. 3:16, Psalm 145:1-3*

Service in the music ministry is open to everyone who likes to sing or play an instrument. Exceptional talent is not necessary; what is required is only the eagerness to learn and the commitment to attend practices.

Each chapter has its own music ministry. Some chapters have several teams. Music ministry is responsible for leading the praise and worship periods during assemblies, for providing music during breakfasts and other BCBP functions.

It is recommended that each action group have at least one member in the music ministry who can then help lead the songs during meetings.

### Sharing Ministry

*Matt. 25:31-40*

This is an area of service for all BCBP members and their families. Sharing time, talents and treasure with BCBP sisters and brothers in need, being a friend who listens, who leads a helping hand without being asked, offering a sympathetic shoulder for someone to cry on, encouraging the downhearted - these are just a few of the activities in the sharing ministry.

### Encouragement

*Hebrew 10: 19-25; Col. 3:12-17*

At some time in our life, we all need a word of encouragement. Send a "Thinking of you" card, write a short note saying how much you enjoy their hospital-

ity, visit a new member to welcome them, e-mail a funny greeting card to brighten up someone's day, telephone a hurting sister or brother to encourage them to "keep the faith."

### Registration

*Ephesians 6: 7-8*

The registration team takes charge of the registration table during men's breakfasts, ladies breakfasts, prayer assemblies and other meetings. This includes having everyone sign in, issuing and recovering name tags, keeping updated lists of attendance for chapter records.





our comfort zones well-managed, prioritized, making ourselves untouchable and unreachable until the appointed time arrives? Do we see the urgency in our surroundings as our appointments and work schedules unfold or do we just turn this "on" as in a switch when we are good and ready on a Friday night or weekend.

Of course, we know better. That our urgency to serve must permeate every fabric of our daily lives in business, in community and in family. We know that opportunities come only to those who have their sensitivities and instincts sharpened to seize the moment as it comes. We can be so if we pray to the Holy Spirit to send those *winds of change* to alter our sensitivities and instincts, to grant us the urgency to serve, to love God.

### **Pushing against the rock**

Another crucial factor bears down on this equation towards authentic service. That is, that we must not just be caught up with the service of the Lord, but with the Lord of the service. The best time to see the difference between those two statements is usually when the service activity is seemingly a "failure".

This story should provide the encouragement. A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room was filled with light and the Savior appeared. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might.

# Service is an Opportunity to Love

This the man did, day after day. For many years he toiled from sun up to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore, and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Seeing that the man was showing signs of discouragement, Satan decided to enter the picture by placing this thought into the man's mind: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't budged. Why kill yourself over this? You are never going to move it," thus giving the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man. "Why kill myself over this?" he thought. "I'll just put in time, giving just the minimum effort and that will be good enough."

And he planned to do that until one day he decided to make it a matter of prayer and take his troubled thoughts to the Lord. "Lord", he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter.

### **What is wrong? Why am I failing?"**

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve me and you accepted, I told you that your task was push against the rock with all your strength which is what you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to me, with all your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But is that really so?"

## Service opportunities in the BCBP

### Callers

*1 Thess. 5:14; Heb.10-25*

Those in service as callers are responsible for contacting as many members as possible to remind them of the need to attend BCBP functions. Callers may also be activated to inform members of important BCBP happenings, to request prayers for a brother or sister who may be sick or undergoing some testing.

### Greeters

*Philemon 4-7; 1 Thess. 5:16-18*

This is an area of service for joyful people! Welcoming members and new-

comers to BCBP functions, making first-timers feel at home, introducing members to others whom they may not know yet, just helping everyone feel at home in the BCBP .. this is the responsibility of a greeter.

### Physical Arrangements

*1 Cor. 12:5*

Are the tables arranged properly? Are there enough chairs? What about flowers, song books, sound system, lights? Blackboard and chalk? Are there enough waiters to handle the crowd if food is being served? If you like to take care of things like these, volunteer for this area of service.

### Secretariat

*1 Cor. 16:13-14*

The chapter secretariat is always looking for willing hands to help keep chapter records, membership lists, and to help coordinate and administer the many chapter activities going on at the same time. This service involves putting order and direction into the work of the chapter.

### Treasury

*Acts 6:2-3*


Still another area of service is helping the chapter treasurer in his many duties. These may include selling

URGENCY... from page 19



"Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewed and brown, your hands are calloused from constant pressure, and your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. Yet you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. This you have done. I, my friend, will now move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our intellect to decipher what he wants, when actually what God really wants is just simple **OBEDIENCE** and **FAITH** in HIM. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but it is still God who moves the mountains.

What a difference it makes to be focused on the Lord of the service rather than on the service of the Lord. So let us continue to serve him with sincerity and urgency not missing the valuable opportunities to love. 

## Service opportunities in the BCBP

meal tickets during breakfasts, accounting for raffle tickets for BCBP special functions, helping concessionaires during BCBP-sponsored bazaars, other fund raising activities.

### Kapatiran

*Col. 3:23-24*

Being on the KAPATIRAN staff will enable you to exercise your talents in gathering information, interviewing personalities, reporting on BCBP events, writing articles and features, taking pictures, editing, computer type-setting, helping in the artwork and layout of the newsletter. No experience is needed, all assistance is welcomed!

### Car Pool

*1 Tim. 6:18-19*

One helpful service is to offer your car to provide transportation to and from BCBP meetings. Several couples could form one car pool and take turns in using their respective cars. Wives whose husbands are on out-of-town trips would greatly appreciate this service.

### Special Occasions

*Gal. 6:9-10*

Chapter heads, mission directors, unit leaders are always happy to have someone volunteer to help plan sports activities, family outings, fellowship evenings, and children's programs. Don't wait for the occasion to present itself; offer your talent ahead of time for it to be most appreciated!

### Intercessory Prayers

*1 Tim. 2:12; James 5:13-16*

This is an area of service that all BCBP members can participate in and benefit from. Praying for others not only draws God's blessings on the one in need but so is a great faith-builder of the one praying. If every action group had one or two members to serve as full-time intercessors for the Brotherhood as a whole and for individual members as requested, what a reservoir of spiritual strength there would be!

### Teaching Ministry

*Psalms 78:5-8*

Some have the gift of being able to teach others; some have the talent of identi-

fying and organizing God's truths in easy-to-use and understand formats. All these abilities are needed in the teaching ministry. This service provides resources and speakers for the different teaching tracks in the BCBP.

### Book Table

*2 Cor. 9:12*

One way to grow spiritually is to feed one's mind continually with a regular diet of Christian literature. Helping man the book table, advising others on which books they might like to read is what is required in the book table service. If you like to read, this is a good area of service for you.

### Mission Activities

*Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8*

Introducing Christ to others, witnessing God's love to them and leading them into a closer relationship with the Lord is truly rewarding service. Mission activities include serving in Christian Life Programs, in chapter outreaches, in the men's breakfasts and ladies' luncheons, in Catholic Evangelization Training Programs.





# Our Walk

# As

# Servant

# Leaders

*Ely and Toty Salazar, BCBP Legaspi*

**W**e use the word "walk" literally as we lost our wheels (car) in an accident a couple of years ago. That particular incident gave us a better appreciation for our feet in discovering the location of the residences of members whenever the jeepney, tricycle or pedicab could no longer bring us to the doorstep of a household action group meeting or some other BCBP activity.

Walking through the roads and alleys or pathways, whether in the heat of the sun or in the dampness of a drizzle, we are always filled with satisfaction because of the smiles generated whenever we ask for directions to the residence of a brother or sister. Also, we feel closer to nature and the environs we walk through. At times, when we get lost or find difficulty in locating a member's home, the sound of praise songs would lead us to the place. Then, returning to our own home would no longer be a problem - with so many brothers and sisters with cars generously inviting us to ride with them. We pleasantly recall one rainy evening when, sharing a small umbrella and sloshing along the road of Dona Maria Subdivision in Daraga to the residence of Bro. Jun and Sis. Margi Sevilla where the Music Ministry group was having a practice session, we kept humming the song "Walking In the Rain" like two happy teeners. It was something we had not enjoyed in ages.

In another instance, we happily recall when members of an action group we were shepherding were holding unto each other, groping in the dark along the pathways leading to the home of Bro. Cesar Delgado in the EM's Barrio in Albay District. We held an action group meeting there which started at 4:00 p.m. but was benighted because of the wonderful sharing of each one - specially the host. We lost track of time, literally.

But the most wonderful feeling we keep experiencing is the openness of members in sharing life testimonies during action group meetings - experiences which leave us marveling at the Lord's love and goodness brought about through His miracles, blessings and gifts to each of the sharers. As servant leaders, we feel doubly blessed - because we keep learning from the sharings. Despite the pitfalls and frustrations we meet in our "walk", we realize He is always with us, guiding and leading us according to His Way. ☪



## Bible Sharing

# The Character of a SERVANT



# Being a Good SERVANT:

*Ten questions to ask before  
you complain to or about  
your leaders*

Organizations are full of imperfections that catch our attention and prompt us to complain. We dash off notes to our leaders, or corner them after the assembly or breakfast. Is our input helpful and constructive, or is it merely murmuring? Next time, before complaining, check your attitude by asking yourself these 10 questions.

1. The Bible contains many descriptions of a servant-leader. Check out these passages for some of those qualities of character that a servant-leader should possess. Add others that you feel will make you a better servant-leader. Then evaluate yourself in each of these qualities. In your BCBP service, how do you think Jesus would rate you? How do you feel that your fellow members would rate you?

- A servant is humble. Matthew 10:24; 2 Timothy 2:25
- A servant is diligent. Matt. 24:45-47
- A servant is busy serving. Luke 17:7,8
- A servant should be able to teach. 2 Tim.2:24
- A servant is patient. 2 Tim.4:2
- A servant is obedient. Eph.6:5,6; Titus 2:9
- A servant is dedicated. 2 Sam. 15:21
- A servant is watchful. Luke 12:35-48
- A servant is faithful. 1 Sam. 22:14
- A servant does not talk back to his master. Titus 2:9
- A Christian servant-leader is Spirit-filled. Acts 2:16,18
- A servant is available. Luke 9:59-62
- A servant is alert to the needs of others. Psalm 123:2
- A servant is content with what he has accomplished. Luke 17:10
- A servant respects others. 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13

2. Being a servant is not so much a question of difficulty (I don't think I can handle that; or, I'm not very good at singing), as it is of willingness. If we are willing to serve, God will provide us the talents, the means and the opportunities to serve. Are we worthy to be His servants? Probably not...but see what the Bible has to say about this.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mark 3:13         | 1 Corinthians 4:1 |
| 2 Corinthians 4:7 | Mark 4:12         |
| Galatians 2:20    | John 12:26        |

**1. Am I certain God is leading me to address this problem?** God might want you to pray, not confront. Try praying about your concern daily for a month and watch for God to work (Jn. 15:5).

**2. Am I the problem?** God uses irritations to teach and correct His people. Don't miss the opportunity to be molded into His image (Jas. 1:2-4).

**3. What is my real motive in wanting to complain?** Impure motives include wanting to be noticed or promoted, getting your own way, blaming others, and venting anger. Right motives are born in love and prayer. They glorify God and are not self-serving (1 Cor.13:4-6).

**4. Is there a biblical principle behind the matter I'm addressing?** Find out what the Bible teaches on the subject. You might discover that your complaint is based on personal taste or style rather than on an essential issue (2 Tim. 2:15).

**5. Am I being humble, gentle, and patient, bearing with others in love?** Step back and look at yourself from God's perspective (Eph. 4:1-3).

**6. Am I submitting to my church leaders, or am I demanding that things be done my way, and in my timing?** Beware! Your "vision" or "desire for excellence" might actually be a case of disguised rebellion (Heb. 13:17).

**7. Am I genuinely grateful for the leaders God has placed over me?** If you have consistently affirmed your leaders for what they have done well, your recommendations for change will be given and received with grace and love (Thess. 5:12-13).

**8. Am I demanding perfection from my leaders?** Leaders are real people with weaknesses just like yours. Instead of criticizing them from afar, try holding up their arms like Aaron and Hur did for Moses (Ex. 17:8-13).

**9. Can I state my input in the form of constructive suggestions rather than complaint or criticism?** Write out your ideas and reread them over the next several days. Screen out any hint of anger. Be helpful, not hurtful (Col. 3:12-14).

**10. Am I willing to be part of the solution?** Your willingness to help solve the problem gives validity to your recommendations. Back up your words with actions. And cover everything you do with love (Col. 3:23-24).



# Ways to encourage your servant-leader



Know him/her and understand him. Listen to his personal needs. What motivates him? What are his concerns? What energizes him?

Compliment him/her on a specific strength or talent. Many times we appreciate him silently but he cannot read our minds; we need to appreciate him verbally. How about a phone call, or an e-mail?

Speak highly of him/her to others. Nothing encourages a servant-leader like your public statements about him. He may never know what you said, but the positive feelings have a wave-like effect throughout an organization.

Show him/her your support by submitting willingly to his/her leadership. Just because something goes wrong is no reason for us to dump him and transfer to another service ministry. Help your servant-leader overcome the difficulty and all of you will be strengthened in the process. If something in his service disturbs you, talk with him about it before complaining.

Pray for him/her and love him/her. Prayers and unconditional love work wonders in molding and strengthening servant-leaders in their tasks. And as they become better servant-leaders, it becomes easier to be an active, supportive follower.



Cynthia Matas  
Cavite Outreach

# MUSIC

I have always been a lover of music and I know that music soars in my soul and reaches out to the innermost recesses of my being. Music is always beautiful since it speaks of what is in the heart of a person making the music. It tilts, soars, beats or flows according to how I would like to express it through instruments, voice or both. If the eyes are the windows of the soul, music is the expression of the soul and the language of the heart.

Hopes and ideals, dreams and visions, doubts and fears, joys and sorrows, love and hate, life and death can all be told through every sound, tone and rhythm that it plays.

I love music for it brings me closer to my God. Since music makes it possible for our emotions to transcend over the boundaries of this world to a world of peace and joy...towards the spiritual realm, I am able to get in touch with my spirit and let my spirit soar towards the Great Spirit of God.

When we are able to let music fill our soul and lead us towards our Maker, music becomes a prayer, and because the basis of music is the truth that the heart speaks, I know that my communication with our Eternal Father is more felt and more powerful. Music leads me to an encounter with my Lord and I know that I can always go back to that beautiful experience with Him if I play back the music that I led my spirit towards that beautiful moment in time.

So sing on, my heart, sing on....

## Guidelines for Christian

- S**
1. Evangelize ourselves first before we serve others.
  2. Be sincere.
  3. Demonstrate faith through actions.
  4. Use the gifts that God has given us for the good of others.
  5. Be a good Christian example to others in the way you live.
  6. Put God first - do everything for God's glory.
  7. Be humble, don't brag about your good works.
  8. Serve (love) your enemies as well as those people you like.
  9. Serve others unselfishly. Don't expect something in return for helping others. God will reward you.
  10. Visit the sick, feed the hungry, help those who most need your help both materially and especially spiritually.
  11. Do not get tired of doing good.
  12. Do everything with true Christian love.
  13. Always keep busy doing the Lord's work without complaining.
  14. Serve others by helping them become stronger Christians to build up the body of Christ.
  15. Seek to know God's will for us so that we will be able to carry out the good deeds he has prepared for us to do.
- re  
vice  
e**



*When asked to serve in the BCBP, we sometimes hear this answer: "Once my work situation is okay, then I'll have to serve." Danny Silbor recently faced this situation but took a different approach. He put service to the Lord through the BCBP first and then the Lord gave him a much better job.*

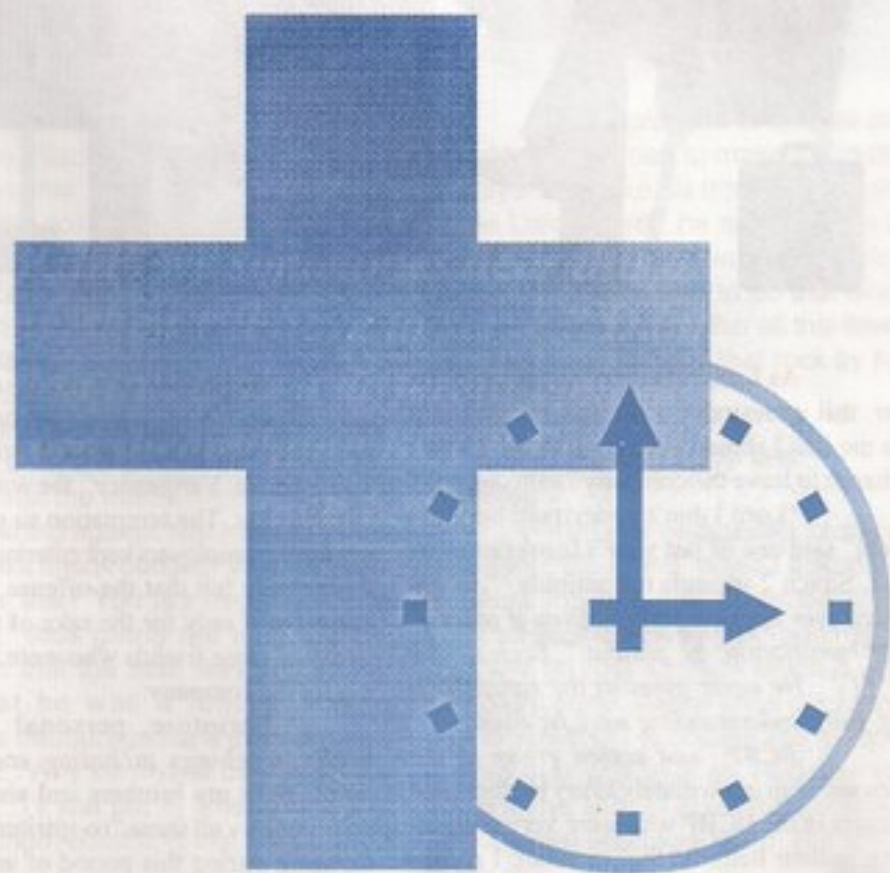
**E**ccelesiastes 3:11 "He has a right time for everything. He has given us a desire to know the future but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what He does."

*September 1997.* I was thankful for the Lord for what I thought was a well-deserved promotion at work with all incipient privileges. Similarly, my wife Tess also had a promotion. Despite my lukewarm attitude in service, we felt we were still being watched over closely by the Lord. I felt guilty and thankful at the same time.

Meanwhile, in the office, the Philippine franchise was making a name for itself in Asia, due mainly to the efforts of Philippine employees. The UK head office decided to send a guy from down under to "help train and develop" Philippine employees. In effect all it did was to place a foreigner in a position that should have been available to Filipinos who were to be promoted.

*February 1998.* Soon it became obvious to every Filipino in our company that it had to be the other foreigner or me. Already sensing that the Lord was already knocking me back to my spiritual senses, I accepted a chance to give a talk in CLP 27. My action group, as well, became very active in that CLP. I religiously attended the music ministry practice sessions and I attended the breakfast whenever I could.

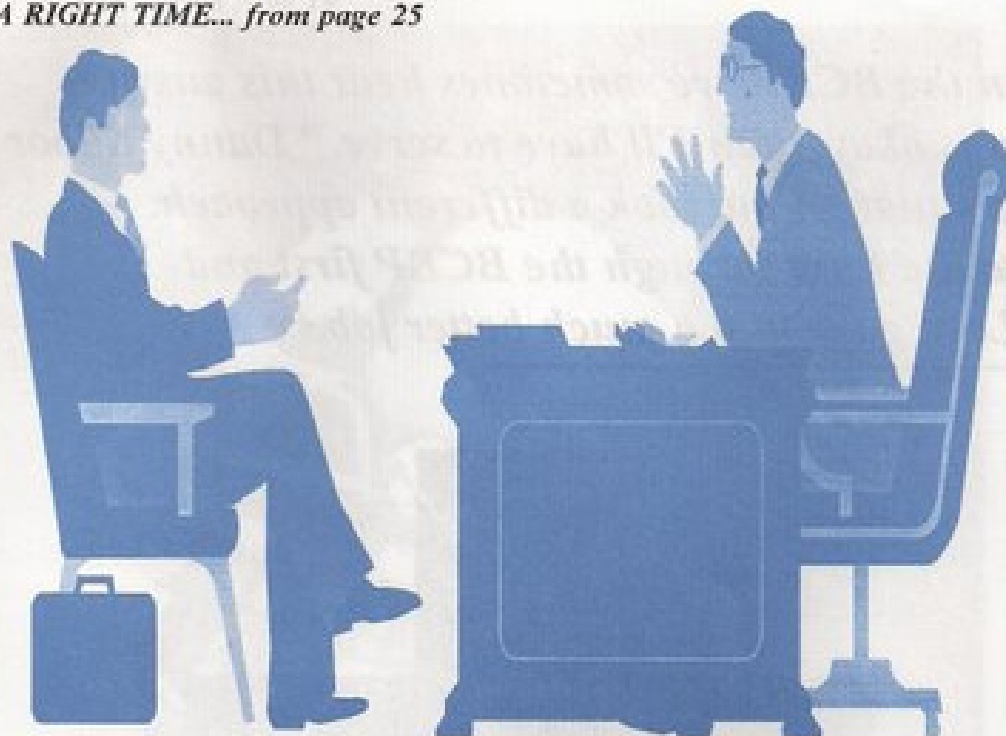
During this time I was able to attend a Don Moen concert. One of my action group members approached me and said that he had a sense from the Lord that more trials will come my way. True enough, in the next meeting by mid April, my "religiously challenged" boss criticized my performance despite the fact that I had met all the targets given me I was asked to resign.



**A RIGHT TIME  
For Everything  
or How the Lord  
gave me a job**

Danny Silbor, Makati Chapter

*A RIGHT TIME... from page 25*



As I submitted my resignation letter, this undesirable alien shamelessly said to me that I should even be grateful for this chance to leave the company "with dignity."

"Lord I don't understand but I accept" said one of last year's breakfast sharers. Sirach 2 seconds this attitude. "Accept what ever happens to you. Even if you suffer humiliation, be patient." Ecclesiastes 3:11 "...He never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does."

**BCBP and action group to the rescue.** I ran immediately to my brothers and sisters in the BCBP who were very reassuring in their help. At that moment, I recognized that the Lord was starting to rescue me in His own way.

**Immersion in service.** As I began my job search at a leisurely pace, I immersed myself in Brotherhood activities with a vengeance. Vengeance...the word seemed to haunt me. The temptation to get back at my former employers kept entering my mind. I genuinely felt that the offense had to be corrected if only for the sake of the job security of close friends who were still working for the company.

Scripture, personal sharings, books, teachings including encouraging words from my brothers and sisters in the community - all these "re-spiritualized" my thoughts during this period of uncertainty. It was amazing how they were provided for me at most convenient times...*mostly dur-*

topic from Matthew was studied with words "Don't worry about tomorrow." During the Lenten retreat, the priest said "Be thankful for your suffering...it gives you the chance to share with the sufferings of Christ."

The spiritual struggle was by no means over. Recurring, disturbing thoughts continued to add to the stress of being jobless at near forty. I had apprehensions about my interviews. I had to dye my prematurely gray hair to avoid any biases during meetings with prospective employers.

**Deliverance.** One afternoon, while having merienda in Greenbelt, I felt a sense of fleeting helplessness. I ended my prayer before meals by uttering the heartfelt words "Lord, help me, I'm suffering." Minutes after that, I spoke to my wife over the phone. I learned that someone had called me at home

## Vengeance... the word seemed to haunt me.

and was trying to schedule an interview for Wednesday. It was with a company whom I have never heard of and had not applied with. Our Lord had been very busy.

**May.** I was asked by the president of the company several questions. One of them was about my age. I, bravely enough, told him that I was thirty-nine. (No, he didn't ask me if I was using hair color). Next question: "So Danny what else do you do?" My answer was immediate: I am a Catholic Charismatic and a member of the BCBP Makati Chapter. The conversation after that was a discussion of my priorities in life and how I look at things in the light of my being a BCBP member. The president's last words to me during this interview was "Give us time to construct an offer and we'll call you before the week ends."

## The economic conditons were not friendly to hiring

**This was not a good time to be jobless.** The economic conditions were not friendly to hiring. I was nearly forty years old with prematurely graying hair. It was like entering a very dark room where you can't see a thing. All you hear is a voice saying "Just be patient, keep calm, trust Me and believe in yourself. Listen to Me and I'll show you which way to go!"

**ing BCBP activities.** During one of the Men's breakfasts, I was asked to write the dedication for the sharers gift book. The title? "The problem and power of Forgiveness!" The sharer during that time gave a powerful example of forgiveness in the corporate world. At about the same time I got my first two rejected job applications. I attended a chapter teaching night and the

*Instead of putting others in their place try putting yourself to their place.*





Larry de Larrazabal  
Makati Chapter

# JESUS

never spoke  
symbolically

*"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)*

There was a crowd of disciples who followed Jesus to Capernaum, hoping to hear him speak. Jesus gave them a discourse on the Eucharist, "Let me solemnly assure you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you (John 6:53). At this those present quarreled and interrupted Jesus with their objections; they would not accept this cannibalistic practice Jesus preached. They were outraged and most left him. They did not bother to find out what Jesus meant. This must have been a painful experience for Jesus. The only ones who stayed behind were his faithful apostles.

Jesus does not bother to explain what he meant. The apostles have their eyes fixed on Jesus, perhaps hoping for a further explanation. But Jesus does not explain, nor does he call back those who left, but allows them to leave. He

does not force anyone to follow him. He expects us to believe and accept his words, without question or hesitation. He then turns to his apostles and asks, "Do you want to leave me too?" Those who stayed behind did so from conviction, although they did not understand. In reply to the Lord's question, Peter answers, "Lord, to whom shall we go?"

Today, we find among some Christians the same attitude, where they also find it hard to believe the very same words Jesus uttered. They try to find other meanings to what Jesus said by interpreting the Lord's words as symbolic and not factual. Jesus preached and taught in a manner people would clearly understand. The bible certainly does not in any way state that Jesus spoke symbolically. Where do these people get this idea?

## Prayer

*Dear Jesus, thank you for providing us with this Bread that gives life. You left this world, but retained your presence in the Eucharist, precisely to give us strength to meet and overcome the problems this world gives. We know we are not worthy to partake of this meal, but we believe that your great love for us provides us with the merit we need to receive you. Amen.*

*A RIGHT... from page 26*

*Second interview, one week later.* I called on my action group for prayers again. Likewise I adopted the attitude of letting the Lord do His work and I'll accept whatever he will give me.

As I faced the president, I thought, "This is it." He began by saying they're just a low profile company in the industry, in fact he was very apologetic. He then proceeded to describe what my life will be with them.

The compensation package offered to me was something that I could not have earned even if I stayed with my present company for a year. My age was never a liability but a qualification...an evidence of my experience in Marketing. It looked like a very challenging but rewarding job. The Lord made sure I got the job I deserved based on my qualifications and experience.

The best thing of all is that I got my wish that I would be based in Makati...near my wife's office, my son's school and my house in nearby Paranaque. There would also be lesser field work and the office was very near the Makati Sports Club where the Breakfasts were held. God not only set the right time for everything but the right place as well.

As a bonus the president of the company repeated that as part of the challenge, he expected me to try my best to apply BCBP principles while I was managing one of their departments and during transactions with big clients. We both knew that this would not be easy. On that very day I was introduced to their staff as a new employee and as a renewed Christian. I am convinced that one of the crucial favorable factors that I got this job was my membership in the Brotherhood.

God's ways are wondrous indeed. God made this happen since he didn't like the previous job I was in. Ephesians 1:11 *"All things are done according to God's plan and decision."* He gave me the job He wanted for me, not what I wanted for myself. The admonition in Sirach 2:3 *"Stay with the Lord and you will be prosperous."* was really being fulfilled in my life.

Until now I have no idea how that company got hold of my application. But I know that the Lord protects...the Lord provides!

Whether it's four decades or a hundred years won't really matter if you are in the Hands of a Timeless, Age-less, Eternal God.

Turning forty isn't so bad after all. ☺




Annie Salvador  
Makati Chapter

# the empty nest

"An empty nest" is the idiom for a home where all the children have grown and married or moved out, leaving the parents alone by themselves. You must be thinking: What is she talking about, all her children are under ten! Well, in a way, I am having an empty nest experience. The reason: Mia, our youngest, started school in June.

Of course, nothing comes for free; this only happens after the usual mad hour when the kids are fed and bathed and readied for school. No morning passes without incident. One sleepyhead may need to be practically rolled off his bed; another might refuse - yup, even under threat of extinction by maternal hands - to take a bath. There is breakfast bickering, *baon* quality control and always, always, the missing shoe, or book, or - heaven forbid - homework.

Finally (whew!) they are all set. As I watch the van rolling off - on lucky days when we have a driver, of course - to deliver them to those educational institutions that burn a hole in our pockets each quarter, a transformation occurs. My nostrils, which have been breathing fire, relax and take in a breath of for-adults-only air. My palpitations, not to be mistaken for the fluttering of the Holy Spirit's wings, cease, and my blood stops boiling. I can now happily look forward to three hours of gentle, golden, glorious SILENCE.

Ahhhhhh, bliss! For three hours, I am free. That's 180 minutes! 10,800 seconds! What do I want to do this morning? I can read a book, or have a leisurely breakfast with Nelson, or take a walk, even watch TV, or call my Mom, or lounge around! Anything goes!! Of course, the fact is I actually settle down to do my paperwork or some chores around the house, but that does not diminish the thrill of liberation. 



# Teaching Teenagers About God

"How can we expect the Bible to make more of an impact on our young people than Jerry Springer or "Titanic"?"

"Why would they listen to us about beauty when they have pornographic magazines readily available? Or why would they believe in the natural thrill of team sports when they have alcohol or drugs instead?"

And why would they believe in the true love of God when they have been taught that they are gods?"

I suggest seven ways for teaching teenagers about God:

- Finding appropriate ways to share personal stories.

- Telling the Scriptures as stories of God's unconditional love.

- Telling the stories of the saints.

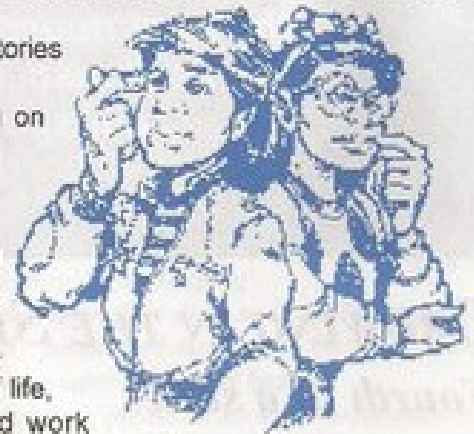
- Expounding on the teenager's notions of what's valuable and beautiful.

- Allowing time for silence.

- Offering direction about the unavoidable realities of life, such as death, hard work and the eventuality of suffering in love.

- Encouraging teenagers to get involved in the lives of the dying, poor, elderly and those who are different from themselves or those of whom they are suspicious or afraid.

Messages of wealth without work, politics without principles, knowledge without character and religion without sacrifice are resulting in feelings of narcissism, fear and depression among young people. They speak but don't communicate and relate but don't experience intimacy. This makes what we do even more important. - Bishop Gordon Bennett, Catholic News Service.



## THE EMPTY... from page 28



For someone who hears "Mom-mee! whispered, moaned, cried or screamed" once every twenty seconds or so, to be spared for any length of time is a relief. To be spared over 500 calls is like winning the lottery! To walk around the house without a little head popping out of any old corner to demand a story or tell a comy joke or ask why the dog is scratching, etcetera, etcetera, is a welcome change. A whole morning without having to referee a fight or sending someone to the corner or screaming "Stop" is positively oh-so-good (forgive the redundancy) on the nerves. Three entire hours of being myself - not someone's alarm clock or bulletin board or scratchpad or floor map or tissue paper - healthy for the self-esteem. And, reward of rewards, I can take a bath without interruption. Somehow, I feel cleaner this way than when I've been conducting conversations and making judgment calls while bathing.

And so, peacefully, I sit with my journal, scribbling notes about the book I'm reading, making myself reminders, updating my

QII checklist, while leisurely sipping my iced coffee and enjoying my scrumptious 10-minutes-to-prepare submarine sandwich. Or I work in our home office, relishing the fact that I don't need to feel embarrassed about the funny background noises in my business calls, or produce paper for coloring, nor break my flow because someone wants to "make singit" on my computer.

Or I do some chores: I go around the house, picking things up, grateful that I will not have to do so again for another couple of hours at least. I spy a slip of paper on the floor and smile at the words on it: munkee, elephant, acquaryum. Another piece of paper is covered with flowers and knobby-limbed stick figures, pink and purple and pretty. Tidying up the children's rooms, I put away the book we read last night, chosen after a long and hard debate. A lonely action figure peeks from beneath a pillow...aha, someone must have been playing even after lights-out.

Closing my eyes, I can picture these rooms in their natural state: zoo-like, a menagerie of clothes and toys and collected treasures, busy and bustling. I can almost hear their voices, shrill and top-of-lungs, demanding attention, urgently, vibrantly alive. I can almost feel the tug of little finger on my clothes, the limbs climbing all over me, to hug, to touch, to embrace. Eagerly, my eyelids fly open, and I am quite surprised to realize I am alone, in rooms that are neat, still, vacant, like an empty nest.

So my office work done to an extent, my notes somewhat updated and my house somewhat tidy, I take a deep breath and get the car keys: it's midday, let me fetch the girls. We'll have lunch, tell stories, practice ABC's, and pretty soon the kuyas will arrive and the fun will really begin! I think I've had enough of this empty nest. For now. ☺

*If we sincerely desire God, changes are called for. A good place to begin is with our attitudes. Nancy surveys 13 areas of spiritual attitudes known to be Christlike and suggests that if we practice and develop them, our spiritual growth will be progressing in the right direction. She maintains it is the Holy Spirit who guides this process to its completion.*

## GROWING IN THE SPIRIT...

Fourth in a series

# ATTITUDES FOR SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS

Nancy R. Catan

**S**ome have said that "spirituality" can only be lived fully when we get to heaven. Others maintain that by living a moral life, being a decent citizen or a social reformer is equivalent to being "spiritual." Then there are those people who live out their lives in a dichotomy believing that spirituality is something separate from the rest of life, like being a "Sunday Christian."

In the BCBP we attend the Christian Life Program, regular breakfasts, action group meetings twice a month, worship assemblies and teachings, and fellowship gatherings. In our parish we regularly participate in the Sacraments, go to church on Sundays and as many other days as possible, become lay ministers or ministers of the Word, join


parish organizations and activities. Does doing all this constitute living a spiritual life?

I don't think so. These activities will, of course, help strengthen our faith and help give our journey with Jesus focus. But "spirituality" is not merely doing things. Spirituality in general is the innermost aspect of religion; spirituality is a matter of "being."

I have heard and read many definitions of Christian spirituality but the one that I feel touches the core of the matter is this: *Christian spirituality is the inward journey of the human spirit into the very heart of God, to dwell there with Christ and the Holy Spirit in full awareness forever.*

Living a life of spirituality does not require particular external conditions, a different "state" in life, or the abundance or lack of one's wealth. Since it is an inward jour-

ney what only is required is that we turn within deeply and consistently enough to find God in our heart and ourselves in the loving heart of God. Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, says, "If you but return to the grace of the Image...you will have all you seek in yourselves...God is indeed in you."

The spiritual life then is essentially interior. Marilyn Gustin in her book "You Can Know God: Christian Spirituality for Daily Living" (Liguori Publications, USA, c1993) says that if our inner life is full, our spirituality will overflow into the externals of our living, not the other way around. If we truly desire a closer relationship with God, it soon becomes evident that inside changes and transformation are called for. She believes that a good place to begin to practice is with our attitudes. 



*SPIRITUAL... from page 33*

**Transformation begins with attitudes**

Attitudes are inner states, positions, stances, much more than thoughts or emotions. They are habitual and are often based on assumptions we have not yet examined. Attitudes are like filters through which we experience every aspect of our life. Sometimes such attitudes that are consistent with growing toward God in our heart have been called "virtues."

Negative attitudes are interior realities that actually hinder the work of the Spirit in us. They contract or even close our heart so we cannot receive the Lord.

When we practice virtuous attitudes we "actually participate in God Himself," St. Gregory says. It is with our attitudes, then, that we can decide for or against the action of the Spirit within us. St. Gregory continues, "The aim of the life of virtue is to become like God so that the form of transcendent Being might be revealed in them."

Gustin says that in general, one may work well with all attitudes by taking these steps:

1. Pray for God's grace and help.
2. Be willing to change and to see yourself as "in process."
3. Keep track of what helps, be ready to drop what does not help.
4. In all efforts, give thanks.

After reflecting on these thirteen areas, I found that for me to nourish all these attitudes at once was a daunting task. How would I memorize them all for momentary recall during my prayer times? I remembered the maxim that there is no such thing as an instant Christian. So I decided to begin with working on one attitude a month. Yes, it is a slower process but, for me, a surer one. One month is time enough to delve into the deeper aspects of that particular "attitude for the month," place it firmly in my heart and mind, and begin to practice it externally. From time to time I write it down in the top margin of my daily journal pages so it will be a constant reminder during the month. One month is also time enough to begin to develop the

**Attitudes are inner states, positions, stances, much more than thoughts or emotions.**

habit of practicing that attitude and so the carry-over into the following months is easier. As time goes by, that attitude becomes ingrained in my life, both interiorly and externally. Let us not take a quick look at these attitudes for spiritual wholeness.

**A deep desire, yearning, and love for God.**

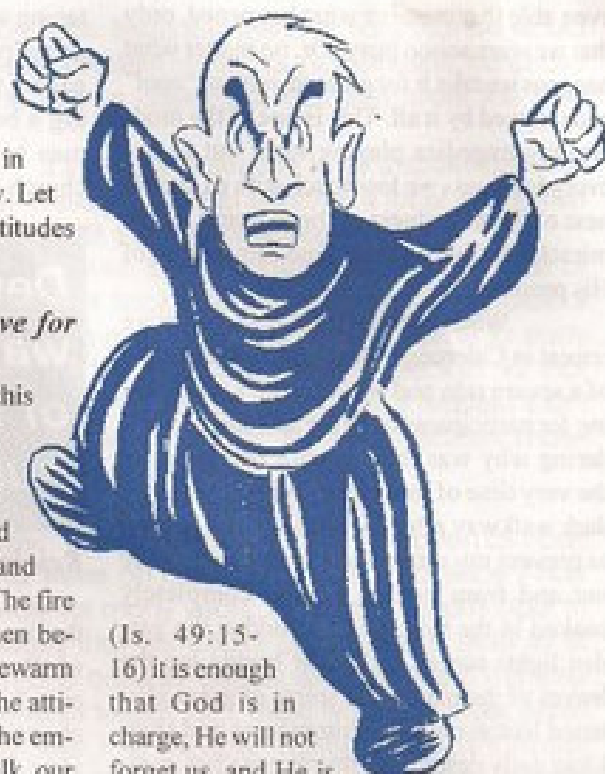
Many of us sometimes take this attitude for granted. As Christians this is normally expected of us, much more so as renewed Christians and BCBP members. We see this deep desire and yearning for God during the BCBP and the baptism in the Spirit ceremonies. The fire continues to burn for a while and then begins to lose its hotness, leading the lukewarm Christian to backslide. It seems that the attitude of yearning and deep desire are the empowering source of energy for our walk, our spiritual journey. Haven't you known people whose desire for God is so great that everything else seems to come almost of itself? Review the lives of holy people throughout the ages and you will find this attitude a common factor.

To nourish this yearning we need to storm the gates of heaven with our prayers (1 Thess. 5:17), we need to feed on scripture (Joshua 1:8), practice some form of centering or contemplative prayer and seek God's will in all things (Jeremiah 29:11-13). We also nourish our longing for God by remembering him as constantly as we possibly can for remembering God is a way of loving Him and cherishing Him.

**Trust and contentment.**

Happiness and joy are pushed away by our discontent. So is God. A closer look shows us that contentment is based on complete trust in God.

Discontent arises often from two attitudinal habits, neither one of which is useful to spiritual life. One is desire or fear projected into the unknown future. So what if we do not know the future? Like Isaiah



(Is. 49:15-16) it is enough that God is in charge, He will not forget us, and He is all-knowing about what is best for us. The second source of discontent is comparing ourselves to others. Again, we need to remember that God knows what is best for us and gives it to us (Romans 8:28).

**Devotion and self-giving.**

Devotion is the warmth of our love for God while self-giving is that act and attitude of giving ourselves to God and His will for us. As we express our devotion to God, it grows. How we express it does not matter so much as the fact that we cooperate with God in our heart when we do express it.

Devotion can be expressed in many small ways in our daily lives: a moment's extra pause when we genuflect, invisible to others but enough to let our heart bow, too; putting a picture of Jesus on our desk in our workplace; humming a hymn to God as we work. We give of ourselves as we offer our activities to the Lord during the day, one at a time. Self-giving also includes offering our emotions and our thoughts to God and being aware of our love and joy in God moment by moment.

**A sense of the sacred.**

Some days trudge by us so slowly we get bored and day-dream of all the exciting things we could be doing "if only..." Some days whiz by in a blur so that we aren't



even able to remember what happened, only that we were sooooo busy! Or, no matter what happens we take it for granted, remain "cool" and unawed by it all. This is one of the modern-day tragedies playing itself out in our everyday lives - we lose touch with an awareness of the sacredness of the moment, of the miracles through which God reminds us of His presence.

When facilitating a contemplative retreat in Caleruega, Batangas in the middle of a severe rain and wind storm, I was waiting for participants to arrive and sort of wondering why was there such a bad storm at the very time of the retreat. Walking along a dark walkway after the evening meal trying to prevent my umbrella from turning inside out and from getting myself completely soaked in the rain, all of a sudden the garden lights turned on. Right beside me the leaves of the plants and spires of grass glistened like diamonds, shimmering and sparkling gaily despite the stormy weather, reassuring me of God's presence at the height of the storm. Now I could have hurried by in my haste to get to a warm dry shelter, but I stopped to savor the sacredness of the moment.

We need to be aware of the holiness and sacredness of every moment and of all creation, recognizing the divine Lord in all the world, in all our life, in ourselves. We can practice a sacred inner attitude by stopping for a brief moment to ponder the intricacies of the petals of a flower, by lis-

tening with our heart to the sound of the rain on the pavement, by spending a few minutes gazing with love at a sleeping child, by seeing a bit of God in the face of another human being, by sitting quietly in an empty church enjoying the presence of God.

tions instead of giving advice, wants to understand more than to explain, recognizes that mistakes are good teachers so is comfortable making them. The learner is more relaxed than the performer and open rather than tense and closed.

***Devotion can be expressed in many small ways in our daily lives: putting a picture of Jesus on our desk in our workplace; humming a hymn to God as we work.***

#### ***Rejoice in all goodness***

A holy man once said, "Happy is the one who views the welfare and progress of all men with as much joy as if it were his own." Joy is its own reward, and consistently choosing it will align our emotions with reality. Rejoicing opens the heart and draws us nearer to Christ. Rejoicing is more than an attitude that helps us find God; it becomes the very nature of our relationship with God, the quality of that union we seek.

#### ***Humility and willingness.***

In the business milieu, performance is the name of the game. There are goals to be met, objectives to be achieved, quotas to be attained. We have to be performers if we want to advance. But if we want to have an attitude of humility, we need to be learners, too.

Gustin points out the difference between the attitudes of the *performer and the learner*. The performer in life wants to be seen, wants to be right- or thinks he or she has to be right. The performer tries to have it all together and to let other people know it. He is trying to prove something, perhaps quite subtly. Sadly, we are usually more rewarded for our performance than for learning.

The learner, on the other hand, is primarily interested in growing in any situation and from any person. The learner asks ques-

The learner stance is itself a humble position, leading to humility. An attitude that goes along with this is willingness: willingness to be taught, willingness to be opened, willingness to be loved, willingness to be hurt, willingness to obey God's guidance and to accept God's gifts. Humility is willingness to go with the flow as you acknowledge that God has control over your life.

#### ***Seeing God in all people.***

God is not hard to perceive when we actually look at another from our heart. However we are often unacquainted with the Image of God in ourselves, and as a result, it is harder for us to find Him elsewhere. This works both ways. As we discover the Lord shining in our own heart, we will see him more easily in others. Likewise, as we perceive God's presence in our neighbors, we will find him more easily within ourselves. We need to practice seeing God in the person we are finding fault with or are criticizing. At first, we can simply close our mouth so as not to say aloud the thoughts in our mind. Then we replace every critical thought with a thought about the person's lovely qualities, and this thought will be strengthened if we say it aloud. Eventually, Gustin believes that we simply will not see the faults.

#### ***Kindness and generosity***

Simple kindness to others can become the whole of a person's spiritual discipline. The ultimate in kindness and generosity of heart is forgiveness. To be kind and generous to one who has hurt us (or others) is a vital and powerful practice. When we begin it as a practice we soon may find that





SPIRITUAL... from page 35

**Simple kindness to others can become the whole of a person's spiritual discipline. The ultimate in kindness and generosity of heart is forgiveness.**

something in us likes being angry or resentful or hurt. And we learn that it is that selfishness in ourselves we must battle.

The attitude of simple kindness should also be practiced on ourselves. Are we kind to our bodies when we smoke or drink or take drugs? Are we kind to ourselves when we work 20 hours a day 7 days a week? Are we kind to ourselves when our perfectionism, anger or greed damages our relationships with our family and friends?

**Equanimity**

This is the state in which experiencing God is easier and more nearly constant. Full equanimity of mind and emotion means that nothing affects us, nothing disturbs our peaceful and joyous experience of life. When we attain equanimity, God is present to our awareness in every moment and every circumstance. This is what the spiritual journey is all about - knowing God and knowing love, deep within. Then we see God everywhere else as well, undisturbed, like a reflection in a perfectly still pond.

The practice of equanimity brings with it a policy of moderation in everything. We eat moderately, we exercise and sleep moderately. We possess things moderately, we work and play moderately. When emotions become immoderate or over-stimulated, we should pause, take a deep breath, look around us and then look within. St. Benedict advises us to "seek peace and follow after it," for in peace and love we will find God because "love is the progeny of equanimity."

**Good humor**

A laugh a day keeps the wrinkles away. Have you given yourself an inward smile today? When we take life with great solemnity, our ego-centricity is very much in control. We need to be able to laugh, at ourselves and with ourselves and others - and I don't mean laughing at others.

Two particular practices will intensify our growing awareness of humor and

help us be lighter: don't hurry, and don't worry because tension kills humor. Someone has said that angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. Let's imitate them. When we look for the light side of things and not wallow in self-seriousness, our heart will open to the Lord more freely. When we can laugh at ourselves, and when spouses or friends can laugh at and with one another's peculiarities, love is suddenly present - open-eyed and joyful.

**Perseverance and vigilance.**

A good way to define perseverance is the ability to keep going, one foot in front of the other, step by step ... The pace is up to us, the angle of the climb is up to God; the journey is ours to make, the destination is God's to give.

Watchfulness is a contemplative practice. Much happens to us as we grow spiritually. Some events are wonderful, others not so comfortable as we come face to face with conditions outside our personal comfort zone. All lead us to God. It is this inner watchfulness over our attitudes and spiritual development that requires effort to minimize if not prevent laxity of spirit.

Learning any form of inner attention is learning to watch, to be alert and aware. It is the core of inward prayer and can be practiced at any moment whatsoever.

Watchfulness, awareness, vigilance - if not in this moment then in the next, you will surely find the Lord.

**Appreciation of silence**

Growing up in a rural area of Vermont, on a farm without TV or any near neighbors, I learned to treasure silence. The song of birds, the mooing of the cows, the bark

of the dog, the gurgle of the brook - yes, these are sounds but they do not intrude noisily to disturb the peace. Today I am amazed at how students must "study" in front of the TV or with a cacophony of "sounds" drowning out one's thoughts. Or why people after coming home during the rush hour accompanied by irate horns, loud buses and sidewalk stores competing for your attention with loud music and sounds, burst into their homes and immediately turn on the TV and/or radio. What has happened to silence?

Silence does not interrupt sound, sound interrupts silence. For nearly two thousand years the value of silence as a means of finding God has been attested to by people who sought it in monasteries or hermitages or other separate ways of life. But even in those places, they found that unless the inner being of man knows silence, an intimate encounter with God is elusive.

Inner watchfulness will lead us to silence and the voice of God is more easily heard in silence. And there between our breaths, in the pause between breaths, is God. God is only a breath away, ever.

**Love**

Love is the attitude, the practice, the way, and the goal. Love is God. When we are drenched in love, we will become Christlike by God's loving grace. We will be home in God. We will be love.

When we are able to practice this kind of loving spirituality, we will realize that it is the integration of all the other twelve attitudes into one harmonious whole, and that we are on our way to spiritual wholeness.





# His Pain Like Mine

Mother Angelica

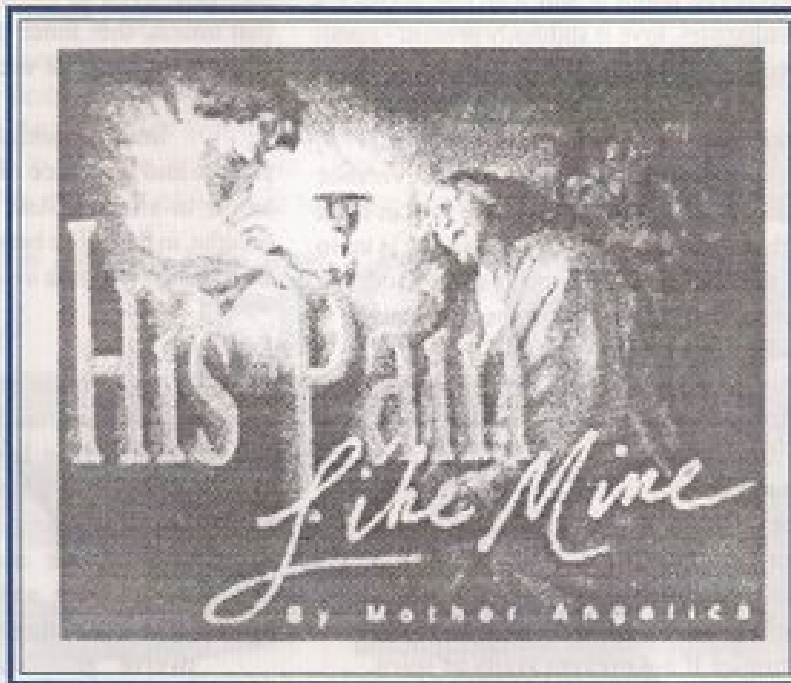
(Reprinted in serial form with permission given by Rev. R. Wm Staltemeir, president of EWTN. See p. 35 Mar.-Apr. 1998 Kapatiran. This is Part 3, subtitles added to original text).

## Third of a Series

### The pain of misunderstanding

One of the most frustrating sufferings Jesus bore must have been misunderstanding - a lack of comprehension on the part of those who loved Him and a lack of acceptance on the part of the authorities. A suffering Savior was not acceptable to either. A spiritual leader who spent time changing souls instead of governments had no place in their regime. He knew what they really needed to enter His Father's Kingdom, but they were interested in the kingdom of this world - they called it living a reality - He called it death. They thought of this life as the only one - He said it was only a place of exile while we waited for something greater. He told them the poor were blessed, and it was better to be virtuous than to gain the whole world, but to them worldly glory was too much to pass by for some invisible reality.

His Apostles were slow to understand the simplest parables and often they would ask Him for explanations after the



crowds were gone. He tried so hard to bring the Mystery of the Father's Love down to the language of children, but even that was often beyond the reach of His disciples - the men destined to go and preach the Good News to everyone. He would often look at them with amazement and say, "Do you not understand either?" (Mk. 7:18) Even His miracles were misunderstood, His authority questioned and His relatives sought Him out as some madman. His discernment was questioned because He permitted a sinner to touch Him and His reputation held in suspicion because He ate with sinners. When He healed on the Sabbath, He was a lawbreaker and when He demanded love as the most important Commandment, He was labeled an innovator.

There are hardly any human beings who have not felt this pain of misunderstanding in their lives in some form or other. Our motives are rashly judged or our virtue is called hypocrisy. Our ideas are too bold or our caution called timidity. Children accuse parents of interference when loving correction warns of danger. We're tagged fanatics if Jesus is a part of our daily living, but when tragedy strikes, Job's comforters confront us with our lack of piety as God's vengeance strikes us for some hidden resentment that must be lurking in our hearts.

When we're compassionate towards sinners we're accused of imprudence and when just anger makes us lash out we are called uncharitable. The list of the incongruities could be multiplied a hundredfold and the more we try to make them right, the more entangled we become. But we can always look at Jesus and know He understands. Like Him, we can do the Father's Will according to the light we have and be at peace. His sufferings formed part of our redemption - ours form part of our sanctification.

### Fatigue as a holocaust of love

"It began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But He (Jesus) was in the stern, His head on a cushion, asleep." (Mark 4:38-39)

The all powerful God, out of whose Hands planets and galaxies tumbled, became a man and was tired! He had reached a point of physical exhaustion that neither rain, wind nor the shouts of fear-gripped men could overcome. He was dead tired - every muscle, every bone, every nerve had reached the end of its endurance and sleep alone would bring back that energy so necessary for the human body to function well.

We have all felt tired - tired from work and often tired of work. We all reach a time when we must stop and rest. It is at this time we can relate to Jesus in a very conscious way. He and we know what it means to be worn out. We can unite our fatigue with His and offer it to the Father as a holocaust of love and obedience. Our work, our mission and our state of life accomplished according to His holy Will, make common fatigue a channel of grace and power. It becomes more than the natural consequence of exertion, it becomes a sacrifice of praise - an act of penance - a personal holocaust of love.



## He offered them love because He was Love itself... His love enveloped everyone - it was they who left the radius of that love.

### Denying our friends

*"An hour later another man insisted saying, "This fellow was certainly with Him. Why, he is a Galilean." My friend," said Peter, "I do not know what you are talking about. At that instant the cock crowed and the Lord turned looked straight at Peter." (Luke 22:59-61)*

We have a tendency to get caught up in Peter's denial in this Scripture passage. But have we thought of Jesus? Jesus heard Peter call a perfect stranger "friend" and then go on to deny the only true friend he possessed - Jesus. The Heart of Jesus was surely crushed. Those who arrested Him hated Him and although His heart was deeply hurt, imagine the searing throb of pain as He heard with His own ears the rejection of His Love by a friend.

Peter was the man He had loved much, given much and depended upon to carry His message of love to the world. Here He heard him deny he even knew the One he was to represent on earth. Can any of us plumb the depths of disappointment and pain in the soul of Jesus? Perhaps we can. Perhaps all men can at one time or another. Parents are hurt over children who flippantly throw away their care, advice, love and protection. Children too, whose hearts cry out for love, often see parents running after the things that perish and having little concern for the souls God has entrusted to their care as parents. Friendship too can suffer a mortal blow when one party yields to suspicion, distrust, jealousy or misunderstanding.

Yes, all of us can relate in some way to the deep hurt in the Heart of Jesus as He heard His friend and companion deny knowing Him. Let us unite our pain to His and give it to the Father for the salvation of souls, when we experience the rejection of a loved one.

### Are you ever satisfied?

*"John came, neither eating or drinking and they say, "He is possessed." The Son of Man came, eating and drinking and they, "Look, a glutton and drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners." (Matt. 11:18-19)*

No matter what God did, those in authority were never satisfied. He sent His prophet John, a man of great penance, frugal, ascetical and demanding. His penitential spirit pricked their consciences so they condemned Him. Jesus came as one who was kind, gentle, merciful and they called Him names to make Him look small and of no conscience.

John appealed to the ninety-nine and called them to repentance, while Jesus went after the stray sheep. Both, however, were unacceptable. Some men desire knowledge with which to speculate, but not Spirit-filled words that stir the heart and cause them to change.

No matter what Jesus did, someone found fault with it. When His anger raged at the money changers in the temple, they questioned His authority to take matters into His own hands. When His compassion reached out in mercy to the adulteress, they questioned His courage. No wonder He told His Apostles that the opinions of men meant nothing to Him. (Jn. 5:41) It is also true with us for there are times when our best actions and purest motives are held in question. There are times we bend over backward to please, but to no avail. When this happens we must look at Jesus and do as he did — He accomplished the Will of God in the present moment and regardless of public reaction, he went His way in peace. He had come to save men, not to conduct an opinion poll. It was only important to Him that He did what He saw the Father do and said

what He heard the Father say. He was the perfect image of the Father and that Image turned some against Him and drew others to Him.

The choice was theirs — their wills were free. He offered them love because He was Love itself, but His peace was not dependent upon their acceptance. His love was deep enough to continue loving them and powerful enough to remain at peace when they preferred themselves to Him. His love enveloped everyone - it was they who left the radius of that love.

We see this in the rich young man. Scripture tells us he ran up to Jesus and "knelt before Him". He wanted to inherit eternal life and asked Jesus how to do it. Jesus told him to keep the commandments, but the young man found that rather easy. He had formed the habit of keeping the law. He wanted more; his soul somehow knew there was something better. Jesus looked at him steadily and loved him, the passage continues, but then the blow came. The great challenge was given "Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven, then come, follow me." (Mk. 10:17-22)

Immediately, the enormity of the challenge stuck the young man like a bolt of lightning. He had not expected that answer to his question — he was not ready for the sacrifice.

Jesus knew what the young man would have to give up but He also knew what glory and renown he would miss for all eternity by passing up the opportunity of following Him. The young man thought he possessed too much to give up — he did not realize he gave up more than he possessed by not following the call of Jesus. It is often so with us. We know what people are doing to their immortal souls when they insist on seeking the things that pass — when a dissolute life is the order of the day — when they seemingly cannot tear themselves away from a life of sin. Their excuse is that they cannot give up their weaknesses and yet they do not understand what they really are giving up. The paradox is in the sad reality that they cannot give up misery, but they are capable of giving up eternal joy!

How truly we can say that He understands our pains and heartaches — His pain was like mine — thank you, Jesus for loving us all so much! ☺

**NATIONAL**

# National Council update

**Movement**

The National Council announces several movements and developments in the Brotherhood organization, to wit:

Rolly Aberion has resigned from his post as a member of the National Council and director for teaching and training. He's been replaced by Manolet Siojo, former BCBP Greenhills chapter head.

Puerto Princesa now has a new chapter head with Edwin Tan replacing Fuji Rodriguez. Rizal is now headed by Max Joaquin taking over from Romy Tocjayao. Tagbilaran has Albert Uy as chapter head-in-training with George Lao and Jojo Maniwan as mission and chapter life directors on in-training status, respectively.

Meanwhile Davao and Legazpi have just been installed as the 18th and 19th full chapters of the Brotherhood. Davao has Tony Garcia as chapter head and Wally Tapia and Emil Sison as mission and chapter life directors respectively, while Legazpi is led by Maning Lorenzo as chapter head supported by Dofel Banares and Meds Reynoso as mission and chapter life directors, respectively.

Tuguegarao outreach is now a chapter-in-training and has been given the

approval to do mission work in Santiago, Isabela as its outreach. Didi Perez is chapter head-in-training, Ninoy Carag is chapter life director-in-training.

**Donations**

The National Council has addressed the issue of donations. The NC will set a budget for this purpose, with such budget to be appropriated for specific type of donations (e.g. raffle tickets, parish, charity institution, etc.). BCBP's degree of involvement in each endeavor shall also be considered. Chapters and outreaches are advised to follow such procedures in their respective locale.

**Policy Directives**

The National Council has issued NC Resolution 98-08, which resolved that all chapters and chapters-in-training shall be assessed P10,000.00 each and all outreaches a minimum of P1,000 that will constitute a fund to be utilized for the anniversary celebration each year.

NC Resolution 98-09 requires that all yearly activities of the Brotherhood both in the chapter/outreach and national levels shall be centered on the anniversary theme.

Policy Directive 37 addresses issues concerning the Breakfast. In support of this policy, the BCBP Breakfast Guidelines have also been issued.

**1999 BCBP Anniversary**

As earlier announced, the 1999 national anniversary will be held in Bacolod City and jointly handled by Bacolod North and South chapters. This celebration is targeted to be held in April for a week-long celebration cum vacation spree. The following year, in the year 2000, the national anniversary celebration goes back to Metro Manila with the BCBP Las Pinas as the lead chapter.

**Teaching Programs**

The Brotherhood Christians in Business Retreat (BCBR) program manual is already finished. It is now available in hard copy and diskette form. An actual run of this program is scheduled to be held on September 25-26 in Cebu for the Vismin region, while the Luzon actual run will follow thereafter.

The Youth Formation Program is in its final draft and has been submitted to the NC for review.

**BACOLOD NORTH**

*BCLP 13 Participants and Service Team at the Commitment Night attended by about 200 members.*



## BCLP # 13 for Bacolod North

- Calderon, Chin
- Constantino, Boy/Lyn
- de Erit, Gard
- de la Rama, Luigi/Riza
- de Oca, Owie/Glo

- Escalante, Greg/Remy
- Guillen, Celda
- Jayme, Pinky
- Lacson, Charito
- Loesin, Rene/Chona

- Miranda, Naty/Ching
- Piccio, Buddai
- Sedonio, Gino/Honey
- Somodio, Lorna
- Tongson, Cris/Ina
- Vasquez, Jongjong/Sar
- Yonque, Noel/Vivian
- Yu, Richard/Vennie



## PIM

## PIM addresses partnership concerns

The Partners in Mission of Christ the King (PIM) held its first conference retreat last August 7-9 at the St. Michael Retreat House in Antipolo, with 97 participants coming from all nine partner organization in attendance. Discussions centered on two major concerns submitted by the Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon Community: partner organizations' inter-relationships and dual membership. Sessions were jointly facilitated by Fr. Herb Schneider, spiritual director and Ken Noecker, PIM Council presiding chairman.

Inputs from the 16 discussion groups were then submitted for the PIM Council to consolidate and synthesize, after which, the consolidated inputs will

be reported back to the individual partner organizations for concurrence and approval. These are then returned to the PIM Council who, based on the concurred document, will prepare a memorandum of agreement to be signed by the partner organizations' executive director or president during the PIM Christ the King Prayer Rally on November 22, 1998.

The activity was further strengthened in its spiritual aspect as each day started with a morning prayer and the liturgy of the hours. There was spontaneous praise and worship between sessions, and the day ended with night prayers. Personal prayers and meditations anchored on John 13:34-35, 15:1-7, 1 John 3:21-24, and Phil. 1:27, 2:8 further reinforced the sessions by focusing

attention on loving one another despite personal differences, and despite varied organizational callings and charisms.

The participants had the privilege to know more about other partner organizations as each was given time to make a presentation of their organization profile.

Finally, the conference retreat was capped by a Eucharistic celebration which was highlighted by the praying over and empowerment of individual organizations as well as each organization's presiding leader.

The PIM conference retreat committee was chaired by the BCBP with other partner organizations each tasked with specific functions that contributed greatly to the success of the activity. ☪

## TAGBILARAN

## Tagbilaran marks 6th anniversary

BCBP Tagbilaran celebrated its 6th anniversary last August 30 at the DWC Gym (Janssen Heights) with a Holy Mass and installation of new community elders. The chosen theme for the festivities was: Gratitude through Service.

The Mass was officiated by Msgr. Yiet Cabajog, parish priest of Tagbilaran's St. Joseph Cathedral, with BCBP member-priests Fr. Joe Sumampong, Jr., Fr. Gil Espuelas, SVD and Fr. Danny Maniwan con-celebrating. The community itself has six members who are priests.

Bro. Rollie Ona, BCBP regional managing director for the Visayas, presided over the turn-over rites. Bro. Al and Sis. Joy Uy took over the chapter head ship

from Bro. Peter and Sis Sarah Dejaresco. Bro. Jojo and Sis. Janet Maniwan received the baton for chapter life director from Bro. Al and Sis. Joy Uy while Bro. George and Sis. Gie Lao assumed the mission directorship from Bro. Steven and Sis. Necie Lim.

A sumptuous lunch was served after which an exciting round of parlor games and a much-anticipated ballroom dancing competition followed.

The event was also graced by Bro. Sadi Saguisag, RMD for Mindanao, and Bro. Ed Lising, mission coordinator for Visayas and Mindanao. Brothers and sisters from Dumaguete and Tubigon (Bohol) outreaches also joined the festivities. These two outreaches are BCBP Tagbilaran "babies."

*Msgr. Yiet Cabajog giving his blessings to the governance of BCBP Tagbilaran during the chapter's 6th anniversary celebrations last August 30. From left are George and Gie Lao (mission director), Jojo and Janet Maniwan (chapter life director), and Al and Joy Uy (chapter head)*



*Peter and Sarah Dejaresco handing over the Bible to Al Uy to signify the turn-over of the chapter headship of BCBP Tagbilaran during the community's 6th anniversary celebrations.*

The day before, the community held a breakfast fellowship at JJ's Seafood Village. The testimonies were divided into three primary aspects of a BCBP member: life, mission and family. Bro. Jorge and Sis. Carmen Cabalit, Bro. Steven and Sis. Necie Lim, and Bro. Dane and Sis. Mellotte Ybanez gave the sharings.

Meanwhile, on September 20 the community will begin CLP No. 8 at the Dumadag Farms in Tagbilaran City. ☪



## MACTAN

## Updates and headlines

**Mission**

Ormoc Outreach is conducting another BCLP in Baybay, Leyte, at the Parish Pastoral Center, starting on September 19. Bro. Amy Borneo is assigned Course Leader and Bro. Bong Modina is Chief Servant.

**Music Ministry**

Starting September 6, and every first Sunday of each month, the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Holy Family Parish Church in Maguikay, Mandaue City, will have the BCPB Music Ministry as the Choir. BCBP members and families especially those residing in the Mandaue vicinity are invited to attend.

The new faces of couples you spot singing or playing the guitar are products of BCLP 8. They must have truly been

convinced that "singing is twice-praying!"

**Teaching Night**

Chairman couple Arlin and Lita Tan announce the coming family Day Affair on September 20. The motif is Barrio Fiesta. Details shall be announced later.

Rev. Fr. Roderick C. Salazar, SVD, Vice-Pres. for Academic Affairs of San Carlos University, Cebu City, was the resource speaker at the Teaching Night on August 17. His talk centered on the vital importance of keeping and maintaining a strong family relationship (parents and children) and the sacredness of the relationship between spouses. He shared with us the beautiful "Beatitudes for a Married Couple." He also mentioned to please never forget to make the sign of the cross.

## Congratulations, BCMR # 7

24 Couples attended and enjoyed a week-end with the Lord last August 7-9, held at the Don Bosco Retreat House in Talisay, Cebu City.

Whether it was the effect of the scenic spot, the interesting topics and inspiring talks, or the "service-with-a-smile" extended by servants or Fr. Sonny Fidel's messages of "Live life with pas-

sion," the participants' reaction to the retreat may be summed up as an "overwhelming feeling of joy and gratitude to the Lord for a most memorable, enlightening and blissful time."

The service team was headed by Wilbert and Girlie Ang assisted by Arlin and Lita Tan. Chief servant couple was Butch and Inday Pilapil.



Twenty four couples attended the BCMR #7 last August 7-9, 1998 held at Don Bosco Retreat House in Talisay Cebu City. Acted as the Head Couple is Wilbert and Girlie Ang and assisted by Arlin and Lita Tan.

**Beatitudes  
for a married  
couple**

*Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate and loving after the wedding bells have stopped ringing.*

*Blessed are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.*

*Blessed are they who have a sense of humor, their marriage shall be much brighter.*

*Blessed are the parents who abstain from alcohol, tobacco and drugs, their children will be sure to follow their example.*

*Blessed are they who are faithful to each other and mutually helpful. God will surely guide them. Blessed are the husband and wife who thank God for good things which come to them. They shall receive both good things and thankful children.*

*Blessed are those mates who make their home a place "where seldom is heard a discouraging word". They shall inspire others to do likewise.*

*Blessed are the parents who attend and support their church. Their children shall develop a strong faith.*

*Blessed is the couple who are good stewards of all God's gifts, their children will bless them and follow their example.*

*Blessed are all those whose lives are a testimony of faith in GOD, they shall be the channels through which God's kingdom will come to earth.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow them all the days of their lives and they shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*



## DAVAO

## The history of BCBP Davao

"Go then, to all peoples everywhere and make them My disciples." (Mt.28:19)  
Tes Kilem-Llacer

The idea of setting up a BCBP Outreach in the "Land of Promise" was a move initiated by the BCBP Cebu Chapter, and fully supported by then chapter-in-training BCBP Cagayan de Oro Outreach. Two of the contact persons BCBP Cebu had in Davao were Tony and Betty Garcia, the parents of Chi-Chi Martinez. After a series of consultations and the approval to set up a BCBP Outreach in Davao City by then Archbishop Antonio Mabutias, the launching of the 1st BCBP breakfast was finally set.

Sailing overnight from Cebu to meet some brothers and sisters in Nasipit, Agusan del Sur, the joint BCBP Cebu and Cagayan de Oro Mission Teams traveled an eight-hour trip by land to Davao City for the launching of the first Breakfast Fellowship on August 14, 1993. It was held at Regine's Restaurant with Mari and Chi-Chi Martinez as main sharers.

On hand to serve Davao's 1st Breakfast were the BCBP Cebu Mission Team, headed by Mission Director Ed and Esther Lising, along with Sadi Saguisag who at the time was the Chapter Head of BCBP Cebu, Rene and Marite Congmon, Ed and Baby Banaag, Danny Kho, and the late Nap Polotan. Supporting in full force was the BCBP Cagayan de Oro Mission Team led by then Outreach Head Ed and Lita Canlas, Mission Head Pepot and Charisse Fortich, Joe and Hedy Coruna, Dodong and Chita Racaza, Fin Magaro, Tito Mora, Fabs Gorospe, Selmo Lagmay, Jong and Sandra Tiro, Abel Tolentino, and the late Ernie Mondoneda.



After the first Breakfast at Regine's Restaurant, BCBP Davao moved to Sunburst Restaurant (Anda) for its regular breakfast fellowship meetings. When the growing number of breakfasters could no longer be accommodated at Sunburst,

*Fr. Paul Finster, SJ, giving words of wisdom in a breakfast fellowship.*

A month later, on September 25, 1993, Davao's first Brotherhood Christian Life Program (BCLP) was launched at the Mindanao Resource Training Center. This may have been the most expensive CLP the BCBP ever conducted, for it meant week-end trips for two months for the Cebu and Cagayan de Oro Mission Teams. Working in the vineyard of the Lord has often been a difficult task, but this was truly a challenging one; it meant great sacrifice in terms of time and treasure. But in ways joyful and exciting, and most of all fulfilling, BCLP 1 harvested 23 souls who made up the core group of BCBP Davao.

From this small number of BCLP graduates BCBP Davao was born. In the meantime, Tony and Betty Garcia were appointed Breakfast Head.

In March of 1994, the second CLP was conducted with Remy and Neneng Gabuya as course leaders. After its completion, the first Governance Team of Davao Outreach was formed with the appointment of Tony and Betty Garcia as Outreach Head, Wally and Tinnet Tapia as Breakfast Head, Remy and Neneng Gabuya as Life Head, Ding and Ampy Canave as Treasurer and Boy Elma as Music Ministry Head.

CLP 3 followed in September of the same year, with course leaders Orly and Belen Ramos. It was during this CLP that BCBP Davao tapped its own members as speakers for the series of talks as well as main sharers in the breakfast fellowships that followed.



*Chapter head Tatang Tony and Tita Betty Garcia, sharing during a breakfast meeting.*

the venue transferred to Terraza Milesa. For a time it again moved to Kuya Ed's Restaurant at Maga-Ilanes St., and back to Sunburst Restaurant near the Central Bank, but only to find its way back to Terraza Milesa, its present venue.

In 1995, BCBP Davao Outreach held its first Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat (BCMR) on March 3 to 5, at the Cursillo Retreat House, Davao City. Soon after, CLP 4 was conducted in May 1995, with Manny and Ging Gaane as course leaders. Another CLP was conducted in October of that year headed by course leaders Rey and Chato Aranda. Before the year ended, BCBP Davao saw the launching of its separate Men's and Ladies' Breakfast fellowships. On November 11, 1995, Deputy Director for Vismin Sadi Saguisag was the Men's Breakfast main sharer.

In 1996, two BCMR's and two CLPs were conducted. BCMR 2 was also held at the Cursillo House on February 16 to 18, 1996 with couple Lito and Susan Ibanez as course leaders. BCLP 6 harvested the most number of new members in July 1996, graduating 62 enthusiastic souls. Noli and Cherry Napala were the course leaders. Inspired by the good harvest, CLP 7 soon followed, led by course leaders Paeng and Millie Secretaria. The



## ILIGAN

## "Come"

During the elevation of Iligan Outreach into a full-fledged chapter, Bishop Emilio Bataclan built his homily around the theme: "Come...follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Mark 1:7)

As my wife and I sat a few meters away, just behind our Outreach Head Bobby and wife Nene Borromeo, I felt as if the message was particularly directed to me. As Mission Head, I invariably led the teams that "Go", wherever and whenever our mission requires our presence. Through our good Bishop, our Lord was telling me that before we "GO", we should first "COME".

On hindsight, even our Lord Jesus Christ took the pains of preparing His disciples before sending them on "Missions" by saying "As my Father has sent me, so I send you". His apostles had to undergo three years of "training" before they were actually commissioned.

When the time came for them to be on their own, the Lord emboldened and strengthened them by filling them with the Holy Spirit. The message "Come..." for a while got lost in the labyrinth of my mind. Lent was approaching amidst preparations for CLP 7. Bro. Boy Obach suggested a Holy Week Retreat for the general membership. Like a bolt of lightning the message "Come..." and the suggestion of holding a Holy Retreat struck me as the Lord's way of laying out a path for us to follow. This was his way of empowering us before we engage the "enemy" for a "battle" over souls for CLP 7. The Lord was calling us to "Come...", have spiritual nourishment and be refreshed."

When God makes the plan, then he will make a way. Recalling that our Lord Jesus always went up a mountain when he needed "quality praying time", our group zeroed in on the Transfiguration Monastery, run by the Benedictine Monks, nestled in the cool mountains of Malaybalay,



Allan J. Barga,  
Mission Director, Iligan Chapter

Bukidnon, as the venue for our retreat. Normally booked months ahead of time for the duration of the Lenten Season, to our pleasant surprise a group backed out, opening for us a small gap in their heavy schedule.

On March 6-8, 1998, some fifty brothers and sisters, each one destined to play a vital role in CLP 7 underwent a blessed retreat under the guidance of Dom. Elias.



## DAVAO



BCMR 2 service team taking a relaxing moment after the renewal rites.

3rd BCMR was conducted on August 30 - September 1, 1996 with Hansel and Nilda Magno serving as course leaders. An Advent Retreat of the Outreach was held before the end of the year to cap BCBP Davao's vigorous growth.

Nourished and blessed, tried and strengthened, Davao Outreach grew and matured. It was then time to plant its own seed in a "Miner's vineyard." BCLP 3 graduate Ben Bunagan, who lives in Tagum, Davao del Norte, was instrumental in gathering friends to be prospective breakfasters. After several consultations, led by Mission Director Wally and Tineta Tapia, and with the approval of

50 thirsting and curious breakfasters during the launching of Tagum's first breakfast on May 24, 1997, thus signaling the birth of our Tagum Outreach. By June, the first BCLP was launched with Jimmy and Baby Quitain as course leaders. And on July 30, 1997, BCBP Tagum bore the first fruits of 21 new members during its commitment rites with Tatang Sadi Saguisag as the Commitment speaker.

Meanwhile, the 8th CLP of the Brotherhood was conducted in May 1997 with course leaders Dario and Matt Lacap. Before another CLP could come in, BCMR 4 which harvested 15 couples, was conducted and ably handled by Rudy and

Malou Lorena. Gus and Fe Dacudao handled the next CLP on September 23, 1997. Just as CLP 9 ended, the 2nd Annual Retreat of the Outreach was held on November 30, 1997 at the Benedictine Sisters' Retreat House in Ulas, Davao City. This was attended by 113 members and conducted by Rev. Fr. Al Botero, DCO.

As BCBP Davao was preparing for a big celebration in its life as an Outreach to become a Chapter, another CLP was completed. On July 25, 1998, BCLP 10 graduated 24 new members under the able leadership of Ram and Mila Cinches as course leaders.

From the 23 seeds planted in September, 1993 during its first CLP, BCBP Davao has grown to 207 active members, strewn over 14 action groups celled under four units with the addition of 24 newly graduated members. The five years of its existence has born the fruits of 10 CLPs and 4 BCMRs in Davao City plus 2 CLPs in the Tagum Outreach.

On August 15 the BCBP outreach in the Land of Promise became a chapter! Congratulations and praise God!!



## ILIGAN

A week later, the team conducted CLP 7, God-driven and empowered. Based on the feedback after each CLP session, I could feel God's loving hand at work in his servants: wisdom for those tasked to give counsel, patience for those who had to endure the "makulits" in their discussion groups, and peaceful countenance for everyone to weather the harassment throughout the eleven Sundays of the CLP.

"Come...follow me and I will make you fishers of men". On May 24, 1998 on the feast of our Lord's Ascension, fifty-seven men and women made their commitment to the Lord: To begin a new life with the Lord. The Lord called "Come....." and come we did.

Chapter Joe Coruña delivering his recommendation for Iligan's elevation to full chapterhood.



## RIZAL

## "Changing of the guards"

19 June, 1998 Cavite, Rizal. Bro. Max Joaquin was installed as the second head of the BCBP Rizal Chapter replacing Bro. Romy Tocjayao in a simple ceremony following a mass celebrated by Father Frank Papa at the Two and Country Village chapel at Cainta Rizal.

The occasion was witnessed by the BCBP Rizal members together with Bros. Manny Banigan, BCBP national president, Larry Larrazabal, managing director of the Luzon Chapter Heads' council, Rolly Aberion, member of the BCBP National Council and Rey Fena, BCBP Las Piñas chapter head.

Special guests were the first Action Group leaders of Max and Mimay, Ed and Jenny Dayrit of the Alabang Chapter. Lending support too were Bro. Toti and Sis. Marilen Alejandrino, pastoral leaders of Max and Mimay at the Ligaya ng Panginoon together with their entire household group.

Romy Tocjayao delivered an impassioned farewell address, which was followed by an emotional and tearful acceptance speech by Max.

Romy recalled the development of the fledging Cainta Outreach, the founding of the now flourishing Rizal Chapter in 1995 and its consequent extension via the Lucena Outreach. He reminisced on the hardships that were encountered and the

many achievements accomplished during his tenure of office.

In his acceptance speech, Max focused on his three major thrust - spirituality, community and evangelization.

"We have to develop strong spiritual roots, a united community with one direction and mission before our evangelical activities bear fruits," he emphasized. He likened what the Rizal Chapter should be to a big and robust tree. Its roots, strong and deeply entrenched in the ground represent a strong spirituality and deep commitment to the Lord. Its round trunk rising heavenward is our united and one-goal-oriented community. And its well-developed branches and luscious green leaves, colorful flowers and bountiful fruits are our evangelistic mission and its harvest.

He also adds a set of three major activities for the chapter, which is summarized as the Tree Rs or Recruitment, Retention and Recovery. - Doc Benjie



## LEGAZPI

## BCLP 7 up and running

The first major activity of Legazpi since its installation as chapter in July is the 7th Edition of the Brotherhood Christian Life Program (BCLP 7). This is being held at the Bicol Small Business Institute (BSBI) building at the Bicol University Compound. The sessions will be held for eight (8) consecutive Sundays, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., starting August 23 to October 11, 1998.

In preparation for BCLP 7, a Discussion Group Leader's (DGL) training session was held in the afternoon of August 1st at the Youth Lounge of the Albay Pastoral Center. Chapter Life Head Bro. Medes Reynoso opened the session. Talks on Servanthood, on Spiritual Warfare, on Handling A Discussion Group, and on Commitment were delivered by Bros. Dofel Banares, Ed Aragon, Ely Salazar and Maning Lorenzo, respectively. The session was capped with a "Lessons Learned" sharing and a "Simulation" of a discussion group proceedings.

Participants who were tapped to form the BCLP Service team were briefed by Bros. Caco Dino and Noel Bolinas, while the Speakers' pool was briefed by Bro. Ely Salazar.



# E-MAIL ETIQUETTE

— Jenny C. McCune —



**E**-mail is one medium where how you deliver your message is almost as important as what you say.

Instead of sitting right down and writing a letter, today's correspondent would be just as likely to send an e-mail. Ditto the print-sized petitioner trying to reach Santa Claus. He or she would just send a gift request to "Santa Claus@north.pole.com." And although I can't vouch for it personally, I bet more men get dumped by e-mail than the old-fashioned Dear John letters of yore.

E-mail is just as popular in the business world. In 1996 approximately 37 million workers in the United States had e-mail capability, according to the Electronic Messaging Association in Arlington, Va. and that number should rise to 49.2 million by the end of this year.

E-mail, otherwise known as electronic mail, is the latest corporate communications tool. It's evolving and so is the etiquette surrounding it. Here's the scoop on its proper use.

### *Know when to use it.*

E-mail is great for scheduling meetings, giving your boss quick updates on your latest project, or other uncomplicated, black-and-white issues. E-mail "shines by way of speed and convenience," says Arlene H. Rinaldi, who runs a Web site devoted to electronic etiquette. "I can answer the mail when I have the time, and e-mail gets sent so quickly that issues can be resolved almost instantaneously."

E-mail, however, is not a good medium for conveying information that will

provoke a strong emotional response from the recipient.

It's not a deal to fire someone by e-mail for example. "Face-to-face communication is still the best for many things since you have visual, vocal and verbal cues, most of which you don't have with e-mail," says Marjorie Brody, president of Brody Communications Ltd., a training and seminar firm in Elkins park, Pa.

### *Keep it short.*

Electronic messaging is the 1990's version of the telegram. It's good for short, pithy messages, not for lengthy epistles on par with Melville's Moby Dick. "Watch your wording," says Brody, co-author of complete Business Etiquette Handbook (Prentice-Hall, 1995). "Make sure that you are clear and concise." If you need more space, consider a short e-mail and then an attachment (attaching a lengthier file such as a word processing document to the e-mail).



# E-Mail

*Describe your message in the subject header.*

"Always describe what your message is about," says Victor Perra, president of the Electronic Messaging Association (EMA). "Product Launch Snafu" flags a problem and will provoke a more immediate response than a message titled, Hi, How Are You Doing?

*Be business-like.*

If you're sending an e-mail to a business associate, your e-mail should read like memo, not a "Wish You Were Here" postcard. After all, it is business. In addition, you never know if a recipient may decide to forward your message to someone else.

Check spelling and punctuation. A misspelling in an e-mailed sales pitch is just as jarring as a typo in a resume. Also use mixed case (capitals and lowercase lettering). A message written in all capitals is known as shouting Internet parlance and is considered rude. To emphasize a word or phrase surround it with asterisks: "I \*definitely\* will meet the deadline."

*Follow copyright laws.*

Quoting from a book, newspaper or magazine requires proper attribution. Don't steal a quick quip and pretend you're the writer. And if you "publish" an entire written document in an e-mail, you must seek the publisher's permission and possibly pay royalties for its use.

*Use humor sparingly.*

E-mail is akin to a business speech. Humor can spice up the delivery, but the writer has to be careful not to offend. In addition, an anecdote that might sound funny accompanied by visual and verbal cues (a wink, a laugh at the end of the joke) can come across flat in two-dimensional e-mail. "I recently received a message that contained an off-color joke," recalls EMA's Perra. "It was forwarded to me by someone else who had received it from someone in the U.K. I'm sure the original writer had no idea his message would be forwarded to people around the globe." Indeed, e-mail can be forwarded much more easily than a voice mail or hard text, so any writer should be prepared.



*Use emotions carefully.*

Emotions are icons or symbols that indicate emotions. Whether you use them is a personal choice. Some people find them awkward; others find them eloquent. If you do employ emotions, use them to punctuate your writing. Overdoing them is overkill. Be sensitive to the receiver's e-mail "IQ". Maybe you're comfortable with the medium, but that doesn't mean your boss or customer is. Don't use abbreviations or emotions unless you know the recipient will understand them.

*Avoid sending "angry" e-mail.*

Because e-mail is such a quick and simple way to communicate, it's easy to abuse it. Many the writer of an electronic diatribe has hit the "send" button only to rue sending the irate message. "You don't want to gripe to your boss by e-mail," says Perra. If you write an e-mail in anger, be sure to store it for a day, reread it, and then decide if you really want to send it. Also remember that e-mail, since it is read, not spoken, may appear more harsh in tone than you meant it. Senders of antagonistic, critical e-mail -- also known as "flaming" -- can expect to receive responses in kind.

*Check prepared mode of communication.*

If you're working with someone, it's best to ask how they like to communicate. Some people prefer e-mail and will respond faster to an electronic communicate than to a voice - mail message. Others have an e-mail box, but don't know how to check it.

*Respond quickly.*

Currently people corresponding by e-mail expect responses within 24 hours. Of course, people prioritize their correspondence, answering critical messages first and less critical ones later. Be cautious when approaching strangers electronically. A surge in junk e-mail is making it more difficult to connect with people for the first time through electronic mail. Some deluged users routinely delete messages when their subject header reads like con artist's hyperbole. Any messages that appear to be electronic advertising are usually destined for deletion, plus you may get an angry "flaming" e-mail in return. Above all, says EMA's Perra, "Remember that e-mail is just like sending a letter out on corporate letterhead. It reflects the company. Don't ever put in an e-mail something that you wouldn't want someone to read on corporate letterhead." ☛

Source: E-Mail Etiquette Web Site





**Ronnie Caballero.** As Kapatiran's managing editor, Ronnie now finds himself getting more invitations to go to the different chapters and outreaches, performing his duties as such, and at the same time giving talks of which he is very much at home with. His editorial piece, Ronnie takes us to Maasin and relates his experience with the delegation for the Vismin conference. Furthermore, he zeroes in on this issue's focus -- Service, as he gives an account of his interview with Fr. Aris on the subject as exemplified by His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin.



**Nancy Catan.** She's back! And what a relief. After a couple of months vacation with her folks in the USA, Nancy is back in harness. She immediately puts her fingers to assist the staff in this issue. Her contributions included the conclusion of her "Back to Basics" topic on the Holy Spirit, and of course the usual help in editing, proofreading and layout. This certainly made the chores a lot easier. After doing so, she's once again out of the country on a trip to Holy Land with her mother-in-law. For sure, she'll be back with a collection of articles for the future issues of the Kapatiran.



**Eddie Mendoza.** A prolific reader and writer as well as a busy business executive and BCBP Greenhills chapter head, Eddie enjoys sharing his faith and marketplace experiences with others. A truly gifted man in many respects, Eddie shares these blessings with everyone he meets, especially to brothers and sisters in the Brotherhood. Just recently, he headed the team in conducting the actual run of the BCBP in Cebu City for the Vismin region. It was a success and he is now preparing himself for the same program for the Luzon region.



**Fernando de Larrazabal.** Just recuperated from some stomach illness, Tito Larry is back to do his duties as Luzon Region Managing Director. He continues to write his "One Minute Meditations" and is finishing up his new book which is expected to be in circulation by the end of this year or early 1999 as the latest. He is likewise in the process of reviewing the BCLP and Culture talks so that they can cope up with the current developments.



**Sammy M. Ulanday.** A "permanent fixture" at BCBP activities, as one might say, Sammy can be seen in most community-wide occasions in the Brotherhood. Wearing two hats, he doubles up as a "support group" to the National Council and Chapter heads being the BCBP SecGen, and acts as the official photographer and reporter for Kapatiran where he serves as the associate editor. In this issue, Sammy relates his experience in Davao during its installation as a full chapter, and his discovery of God's revelation of his destiny.



**Annie Salvador.** Besides writing her column "From Cries to Kisses", Annie now has been requested by Ronnie Caballero to be a member of the Kapatiran working staff along with two more members from BCBP Makati as well as other representatives from other chapters nationwide. Her experiences as a writer, mother, wife and BCBP Makati servant will definitely provide the needed backbone for the Kapatiran editorial team.



**Nitz Butao.** A member of the Butuan BCBP outreach, she writes a weekly column for the Northern Mindanao Chronicle. We missed Nitz's sharing of bits and pieces from her scrapbook of inspiring thoughts and quotations in this issue. Maybe her piece got caught in the traffic somewhere. We'll hear from Nitz again in the future issues.



**Cynthia Matas.** Cynthia's "Musings" is back with a music in this issue. She talks about music as filling our soul and lead us towards our Maker, music becoming a prayer, and because the basis of music is the truth that the heart speaks, our communication with our Eternal Father is more felt and more powerful.

**Other Contributors:**

Manny Banigan, Manolet Siojo, Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, Fr. Aris Sison Jr., Danny Silbor, Nena Paras, Allan Barga, Gelo P. dela Dingco, Ely and Toty Salazar, Bacolod North, Davao, Iligan, Legazpi, Mactan, Rizal, Tagbilaran Chapters.

# Family PRAYER

*Lord, bless our family  
with Openness  
to real communication,  
with Sharing in all  
our joys and sorrows,  
with freedom to  
let each other grow  
with Understanding  
for the gifts each  
has to give,  
and, of course,  
with Love  
no matter what,  
no matter where.  
Let us Love  
each other  
as we Love You.*

*-contributed by 'Rizal Chapter*





# The BCBP Breakfast



*Witnessing for God is one of the best ways to serve the Lord. Jess and Nena Paras of BCBP-CDO sharing at Makati Breakfast.*

*It doesn't matter how big or small, it's the service from the heart that counts, that's all. Puerto Princesa music ministry in service.*

## 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 NORTH: Roli's La Salle, Bacolod

BACOLOD SOUTH: McDonald's

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

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

BUKIDNON: Taipan Rest., Valencia (1st) Hotel Malibu Malaybalay (3rd Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Paulo's Restaurant, Cagayan de Oro

CALAMBA: Riverview Resort and Conference Center

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

DAVAO: Terresa Millesa (1st, 2nd & 3rd Sat.)

ILIGAN: Sunburst Restaurant

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.)

LIPA: Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel, Cebu City

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

PUERTO PRINCESA: Seafont Restaurant

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill, 119 Roces Avenear cor. Morato

RIZAL: View Square, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo

ROXAS: Kanami Restaurant

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

TAGBILARAN: La Roca Hotel

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 NORTH: Jollibee, Bacolod City (3rd Sat.)

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

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

DAVAO: Terresa Millesa (4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel (4th Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (2nd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: The Village Restaurant (4th Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (2nd Sat.)

ROXAS: Kanami Restaurant

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

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin (2nd Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: La Roca Hotel (3rd 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: Echelon Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

BACOLOD NORTH: Roli's La Salle (4th Sat.)

BACOLOD SOUTH: McDonald's (4th Sat.)

BAYBAY: Angelicum Parish Hall (2nd & 4th Sun.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, Capt. Vicente Rosa St., CDO (3rd Sat.)

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

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

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

DAVAO: Terresa Millesa (2nd Sat.)

DIPOLOG: Top Plaza Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

DUMAGUETE: Bethel Rest House (1st & 3rd Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (1st Sat.)

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

MAASIN: Valtevan Restaurant, Leyte (1st & 3rd Sun.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (4th Sat.)

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel (2nd & 3rd Sat.)

OZAMIZ: Supermix Restaurant (1st & 3rd 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.

SAN JOSE: Regina's Restaurant (1st & 3rd Sun.)

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin (4th Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: J's Seafood Village (2nd & 4th Sat.)

TAGUM: Molave Resturant (1st & 3rd Sat.)

TUBIGON: Parish Palao Hall (1st & 3rd Sat.)

TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn Restaurant (2nd & 4th Sat.)

# THE BCBP COUNTRY

