

SEPT. - DEC., 1998

**K
A
P
A
T
I
R
A
N**



VOL. XII, NO. 5



BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

Editor's Note...



Greetings! As we close the Year of the Holy Spirit, we put our focus on COMMUNITY. Again like many of our chosen focus topics, we admit we cannot really do justice to all the topic's aspects (as

probably a book would do) but rather have a sampling of several topics which are enough to stimulate interest and advance further one's knowledge. We have the focus article ably discussed by Bro. Ronnie Ona, our NC Director for Mindanao.

It is an opportune time also for us to feature submissions from our two featured chapters: Cagayan De Oro and Quezon City. We have a sampling of testimonies, community life sharings and mission experiences. We also have a message from Bro. Joe Coruña, CH of CDO and Bro. Roy Calleja, CH of QC. This is one feature which we hope to maintain in bringing to you the different faces and flavors of the BCBP community by having issue assignments rotated among chapters. Knowing the latest and exchanging technology in chapter and mission life will enrich the life of many seeking growth in their service. We will strive to "make the world smaller" so to speak, by bringing chapters and people closer together by sharing a part of themselves through the Kapatiran.

We also have a first hand account of a tour of the Holy Land by Sis. Nancy Catan, who also wrote the Back to Basics feature: TITHING, and ties in with the COMMUNITY theme.

As we usher in the Year of God the Father, we do have some changes to make also. This issue will be the last "mega-issue" as it contains 40 plus pages (a collector's item?). We will be drastically cutting pages by 50% and hopefully introduce a brand-new layout. This will help us serve you better by improving our speed in bringing out each issue and to be more current especially with news. This I feel will enhance the unifying factor that Kapatiran has for the BCBP community nationwide.

A sister, Gina Esposo, wrote her reaction to Mother Angelica's "His Pain, Like Mine", serialized in Kapatiran. She wondered if we could feature "Our Father's Plan" by Scott Hahn and Jeff Cavins. GOOD NEWS WE HAVE IT! We have the videos of the 13-part series outlining the newest approach to the Scriptures. All we have to work out now is the permission, so please pray for us. We also have a crate full of the latest teachings and Bible studies authored by Dr. Scott Hahn, which we intend to feature and use as reference. And if you are "in" in the renewal you know what this means. Scott Hahn and company are the hottest when it comes to the Bible. Do you agree?

All I want to say is we read your letters and God does the rest. SO KEEP WRITING AND LET GOD DO THE REST!


RONNIE

FOCUS

COMMUNITY: A COMMUNION AND A NETWORK by *Rolly Ona* 10
Sometimes we may get so caught up in the many activities of the Brotherhood - outreach, mission, chapter life, assemblies, action group meetings, etc. - that we may forget that conversion is an on-going process. This focus article reminds us that a community is only as strong as its individual members and points the way for us to strengthen the BCBP community

THE FEDERATION 14
Excerpts from Bro. Albert Morales' article by the same title in the Federation of Transprovincial Charismatic Communities' publication entitled "Facing the Challenges of the Third Millenium."

Sharings

EXPERIENCING COMMUNITY IN THE BCBP by *Roy Calleja* 16
Roy Calleja, QC chapter head, recalls his communal experiences with the different chapter/outreach heads during the last Leaders' Retreat. He calls this affair "Pentecostal experience."

IS GOD PLAYING FAVORITES? by *CHARISSE CH. FORTICH, CDO* 17

MUSIC TO HIS EARS by *Rayben Maigue, Quezon City* 18

I TRIED TO BRIBE GOD by *Buttons Sison, Quezon City* 20

PATO-TOO by *NENE BONDOC Ocampo, Quezon City* 22

SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL by *ALAN AND EVELYN DE LA CRUZ, QUEZON CITY* 23

BEING MAKULIT WORKS! by *RICK GALING, QUEZON CITY* 25

ALL THE TIME, LORD... ANYTIME LORD by *JOE CORUÑA, CDO* 28
As he looks back into the wisdom of that assignment to Malaybalay Outreach on such a short notice, "Chapter Joe" can only say that as head servants, we must always be prepared and say "All the time Lord... anytime Lord"

DOBERMANS ARE CHRISTIAN DOGS TOO by *CHARISSE FORTICH, CDO* 29

BITUAN AND BUKIDNON: CDO OUTREACHES 30

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LIFE WITH HIM by *CHARISSE CH. FORTICH, CDO* 31

FAITH, UNWRAPPED AND ACCEPTED by *PINKY LIM, CDO* 31

FEATURES

I WALK WHERE HE WALKED by *NANCY CATAN* 4
In this account of some of her experiences and impressions while in the Holy Land, Nancy leads us to reflect on the importance of the past. She says that tracing our roots is important because as we come to a clearer understanding of the events and lives of the past, we can put our present into clearer focus. And so face the future with confidence.

CHANGE 8

10 HATS FOR LEADERS TO WEAR 13

ARE COMPUTERS MALE OR FEMALE? 24

HUMOR FROM HEAVEN 31

BIBLE SHARING 41

BOOK REVIEW: DARING TO LIVE ON THE EDGE 44

WHAT IF 46

WHY GROW OLD WHEN YOU CAN STAY YOUNG? by *ANGIMONG, DAVAO* 47

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

"Be Instruments of HIS Righteousness"

VIEWS

IN THE MRKETPLACE: JESUS WAS NO WIMP BY EDDIE MENDOZA 2
Eddie assures us that Jesus, though submissive, was forceful, direct to the point, a no-holds-barred kind of guy, even as he was always thankful and compassionate, bold but willing to look foolish, stuck to his mission despite severe odds, and held people accountable but He himself was very transparent.

EDITORIAL: NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO LOVE BY RONNIE CABALLERO 3
From where is it that we truly derive our sense of community? Our sense of community is best derived from one element, our participation, our investment of ourselves. Investing one's self is an expression of love, an option we can not do without in community.

FROM MY DESKTOP FILES:
THE BCBP COUNTRY, THE BROTHERHOOD COMMUNITY BY SAMMY ULANDAY 7
Expressed in words, "The BCBP Country", the picture that we see at the back cover, is given a different treatment by Sammy, who himself coined the term and concept. A little bit of geography lesson added spice to this presentation.

REGULARS

ONE MINUTE MEDITATION: TO BE HOLY BY FERNANDO DE LARRAZABAL 8

MUSING: TIME: A FRIEND OR ENEMY BY CYNTHIA MATAS 8

Family Life

FROM CRIES TO KISSES: MONEY TALKS BY ANNIE SALVADOR 26

KID'S PROVERBS 27

BLESSING YOUR FAMILY 41

BACK TO BASICS: TITHING by Nancy Catan 42

COLUMNIST CORNER 48

NEWS

NATIONAL, BACOLOD - 19TH ANNIVERSARY, BAYBAY, LUCENA, MACTAN 32 - 40

MANILA, RIZAL, QUEZON CITY, TUGUEGARAO

MARCH - APRIL 1999

Deadline: Just keep them coming

Issue Focus:
Commitment

Readers Survey:

What is commitment to you?

How do you manifest commitment through your action group?

Do you have you an inspiring tale to tell on this subject?



**U
P
N
E
X
T**

MAY - JUNE

Issue Focus:

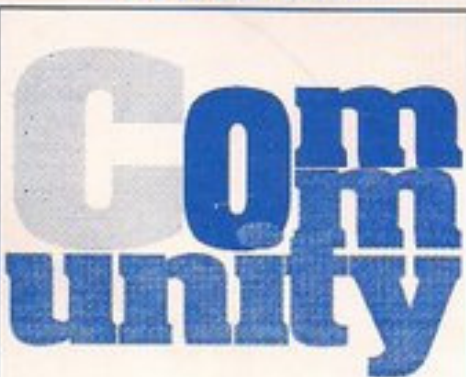
19th BCBP National Anniversary Celebration, Bacolod City

Readers Survey:

Send in your comments, observations, recommendations on the anniversary. Of course you can do so more effectively if you were there during the celebration.

Be there when it happens!

OUR COVER



Our cover clearly spells one of the aspects of this issues focus. A play on graphic layout, it spells "unity" a vital aspect in a community such as the BCBP.

The different color presentation symbolizes the diversity of members in terms of work, culture, personalities and other aspects of life.

The background is a collage of different BCBP community activities set on a subdued tone to give more emphasis to the message of unity.

KAPATIRAN

The national magazine of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals
VOL. XII, NO. 5 SEPT. - DEC. 1998

EDITORIAL BOARD

Manny Banigan
Fernando de Larrazabal
Nancy R. Catan

MANAGING EDITOR

Ronnie Caballero

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Sammy M. Ulanday

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Rudy Flores

NEWS AND INFORMATION

BUREAUS

LUZON BUREAU

Alabang Charlie Carballo
Dagupan Ted Siaprio
Greenhills Johnny Filart
Las Piñas Bong Lodero, Jun Medina
Makati Annie Salvador
Danny Sibor
Parañaque Chuck Colayco
Puerto Princesa Edwin Tan
Quezon City Ric Galing, Buttons Sison
Rizal Benjie Cruz, Ricky Beltrar
Baguio Cecilia Estrada-Castro
Calamba Ruben Macairap
Cavite City Cynthia Matas
Legaspi Marjorie Gonsena
Lipa Nanding Perce
Lucena Pete Medina
Manila Nancy Catan
San Fernando Danny Lazo
Tuguegarao Nene de Leon

VISAYAS BUREAU

Bacolod North Karina M. Jugo
Bacolod South Theresa "Ating" Jochico
Cebu Cholo Bernad
Iloilo Ellen Certeza
Mactan Hannah Alcosoba
Tagbilaran Jun Amora
Antique c/o Iloilo
Baybay c/o Mactan
Dumaguete Jayvee Imbo
Maasin c/o Cebu
Ormoc c/o Mactan
Roxas City c/o Iloilo
Tacloban Wilfred Maneja, Cris Tin
Tubigon c/o Jun Amora

MINDANAO BUREAU

Cagayan de Oro Charisse Fortich
Iligan Bobby Borromeo
Davao Tess Uacer
Bukidnon c/o Charisse Fortich
Butuan c/o Charisse Fortich
Ozamiz c/o Iligan
Tagum c/o Tess Uacer
Dipolog c/o Dumaguete
PRINTER Oca & Mita Balaing
Micer Printers

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. 521-5645, E-Mail Address: bcbp-nc@i-manila.com.ph. Contributions are encouraged, however, they shall be subject to editing and condensing. Pictures and illustrations are welcome.



Eddie Mendoza
Greenhills Chapter

JESUS was no wimp!

Last issue I shared with you some thoughts regarding the need to build a community culture that is characterized by members that practice the habit of gracious speech. I said that speech that expresses praise and affection towards others is definitely filled with God's grace and is an effective way that we can serve and love others, and eventually win others to the side of Jesus.

I'd like to continue this topic by first addressing an obvious concern. One might state that such a culture of gracious speech has no place in the business world, where people talk straight from the hip, are confrontational, and business-like. If you start talking goody-goody, then people might think you are a shallow-headed Boy Scout, a wimpy negotiator, a gullible, naive weakling.

If you think so, then perhaps you only need to study the speech pattern of Jesus and decide whether he sounded wimpy, or gullible, or shallow-headed. Then you will probably agree with me that he certainly didn't sound weak. Sure he was submissive, but he was forceful, direct to the point on many occasions. He was a no-holds-barred kind of guy, even as he was always thankful and compassionate, bold but willing to look foolish. He stuck to his mission despite severe odds, and He held people accountable but He himself was very transparent.

No sir, Jesus was no wimp, just like a Christian who is disguised as a businessman is no wimp either. Not in behaviour, neither in speech. He can be aggressive in his approach to business problems, to negotiations, to confronting difficult issues, but never is he aggressive in his speech. A Christian businessman does not need to curse nor recite expletives in order to ventilate his disappointment or anger. He does not revile, insult or verbally abuse even the most incompetent, nor the most incorrigible in his circle of contacts. He does not say anything to malign the character of his co-workers and fellow men, and neither does he enjoy the company of those who do.

He does not speak deceitful or misleading words to cloak malicious intentions, but he is transparent, direct and honest in his conversation. He is neither a gossip nor is he one to engage in negative humor — either as a deliverer or as a raucous receiver.

Instead, the Christian businessman is always first to express praise to others. He is courteous, often to the point of being affectionate in his speech and dealings — not only with his best customer or with his boss, but also and especially with those who are lower in rank and stature. He is a peace maker, being the first to go out of his way to avert

personal conflict. He is considerate and meek when offering correction. And he always looks for an opportunity to praise and thank God publicly, calling upon the Lord for help, and proclaiming God's glory to others in the day-to-day circumstances of work.

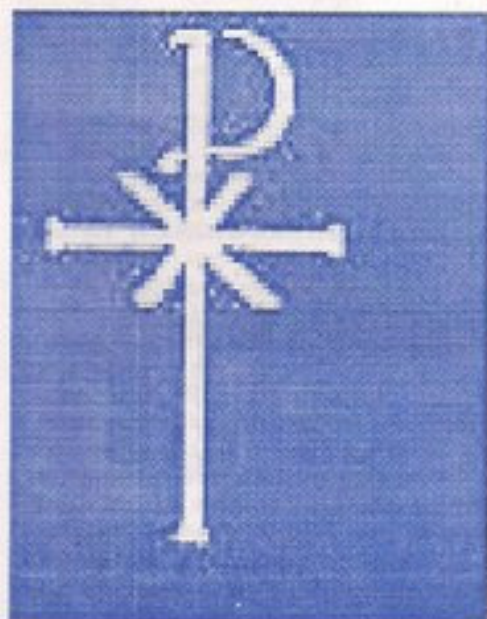
How is he able to do this? How is the Christian businessman able to talk like

this? He can do this because he has the right kind of attitude, the proper frame of mind, the correct paradigm.

A key leadership principle is the presumption of goodwill. If you want to bring calm to warring parties and develop creative solutions to problems between people, say to everyone, "let's presume that everyone here has goodwill toward each other, and proceed from there."

Goodwill - - presuming the best about people. Ask yourself this question: "what would change in my dealings with people if I presumed only their goodwill?" and then you will know how a paradigm shift can be effective.

To paraphrase what St. Paul says, "your attitude must be that of Christ's: though he was God, he did not think that he had to force his way around people because of this fact." Jesus had goodwill to all, including those who nailed him to the cross. Jesus presumed the best in us. In her book entitled Jesus CEO, Laurie Jones says, "(Jesus) saw us as future kings and queens and was quick to excuse and forgive our lesser acts, knowing we were capable of so much more. 'Yes Peter. You denied me. But you will be my Rock. Yes, Mary, you've had men who weren't your husband. But you are capable of great love .. Father forgive them for they know not what they do. We were not the best to him, but he believed we wanted to be. And he said so with his dying breath.'" Jesus harbored only goodwill. A Christian businessman, by definition, should also harbor only goodwill. That is the key to gracious speech. ☺



No Other Option BUT TO LOVE

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; anyone who loves in begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent His only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him.
- 1 John 4:7-9

One of my favorite anonymous quotes about community is "If you find a perfect community do not join it because you will spoil it." No, this is no personal

affront to anyone but the plain and simple truth. We are imperfect and because of that will surely spoil a perfect community, which of course does not exist anyway. But the sad truth is that more often than not it is we who act perfect and expect perfection. We are constantly the critics of the way many things are done, said or planned within the BCBP community. We bear grudges, harbor intrigues and avoid people we do not like. But we want to stay. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. As we constantly shed our worldly way of loving, as we immerse ourselves in the presence of God and serve Him according to His will, we get transformed. As businessmen and professionals, it is very easy to fall into the worldly, self-centered, highly competitive mode and chew away at anybody in our path. But in knowing now a path to holiness, we can better interact with people in the BCBP community.

From here is it that we truly derive our sense of community? Our sense of community is best derived from one element, our participation, our investment of ourselves. Watching a film about a nursery children the other day, the narrator observed that the sense of community among these children develops once they start helping one another. The teacher is the prime mover seen by all as helpful in giving information, advice and volunteering assistance. By osmosis, the children learn to help their seatmates thus establishing the beginnings of community.

The Lord himself gave the best investment, his very self. Unlike many of us who may give our assistance to say, an orphanage, in form of a cheque, Jesus immerses himself. Like the nursery teacher he is seen by us as model of unconditional loving and from him we derive the genuine sense of our community building.

As Christmas approaches, another worthwhile element to bring into this discussion is the principles of covenant and family in operation between God and man.

Don't you ever wonder why Jesus, the King of Kings, chose to come as a child? The element of covenant comes into play. "Covenant", simply, defined is an exchange of persons which is different from "contract" which is an exchange of property. I believe this situation enabled Mary and Joseph to live out their own covenant with God to give themselves totally to the Lord. As an infant he was in a position to receive the love and care of the best mother, Mary, full of God's grace and the best human father, St. Joseph. As a helpless infant and child he became open to receiving the best human love there was possible.

In my own life, I awaited the birth of our first offspring after five long years. He was a product of purification, intercession and prayer. With God's mercy, I was able to gaze with delight at the face of my first-born and say, "With a God as great as you, how can I not serve you?" And with all of my imperfections and struggles to this very day, I strive to live out my own experience of covenant. And God in his own faithfulness, continues to transform me through my service in the BCBP.

In the new covenant, Jesus in full obedience to the Father gave himself totally to the Father as a perfect sacrifice for all our sins. This establishes the new covenant wherein the Lord completes the exchange with his total self-giving at the cross of salvation. Jesus himself establishes himself another covenant when he establishes the Catholic church. What makes it wonderful even more is that it is delivered in the context of family, as the Catholic church's calling is to be God's family. Through the Holy

spirit, Jesus continues this self-giving by giving us his character, forming us in his image, his Sonship. And this is a wonderful realization to bring into this Year of God the Father.

When is God the Father really a Father? The answer as provided by Dr. Hahn is, WHEN HE IS FATHERING. One of the clear identifying marks of fathering is when a father gives his person to his children, all of him that makes him who he is. This establishes our own sonship with the Father and the path of our transformation, to become his image and likeness, thus establishing our family bond. According to Dr. Scott Hahn of the Franciscan University of Steubenville, as presented in his thesis, God's greatest desire is to bring us all permanently into a family bond with him. He loves us too much to let us be as we are with all our imperfections. So, he binds himself in a covenant with us to transform us in preparation to become our heavenly family to sit at table with him.

There is such a saying as "You can choose your friends but you cannot choose your family." But God brings us another choice. He will choose to make us part of his heavenly family if we participate in his plan of salvation. With our own free will, we can choose to be transformed in the image and likeness of his Son, who came into this world primarily to be an expiation for our sins and imperfections and in order to be that model to be followed into eternal life with the Father.

The covenant family bond as taught by Dr. Scott Hahn is a wonderful gift to the church which we hope to discuss some more in the issues to come. But for now, it is simply a great grace to know that as we struggle to build our BCBP community, we are also striving to build our heavenly family with the knowledge that this in itself is God the Father's greatest desire. Our efforts should then be doubled, our patience tripled and all our best resources brought into use knowing that there is no other option but to love, that this is the very key to heaven, and that we must live out this love in our own lives and in community with others. ☪

In this account of some of her experiences and impressions while in the Holy Land, Nancy leads us to reflect on the importance of the past. She says that tracing our roots is important because as we come to a clearer understanding of the events and lives of the past, we can put our present into clearer focus. And so face the future with confidence.



I WALKED WHERE HE WALKED

Nancy R. Catan, Manila Outreach

As I sit down to write this account of my trip to the Holy Land, I am besieged by many memories - of places, people, expectations and realizations - far too many to put down in 1500 words or so. So what do I say - where do I begin?

I remember reading about how the book "Paula" came to be written. In December 1991 Paula, the 27-year-old daughter of novelist Isabelle Allende became gravely ill, went into coma and remained unconscious for many months. Her mother Isabelle, working from the premise that her daughter, if she woke, might have amnesia, wrote down the story of her family for Paula. It begins, "Listen, Paula. I am going to tell you a story, so that when you wake you will not feel so lost."

Being in the Holy Land was, for me, a journey connecting me with not only the biblical and historical past, but also with my personal past and my own future for when we explore the past, we learn who we are and, as importantly, we learn who we are not. Thus, having our roots in place ensures that we do not get completely lost on our life journey.

My husband, Jun, and I had been told that the family name "Catan" is the Israeli word for "small", that somewhere in the ancient past we may have Israeli ancestors. I was curious about this. My family genealogy has been traced back to Charlemagne; wouldn't it be exciting to find that the Catan family's roots were planted in the Holy Land!

The reason for the trip was to attend, on behalf of Jun and as part of a business delegation of the PIBA, Philippine Israel Business Association, the Prime Minister's Jubilee Business Summit in Jerusalem October 13-15, 1998. This forum was being held on the occasion of Israel's 50th anniversary for international businessmen to give them an overview of investment opportunities in Israel. Accompanying me on the trip was Jun's mother whose dream has always been to visit the Holy Land before she dies (may she live a long, long time!).

The Summit

The Summit was a smorgasbord of information in the areas of agriculture, bio-technology, energy, tourism, high-tech industry, and the economy. Speakers and panelists in the sessions were all key executives and government specialists in their fields of expertise. The opening and also the awarding ceremonies were graced by the dynamic presence of Prime Minister Netanyahu himself. I found it all quite interesting although with so much to absorb in such a short time, the result was a temporary 'information overload'. As I now more leisurely review the conference kit materials, I am amazed at what the Israelis have accomplished in such a short time!

Did you know...that Israel is now the diamond and gem processing center of the world (not Amsterdam), processing and setting over 60% of the world's precious gemstones? ... that both government and non-government institutions have a proven record as technology incubators, nourishing baby technologies until they are turned over to the business entrepreneurs? ... that over 50% of the land area of Israel is rock, sand and desert with the area increasing as the desert steadily encroaches onto arable land and yet they are basically self-sufficient in food? ... that one reason for their advancements in agriculture is their melding of ideology, political will and technological innovations into one solid focus - and that they view agriculture as a viable and strategic industry? ... that their drip irrigation techniques have now developed into fertigation, the ability to apply fertilizer and growth hormones through the irrigation system in such a way as to regulate the growth cycle of the plant? ... that the research department of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem alone produces 40 new patents a year, 28% of these in the areas of agriculture and environment? ... that one of their primary R & D thrusts is preservation of the environment, together with water and wastewater management? ... that Israel is 2nd in the world for percent of GNP spent on education, and 3rd in number of degree holders,

"Israel has the relentless capacity to innovate, integrate, stimulate and motivate her people."

with most of the degrees being in biotech and other technological fields?

The Summit's theme was "We dare to dream..." and as one speaker emphasized during a panel presentation on Globalization: "We must dare to dream but we must also realize that unless these dreams become practical realities, nothing will happen. Israel has the relentless capacity to innovate, integrate, stimulate and motivate her people. In this country, everyone works willingly for a reason and with concerted focus because they have a vision."

All these noble ideas, vision and focus from such a small country in the desert! And then I begin reflecting on what we are celebrating in the Philippine's Centennial year. In terms of vision, focus and determination to achieve goals, have we been able to translate these into practical reality? ... I wonder...

Walking where He walked

As we ascended into the mountains toward Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, we passed numerous wrecks of army vehicles along the sides of the valley. When we asked our guide about them, he told us that they were the remnants of different wars and were preserved to serve as reminders of the Israeli soldiers who died there defending Jerusalem from the invaders. I learned that the Israelis go to great lengths to remember their roots and the journey and conflicts they have passed so they will be more prepared to meet the future.

I had been told before I left by an Israeli friend that she always longs to return to Jerusalem because the air is purer there. I thought that she was merely sentimental until I saw the Holy City perched on top of a line of limestone rock mountains. It wasn't my imagination that the city was crowned with an aura. The sunlight reflects off the limestone adobe buildings which, by law, must be in their natural state, not painted, nor modernized in any way. Since all buildings must be surfaced with this rough monochromatic stone, the city literally glows in the sun, the air shimmers with the light, and yes, the air that you breathe does seem purer.

Although time was short, we were able to visit many of the important and usual pilgrimage sites: Bethlehem, Mt. of Olives, Gethsemane, the Upper Room, King David's Tomb, the Old City of Jerusalem, Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Nazareth, Mt. of Beatitudes, and Capernaum. We sailed across the Sea of Galilee to Tiberias, rode through the Jordan Valley, the oasis near Jericho and the Wilderness.

We ate St. Peter's fish (giant tilapia) and feasted on Israeli salads. We sat inside the ruins of a synagogue where Jesus taught, walked along the shore of Galilee where He multiplied the loaves and fish, touched the rock that tradition says Jesus used as

the table by the shore of the lake when after his resurrection He asked the disciples to eat breakfast with him. We saw sheep grazing in a grove of olive trees and hillsides covered with vineyards.

Which place had the most impact on me? Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem. As I climbed down the stone steps into the cave lit by candles and lanterns, the air of holiness was almost tangible. The space was small, simple, cramped and crowded with people. And yet it seemed there was the hush of angels' wings in the air and I could feel the warm embrace of the Presence of God. As I knelt to pray and touch the revered site where Jesus was born, a group of pilgrims in a foreign tongue began to worship quietly in song. Tears ran down my cheeks as I was transported back in time to when it all happened...the simple beginning that changed us all...God's love became flesh and dwelt among us.



View of Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives

The call of the wilderness

As we drove from Jerusalem to Galilee, along the highway to the right of us extended verdant, fertile fields of date palms, citrus, ground crops such as vegetables, legumes, cotton and corn, interspersed with row upon row of greenhouses. All fields and greenhouses were equipped with drip fertigation with tubes running along beside each planted row to carry water, nutrients and fertilizers directly to the plant roots. Run by the different kibbutz, these areas are an agriculturist's paradise and ecologist's dream. This is literally producing an abundant harvest from infertile ground. Was Jesus prophesying this when He taught his disciples the parable of the Sower and the Seeds?

The other side of the highway was a different story altogether - rocks, sand, craggy barren cliffs, desert hills and mountains, a forbidding wilderness inhospitable to life. We saw goats foraging under the watchful care of a shepherd, a few camels serenely waiting for eternity, tents of Bedouin nomads clinging to desert hillsides near almost infinitesimal springs of water. This was the Wilderness where Jesus spent 40 days and was tempted by the devil. This was the Wilderness where prophets and holy men throughout the ages have come closer to their Creator.

These stark and barren hills of rock and sand stretched as far as the eye could see. And they called out to me. I have read about the call of the desert and thought that

I WALKED... from page 5

this was just poetic license, an author's way with words. But this call of the wilderness was real yearning. My feet itched to step into the sand and walk to the crest of the hill. My skin seemed to feel the sting of the sand in the desert wind. The Wilderness called to me .. and I didn't know why. I was born and brought up in Vermont, the Green Mountain State, on a farm in a rural countryside filled with green fields, verdant forests, rivers of crystal clear water. Why should the desert have this strong fascination for me?

Is it because its stark simplicity is totally impressive and puts into question the clutter in our modern-day lives? Is it because its barrenness brings to mind the periods of dryness that I have experienced in my spiritual life? Is it because its very mystery and differentness pose a challenge to my ability to accept differences and change? Is it because the very permanence of the wind-swept rock reminds me of the need for my life to be anchored on such a strong and eternal foundation? I am still pondering this and know that God will reveal his message to me in due time.

Entering the bosom of God

One morning we visited the Holocaust Museum, a memorial to the more than 6 million Jews who died violent deaths in the Nazi death camps during the war. 1.5 million of these were children. And it was the Children's Memorial that gave me one of the most touching experiences of the whole trip.

The children's memorial is set in a cave-like structure built into a hill. Once you enter the heavy-set door, you are surrounded by a deep velvet enveloping blackness. You must hold onto a railing to walk through the memorial. No cameras or lights of any kind are allowed inside. Inscribed in Hebrew over the entrance is the phrase: "The souls of the just are in the hand of God." (Wisdom 3:1). Our guide translated it more vividly as: "The soul of a child is a candle in the hand of God."

As you enter, pictures of the faces of some of the children appear at intervals in the darkness as a continuing litany of names echoes solemnly in the flickering darkness. For this jet-black cavern that seems to stretch into nothingness is lit only with the flickering flames of five candles, reflected and multiplied by a myriad of mirrors into an endless procession of the souls of these 1.5 million children.

*Beduin in the wilderness**The site of Jesus' birth*

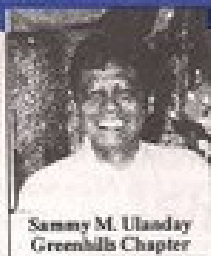
I felt as if I were in the bosom of God with the souls of these dead children all crying out to me for remembrance and love and justice. Not only did I hear the cries of the holocaust victims but also blended with them were the cries of all children everywhere, born and unborn, who have been denied the right to life. It was an awesome experience! Everyone who advocates abortion should be taken through that memorial; I am certain that they would emerge convinced of the sanctity of life and the preciousness of the soul of a child. I felt like hugging every child I saw after that.

"Do not forget this..."

Scripture repeats hundred of times from Genesis to Revelation, "Do not forget this" and "Remember that." My visit to the Holy Land helped me realize the necessity of reviewing the past and learning from it. St. Paul tells us in I Cor. 10:11 that these things happened as examples and were written down as warnings for us, to help us deal with the present and future, so to speak. However we must be conscious that remembering is not the same thing as learning. Learning involves doing something about the memory, transforming it into a more positive present. Remembering their past has forged in the Israelis a strong commitment to their national identity and a sense of focus and direction that is reflected in everything they do.

By visiting Israel I discovered my spiritual roots. As I walked where Jesus walked, I felt the spirit of the Holy Land through the resilience of its people, their struggle to overcome often overwhelming odds and survive, and God's abundant love and care for His people. I wasn't able to trace whether the Catan family name originated in Israel or not, but I was able to get connected with the fact that I am a child of God, that I stand in a long line of redeemed people, recipients of God's grace. I had a personal encounter with God. Now I appreciate all the more my experiences with the indwelling and power of the Holy Spirit and am more aware than ever of the signs of God's work in my life.

I trust that little by little through my meditations and reflections God will continue to reveal to me more lessons I should learn from the past. He will teach me how to transform these into my present journey in life, and show me the glorious impact they will have on my future. Praise God! 🙏



Sammy M. Ulanday
Greenhills Chapter



The BCBP Country, The Brotherhood COMMUNITY

When the staff decided on the theme for this issue, that is Community, I found myself seemingly groping on what to write that will run parallel to it. My desktop files apparently ran out of ... well files on this subject

My latest travel somehow does not give me enough material to start with on this theme. I prayed on it, I asked the Lord what to write this time. Weeks have passed and I don't seem to get any answer. I tried to recall back incidents that took place in the past weeks. Nothing much except that I have received at least four inquiries about how big BCBP community really is. Then suddenly it flashed - I'll write something about the geographical description of the BCBP, and led me to expound a little bit about a term I coined sometime ago, "The BCBP Country".

I know much have been written about this. But maybe for the sake of our new members, it might be worth talking about our "geographical magnitude", and to realize that we belong to a bigger community, beyond our action group and chapter.

The Brotherhood is divided into three regional councils, the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Councils.

Luzon is composed mainly of the Metro Manila chapters. These chapters are Alabang, Greenhills, Las Piñas, Makati, Parañaque, Quezon City and Rizal. There is only one outreach in this area and that is the Manila Outreach.

Up at northern Luzon we have Tuguegarao which was recently elevated to chapter in training status, and which is soon to open Santiago Isabela outreach. And there's Dagupan at western

portion which is planning to reach out to its neighboring Urdaneta town.

Up in the Mountain Province, we have Baguio, which is expected to be elevated to chapter in training status and is planning to go down to either San Fernando or Laog, La Union to start an outreach mission.

Just off north of Metro Manila we have San Fernando, Pampanga an outreach of Greenhills.

South of Manila is Cavite City and Lipa outreaches, and further down central eastern side are Lucena and Calamba outreaches. The only chapter in the Bicolandia is Legazpi with its outreach, Sorsogon.

Villamor Airbase, Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Dutch Boy Phils, Files Systems, Phinma, Mapecon Phils and MZB Marketing are some of the Luzon business evangelization projects.

Capping Luzon region is Puerto Princesa chapter which is the site for this year's Luzon Council Conference.

Cebu is from where it all started in the Visayas region. Cebu eventually spun off to open Mactan chapter. In the Negros province, there is the twin Bacolod chapters, the North and South with their business evangelization sites at Victorias Milling Company and Silay Government. At the southern tip is the Dumaguete outreach.

Southeast of Cebu is Tagbilaran chapter with its outreach mission at Tubigon. Panay island is headed by Iloilo chapter with its outreaches in San Jose, Antique and Roxas City, Capiz.

The eastern province of Leyte has four BCBP venues, the recently elevated chapter in training Maasin, and outreaches in Ormoc, Tacloban and Baybay.

Soon to open in the Visayas region are the towns of Catarman and Catbalogan in the province of Samar.

In Mindanao, BCBP Cagayan de Oro chapter is maintaining two outreaches in Bukidnon and Butuan. Iligan chapter has Ozamiz as its outreach. And then Davao chapter had opened Tagum as its outreach. Dipolog at the western portion of Mindanao is actually an outreach of Dumaguete.

To date the membership listing of the Brotherhood tallied to around 9,000.

I have been asked if the BCBP has outreach or chapter across the seas. Actually there's none, except that some of our members who immigrated to the west particularly in America and Canada have either joined in existing, or established among themselves, renewal communities. Meanwhile, our BCBP governance have considered this direction, and is in the process of prayers and discernment if this is exactly what the Lord would want us to go.

Still, questions were asked why have we not gone to other major cities of the country. Questions even went to the extent of comparing us with other communities which can be found almost everywhere. Well, the process includes discernment if the Lord wants us to go to such a place, then a permission by the Bishop of the diocese where the venue belong is sought. Then all the other factors such as commercial and business establishments, schools, churches, venue for breakfast, transport services and possible core groups are then considered.

This is the BCBP Country, the BCBP Community, be proud of it, support it, love it, pray for it. ☪

One Minute Meditation

Larry de Larrazabal
Makati Chapter**TO BE HOLY**

"Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill." (Matthew 5:6)

People are somewhat uncomfortable when they are called holy. They fear being set aside from the mainstream of society. They have a somewhat distorted view of holiness. They associate holiness with the saints and martyrs of old, who were burned at the stake or stoned to death; or conjure thoughts of those who were fed to the lions. These were holy people, but so can anyone else be holy.

Holiness is loving God and neighbor. Husbands and wives who give of themselves to each other; parents who sacrifice themselves for the good of their children; the honest employee who does his best; the employer who pays just wages, etc. — they can all be holy. In fact, you don't have to be a Christian to be holy.

A merciful and forgiving person is holy and shall have his fill. ☪

Prayer

Dear Lord, your saints though holy, were not perfect nor faultless. Scripture points out some of the great saints who were far from perfect. We have Peter who denied you three times; Thomas who doubted you; Paul who persecuted you; and Augustine who was a womanizer. There came, however, a point in their lives when they repented and changed. This change did not come abruptly, it was a process of growth in holiness.

Dear Lord, I know the way to holiness is difficult, but with your help I can begin to change. I need your grace to help me change my ways.

Cynthia Matas
Cavite Outreach**Musings****TIME** friend or enemy?

Is time my enemy or my friend? Time always sees to it that I am reminded of my being mortal ... that I have a beginning and an end. It hastens me to do as much as I can with my life and pushes me towards responsibilities and achievements. With it I am compelled to perform because without acting, my past, present or future is affected. The consequences that I have to face would accuse me of my neglect or failure if I do not plan my move and move my plan.

Time helps to mold and shape me towards the best that I can be. I remember that God commanded us to be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect. Time, I'm beginning to realize, is the Lord's tool towards our becoming. It is also His measuring stick since what I do with it gives Him a look at the depth, width, and length that my heart will go through to let love prevail.

Time is a sentinel to the door of eternal life ... for only when we have lived in love fully and only until our whole life is centered on it will it hand us over to a life with God forever.

But like other gifts to us by God, time can be used as a tool by anyone other than God. Whoever is the owner of my heart is the master I acknowledge and this can be evidenced by my priorities. If I serve myself first in all things at all times and prioritize materialism and worldliness, the same forces will be the ones to dominate me, thus, time becomes my enemy. It will always seek to accuse, burden, pressurize, and work against me. I shall end up haggard and harassed. In the end, if I do not hand over my heart to the real master of time, I shall self-destruct and perhaps even bring others towards the same end. ☪

Change

"On the one hand, the dynamic nature of modern industry with its incessant incidence of change has been widely accepted and even acclaimed; on the otherhand, specific changes have always met resistance."

- Benjamin M. Selekmán

"Resistance to Shop Changes", Harvard Business Review, Autumn 1945



"A paradigm shift already!"



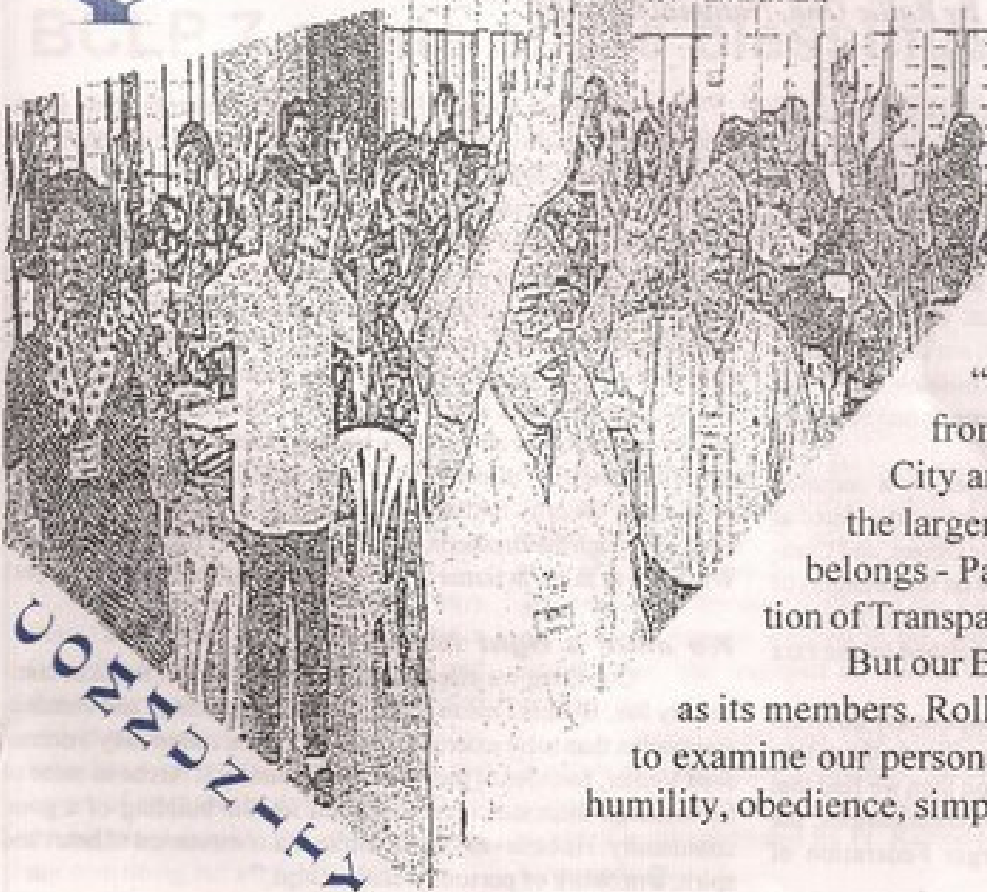
"I was the messenger of the gods, until they installed a portable cellular phone system up there."

Harvard Business Review

Incidentally, the Luzon Council Conference in February 1999 has the theme: "The BCBP in the Midst of Change". This is in response to the challenges presented by the coming of the Third Millennium. - Ed.

community

QUEZON



community

This issue's focus is on "Community" featuring sharings from two BCBP chapters - Quezon City and Cagayan de Oro, plus a look at the larger communities to which the BCBP belongs - Partners in Mission and the Federation of Transparochial Charismatic Communities.

But our BCBP community is only as strong as its members. Rollie Ona challenges us in his article to examine our personal spiritual growth in the areas of humility, obedience, simplicity and truth.

Sometimes we may get so caught up in the many activities of the Brotherhood - outreach, mission, chapter life, assemblies, action group meetings, etc. - that we may forget that conversion is an on-going process. Rollie Ona reminds us that a community is only as strong as its individual members and points the way for us to strengthen the BCBP community.

COMMUNITY

a communion and a network

By Rollie Ona, National Council

Periodically we need to sit down and take stock of what we are doing in the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. Many times we speak of ourselves as a "community", without really dissecting what we mean by the now popular catchword "community". In brief, the word "community" comes from the Greek word *koinonia* that means unity of heart and mind in the Lordship of Jesus Christ. In the BCBP we clearly see that we are different people with different backgrounds. Yet because of our common foundation in the Lord and our belief in the BCBP's mission and vision of bringing Christ into the marketplace, we become united as a community.

When like-minded people band together for a common purpose, there results a sharing of values that we have articulated as the BCBP's Core Values: Love for God, Love for Others, and Commitment to the Lord's Work. We are able to draw on the strengths of each member and we learn to benefit from one another's unique gifts and talents, even as we nourish and are nourished by the care and concern of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Being members of the BCBP we can experience different communities within communities - from our families to the action group to the chapter to the BCBP as a whole. And then we find that the BCBP is connected to a larger network of communities, the PIM, Partners in Mission, and the even larger Federation of Transparochial Charismatic Communities.

This is all as it should be; we should never become so enamored with our own mission and vision and what we are doing that we ignore other Christians, their respective mission thrusts and what they are doing. On the other hand we must not be so caught up in community activities that we neglect the interior aspect of being Christian. It is so easy to get involved with BCBP life to the point of just legalistically following the community norms — coming to meetings on time and regularly, tithing and doing everything that community says we ought to do. We can get so caught up in "doing" that we sort of forget about the first "C", Conversion, in terms of our personal interior change. We begin to think that the Conversion part of the BCBP's three "C"s — Conversion, Commitment, Commissioning - is only for those participants we bring into the Brotherhood through the Brotherhood's Christian Life Program, the BCLP. We begin to think in terms of others to the exclusion of ourselves!

We need a right focus

One thing we often take for granted is right focus in community life. By this I mean having an internal change and commitment rather than mere external conformity to the community's norms. Jean Vanier, founder of the French community L'Arche in some of his writings discusses several criteria for the building of a good community. He believes "Community is a communion of heart and spirit, a network of personal relationships."

"I warn each of you not to think more highly of himself than he ought. Let him estimate himself soberly in keeping with the measure of faith that God has apportioned him."

This places a demand on our sense of responsibility because, as Vanier says, "it is very easy to replace relationships and the demands they bring with laws, rules and administrative devices. It is easier to obey a law than to love."

We can see this is true in the BCBP. As businessmen and professionals our schedules are usually tight and there are many demands on our time. So it becomes easier to give a donation, attend for others to go on mission and outreach activities, then for us to really love our brothers and sisters. Let's face it, there are some brothers and sisters who are not easy to love. And maybe we ourselves are not easy for others to love.

But God put us together and He demands that we develop personal relationships, that we love and serve one another. We find it necessary to come up with our BCBP Commitment, our formal organization structure and some rules and policy directives so that we may have order in our organization. But these should never replace the demand to love one another, to show brotherly and sisterly love and concern for not only the spiritual needs, but also the emotional and physical needs of others. These rules and regulations are only meant to help us love one another in a better, more orderly, peaceful and harmonious way.

Vanier puts this very nicely when he says: "Each member of a community who grows in love and wisdom helps the growth of the whole community. Each person who refuses to grow, or is afraid to go forward, inhibits the community's growth. All the members of a community are responsible for their own growth and that of the community as a whole."

I believe that sometimes we focus more on the growth of the community in terms of mission activities, adding outreaches and holding more BCLPs than we focus on our own personal, individual growth. We must never neglect one for the other. As a community we need a good balance of mission activities, chapter life activities, and personal spiritual growth activities.

We need to remember that as we grow individually as Christians, as we allow the Spirit to form us in holiness, then we are making our significant contribution to the development of the BCBP and to the Church as a whole. A wise saying declares that



hearts.

"The whole is only as good as the integrity of each of its parts." And this is certainly true in the context of a Christian community.

A HOST for holiness

Personal growth often translates into personal holiness. Let me share four areas of holiness which I feel are essential for members of a community. They are summarized in the acronym HOST. These four virtues are: Humility, Obedience, Simplicity, and Truth.

Humility vs. pride

St. Bernard of Clairvaux defined humility as "the ability of a person to see himself as he really is and so discover his own unworthiness." It is not shyness or social fear. It is not in being soft-spoken or as we say, "Napaka-humble." And we all know of others, perhaps even ourselves, at some time or another who have begun a talk or a sharing by saying, "In all humility...!"

Humility is a condition of the heart. Someone may be shy and soft-spoken but in his heart he is a very proud person. St. Bernard described the proud man as a man "who prides himself on being better than others", one who "has to do something that they cannot do, just to make his superiority clear for all to see. ...He does not actually want to be better, he just wants to be seen to be better. He does not want to lead a better life; but he wants it to be seen that he is better than they are. Then he will be able to say, 'I am not like all other men.'"

St. Paul wrote about humility to the Romans: "I warn each of you not to think more highly of himself than he ought. Let him estimate himself soberly in keeping with the measure of faith that God has apportioned him." Then to the Philippians he said: "Never act out of rivalry or conceit; rather let all parties think humbly of others as superior to themselves, each of you looking to others' interests rather than to his own."

If you find yourself often criticizing others, even in your own heart, maybe you are developing an attitude of superiority or pride. Or if you find nothing acceptable in community or in a committee except your own ideas, maybe you should examine yourself closely. If a subdivision guard asks for your license when entering the subdivision, and you get very irritated or angry, maybe you still have room for growing in humility.

As businessmen, professionals, men and women of influence, and as community leaders, we are the ones who are in the greatest danger of losing humility. When we give talks, people listen; people with problems come to us for help. Our opinions seem to be important to many. So it is easy for us to falter in humility.

I ask all of you, every member of the BCBP, to please pray for your leaders and for all leaders that they may keep Christian humility well-rooted in their



COMMUNITY... from P. 11

**Obedience
or spiritual stardom?**

Now let us talk about obedience. The word obedience comes from a Latin word that means "to listen". It applies generally to all of us. It is not just from subordinate to superior, from leader to member, from parent to child. And sometimes listening is not really listening for direction, but listening to understand what is not being said as well as listening to understand what is being said. Listening also requires feedback.

Richard Foster in his book, *The Challenge of the Disciplined Life*, believes that "Service severed from obedience degenerates into spiritual stardom. Service devoid of obedience says, 'Look at how wonderful I am, doing all these kind and self-sacrificing things! Look at how much good I am accomplishing.'"

I am sure you can see the direct connection here between humility and obedience. Scripture in 1 Sam. 15:22 says: Obedience is better than sacrifice. When we become content and successful in our service, we need to check the condition of our heart in the areas of obedience and humility. How easy is it for you to accept evaluation and criticism? How open are you to others' opinions? Do you actively seek input, advice and feedback from your leader regarding your spiritual life and adherence to the BCBP Commitment Card? Do you willingly accept service assignments even when you really don't want to do it?

**Simplicity gives us freedom**

The third virtue is simplicity. Again this is not a matter of the externals. True simplicity is a matter of the heart, a kind of inner transformation and transparency that strips our life of non-essentials to give us greater freedom to serve and to please God.

This does not mean that we need to divest ourselves of what we have honestly earned or acquired; rather this virtue asks us to focus our attention on God without being distracted by our worldly goods. We need to live in a way that shows where our joy and security comes from. Many times the more money or possessions or public recognition we acquire, the more we strive to obtain. And before we know it, we have entered an endless spiral of desire and greed. No end to it!

Simplicity is not just a matter of practicing a simple lifestyle. Are you simpler in your thinking? Are you simpler in ways of relating to others and with the world's goods? Where/what is your treasure? Where is your heart?

Truth in all things

The last letter of the acronym HOST is "T" which stands for Truth. Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth and the life." Thus if you say you are living in truth, you are living in Christ. If you are living in a lie, it is the opposite. Very simple, and yet so many versions of the truth abound today. We have the white lie, the gray areas, the half-truths, the lie by omission of the truth, the social lie. We say "Yes" when actually we mean something else. How very devious the devil is in convincing us that there are so many "acceptable" ways to tell the "truth"!

St. Paul spoke to the community in Ephesus. He said: "Put a stop to lying, speak the truth to one another." And he found it necessary that people speak the truth to one another so that relationships could grow and develop. If we lie to one another, if we cannot keep our word or trust in each other's word, we can never be a people united. Unity and harmony have their foundation in trust and honesty.

*"Service
severed
from
obedience
degenerates
into
spiritual
stardom..."*

"All members of a community are responsible for their own growth and that of the community as a whole."

What kind of example do we show our children when we ask them to say we're not at home to the telephone caller when actually we just don't want to be disturbed?

Repeated lying is a serious distortion of character. We are supposed to be formed in the image of God but we are being distorted into the image of the father of lies, Satan, when we resort to lying, especially to habitually telling "little white lies".

Being part of the community network

As we grow in personal holiness in the BCBP, in community with others who are also growing spiritually, we form a network of personal relationships. If we are not growing, if we let ourselves become distracted from our on-going conversion experience, if our life journey becomes distorted along the way - then the network is weakened and our community becomes less strong.

We need to love and serve one another in community. I believe it is equally important to allow ourselves to be loved and to be served. There is a time to be a member as well as a time to be a leader.

How many significant and lasting friendships have you developed and nurtured in your years in the Brotherhood? We need to take time out to do what Our Lord commands us to do: "Love one another as I love you." When this happens then we can all say that truly the Brotherhood is 'community' and that we are united and bonded together in its network of harmony and peace. ☪

10 hats for leaders to wear

Small-group leaders, action group leaders, service ministry leaders and breakfast heads need to be good at multi-tasking! In *How to Have Great Small-Group Meetings*, Neal McBride lists some roles that effective group leaders perform in order to keep a meeting on track and stimulating.

* **Gatekeeper** - makes sure that everyone participates and no one monopolizes.

* **Encourager** - offers words of praise, support, and friendship; creates a warm atmosphere.

* **Reflector** - summarizes the feelings, ideas, and reactions that are coming from the group.

* **Listener** - pays keen attention to what group members are saying and responds appropriately.

* **Clarifier** - asks questions to make sure group members understand one another; invites opinion sharing; explains content or processes that may be confusing.

* **Follower** - allows the group to make decisions and to offer ideas.

* **Standard setter** - reminds members of covenants or other ground rules that keep the group functioning at its best.

* **Consensus tester** - invites opinions and ideas about where the group should be heading or how it should function.

* **Harmonizer** - mediates conflict between group members and helps people move toward compromise and reconciliation.

* **Tension reducer** - brings perspective and context to stressful situations.

At which of these functions are you strongest? Where do you need to improve? Which of these roles do you see other group members performing? How can you encourage others in your small group to take on some of these functions?

Adapted from "How to Have Great Small-Group Meetings," c1997, by Neal F. McBride. Published by NavPress. All rights reserved.



Excerpts from Bro. Albert Morales' article by the same title in the Federation of Transparochial Charismatic Communities' publication entitled "Facing the Challenges of the Third Millennium."
Used with permission.



The Federation:

Meeting the challenges of the Third Millennium

by Bro. Albert Morales

President, Federation of Transparochial Charismatic Communities



When I was in Baguio City I had dinner with the leaders of the Sacred Heart Community founded by my classmate and friend, the late Bro. Paul Aguas - a pioneer in the Charismatic Movement that started in the early 1970's. "Back then we started without any formal training in the workings of the Spirit", reminisced Catherine, Paul's widow. "Our small group would just sit around the table talking about the Word of the Lord and sharing our spiritual experiences. Suddenly someone would speak in tongues, another would interpret, another would prophesy and soon the entire group would follow and the whole house would shake with the power of the Holy Spirit. There was no laying of hands. There was no Life in the Spirit Seminar for us. It was a spontaneous outburst of the Holy Spirit just like the book of Acts when Peter was talking about Jesus to Cornelius and his household and before he even finished talking everyone in the room was being filled by the Holy Spirit. "Unknown to us", she continued, "groups in Manila were also being formed by the Holy Spirit in a powerful way. We came to know these other leaders like Fr. Pascual Adorable, Bro. PB Dionisio, Fr. Herb Schneider and others who had the same experience. Those were exciting times for all of us - the Spirit was moving spontaneously and powerfully to change all of us dramatically," she concluded.

From this spontaneous movement of the Spirit, the renewal in the Philippines entered a second phase in the mid to late 70's when the Communities became more structured and organized. The various Communities that sprang up adopted either the Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminar that originated from Ann Arbor, Michigan or the ecumenical Christian Life in the Spirit Seminar. Christian teachings were adapted from the Charismatic Movement in the United States as is and others revised them to conform to Filipino culture. Fr. Leonardo Polinar, unaware of the Seminars that originated from the United States, made his own indigenous Basic Charismatic Renewal Seminar that is used by the Communities under his tutelage up to now.

Leaders, teachers and preachers emerged naturally as the Communities grew. Each community defined its charism that the Spirit had given it and pursued its vision and mission relentlessly. The last twenty years have seen the tremendous growth of the Charismatic Movement in the country. The bigger communities expanded internationally following the Filipino hegira to foreign countries all over the world. Bishop Teodoro Bacani, Episcopal Head of the Charismatic Movement in the Archdiocese of Manila, characterized the Charismatics as the "Salt and Light of the Church" giving flavor not only to the Filipino Catholic faithful but to the Church as a whole.

The challenge for the charismatics in the third millennium

The tremendous growth of the Charismatic Movement in the past thirty years has spawned its own problems. When the Communities were small, the group energy was concentrated in achieving its vision and mission. But as they became successful and grew, problems emerged to haunt the Movement up to the present time. Problems of different Communities - large or small - are endemic throughout the Charismatic Movement. The Movement is going through another phase as we enter the Third Millennium - a phase that may require a Renewal of the Renewed.

Some of the challenges that must be resolved are the problems that confront all of us today:

The struggle to define governance of Communities. Should Community governance be a theocracy or democracy? Should a few anointed ones rule the Community or should governance be by the consent of the governed? How should the community be structured?

Teachings and Spiritual talks remain the same. Many leaders are complaining of lack of materials for teachings and talks from Catholic sources.

Training and Spiritual Formation for leaders is needed. There is a clamor for a school that could conduct training and continuous spiritual formation for leaders and future leaders of the

Charismatic Movement on a continuous basis. And there is a lack of "Charismatic" Priests to shepherd Communities.

The "disappearing" Charismatics and Pastoral Care.

Phenomena among all Communities is the loss of members who have attended their LSS and their formation. These are the Charismatics who are no longer attending their Communities' activities but may be involved in other religious activities. Some say they are in their Parishes or perhaps have joined other Communities. Some are still Community-hopping looking for their "ideal" community. Some may have "dropped out" for many reasons. Some say that this has something to do with Pastoral Care that should be given more attention by Community leaders. Many are trying out various forms of pastoral care structures such as: the formation of cell groups or the formation of parish-based groups or such similar variations. Communities have different experiences in dealing with this challenge. However successful some Communities may have in meeting this challenge, this particular problem still remains among many communities to this day.

Is the Charismatic Movement Dying?

While we postulate these challenges to the Charismatic Movement, I do not mean that the movement is dying or that it is on its death throes. On the contrary, we look forward to a more dynamic growth of the Charismatic Movement in the Third Millennium - if we prepare for it and meet the challenges that it presents. *We are entering another phase in the growth of the movement*, whose challenges must be recognized so that we in the Federation and other leaders in the movement can address these issues and look for possible solutions that Charismatic Communities could adopt to halt these trends.

The Federation and its Role

The Federation has already started the process to meet the challenges of the Third Millennium by reorganizing itself into a foundation in answer to Bishop Ted Bacani's call in October 1997 to "institutionalize" the framework in which the Federation will



Bro. Albert, FTC president addressing one of the Federation's Elders meetings.

work. Standing Committees have been formed to study the various problems confronting the Charismatic Movement. Already, the transprovincial Communities are also involving themselves in areas that affect Philippine society by advocating various causes that will give new dimensions to their apostolic mission. These tasks are made more meaningful by the closer bonding of Heads of Communities and their leaders through the Federation.

The Federation is continuing its efforts to network with the other Charismatic groups in the Archdiocese as well as with the National Service Committee of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Philippines that oversees the Movement through the country to be able to get everyone involved in solving common problems.

Indeed the Spirit is moving powerfully to position the Charismatic Communities to meet the Challenges of the Third Millennium whose hoped-for promise by our Lord of joy, serenity and justice is awaited eagerly by all. May our God, creator of all things seen and unseen, send a double-portion of His Spirit to empower and guide leaders of the Charismatic Movement that they may prepare themselves to meet the Challenges that lay ahead and the promises that these challenges bring. ☪



COMMUNITIES OF THE FEDERATION

- BIYAYA NG ESPIRITU SANTO
- BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN & PROFESSIONALS
- BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS COVENANT COMMUNITY
- BUKLOD NG PAG-IBIG COMMUNITY
- CHARISMATIC RENEWAL OF SINGLEHEARTED SERVANTS
- CHILDREN OF LIGHT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
- EL SHADDAI-DWXI PRAYER PARTNERS
- ELIM COMMUNITY
- EMMANUEL CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COMMUNITY
- GOD LOVES CATHOLIC PRAYER COMMUNITY
- GOOD SHEPHERD'S CHOSEN FLOCK
- HEARTS OF JESUS & MARY PRAYER COMMUNITY
- JOY OF THE LORD FOUNDATION
- ANG LIGAYA NG PANGINOON COMMUNITY
- LIGHT OF JESUS COMMUNITY
- LORD'S FLOCK COMMUNITY

- LORD'S SERVANT COMMUNITIES
- LOVED FLOCK COMMUNITY
- OASIS OF LOVE FOUNDATION, INC.
- PAG-IBIG SA DIYOS CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
- PAX CHRISTI FOUNDATION, INC.
- PRECIOUS BLOOD CATHOLIC PRAYER COMMUNITY
- RISEN CHRIST CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
- RIVERS OF LIVING WATER COMMUNITY
- SALT & LIGHT FOR CHRIST COMMUNITY
- SERVANTS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
- ST. PETER COMMUNITY
- SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COMMUNITY
- SPIRIT OF LOVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
- SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, INC.
- TING NG ESPIRITU SANTO

Experiencing Community in the BCBP

by Roy Calleja, Quezon City

It is always a Pentecostal experience every time I go to the yearly Chapter and Outreach Heads Retreat. Last November 6, this yearly affair was held in Cebu hosted principally by the Cebu Chapter with the support of their neighbor, the Chapter in Mactan. I call this yearly affair a Pentecostal experience because every time we meet, I always hear the different participants speaking in joyful tongues, in their native tongues as they come from the different places in the country such as Tuguegarao, Baguio, Manila, Bicol, Bohol, Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Davao just to name a few. It amazed me and even if it seemed that in their joy they seemed to be drunk, I realized it was only Friday night, the start of the Retreat and the fellowship was to be on the evening of Saturday.

However, even if the participants were speaking in their own native tongues, we all understood each other in the Retreat. Likewise when we shared experiences, we found out that our experiences were similar. In addition to this, the directions we proposed and the conclusions we arrived at pointed to the same general area, the area where the Lord was waiting for us. People who understand each other, have had the same experiences, are of one mind. I believe this is what they call community.

Several days after the retreat and after some concerns in the office, I felt a heaviness in my chest. It persisted for three days including the Chapter's Breakfast day when we had a couple sharer from The Word Among Us. During that day, some sisters who saw me beating my chest and who knew how I felt persuaded my



Roy with wife Jannette Calleja

wife, who did not know of my condition, to bring me to my cardiologist, who had me undergo a check-up, found a probable cause, gave me medicines and told my wife to monitor my condition as I begged not to check-in to St. Luke's Hospital.

Since there was a party in the house of a brother who was the uncle of my cardiologist, the brothers and sisters present in the party called my wife at 8 in the evening to check my condition. I told my wife the heavy feeling in my chest was still present so he informed my doctor who was at the party. The doctor recommended that I be confined and I, bull headed as I am, refused. When my wife again called my doctor about my decision, the brothers and sisters decided to tell my wife to persuade me to go to the hospital. They even made plans together with my younger blood brother Sonny who is also a member of the chapter to go to my house and force me to go to the hospital. However, the obedient husband that I am, I finally said "yes" to my wife. My check-up and my confinement was a chapter decision as they had one heart.

During my stay in the hospital, the members of our chapter and people from other chapters prayed for me during visits, in their homes, during the BCBP breakfast, even during the teaching on



Is GOD PLAYING FAVORITES?

Golf is not just a sport. It is a very good Christian school. Why is this so? Well, because for one thing, golf teaches one to be patient. Imagine having to walk so long under the heat of the sun just to sink a small ball into a tiny hole? That to me is patience! It also teaches perseverance, as in "persevere in your Christian faith." When you're in the middle of the course, say on the 5th hole, you can't just give up and go back. It'll take as much effort to retrace your steps as it would to go on and finish the game. So, golf teaches us as St. Paul himself taught us, to "persevere to the very end".

Golf allows for good fellowship and interaction, important in all Christian communities, when we play with our favorite golfing buddies. God likes to see Christians rejoicing and joyful in everything, even when playing golf. But, golf also teaches us to be comfortable in the silence of our own thoughts when we play alone and use our time wisely meditating on the greatness that is God.

Golf teaches us to appreciate nature. A beautifully landscaped golf course is always chosen over a shabby one because the beauty of God's nature all around assures us of His everlasting love and provisions. Lastly, golfers never stop trying to become better at the game, like good Christians who never tire of trying to become better children of God.

It seems that God thinks this way, too! At the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City, God smiles on Christians who play golf. In this newly developed and what

could be considered the most beautiful golf course in the whole of Mindanao, God has chosen to smile upon His own golfers. The three record holders of the "Hole in One Title" of this course are all Renewed Christians.

It's as if God handpicked these men and gave them a bonus just to make their day happy. Looking at this, it makes one wonder, is God playing favorites in the game? If so, then BCBP must be his favorite, because all 3 title holders are Cagayan de Oro BCBP members. Coincidence? Luck? Skill? Or a blessing? I call it a smile. His smile on His beloved BCBP sons.

Aside from their being renewed BCBP Christians, these Hole-In-One Title Holders also have another thing in common. They are all "Ramons:" Ramon Velez (Yoyong to us, BCLP 10), Ramon Fernandez (Monet to us, BCLP 2) and Ramon Singh (Just plain Ramon to us, BCLP 6). Congratulations to all of you Ramon's. We're happy and proud of you all.

So, if you are a golfer, a renewed Christian, a BCBP member and a "Ramon," fly on over to Cagayan de Oro and claim your "Hole in One" title from God, in our International Standard, all-weather golf course, "Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club".

As an added treat, you'll be well-fed by their new concessionaire Paolo's Ristorante, owned and managed by BCBP Jess and Nena Paras. It shall be our Chapter's pleasure to welcome you and have you all as our guests. See you soon. - *Charisse Ch. Fortich*

EXPERIENCING... from page 20

Personal Relationships of the Quezon City Chapter on November 28, and even when they attended Mass. They freely shared their time and resources, joyfully claiming to God my safe recovery. And they were doing this while ministering to the child of a chapter member sick with dengue and consoling and sponsoring mass for the parents of three chapter members who recently died.

As I dwell on these experiences and as I read Acts 2: 42-47 on the communal life of the converts during the First Pentecost, I definitely know that this is what community means. ☪

Roy (left back row), with his "local community" during one of their relaxing moments. ➡



MUSIC

to his ears

featuring: *Rayben Maigue, BCBP-Quezon City*

Reprinted with permission from *Starweek, Sunday Magazine of Philippine Star* issued on 28 June 1998 - by *Ellen Quijano*.

Is there music after a hearing disability? One music professor is finding out how sweet the music can be.

You could pity him - or you could admire him for overcoming his difficulties and moving on to become one of the country's leading orchestral conductors. One cannot help but do the latter upon meeting Rayben Maigue, professor of music at the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Music and currently musical director of the UP Jazz Ensemble.

There is no tinge of regret in his voice as he explains how his hearing problems came about. There is hardly any self-consciousness in his voice, and the steady twinkle in his eyes dares you to think of him as a person with a disability. "I was born with a cleft palate," he begins, pointing to his mouth. "When you're born with that condition the nasal and ear passage are left open and I was forever getting ear infections. That's how I gradually lost my hearing. When I was still in high school, my mother would often tell me to sit in the front row, but I didn't realize that it was because she already knew I was a little hard of hearing."

Music being his first love, he went to the University of the Philippines, where he majored in, of all things, trumpet. Did his condition ever get in the way of trumpet playing? He pauses to consider, then shakes his head. "No, I could've let it, but I didn't. I've always been interested in music. My mother gave us all piano lessons, and I think that's where it all began."



It runs in the family: the Maigue children at home with a piano.

It seems to run in the family, indeed: Brother Tony is a well known flutist, while his wife, the former Nanette Moscardon, is a soprano and currently vocal coach to theater production companies. Their own children, Franco, Danya and Lara, all know how to play the piano as well.

Two years before his graduation from UP, Professor Maigue established the UP Jazz Ensemble with a few like-minded friends. It became one of the most lauded jazz bands in the country, a tradition that he, as its musical director, has helped to uphold until now.

"The Jazz Ensemble has become a sort of training ground for local music performers," he reveals. "Not a few well-known seasoned musicians began their career as part of the Ensemble." He laughs and almost sheepishly admits. "It's loud. I can hear it. I don't go for classical music because I can't make out of the nuances of the melody, the dynamics. The Jazz Ensemble, in particular, has a big band sound which I love and can work with."

Professor Maigue was the principal trumpet player and soloist in the Philippine Youth Orchestra from 1974 to 1979. He started his studies in UP in 1974 and earned a Teacher's Diploma in music, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Music in 1979 (major in Trumpet). Professor Maigue became part of the teaching staff while continuing this work with the UP Jazz Ensemble. The first Asian Music Camp held in Manila in 1979 found him participating as a delegate. (We're the first ones to use the National Arts Center in Mount Makiling," he recalls.)

He likewise became a delegate to subsequent music camps held all over Asia, eventually ending up as tutor to the delegates in 1986. "I had finished the round of music camps, so I guess they got tired of me and made me a tutor," he grins.

His love for music led him to further studies and he graduated with another degree, this time a Bachelor of Music in Orchestral Conducting in 1986. And what of his hearing problem? "I paid it no heed. I was sick of going to EENTs all the time who invariably told me that I had yet another hearing infection which they had to clear up. I just chose to live with it," he says.

Things took a turn for the better last year, however, when he met Dr. Generoso Abes through the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. Dr. Abes is head of the Otolaryngological Department of the Manila Doctors Hospital, the UP Philippine General Hospital, and he is also the president of the Manila Otolaryngological Foundation, Inc. (MOFI).

"The Brotherhood knew that I had a hearing problem, and they offered to donate a hearing aid to me. I've never considered it because I wasn't comfortable being seen with a hearing aid. But then I went to Dr. Abes and he surprised me by saying that apart from a hearing aid I needed immediate surgery on my ears. The passages were still open and there was a risk that the ear infections would go to the brain, he explained. Three surgical procedures were needed to remove my eardrums and, with it, the possibility of incurring ear infections. Now I just have my middle ears."

Dr. Abes then suggested fitting him with a Siemens hearing aid which, fittingly enough, carries the brand name MUSIC. "He told me that it was a programmable hearing aid similar to what U.S. President Bill Clinton wears. I could wear it inside my ear, so I thought of considering it." He was a little wary of the cost, so when Siemens Medical Systems, Inc.

*He was born with a cleft palate
and gradually lost his hearing.
Through the BCBP God
restored his hearing.
Now Rayben is a professor of music
at the UP College of Music and also
directs UP Jazz Ensemble.*

offered to donate the hearing aids to him, he felt that greater forces were at work.

"God provides everything," he smiles. "All my life He's given our family everything we ever needed." He was fitted with the hearing aids for both ears in February and the world, as he knew it, changed.

"I suddenly realized how much I'd been missing all these years," he recalls. "It was like a whole new world opening up. I could hear and participate in conversations more easily. I could sit in the back row of a theater and still hear everything clearly. I used to loathe cast meetings whenever I'd be rehearsing with a theater company because I couldn't hear what was being said, but now I have no problems with that anymore."

He did not even want to be interviewed before, he says, he was afraid of missing questions. He got irritated when people spoke softly, or when they did not look at him while speaking. He had unconsciously been lipreading and straining to hear what people said to him without even realizing it. He is amazed at how flexible the hearing aid could be programmed to fit his needs. "I think the hearing aid has a lot of possibilities and can do a lot to stimulate and even enhance natural hearing," he says. Being a musician, MOFI doctors find it challenging to work with him to discover what else the MUSIC aid can do - his years of training in music enable him to discern sounds that ordinary people may not even notice. The doctors, who also program the hearing aids, value his comments and feedback. "I think I force them to do the impossible," he laughs.

Impossible or not, the hearing aids seems to be working well for Professor Maigue. "I don't have to strain to try to hear things anymore. I no longer feel anxious about not hearing what's being said by people around me. When I have to do recordings or rehearsals, my ears no longer feel "tired" even if I record or rehearse the whole day." The hearing aids will be put to a greater test when he starts rehearsals and performances for a play in July.

Newspaper columnist and jazz aficionado Exequiel Molina once wrote that Rayben Maigue "deserves credit for a job well done honing the band (UP Jazz Ensemble) in just a few months to play as well as it does. It brightens my heart to know that jazz is alive and well in UP."

Music to Rayben Maigue's ears, certainly - but it is nothing compared to the sheer joy of being able to hear, clearly, what his daughter whispers to him at the end of the interview. ☺



Picture this. You're a successful businessman with a loving wife and three adorable children, all enrolled in the best Catholic schools ever established in-Manila. You have everything in the world that money can buy. Your wife's pastime is shopping and all sorts of hobbies that the rich and famous are known for. You live in one of the best suburbs in the city and you have a sprawling rest house on top of a hill with a panoramic view of Metro Manila. Your wife sits comfortably while a platoon of helpers run around according to her beck and call.

In the background, while success is treating you well and pampering you to your heart's delight, you maintain a string of illicit affairs (and your wife doesn't know it). In business, you bribe your way to the top. It is the one thing that keeps money flowing - bribe, bribe and more bribes. In return, you hoard so much money that you spend a fortune each night to paint the town red. You go about the city with your bodyguards in tow driving around town with the best cars money can afford.

Then in a blink of an eye, coupled with strings of bad luck, you watch everything disappear slowly and torturously. Everything's gone, including your savings and your wife's heirloom. Every thing slipped out to a point where your next family meal could not even pass the shadow of doubt. You start remembering the money you spent in joints that would not even give crumbs even if you begged. This is one story you've got to hear.

Like a script lifted from a great movie plot, Dodo and Junette Sta. Maria share about the great economic depression that had befallen their family.

Q: What happened? How did all this start?

Dodo: It started in 1988. It was a time when logging concessions were suspended by the government. Because it was merely a suspension, I gambled my last money in hoping that the suspension would be lifted soon. But as the money trimmed down and the possessions slowly disappeared, no lifting of suspension happened. Not even my last ditch attempts of lobbying and bribing could do it.

Q: How did you cope with the transition?

Junette: The transition was painful, especially

to me. I never experienced being in such a tight fix such as this one. Much more with money! The only thing left to do at that time was to pray, and back then we thought God never hears our prayers.

Q: How did the turnaround begin?

Junette: It was at this time (in 1989) that Dodo discovered the BCBP breakfast meeting. The turnaround actually started to grow into a healing process as Dodo would claim. But back then, he swears that his intentions were simply to get out of the predicament that we were in.

Dodo: I remember attending our first breakfast. It woke us up and inspired us to move on. It was also during this period that we were involved in all sorts of odd jobs to make ends meet. We went into meat processing, rice selling, insurance underwriting and from her parents in a business venture to get back on our feet.

As I came to know the Lord through the breakfast, I began to envy the sharers for how the Lord had blessed them in their lives. Back then, as desperate as I was, I asked the Lord why no blessings had as yet been received by my family. And as I compared their lives with mine, I began to realize that the sharers were actively participating in Brotherhood service. And so I thought that this would buy my way out.

What I did then was next to incredible. I started attending all the seminars being offered by the Brotherhood. Anything that was offered from CLP to BCMR to outreach programs, I counted myself in. I thought it would be the path to our EXODUS onwards to the "promised land." I even volunteered my services to the different ministries.

I was a member of the Music Ministry, a breakfast emcee, a discussion group leader, an action group leader, mass lecturer and all the services I could think of doing. My focus was tainted, I figured that if God saw my good



*An interview with Dodo and Junette Sta. Maria, Quezon City
by Buttons Sison*

**tried
to bribe
GOD!**



works, he could help me regain my lost glory. Not knowing it, I was unconsciously BRIBING GOD with services (or good works). "Nasanay kasi ako sa palakasan system. Alam mo na, patronage or padrino style."

It was at this point that Junette and the children (who were then teenagers) were trying to cope with the situation. Junette recalls that they often warned their children about having to stop schooling in the event that the situation worsened. She would also recall, though, that they never asked their children to transfer schools (remember the kids were enrolled in expensive schools at that time).

It was also at this time that the kids were starting to get closer to God. They were slowly involving themselves with a religious youth group near their rented home.

Dodo, on the other hand went from "free lancing" odd jobs to jobless, this despite his desperate attempts to bribe God with good works.

At his lowest point, the kids confronted Dodo about his attempts to appear pleasing to God.

Dodo: You know what, the turnaround actually came 2 or 3 years after my first breakfast. And the instrument used by God was (of all people) my children. They came up and told me not to focus on my financial problem but on the Lord. Their message was "not the gifts but the giver of life, count your blessings, not your despair."

The message was so simple yet compelling. It cut through my heart, revealed the truth of my intentions and then set me free. Then I realized how the Lord had kept us intact despite the financial crunch. Suddenly, it dawned upon me how the Lord has blessed my family. Indeed, despite the lack of money, he provided for my family's needs and my children's schooling. There was not a day that we ran out of our basic needs. Then I realized I was bribing God. And I repented.

Junette: The healing process began as we started trusting the Lord in every aspect of our lives. Dodo, who by now had accepted his wrong doings, started to change his perspective. He now looked at service as an act of love for God, not self. Then God started working in our lives. First, he gave Dodo a stable job in 1991. The he transformed our hearts into a loving and caring foster couple. After taking away our focus in the tragedies that beset our family, we started focusing on God's love. We found his love to be enough to tide us through. It was a miracle of sorts seeing us rely totally on Him.

Junette: Then the unthinkable happened in 1991. We volunteered to become foster parents for abandoned children. Despite

our limited financial resources, we counted ourselves part of the "One on One" care program for children. The program calls for fostering and nurturing them while the DSWD was looking for a suitable family to adopt them.

This meant spending our own money, time and effort to care for a child whose background we didn't even know. Most of the children passed on to us were sickly, filled with different skin diseases and thin as a match stick. It meant something like loving the unwanted.

But when you're focused on God's eternal and great love, you forget the physical difficulties. What drives you is Him alone.

Ever since we have never turned down a child passed on to us for fostering. When we started doing this in 1992, we did not focus on what we could get, rather on what we could give. Besides, there's no material reward that can be born out of it. It's more of giving.

Dodo: The satisfaction that we only get is that of sharing God's love to the needy. That's all, nothing more. And for every child delivered to us for fostering, there is always an unexpected blessing coming our way.

Come to think of it, after attempting to bribe God, he transformed our hearts into foster parents.

Dodo and Junette Sta. Maria are currently serving as unit leaders in the Quezon City chapter of the Brotherhood. Their life testimony has been heard in several different chapters and they have inspired a lot of men and women to focus on God's love.

To date, Dodo and Junette have fostered seven children. Their family album is filled with pictures of these children when they were still sickly and thin (and beyond recognition). Then as you flip the pages, you find different pictures of them, this time

blooming and healthy babies. These are the results of their care. They have adopted one of them as their own - her name is Julia. Just recently, they have accepted twins.

In their own words, they can only utter this message for their



newfound wealth. "He has never failed to us. He manages to surprise us with unexpected answers."

Just to be curious, I asked the couple if they missed their vaunted riches, or long for them to come back. They replied: Sure, we still long for the comforts in life. But if we have a choice between comfort and the family, we'll always go for family. And we won't exchange the peace and joy that we are experiencing today. As it is we're contented with what we have.

Hindi tayo mabibigo sa ating pag-asa, sapagkat ang pag-ibig ng Diyos ay ibinuhos sa ating mga puso sa pamamagitan ng Espiritu Santo na ipinagkaloob sa atin. - Roma 5:5

Pato-totoo

ni Nene Bondoc Ocampo

Sabi ko na, eh!
(Ang bukol na sumulpot at naglahong hindi maipaliwanag ng siyensa)

"Walang nakitang anumang abnormal na pamumukol, walang anumang pangangapal ng balat, walang mamograpikong katibayan ng pagiging malignant." Ganito ang buod ng mammography report ni Dr. Emmanuel Perex ng Sacred Heart Hospital sa Malolos.

"Purihin ang Diyos! Maraming salamat Lord!" Yong iba pang nakasaad sa maikling report, na nakuha rin namin nang umagang iyon ng Mayo 7, 1998, ay nagsasabi rin na negatibo sa ibang anggulo ang aking dibdib. Walang gagawing operasyon, dahil walang ooperahin!

Puro "Purihin ang Diyos" lang ang ibinubulong ko sa sarili ko. Sinisikap kung huwag maluha dahil baka madramahan sa akin ang nars at ang iba pang pasyente. Bale ba'y naroon ang isang pinsan kong lalaki para ipabasa sa doktor ang mga negatibo ng x-ray ng ospital na pinapasukan niya. Sa sobrang tuwa ay nawalan ako ng kibo. Ang puso't isip ko'y nakikipagusap sa Panginoon. "Sabi na nga ba, eh. Hindi ako papabayaang ni Lord. Nakaiskor ka na naman Lord. Ang bait mo talaga! Sobra ka na. Grabe!"

Sa tuwa rin ng mister ko na hindi na kami gagasta ng malaki sa operasyon, nagyaya syang mananghali sa Malolos Kitchenette, na katapat lang ng ospital. Masarap at sariwa ang inulam naming sinigang na hipon. Iyon nga lang, makaapat na kaming humingi ng inumin bago kami nadalhan. At para hindi na uli kami magtagal sa paghingi pa, dahil kulang ang tig-isang baso sa matinding uhaw namin, kinuha ko na lang ang pitsel na naiwan sa kalapit na mesa. Yong inorder na Coke ni Obet ay noong hinihingi

na lang namin ang lista ng babayaran dinala, kaya tinanggihan na lang niya.

Di bale, masaya pa rin ako. Magaling na ako! May konting sakit na lang ng pagkaipit sa aparato. Gano'n pala kasakit ang mamography. Iniipit sa aparato ang kaliwa at pagkatapos ay kanan mong suso. At ipit na talagang piping-pipi. Isang patagilid at isang pasapad. Iniisip ko nga na kung talaga palang may bukol ay madudurog na roon mismo.

Magaling na ako! Pinatunayan na naman ng Diyos ang kapangyarihan ng dasal. Pinatunayan na naman Niya ang kanyang walang hanggang pagmamahal. Ano pa ba ang mahihiling ko sa Diyos kundi ang panatilihin niyang yumayabong ang aking pananalig sa kanya at bigyan Niya ako ng pagkakataong makapaglingkod sa kanya.

Naliligo ako noong kalagitnaan ng Marso ng naramdaman kong masakit ang kaliwang gilid ng kaliwa kong suso. Nang kapain ko ay may nakabukol na kasing taba ng kalingkingan ko sa kamay at mga isang pulgada ang haba. Noon lang ako nakaramdam ng ganoong sakit at litaw na litaw ang bukol. Naalala ko agad and isang dati kong reporter ng nagkagayon. Pagkatapos masuri ay inapura ang pag-oopera. Sinundan pa iyon ng halos isang taong chemotherapy. Gumaling siya "dahil naagapan."

Kaya pagkabihis ay tumawag ako sa kaibigan kong doktor. Director siya ng isang ospital at kasama ko sa kilusang kooperatiba, bukod pa sa miyembro rin siya ng Marriage Encounter na itinuturing kong kabalikat ng komunidad naming Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. Pagdating ko sa ospital pina-x-ray niya ako. Habang hinihintay madebelop ang negatibo ay sinuri naman



niya ang dibdib ko. "May bukol nga. Madali lang yan. Operahin na natin para maeksamen ang makukuha. Iyon ang pagbabasehan kung okey na ang operasyon o kung kailangan mo pa ng chemotherapy," sabi ni Dr. Romy.

Dahil sa huli niyang sinabi ay may ibig pumulandit na isang salita sa isip ko: kanser. Pero pinipigil ko. Wala siyang karapatan sa buhay ko. Bukol lang ito, basta!

"Hindi kita sisingilin ng professional fee. Yon na lang anaesthologist at mga gamot sa yo." Maagap na dugtong ni Doktor. Sinabi rin niyang hindi naman kasing apurahan iyon na katulad ng apendisitis, kaya ubrang sa bakasyon na lang para hindi ako mag-aalala sa nagsisipag-aral kong mga anak. Bale ba'y magtatapos sa kolehiyo ang pangalawa kong anak na si Nico at ipaghahanda namin. Mahirap kumilos kung bagong opera ka.

Nang ihatid ako ni Dr. Romy sa pinto ng ospital ay napansin siguro niya ang pag-aalala ko. Pinayapa niya ang

PATO-TOO ... from page 26

loob ko. "Kung gusto mo ay humanap ka ng second opinion sa ibang doktor, nakangiti niyang sabi."

Hindi blangko ang isip ko habang naglalakad ako papuntang sakayan ng dyip. Pero wala rin akong matandaang malinaw na laman iyon. Hindi muna ako umuwi sa amin. Dumaan ako sa adoration chapel sa simbahan ng Pulilan. Nakipag-usap ako kay Hesus. Nakiusap ako sa kanya. A, hindi ako nagtanong ng "bakit?" Hindi naman Siya nagpapaliwanag, eh.

Nang mangawit na ako sa pagkakaluhod ay naupo ako sa karpit. Nireplay ko sa kanya ang lahat ng mga kabutihang ginawa Niya sa akin noon una. Noong sabi ng doktor ay hindi ako magbubuntis dahil sa goiter ko, nagbuntis ako. Nang sabihing kandidato ako sa eklamsiya dahil sa heart click ko at sa ospital ako dapat manganak; bukod na sa bahay ako nanganak, mag-isa lang ako sa bahay namin nang ipanganak ko si Haha. Nang sabihin ng doktor na kailangang operahin ang goiter ko, hindi iyon naopera pagkatapos ng pray over dahil lumabas sa scanning sa Heart Center na nag diffused iyon at iinom na lang ako ng gamot. Hindi ko nagamit ang reserbasyon sa East Avenue Medical Center na rekomendado pa ni noon ay Sek. Juan Flavier.

Nang mabuntis ako sa bunso ko, nakita sa ultrasound na placenta prebia o sunong ang inunan. Delikado raw makunan o kung maipanganak man ang bata ay tiyak sesaryan. Pero dalawang oras bago ako isesaryan ay humilab ang tiyan ko at sa stretcher ko na lang inuluwal si Bibo. Walang operasyon.

Nakipag-usap ako kay Hesus. Nakiusap ako sa kanya. A, hindi ako nagtanong ng "bakit?" Hindi naman Siya nagpapaliwanag, eh.

Nang ipagdasal ko ang kapatid kong tinaningan ang buhay, mismong sa adoration chapel ding ito siya nakadama ng pagpapagaling mula sa Panginoon at hanggang ngayon ay buhay ang Kuya Beto. Nang mastroke ang kapatid kong panganay, matapos maipag pray over ay naikilos niya ang kaliwang bahagi ng kanyang katawan. Ngayon ay nagtitinda na uli sa Central Market ang Ate Cion at deboto na rin ng adoration chapel.

"Kaya Lord, hindi ko iuuwi ang bukol kong ito. Iwan ko ito sa iyo. Bahala ka kung ano ang gusto mong gawin. Pero kung pwede, hihilingin kosa Iyong pagalingin Mo ako. Kauumpisa pa lang natin ng ministri ko sa palengke, ang Hibuen. At

saka gusto ko pa ring ma-enjoy ang pamilya ko."

At saka, di ba ang sabi mo, ang katawan ko'y templo ng Iyong Espiritu? Gusto Mo bang manahan sa isang templong may bukol?"

Pag wala na akong masabi sa kanya nagta-tongues ako. Yon bang nagdarasal sa banyagang wika. Ito'y isang kaloob na natanggap ko nang mabinyagan ako sa Espiritu noong Marso 23, 1989.

Sa mga natutuhan ko, at pina-niniwalaan, kapag ganoon ay nakikipag-usap sa Espiritu ng Diyos ang aking espiritu. Alam ba ninyo kung paano Siya sumagot sa usapan namin?

Habang nakatitig ako sa ostiyang nakatanghal sa altar, lumalabo't lumilina kong nakikita roon ang mukha ni Kristong nakapako. Iba-iba ang anggulo, pero pinakamadalas, ang natagilid. Nakatingin sa akin. Inunahan ko na Siya sa santambak na pasasalamat sa inangkin kong pagpapagaling.

Paglabas ko sa ilalim ng kumbento ay natanaw ko agad ang karatula ng "Pasalubong." Diretso ang hakbang ko at umorder ako ng isang ispesyal na halo-halo. Umaapaw sa wataw ang halo at yelo. Hindi ko tuloy mahalo. Inisa-isa ko munang kainin ang ice-cream, ube at leche flan sa ibabaw, bago ko natikman yelo. Blow out ko sa sarili ko dahil naidiskarga ko na kay



Skake, rattle and roll

by Allan and Evelyn dela Cruz, Quezon City

One stormy day I went to Mindoro to inspect and monitor our fishpond business. It was a 45-minute flight from Manila and another 60 minutes by boat to reach my final destination.

Upon landing at the city proper, I immediately changed clothes and told the motorman that we are to proceed to the fishpond by our service boat. The motorman told me it was not safe to travel by water because of the stormy weather. In spite of his precautionary warnings, I insisted and persuaded him. We then proceeded to the fishpond.

The waves were still manageable at the start, however as we went further, bigger waves kept smashing our boat. At one point, the boat was given a big SHAKE that made us RATTLE in panic. I asked the motorman if we could possibly turn back because I thought it was the best move. He replied that he preferred to continue and face the waves than travel back against them.

Then the waves became bigger and bigger. Soon our boat capsized and ROLLED over. We were thrown off the boat into the deep waters. It was so cold and dark beneath the water that it seemed next to impossible to swim.

Fear and the desire for survival gripped me. Even as I tried desperately to swim ashore, my heavy jacket was pulling me down and impairing my maneuvers. I couldn't snap the zipper of my jacket because of weariness and fatigue. I felt I could no longer survive the situation. Leaving my wife, Evelyn, and the kids behind was something I could not imagine. I was stuck in the water for almost 30 minutes, with waves slamming my body, almost tearing me apart.

It was at this time when I realized I needed help from above, something more powerful than what I was going through. I prayed to the Lord very intensely. Miraculously the zipper of my jacket opened. Without any hesitation I immediately swam to safety.

God heard me and gave me strength to find refuge ashore. All of us in the boat survived. But for sure, the experience increased my faith in Him. Out of His goodness, He gave me another life to know and serve Him more.

And if in case I encounter another storm in the open seas? I pray that my faith will not shake, rattle or roll.

PATOO-TOO from page 23

Hesus ang bigat na biglang dumagan sa puso ko matapos kong marinig ang sabi ng doktor.

Mula nang araw na iyon, araw-araw akong nakakaramdam ng sakit-makatatlo, makaapat, makalima maghapon. Minsan nga, ang alam ko lang ay madalas hindi ko na nabibilang. Tuwing sasakit ay puro "Purihin ang Diyos" lang ang nasasabi ko. Kapag tumatagal ang sakit, maraming "Purihin ang Diyos" lang ang nasasabi ko. No'ng minsan, sa tindi ng sakit, naluha ako habang nagpupuri.

Pa'ano dati, sa lugar lang ng may bukol ang sakit. Nang gabing iyon, sumasakit ang buong kaliwang suso ko. Sakit na noong una'y parang tinutusok ng karayon. Tapos naging parang naghahakot ng nana. Gaya ng nahihinog na pigma.

"Tuwing sasakit ay puro 'Purihin ang Diyos' lang ang nasasabi ko. Kapag tumatagal ang sakit, maraming 'Purihin ang Diyos' lang ang nasasabi ko.



Si Nene at ang asawang si Obet, tuluyang nagsi-serve kahit sa gitna ng tindi ng kanyang karamdaman.

Mula noon, tuwing sasakit ang suso ko ay may isang tao akong ipinadrarasal sa Panginoon. Umaalala ako ng isang kamag-anak o kaibigan na alam kong nangangailangan ng dasal, ang kapatid kong may sakit, ang kanyang mga anak, pati ang pamangking kong kamamatay lang na napanaginipan ko, ipinagdasal ko rin.

Sa mga ito'y pinakamadalas kong ipagdasal ang pamangkin kong nabiktima ng droga, ang isang matigas ang loob at sakit ng damdamin ng magulang, at ang isang nakakulong habang binibistahan sa isang mabigat na kaso. Iyong una'y pumayag nang manahan sa Galilee Home ni Fr. Boyet; ang ikalwa'y nakakatulong na ng magulang sa paghahanapbuhay bagama't dapat pa ring ipagdasal; at ang ikatlo'y tinatrabaho pa siguro ng Diyos, sapagkat wala pang linaw ang kanyang kaso.

Anupa't kung ilalagay ko sa badehadong ang mga nasagot na dasal ko buhat nang sumakit ang dibdib ko, umaapaw na iyon na parang pansit gisadong

nahuhulog na tuloy sa gilid ang sahog na gulay. Kaya, bawi narin kako kahit maopera na. Ipagdarasal ko na lang ang doktor na oopera sa akin.

Nang panahong ito naman ay alam na sa aming kapatiran ang aking sakit at marami ang nagbabalita na ipinagdarasal daw nila ako. Marami rin ang tumatawag upang mangumusta. "Kelan ka mag-papaopera?"

"Pag gusto na ni Lord na maopera ako, mahuhulog sa harap ko ang perang panggastos," pabiro kong sabi sa kanila, dahil noon ay dumadaan sa butas ng karayom ang badyet namin.

Noong May 7, walang pasok sa Pampanga at nasa bahay lang ang mister ko. Bukod sa sinusundo niya ko sa puwesto ng HIBUEN, na bihira niyang gawin

tumutuloy kami sa ospital ni Dr. Carol sa Malolos. Wala na siyang makapa (Saan napunta yon?) Pero, para raw makasiguro magpa-mammography nga ako. Sa Maynila daw ang alam niya, pero balita raw niya ay magkakaroon ang Sacred Heart. Meron nga! At nang magpunta kami, ang bukol ay "wala nga!" Amen!

DALANGIN: Mahiwaga ang Iyong pamamaraan, O Diyos, ngunit ang pag-ibig Mo ay walang hanggan. Sa mga nanalig sa Iyo, ang mga himala ay nagiging pangkaraniwan. Salamat sa Iyong mga pagpala. Sa Iyo kami asa sa iba pang mga biyaya.

PAGNINILAY: Huwag agad masindak sa mga pagsubok ng dumarating sa buhay mo. Bago kung ano ang isipin, sa Kanya ka muna kumonsulta. "Lumapit kayo sa Diyos at lalapit siya sa inyo." (Santiago 4:6) "Ipagkatiwala ninyo sa Kanya ang inyong mga kabalisahan sapagkat siya ang kumukopkop sa inyo." (1 Pedro 5:7) ☪



Are computers male or female?

Men think computers should be referred to as females, just like ships, because:

1. No one but the Creator understands their internal logic.
2. The language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. The message "Bad command or file name" is about as informative as "If you don't know why I'm mad at you, I'm certainly not going to tell you."
4. Your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
5. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

Women think computers should be referred to as male. Here's why:

1. They have a lot of data, but they are still clueless.
2. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half of the time, they ARE the problem.
3. As soon as you commit to one, you realize if you had waited a little longer, you could have obtained a better model.
4. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
5. A big power surge will knock them out for the rest of the night.



BEING "makulit" WORKS!

by Ric Galing, Quezon City

Having been elevated to our Men's Breakfast "Hall of Fame" for receiving the annual "Fishers of Men" award for more than half a decade, I know just how much God has guided me in bringing in more businessmen and professionals to the BCBP.

Of course, to bring brothers and sisters to the BCLP and Breakfast is not a joke. To make the evangelization process lively and enjoyable, an appropriate joke may be resorted to attract targets. The process requires quality time and extra effort to talk to people about the goodness, faithfulness and marvelous deeds of the Lord. One of the things to be emphasized to the target is this: In spite of the difficulties, trials and tests we undergo or have undergone, God is always victorious in the end and that God's abundant mercy and infinite love for us will never be exhausted. This type of approach is very effective in cases where the target or targets are problematic. For the strength and luxury of time afforded me, I praise God for this grace and dedication to face the intricate and challenging arena of evangelization and pursuit of the great commission. I really praise and thank the Lord!

Edith and I have asked and are still asking for God's grace to be able to meet the appropriate people (both lost believers and non-believers) who can be convinced to join the BCBP via Breakfast or CLP. And they really come! Instead of accepting their cordial invitation to join them in world's dark exciting side, I invite them to join the Breakfast at Terrace Grill with the usual first timers' incentive. Once they respond to the invitation I undertake a series of follow-ups coupled with faithful consistent prayers that their hearts be softened for Christ and that the Holy

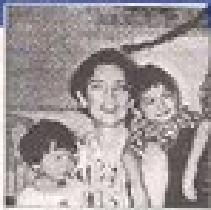
Spirit descend upon them. Surprisingly, it really works. The shepherding mission on them is constant (lovely makulit style). At times, Edith and I show persuasive interest over their turning over a new leaf. We go through the extent of sharing with them the wonderful graces that God has been showering upon them and their loved ones, and of course to me and my family, in spite of human infirmities.



One effective way of convincing the targets to join the BCLP is to open the Bible, read and share with them the powerful word of the Lord and proclaim what God has been really doing marvelously and miraculously in our daily life.

My long stint with Malacanang and the Department of Labor and Employment was a wonderful faith experience. Undoubtedly this enabled me to serve the Lord by proclaiming and spreading the Good News in the marketplace. "Go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and to teach them to obey everything. I have commanded you." (Mt. 28:19-20).

If we experience dryness in evangelization and in pursuing the great commission, consult the gracious Heavenly Father and pray hard with expectant faith. Don't give up, pray unceasingly. It works. The dryness will fade away and turn to consolation, a precious gift from the good, kind and loving God. Praise the Lord. ☪

Annie Salvador
Makati Chapter

MONEY

talks

I woke up from a rainy nap (sarap) to the drone of Nelson's voice. Peeking I saw him huddled with Nico, our eldest, over the newspaper. They were poring over the cars-for-sale ads, in which we had one posted for that day. "See, this Patrol is selling for 450,000 and ours is only 398,000. They're the same year model, so ours is cheaper - a better buy!" Nico nods solemnly.

Moving on, the father seriously instructs the son: "If we sold our Patrol for 395,000 counting the customer's tawad, and bought this car here for 345,000 we'd have 50,000 left over - that's enough for one ticket to Orlando." Orlando being a summer dream, Nico's face visibly brightens as he smiles slightly and nods again, this time with vigor.

I closed my eyes and smiled to myself. PFF 101 was in progress: that's Preparation for the Future - Finance, one of the many subjects in our educational agenda for our children, which we have been conducting for quite sometime now, informally, of course. Our children, typically, are quick studies. Proof: In Baguio, then 6 year old Tono restlessly waited for the Mass to end because he had been promised a cup of taho. He shuttled several times from the taho vendor by the church steps to another in the parking lot. Finally, when Mass was over, he proudly announced that he was buying from the fellow in the parking lot "because he gives more sago!"

We are facing tough times ahead, what with the economic crisis that has assaulted us in global proportions. Our children, predictably, will have to deal with much more than we did in terms of pressure, complexity and change. It only makes sense that money smarts should be part and parcel of their empowerment for this future. And so, we count it as one of the many, many things we teach them.

An article about children and money will invariably give pointers on giving allowances teaching the math basics, the concepts of tipid and tawad, etc. I'd like to go beyond that and link finances to the teaching of other values besides. Hear me out.

What we instruct our children about money is largely a function of our own family values. Understandably, parameters and processes will vary from one family to another. But across the board, values like self-mastery, discretion and forethought should be transmitted. How many stories of success - and ruin - do we know in which these values and the like play key parts?

In our family, we drum up the dignity and importance of honest labor. Whenever Anton announces that he wants to be a farmer when he grows up, no one sneers: "farmers are community helpers and they give us food!" Especially since we run a home office we constantly remind our children that the times, areas and tools of our



work are to be respected. They have learned to recognize that work is necessary and takes up a respectable chunk of our time. And a good thing it is, because their delight is doubled when we set our work aside on occasion to do things with them instead. Nelson and I also derive much joy from the blessing of being able to "declare" a holiday

for ourselves once in a while, when the children have no classes, for instance.

They are learning the worth of the hard-earned peso, however devalued it is. We encourage them to spend soberly: on grocery trips, we carry a list and no one gets anything that isn't on it, not even Mom! (Of course, the list contains one or two treat items - no sense in being too rigid!). When we buy things: shoes, clothes, toys or supplies, "Is it good value?" and "Do I need it?" Count as much as "Do I like it?"

The Orlando family trip, a dream hatched two summers ago, is coming along well, thanks to the children's participation - Nico is itinerary master - and contribution - their share in any windfalls is turned in "to help pay for the trip." Of course, when Anton sold a grasshopper to a classmate and spent his 50 peso income on iced and cola that was hardly sober spending, but then again it wasn't really hard-earned, was it. (What's this example doing here?)

The Orlando dream is a very good illustration of our efforts to balance our work and our recreation. Modeling the work hard, play hard dictum sets the tone for our children's expectations of themselves. The principle of delayed gratification comes into play whenever one or more of our children rides with Nelson to our marble plant in Bulacan, they all go and "work" first before having that yummy Jolly Meal on the way home. Nowadays we get



Kid's Proverbs

It is always darkest ... *just before you flunk a test.*

There is nothing new ... *under the rock.*

A journey of a thousand miles begins with ... *a private jet.*

A committee of three ... *gets things done when they are not fighting.*

If you can't stand the heat ... *try Antarctica.*

Better late than ... *absent.*

A rolling stone ... *may dent the floor.*

If at first you don't succeed ... *live with it.*

Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry ... *and then blow your nose.*

A bird in the hand is ... *better than a woodpecker on your head.*

Early to bed, early to rise ... *and you will get the best cereal.*

Two heads ... *are pretty scary.*

It is better to light a candle than ... *to light a bomb.*

A miss is as good as ... *a mister.*

A penny saved ... *is not a lot.*

Don't burn your bridges ... *or you'll fall in the lake.*

Haste makes ... *sweat.*



- Ann Landers as shared by Mrs. Lesly Vick, Westlake Village, Calif.

***They have learned
to recognize that
work is necessary
and takes up a
respectable
chunk
of our
time.***

involve them in our support for service programs, especially those initiated by their schools. We conduct regular "old clothes days," resulting in bags of old clothes delivered to the parish office. It is good to witness, once in a while a flowering of their social conscience. When there is a service drive in school, street beggars range from an eagerness to give (here's another one, I'll give, I'll give!) to a questioning of life's realities ("but why did God make them without a house?"), even traces of that old devil selfishness ("Mom! We're running out of money!") - but never indifference.

More than anything else, we try to focus them on the Giver than on the gifts. Prayer times are punctuated with thank you's to God for all sorts of things. When there is a financial difficulty, prayers again go up to heaven for the Lord's assistance. Whether we are composing faxes, traveling to an exhibition, enjoying a vacation or window shopping we enjoin our children to lift these endeavors up to God. We recognize and acknowledge that our heavenly Father is with us, providing for us and blessing us. Little by little, a full dependency on the Lord for all things - spiritual, physical and material - is growing on our children, and rightly so.

It is said that money in itself is not evil. Used properly, and creatively, it can even be so much more than a medium of exchange. I have just illustrated how the concept of money can be a tool for imparting life values for work and recreation: respect, sobriety, stewardship and trust in God's providence. I'm certain that in your own families, something of this sort goes on as well. And that makes perfect (money) sense. ☪

treated more often to manifestations of this valuable habit in self-control, as the children grow older and less self-absorbed. Homework first before the favorite cartoon show. Even 4-year old Mia, as narrated by her pre-school teacher prefers to do her tasks first before going off to play in the corner. Marga gladly opted to buy a less expensive lunch box when I hinted that the savings may go towards buying her a desired toy - later.

These examples also point to another value in which we try to immerse our children, that of good stewardship. This involves exposure to and training in prudence, resourcefulness and hard work. Added to this is the continuous demonstration of the fact that this money we have is as much to spend and to save as to share with those who haven't. We try to develop in the children a desire to level the field a little more in favor of the less fortunate. Thus, we



Joe Coruña, Cagayan de Oro

All the time, Lord... Anytime, Lord!

The day was September 19. On a short notice (September 18), Hedy and I were tasked to give our personal sharing in our Malaybalay outreach breakfast. To top it all, I was also tasked to give the talk on "Who is Jesus Christ" for the BCLP No. 5 which would immediately follow the breakfast, due to the sudden unavailability of the scheduled speaker. This is just an example of God's call for us to accomplish His will in our marketplace - the milieu of businessmen and professionals.

Seven years ago, when Hedy and I were called into active service in the Brotherhood, we would have questioned the wisdom of that assignment. We had a different paradigm then of the portent of things to come. We were just contented with having come back into our Father's mansion, as He says "So many rooms have been prepared for each of you." (John 14:2) for we were on a spiritual high after having passed through a marital crisis in our lives. But there was no turning back. We had to


recover lost ground. We knew there was so much to accomplish for the Lord. What we did not know was that God had more plans in store for us. From the book on "Experiencing God" the author says "God is the one who is at work, and He alone has the right to take the initiative to begin a work. He does not ask us to dream our dreams for Him and then ask Him to bless our plans. He is already at work when He comes to us. His desire is to get us from where we are to where He is working.... He invites us, therefore, to become involved with Him in His work."

Jeremiah 29:11-13 says "I, alone know the plans, I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. Then you will come to me. You will come and pray for me, and I will answer you. You seek me and you will find me because you will seek me with all your heart."

It is this kind of attitude that has kept us going throughout the

different seasons of our lives despite the difficulties that we often encounter along the way as we keep in cadence with our Lord Jesus Christ. Truly, the Christian walk is not an easy walk.

In the many years that we have been in the Brotherhood, we have seen brothers and sisters suffer from "Spiritual Schizophrenia" that distorts their spiritual vision but we have also seen them go through a "Spiritual Mania" that only the Holy Spirit can give. And we have to thank the Lord for it. Our Father knows all our needs. No wonder we need not worry. We are never outside his watchful care. "I will never forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you in the palm of My hands." (Isa. 49:16). What a Father, What a God!

As we look back into the wisdom of that assignment to Malaybalay Outreach on such a short notice, I can only answer Hedy, that as head servants, we must always be prepared and say "ALL THE TIME, ANYTIME, LORD." 

Being sent on mission trips can be very exciting especially when you are invited to share in the breakfasts, or visit activities in the outreaches and other chapters. When we were asked to share in Puerto Princesa, I was very happy as this has been my dream since I was in high school - to visit that small island separated from the rest of the islands of the Philippines.

We left Cagayan de Oro for connecting flights to Manila then to Puerto Princesa the day after the New Year celebration. Since I was seated at the window side of the plane, I enjoyed the several beautiful white and sand coastlines and the green trees as we flew over the islands. I could not help but marvel at the beautiful undisturbed natural wonders of the place upon touchdown.

We were met by BCBP brothers and sisters of the Puerto Princesa chapter who took us to a Vietnamese restaurant for merienda. Already I was thanking and praising God for such an opportunity to be there. We were hosted by a member couple who lived within the city in a richly blessed home. Their home was in the middle of a big lot that was fenced all around. Since it was dark when we reached their home, all we did was to have a dinner fellowship and share our experiences with a few brothers and sisters who brought food.

Since we always go to mass daily, we woke early the next morning to go to their cathedral. Pepot who was so excited to go out wanting to inhale the freshness of the air woke up earlier than I did. But some noises and sounds made him stop and look out the window. I woke up immediately when I noticed him looking out. We saw for the very first time in our lives about 15 Dobermans outside our bedroom (guest room) area plus 3 other mongrels. This really put us in a dilemma. How could we ever pass through these guard (others refer to them as killer dogs) dogs without being attacked and/or noticed.

The house area was about 25 to 30 meters from its main gate but it really looked a mile long. The only person awake at that time was their manang who was about 60 years old. We asked her if it was possible to keep the dogs, but with confidence she said it was alright to go out as long as she was accompanying us to the gate, and besides, the dog's caretaker was there in the area.



"DOBERMANS ARE CHRISTIAN DOGS TOO!"

by Charisse Ch. Fortich, Cagayan de Oro

We did not bother waking up our hosts as it was still quite early. And so our walk began. Before leaving our room, I prayed repeatedly for protection and the bravery and confidence to dare to walk through them. Suddenly, the dogs began to look about 30, then 50, and almost like a hundred of them; they seemed to multiply every time we took a step. And to top it all, the gate looked like it was moving away from us.

All kinds of dog orientation popped into my mind. I could have been relieved if it was not for the conversation manang was sharing with us while walking...about how a cat was attacked by these dogs and not a trace was left of it...and a few more attack experiences. But I don't know why...the conversation diverted our mind from just focusing on our fear of the Dobermans. We forgot we were amidst them. There were big black Dobermans and brown ones too, young ones and adult. All I could remember then was to pray the litany of saints, especially to San Roque, whom I remembered to be the Patron Saint of Dogs. I never looked at them, I

just walked straight without making any side glances.

We finally made it to the gate and to the Cathedral. Now that the mass was over, we assumed that perhaps the dogs were now resting in their pens. But no...upon the sound of the gate bell, the barks roared like thunder along with what seemed to be a running attack formation. Again with full re-assurance and confidence, we went in and walked towards the front door with manang and the caretaker.

During breakfast with our hosts, we narrated our experience and we just laughed and laughed. Our host even introduced us to some of them - the big ones I guess (about my hip height). And indeed they became friendly so, I even visited their pens at the back. I guess the expression of my children about "being canine" must have come true in that particular situation; we must have smelled like dogs too.

But more so, I would say the Doberman dogs have become BCBP Christian dogs. (Remember the story of the Christian Lion?)

The BCBP Cagayan de Oro chapter is serving two outreaches at present.
These are Butuan Outreach and Bukidnon Outreach.

BUKIDNON OUTREACH

Established in July 1995, Bukidnon outreach now has 129 members in its roster. It has completed 4 BCLPs to date and is already in the process of conducting BCLP 5 which will end on November 30, 1998. It holds its breakfast every Saturday at Haus Malibu in Malaybalay and Taipan Hotel in Valencia.

The Bukidnon outreach encompasses the three major localities in Bukidnon namely: Malaybalay City, Valencia, and the university town of Musuan. It has 3 units functioning with 9 action groups. The governance team is composed of the following:

- Outreach Head - Judge Jesus Barroso
- Mission Director - Greg Alenton
- Outreach Life - Vice Governor Nemitz Beltran
- Secretary - Terry Tano
- Treasurer - Lino Epie
- Breakfast Head - July to September - Conrad Barroso
October to December - Donding Gamboa

Unit leaders are Conrad Barroso for Malaybalay, Butch Saavedra for Valencia and Dodong Fallosco for Musuan. Bro. Monet and Sis Vern Fernandez are the Outreach coordinators from BCBP Cagayan de Oro assisted by Bro. Alex and Sis. Nilda Obnial. To get in touch with BCBP Bukidnon please contact Bro. Nonoy Barroso at telephone no. 088-221-2170.

The Bukidnon Outreach music ministry, learning a lot from its mother chapter BCBP-CDO.



BUTUAN OUTREACH



Butuan Outreach in one of its breakfast fellowships.

This outreach started as a joint effort between BCBP Cagayan de Oro and BCBP Cebu in June 1996. At present however the task of shepherding this outreach has been entrusted solely to Cagayan de Oro. The members of its governance are:

- Outreach head - Oskee Olib
- Mission Director - Vic Jaen
- Chapter Life - Boy Dimaunahan
- Breakfast Head - Al Young
- Music Ministry - Loy Villanueva
- Unit Leader - Boy Dimaunahan

To date it has conducted 3 BCLPs and is now in the process of conducting BCLP 4. It has 1 unit with 5 action groups and a total of 53 members.

Butuan outreach holds two breakfasts every month, both joint breakfasts, at the Echelon Hotel. BCBP Cagayan de Oro has recently appointed Bro. Bong and Sis. Beng Pelaez as Outreach coordinators assisted by Bro. Boy and Sis. Cacay Andes. The contact address of the outreach is: BCBP Butuan c/o Bro. Oscar Olib #149 J.C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City with telephone nos. (085) 2252058, 2253211.

What a beautiful life with him

by Sandra Yap Ng, Cagayan de Oro

Life is a gift from God and it is full of treasures. We live to discover these treasures that are hidden in life. Our journey in life is to search deep within us for more treasures and to enjoy them.

One night as I walked along the street I suddenly wanted to shout "Life is so beautiful!" Then I found my joy and peace within me. I was flying so high like a bird in the sky real-

izing life is so free, so beautiful, no worry, no problem at all. I was completely safe in His hands without fear for my Lord God was within me. He is my treasure and I discovered Him in my heart. I was aware of His presence and able to communicate with Him.

My face started to glow and my eyes were shining for it seemed as if His divine image appeared. We

were connected and I enjoyed union with God.

This was a tremendous experience for me. Now I know that there is no end of discovery until we die as long as we remain with Him. And these discoveries will continue to make us more free - free to enjoy His presence and the beautiful life He will give us. ☺

Faith, unwrapped and accepted

by Pinky V. Lim, Cagayan de Oro

So what's it all about? This gift called Faith. I still wonder.

But the wondering tells me that this gift has no limits.

Faith unwrapped and accepted tells me that God is with me ... in my innermost core ... in the people I meet ... in the revealed words of sacred scripture ... in the world around me ... in all the mysterious happenings of my life ... in all the crises that challenge me.

Faith unwrapped and accepted tells me that I don't need all the answers because I know that God loves me. I have seen love letters waiting for me at every turn in my life.

Faith unwrapped and accepted also tells me that I am important in the life and faith journeys of others. I am unique. And I am no longer alone or separate. I am God's gift to my world - my family, my community, my church, my friends, my job. I carry Jesus with me to my world. And Jesus through me

may be the only Jesus some people will ever meet.

It is an exciting challenge this faith journey. My faith challenges me to be social, reflective, compassionate and healing. My faith challenges me to integrate my worlds to be most fully human so that I can one day return to the garden of God that He created for us all. I look forward to all the reunions that will reveal to me the many journeys that criss-crossed with mine while I was here. ☺



A house painter agreed to paint the local church for a nominal fee. To keep expenses at a minimum, he diluted the water-based paint a little too much. He was clinging to the steeple when a sudden thunderstorm washed all the paint off the surfaces he had completed. From out of the dark clouds, amid the thunder and lightning, came a booming voice: "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!" - Andrew J. Demes

☺ HUMOR FROM HEAVEN ☺

Who was the world's first, greatest, and wisest financier? Noah. Because he floated stock while the rest of the world was in liquidation.



Did you ever see a committee of five at work? One man does all the work; two men tell him how to do it; one man pats him on the back for doing it well; and the fifth man keeps the minutes of the meetings.

Bill: I'd move heaven and earth to lower my golf score.

Phil: Try moving heaven. You've already moved plenty of earth today.



First member: I thought the homily was divine. It reminded me of the peace of God. It passed all understanding.

Second member: It reminded me of the mercies of God. I thought it would endure forever.

NATIONAL

"MUST DO" Activities and Programs

We received several inquiries for further details and clarifications regarding the "Must Do" activities issued by the National Council, which was implemented starting in 1972. In response, these "Must Do" BCBP activities are reprinted herein, with some updates (*Itals*), for the guidance of all BCBP members.

Breakfast: 1). Regular breakfast schedules must go on throughout the year round. There shall be breakfast breaks only on Holy Saturday, Christmas and New Year's. 2). Each chapter, chapter-in-training and outreach must have a regular weekly Men's Breakfast, a ladies' Breakfast at least once a month, and a monthly Joint Breakfast. 3). Breakfast schedules must never be used for any activity.

BCLP: 1). Chapters must conduct at least one [1] regular Brotherhood Christian Life program (BCLP) a year. 2). This is differentiated from the occasional LSS which the chapter may undertake for members' employees or other groups who are non-BCBP members.

AGL Training: 1). AGL training must be given on a regular and continuing basis, even without any scheduled or upcoming BCLP. This will enable the chapter to maintain a pool of ADLs, DLs and AGLs, thereby nullifying the excuse of not holding a BCLP because of lack of leaders. 2). AGL training is a prerequisite before taking the AGL Workshop Retreat.

BCMR: 1). The Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat (BCMR) shall be held a minimum of one [1] every year. 2). A new topic, Sex in Marriage, has been added to the regular course content. Outline is available in the Secretariat.

Chapter Assembly: 1). A Chapter assembly should be held on the third Friday of every month.

BCBP Friday Rhythm: 1). The regular Friday Rhythm of BCBP activities:

First Friday -	Assembly with either Mass or teaching.
2nd Friday -	Action Group Meetings
3rd Friday -	Chapter Assembly
4th Friday -	Action Group Meetings
5th Friday -	(if any) -Fellowship (chapter option)

The First Friday of the Year (January) is declared as the BCBP's National Day of Thanksgiving. *Tithe Pledging Session has been added to this activity.* All chapters and outreaches are enjoined to observe this day appropriately.

Metro- Wide General Assembly:

1). Members are required to attend this activity as part of their commitment. Traffic should not be a reason for not attending. 2). The General Assembly is held on the first Friday of the quarter.

BEP: 1). The Business Evangelization Program (BEP) must be undertaken at least once a year. 2). The formal program on Business Evangelization is still being finalized.

BCBR: *This is the BCBP Christians in Business Retreat. A new program recently developed.* 1). BCBR should be given to the members, primarily to those engaged in business and the practice of the professions. 2). All other members must take this course eventually. 3). A yearly conduct of this program must be scheduled.

Outreach: 1). Each chapter must maintain at least one [1] outreach at any given time.

Chapter Governance Meeting: 1). A governance meeting must be held once a month. 2). The regular chapter governance team is composed of the chapter head, mission director, chapter life director and the unit leaders. 3). Service ministry heads can join this governance meeting as an option of the chapter head.

Chapter Retreat: 1). Each chapter must hold a yearly chapter retreat. This must not be equated with "recollections". A retreat means getting away from it all and should ideally be held outside of Metro Manila or the general vicinity of the chapter locale. 2). The retreat should be conducted by the chapter chaplain, or in his absence, any other priest but preferably one who is familiar with the BCBP and/or in the renewal movement as a whole.

Family Day: 1). Chapters and outreaches must have a Family Day Celebration at least once a year.

Chapter Anniversary: 1). All chapters must celebrate their individual chapter anniversary.

The National Council



Manny Banigan - President; Former Chapter Head, AGL Member, Las Piñas



Louie Morales - Director, Evangelization and Guilds; Fraternal Group Leader, South CH, Former Chapter Head, Alabang



Bobby Laviña - National Treasurer; Action Group Leader, Greenhills

Metro-Wide Family Day Celebration: 1). This must be held once a year. 2). The BCBP Sports Olympic is included in this activity. 3). *Metro-wide Bazaar (Tiange) is undertaken as part of a bigger celebration.*



Fernando de Larrazabal - Director, Luzon Council; Fraternal Group Leader - North Chapter Heads; Member, Makati



Manolet Siojo - Director, Teaching and Training; Former Chapter Head, Greenhills



Rolly Ona - Director, Visayas Council
Former Chapter Head, Makati



Ed Lising - Vismin New Outreach
Coordinator; Former Mission Director, Cebu



Sadi Saguisag - Director, Mindanao Council; Former Chapter Head, Cebu

BCBP National Anniversary:

1). In 1999, this will be held in Bacolod. 2). In the year 2000 the Anniversary will be held in Metro Manila. 3). **National Anniversary Theme:** *The National Anniversary Theme, once adopted, should be the guiding principle of all BCBP activities for the year.*

Teachings: 1). All Regular Teaching must be given and completed within a year. 2). The optional or elective teachings, the chapters must inform the National Council on the details of these teachings prior to delivery. 3). Every member must take the regular teachings in their proper sequence. This sequence is: BCLP and Culture Talks; BCMR: Prayer Series; Christian Service Series; Evangelization Series; Christian Personal Relationship Series, Mary, Mother of God Series. 4). A member must have taken these teachings plus the AGL Training before he can take a major service starting with Discussion Leader (DL). 5). Teachings must not be revised or compressed. Time allotment for each teaching may vary but not the content. 6). *A BCBP Curriculum had already been developed and will soon be implemented. This is a general guideline that would specifically track the members' teaching and training programs.*

AGL Workshop Retreat:

1). This will be held once every two years. 2). AGL Basic Training program is a prerequisite for participation in this retreat.

Yearly Chapter Plans:

1). Chapters must submit a Yearly Chapter Plan including a Financial Plan on or before the end of January.

Financial Reports and Remittances:

1). All chapters and outreaches if they are already collecting tithes, are required to submit monthly financial report and remittances to the National Council. 2). Such Reports are due on or before the second week of the month following the audit month. 3). *A monthly financial report must also be presented to the chapter membership during an assembly.*

BCBP REGULAR TEACHING SERIES

BCBP Prayer Series

- Session 1 - Prayer
- Session 2 - The perfect prayer
- Session 3 - Praying with others

MARY, Mother of God Series

- Session 1 - Mary's part in Jesus' infancy.
- Session 2 - Mary, the mother of Jesus
- Session 3 - In defense of Mary

BCBP Christian Service Series

- Session 1 - Our Mission
- Session 2 - Being a servant
- Session 3 - Receiving the power to serve
- Session 4 - Guidance
- Session 5 - Spiritual warfare
- Session 6 - Evaluation
- Session 7 - Model of a servant

Evangelization Program Series

- Session 1 - What is evangelization
- Session 2 - The great commission
- Session 3 - Breakfast testimony
- Session 4 - The types of evangelism and types we do in the BCBP
- Session 5 - Selective evangelism

BCBP Christian Relationship Series

- Session 1 - Relationship today
- Session 2 - Loving one another
- Session 3 - Correction
- Session 4 - Working out conflicts in relationships (within the BCBP)
- Session 5 - Relationships outside the BCBP

BCBP AGL Training Program

(May be conducted as an all-day workshop or as a series)

- 1. What is an Action Group
- 2. Why have an Action Group
- 3. Make-up of an Action Group
- 4. Qualifications of an AGL
- 5. Attitudes of an AGL
- 6. Responsibilities of an AGL
- 7. Authority of the AGL
- 8. How to handle problems
- 9. Attitude of group members
- 10. Contents and format of the meeting
- 11. Mock-up of an action group meeting
- 11. Mock-up of one-on-one meeting.

NATIONAL

Bacolod chapters to host 19th anniversary

Just as sweetly as they split last year, the two Bacolods are once again reunited to join their forces in hosting the 19th BCBP national anniversary.

The BCBP Bacolod North and South Chapters will be host to the 19th National Anniversary at The Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel from April 23 to 25, 1999. With a most appropriate anniversary theme "That we may all be one", both chapters eagerly look forward to working together once again to make this event a big affair for members nationwide to come together and renew acquaintances or meet

new faces in the growing community. Likewise, members may share experiences and insights, and draw up plans for our ministry of evangelization.

Apart from its outreaches in Silay and Victorias in Negros, the Bacolod chapters have branched out to Kabankalan town in the South and Cadiz City in the North. Breakfasts are currently held in both areas, with a BCLP ongoing in Kabankalan. Plans for a BCLP in Cadiz are in process.

Project chairman for the 19th Anniversary is Bro. Cesar Regino of Bacolod South. The Anniversary Committee shall

soon send out pertinent information to individual chapters and outreaches, however, initial inquiries may be forwarded to the Secretariat: ☎

ATTN. CESAR REGINO

Address: Door 4B, HVG Warehouse City
Araneta Street (behind SRA), Singcang
6100, Bacolod City

Tel. Nos. (034) 434-2046 to 49 (Mymy or Josephine

(034)25767; (034)441-0028; (034) 434-2046; (034) 21525

E-MAIL: dirstrav@mozcom.com



BACOLOD

Bacolod lines up Anniv. events

All is set for the 19th National Anniversary celebration in the City of Smiles, Bacolod. Project Chairman Bro. Sar Regino of Bacolod South has announced the activities in store for the participants. Heads of the various working committees are as follows:

Chapter head - Bacolod - North - Dennis "Nene" Gamboa
Chapter head - Bacolod - South - Art Legarde
Project Chairperson - Sar Regino
Hosting - Roding Salazar/Eduardo Taruc
Transportation - Yongyong Escalante/George Sanson
Sports Fellowship - Bobbit Cammayo/Jun Vargas
Tours & Entertainment - Reyboy Labayen/Patrick Cuenca
Halls & Grounds - Mike Ermac/Litong Gaston
Technical - Joseph Castro/Bingbing Pama
Program Liturgy - Jimmy Montalvo/Louie Martin
Food - Boy & Cristina Severino
Secretariat - Tutay Cortal/Paul Jochico
Souvenirs/Pasalubongs - Artie Locsin/Choy Solatorio
Promotions/PR/Souvenir Program - Karina Jugo

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Friday, April 23 (SPORTS /FELLOWSHIP DAY)

7:00 AM. - Neg. Occ/ Golf & Country Club Golf Meet
Marapara, Bacolod City Panaad Sports complex, Tennis and Fun Meets /Bowling.
5:30 PM - Island Ballroom, BCPH: Assembly & Awarding of Sports Fellowship Winners

Saturday April 24

7:30 A.M. - Island Ballroom, BCPH: Joint Breakfast
10:30 A.M. - Island Ballroom, BCPH: Workshops
5:30 P.M. - Island Ballroom, BCPH: Mass & Anniversary Dinner/program

Sunday April 25

8:00 A.M. - Lobby, BCPH Departure of various Tours
*BCPH - Bacolod convention Plaza Hotel.
From all of us in the City of Smiles, we look forward to having you here. ☎

INTERESTING PLACES TO VISIT...

The City Tour (Negros Museum the STA. CLARA CHAPEL and the NEGROS SHOWROOM)

On its way to becoming the Convention City of the South, Bacolod is home to various tourist attractions within city boundaries. The Negros Museum at the Old Provincial Capitol showcases a wide array of interesting conversational pieces. A tour of the museum takes you down history lane when the province was once called the Republic of Negros. Meet our hometown heroes who fearlessly battled Spanish forces with the distinctive Filipino ingenuity - in our case an "armed" attack of rolled up "cannon mats" and "wooden rifles". Likewise, you can also look back to the glory days when sugar was once our country's top export earner. Another must-see section of the museum features an interesting collection of toys and folk art pieces, most of them seemingly quite peculiar.

Intricate is the word that best describes the Sta. Clara Chapel in one of the city's most prestigious communities. Minute shell pieces of varied hues (numbering to about a hundred thousand) fit together to paint a mural on its altar walls. Although quite small, the chapel, along with its serene garden, is a superb venue to commune with our God, and his gift of nature.

The Negros Showroom is a one-stop-shop of our distinctively popular Negros products. Pick up a few pieces of our renowned craft and delicacies. To name a few... baskets and home accessories, intricately-smocked party dresses, our popular *piaya pinasugbo*, gourmet *tuyo* and many more.

The HERITAGE TOUR (The OLD HOUSES of SILAY. The CHAPEL of the CARTWHEELS and the CHAPEL of the ANGRY CHRIST)

Culture-rich Silay City is home to some of the most interesting ancestral abodes in the island. Antillean-style homes of yesterday's sugar barons still stand speaking very much of the past, most notable of which are the Balay Negrense of the Gaston Family and the heritage

19th

ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
APRIL 23-25, 1999
PLAZA HOTEL
BACOLOD CITY
THEME:
"THAT WE MAY ALL BE ONE"
JOHN 17:21

House of the Jalandonis. These homes showcase the enchanting lives once lived in the haciendas when sugar was still the country's top export in the early 1900's. A mere fifteen-minute drive from Bacolod, Silay City still exudes of a decidedly gentle pace that helps obtain its air of antiquity.

Carts with wooden wheels were once used to ferry sugarcane to the train-drawn cane cars that would bring these to the sugar centrals for milling. With the dwindling supply of lumber, these bulcart wheels have been replaced with worn out rubber tires pulled out from trucks. These wooden cartwheels have since then become decorative accessories for garden benches in some homes, but it is particularly interesting to see these same cartwheels sprawled across the interiors of this quaint little chapel; at Hacienda Sta. Rosalia in Manapla, the same town that boasts of its famous *puto*.

Christ has often been interpreted as merciful, compassionate or suffering, so it is often a not-to-be-missed stopover at the Chapel of the Angry Christ at the Victorias Milling Company in Victoria's town. An impressive mural done in fiery and bold colors, the chapel has continuously attracted visitors from all over the world.

GAME FISHING VENTURE

A recreational facility located 30 kilometers south of Bacolod, GAME FISHING VENTURES is a one hectare lagoon of varied fin fishes dedicated mainly for game fishing (Tilapia, Bangus, Sea Bass). Fish along the cabanas that line the perimeters or

navigate the waters on shaded bamboo rafts. The premises are quite well-secured and food is superb. A great family vacation getaway if you have brought the kids along.

BUENOS AIRES Mountain Resort/ RAFAEL SALAS Park/Guintubdan Falls

An hour's drive down south takes you to any of these great mountain hideaways. Comfort and respite awaits one at the fully-developed Buenos Aires Mountain Resort with its various cottages and pools, while a close touch with nature promises to be a refreshing experience at the Rafael Salas Park and the Guindubdan Falls along the boundary of Bago and La Carlota cities. Treks to the beautifully cascading waterfalls become great moments to relish, most especially along footwalks wallpapered with various flora species thriving in the wild (most prolific of which are multicolored *impatiens* bushes, a popular garden item among hobbyists).

Note: 1. The City tour is for free and will run on Saturday April 24, 1999. The Rest of the tours shall bear a minimal change at actual cost (which we shall inform you) and shall run on Sunday April 25, 1999.

2. We will also be able to help you arrange for tours in the nearby provinces or cities like Dumaguete, Boracay, Iloilo, etc. Please let us know in Section VI of the Registration Form.

Registration Form

(Please use block letters/Please mail or fax this form to us through the address or fax nos. listed below on or before February 28, 1999)

Section I: Personal Information

(Pls. indicate) _____ Chapter (Pls. indicate) _____ Outreach

Name: _____ Nickname: _____ Birthmonth: _____

Contact Address: _____ Wedding Anniversary Month: _____

Contact Tel. No. (Include Area Code): _____ Fax No. (Include Area Code): _____

Name of Persons Accompanying you	Nickname	Relation	Age	Birthmonth
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Section II: Arrival/Departure Information

Please fill this out if you want us to pick you up and send you off/Number of persons arriving/departing with you, including you: _____

Arrival: <input type="checkbox"/> By Air <input type="checkbox"/> By Boat <input type="checkbox"/> By Bus Originating From: _____ Airline, Boat, Bus Co.: _____ Flight or Trip No.: _____ Date of Arrival: _____ Time of Arrival: _____	Departure: <input type="checkbox"/> By Air <input type="checkbox"/> By Boat <input type="checkbox"/> By Bus Going To: _____ Airline, Boat, Bus Co.: _____ Flight or Trip No.: _____ Date of Departure: _____ Time of Departure: _____
--	--

Note: If your travel plans are not yet final but you are decided to amend, fill up and send us back the Registration Form. Just keep this section blank and tick the box below to indicate your travel plans to follow. However, as soon as your travel plans are final, you must fill out this section only and send it back to us. Put your name and your Chapter/Outreach on the space provided below.

Travel Plans to Follow Name/Chapter or Outreach: _____

Section III: Accommodations

Would you like to be hosted. Hosting might be limited and will be on a first come-first serve basis. Please let us know by February 28, 1999 at the latest.

If you like to stay in a hotel, indicate what budget range you have in mind and we will take care of choosing the hotel for you. However, if there is a particular hotel that you prefer to stay in please indicate so: _____

P500 - 1000 * P1,000 - 1,500 * ✓ P1,500-2,000 P2,000-2500

* Prices are net per room per night based on double occupancy.

✓ We recommend: Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel (BCPH), venue of the celebrations in this range.

○ We recommend: Balay Kalinungan, a retreat house inside the University of La Salle Compound is in this range. BCBPH & Balay Kalinungan Rooms are limited so we will book you on a First come-First serve basis. If they become full, we will book you on a room of the same price range.

No. of rooms that you need: _____ Date In: _____ Date Out: _____ No. of Nights: _____

Preferred Bed Arrangement: Double Twin

Any other particular room requirement: _____

Section IV: Sports Fellowship

For the schedule and venue of the following sports events, please refer to the Schedule of Activities.

Please Select One:

Golf Amateur Jungolf Ten Pin Bowling
 Tennis Physical Fitness: Run a mile in 12 minutes

Section V: Special Interest Tours

For a brief description of these tours, please refer to the enclosed Tour Write-Up. These tours will run on Sunday, April 25, 1999 at 10:00 A.M. Please refer to Schedule of Activities.

City Tour Game Fishing Tour
 Heritage Tour Buenos Aires/Guintubdan Tour

Section VI: Special Request or Concern

Should you have any special requirements or concern such as special diets, special room requirements, special tours or the like, please let us know _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Secretariat
 Attention : Sar Regino
 Address : Door 4B, HVG Warehouse City, Araneta St. (Behind SRA) Singcang, 6100, Bacolod City
 Tel Nos : (034) 434-2046 to 49 (My-My or Josephine); (034) 2-57-67 (034) 441-0028 (034) 441-0501 (Debbie, Myla, or Sarah)
 Fax Nos : (034) 434-2046; (034) 2-15-25
 E-Mail : dirstrav@mozcom.com

19th

ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
APRIL 23-25, 1999
PLAZA HOTEL
BACOLOD CITY

THEME:
"THAT WE MAY ALL BE ONE"
JOHN 17:21

(Editor's note: You can xerox and use this form.)

BAYBAY

3 years old!

Baybay's 3rd Year Breakfast Anniversary was held at the Angelicum Parish Formation Center last September 13, 1998 with guests from BCBP Mactan, Ormoc, Maasin and Cebu and their very own Hon. Mayor Boying Cari and Councilor Dodong Pernitez, BCBP members. Their anniversary breakfast sharer was Bro. Ed and Sis. Ester Lising - Director New Outreaches for Visayas.

Ed Lising, Vismin Mission Coordinator with wife Ester and some members of BCBP Baybay



Following the 3rd anniversary breakfast on Saturday, September 19, 6:00 pm, BCLP 5 was launched at the Angelicum Parish Formation Center with 44 participants

registered. Course leader couple Amy/ Arlene Borneo was assisted by Bong/ Carol Modina.

MACTAN

Mactan head exhorts members to be patient with each other

"Now and then we receive complaints, hear negative statements and discontent hurled at a BCBP chapter in general, or at an action group, a ministry or a particular brother or sister. We need to understand that the BCBP is a community of different people and personalities in different spiritual stages. Those who are blessed with a stronger level of spirituality are asked to be patient with other brothers or sisters who hurl such hurting remarks. We are embarking on a big task of evangelizing. Be the stronger - lead the weak," exhorts Casi Nadela, chapter head of Mactan BCBP, in the October 1998 issue of their newsletter Taytayan.

Previously in the August issue he explained that in any organizational set-up, the "turn-over of positions" is synonymous to promotion from a lesser position

to a higher one, wherein "position" means a name and fringe benefits. However in the BCBP community, all work, jobs and positions are discerned by the governance, then later assigned to a brother or sister. These tasks are called service.

Unlike the usual practice where one's goal is set high, in the BCBP culture one service is turned over to another member and the outgoing servant accepts another task. It is even safe to say that (usually) there is no power struggle. There is no demotion, either. The "work" to do is God's work. There is no pressure, no monetary equivalent.

Our compensation is the inner joy and satisfaction derived from service in the community with sincere joy knowing that the drive that pushes us is not of our own doing but of God's love. The knowledge that all are one in Christ is the force that moves us

Casi Nadela takes the podium and exhorts his members.



to share our talents, efforts and time in service.

Aside from our major goal to evangelize the market place, our BCBP community needs the network of servants to realize this purpose. To all those who have been called to service in whatever capacity - your response is your initial answer to God's call. Unless we serve, we will never know the pure joy of doing things just for the sake of love, said Nadela.

Education ministry trains AGLs



BCBP Mactan chapter members during an assembly

A one-day Action Group Leaders' Training Course retreat was held on July 26, at the Ecotech Center, Cebu City. AAGL's and prospective leaders attended.

To date, the Chapter has 28 action groups and with the coming BC1.P in September, the ministry deemed it very vital to really prepare the action group leaders' "minds, bodies, and hearts" for the divine task of leading their soon-to-be assigned flocks. Course leaders were Darrell and Jo Ann Sadaya, while Tito and Babie Tanedo acted as Chief Servants.

MANILA

Christmas party follows commitment ceremonies

On December 5, 1998 the Manila Outreach formally welcomed its new members during Commitment ceremonies held at the La Corona Hotel in Ermita. Following the Holy Mass, outreach head Jun Catan led the forty participants in their commitment that marked the closing session of the outreach's BCLP 4. The new members form three additional action groups plus three couples and four men join existing action groups, bringing the outreach's number of action groups to ten.

BCLP 4 service team was headed by Mon Cabayu as course leader, Rus Zaragosa as assistant course leader and Bobby and Ning Samaniego as head servant team. Discussion group leaders included Ross and Nenette Santos, Danny and Ria Javier, Ed Tomaneng, Julius de los Reyes, Beth Lugtu, Cynthia Gaité and Mylene Alcantara.



Following a buffet dinner, the outreach's Christmas party capped the evening with song and dance numbers from the different groups, games and a raffle with prizes enough for everyone. Awards

were presented for the group presentations and for the male and female "Stars" of the night. Ballroom dancing ended the evening of fellowship and fun.

BCBP Manila members in welcoming new members (top). Outreach head Jun Catan (below) joins others for a picture during the celebration

Welcome

BCLP 4, Manila Outreach

- Adona, Victoria
- Agravante, Jean
- Ajero, Daisy
- Alcantara, Jerome/Magdalena
- Alcanzo, Benny/Eden
- Alegre, Francis
- Aquino, Danny/Nimfa
- Asperas, Flor
- Bernardo, Ma. Leonora
- Bernardo, Ma. Lorna
- Bitong, Noel

- Bulatao, Enrico/Marites
- Cagape, Corazon
- Cagara, Lilibeth
- Caliguran, Jane
- Capati, Margarita
- Carsena, Ma. Jesusa
- Corectico, Segundino
- Espina, Arlyn
- Lirio, Tracy Ann
- Lizardo, Cristy
- Longos, Angelino
- Luistro, Manuel

- Manuel, Vrenalyn
- Mateo, Pearlita
- Munar, Casilda
- Ordena, Melquiades, Jr.
- Pajayon, Emilia
- Pastor, Tito/Teofila
- Piogao, Violeta
- Resultay, Jenilda
- Tan, Vina
- Tolentino, Cynthia
- Tutay, Derrick Ann
- Villavicencio, Vicky



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

APRIL 23-25, 1999

PLAZA HOTEL
BACOLOD CITY

THEME:
"THAT WE MAY ALL BE ONE"

JON 17/21

Bring your kids and join us in the celebration. Tours, Sports Competition, and lots and lots of fun!!!

RIZAL

Rizal forms BEP unit

The Business Evangelization Program (BEP) is a newly formed organizational unit of the BCBP Rizal Chapter. Ping and Nitz Ramirez head the BEP. Its members are Gerry and Mercy Arabello, Gilbert and Lou Donato, Rey and Dang Guarin, Noli and Chuchi Lopez, Jess and Mayette Sundiam, Chris and Marie Young.

The BEP is tasked to evangelize the corporate world, its management and rank and file as well as the commu-

nities within its areas of influence by conducting Christian Life in the Spirit seminars. Thus the BEP hopes to fulfill its share in our Lord's grand plan by bringing and shepherding more people into his fold.

The first Rizal BEP-CLSS was conducted last year at Efren Pascual's factory in Cubao. Participants came from Efren's ceramics factory, Jess Sundiam's printing press and Chuchu Gutierrez' landscaping firm.

Presently there is an ongoing CLSS at the St. Clement's Medical Institute in Angono, Rizal. The institute's medical practitioners and staff comprise the participants. Gerry and Mercy Arabello are the course leaders assisted by Noli and Chuchi Lopez. The Familia is helping the Rizal chapter in conducting this activity.

The CLSS is being held every Monday for eight weeks starting October 5, 1998.

Rizal chapter head, Max Joaquin explains a point during their BEP session.



BCLP 7 grads share blessings

The 22 newly committed members of the Rizal Chapter shared the many ways that the Lord had blessed them during their BCLP Commitment Night, October 10, 1998, at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City.

Boyet shared that he and his wife have been "truly blessed during this BCLP. My wife passed her MBA exam and I am about to finish my new course. We even acquired a better car."

Turing recounted that he was "so touched by the talks and songs that during the Baptism in the Holy Spirit I offered myself completely to the Lord."

"I was a confused Catholic," says Rem. "But during the Baptism I asked for four gifts - faith, healing, knowledge and discernment as I wanted to have a defined and stronger relationship with God. I now have focus in my life with Christ as the center of my existence. I realize that all the blessings coming my way are not of my own doing but are God's gifts."

Lali and Henry began attending the breakfast through the invitation of total strangers, Ping and Nitz Ramirez. It was also through them that they joined the BCLP 7 "with some reservations," Lali remembers. "We even considered quitting several times as a lot of big waves assaulted our marriage during the course. But we hung on and these conflicts were slowly resolved."

Joey shared that he and his wife were also reluctant participants who ended by signing their commitment cards. Ed asked the Lord for the grace of forgiveness and he believes he has received this grace through the intercession of the Virgin Mary. Roselle rejoiced in the good health that she enjoyed all during the course.

Course leader Bro. Oca Cruz and Rizal chapter head Max Joaquin, Jr. led the commitment night ceremonies with the anticipated mass celebrated by Fr. Raymond Descapeda.

QUEZON CITY

BCMR held
October 9 - 11

The Quezon City Chapter held its BCMR on October 9-11, 1998 at the Sta. Scholastica's Caritas for Spirituality, Tagaytay City. Fourteen (14) couples attended.

Course leaders were Oca and Mila Balaoing. Servant and secretariat couple were Mike and Aleli Rodriguez, assisted by Glecya dela Pena, Jun and Ruby Mendoza and Manoling and Annie Cifra. Music ministry couple were Boy and Pia Alina assisted by Galo Arias, Sonny Calleja, Bert and Tessie Cerrudo. Speakers were Mike Rodriguez, Bobby and Marite Lavina, Loy Judan, Angelita "Baby" Morales, Oca and Mila Balaoing, Art and Laly dela Cruz, Roy and Janet Calleja.

49 join QC
BCBP

Quezon City chapter graduated 49 participants in BCLP 27 conducted at the Ateneo ISO, Loyola Heights June 13, 1998 to September 19, 1998.

Course leaders Chito & Libay Masayon were assisted by Felix and Lynn Obusan, asst. course leaders; Totie and Meggy Alejandrino, Service Team Couple; Allan dela Cruz, asst. service team head; and Boy Alina, music leader. DGLs are Stan and Ellen Antonio, Norman and Cherry dela Cruz, Vivian Reyes, Frank and Sonia de Paz, Jess and Belen Poblete, Cris and Luz Ignacio, Rico Sarmiento, Let Solidune and Mon Dizon.

TUGUEGARAO

On August 22, 1998 Tuguegarao Outreach graduated into a Chapter-in-Training. With its new status, the local leaders became more inspired to recruit more members and to train more speakers in preparation for its next Christian Life Program. A realignment of some Committees was even implemented to make them more responsive to the needs of the new Chapter-in-Training, which include an outreach to a neighboring city.

Last October 3, 1998, the Chapter-in-Training head, Bro. Diddi Perez with some officers, went to Santiago City for a preliminary meeting with prospective recruits for a new outreach Bro. Sammy and Sis. Levi Castro who are now based at Santiago City did the leg work in



LUCENA

BCLP 3 graduates 9 plus 6

BCLP 3 of the Lucena outreach, an outreach of the Rizal Chapter, held its Commitment Night last September 20 at the chapel of the Bishop's Palace in Lucena City. Nine pledged their commitment to God through the BCBP, joining the Lucena Outreach, while six other participants joined the Rizal Chapter. Din-

Lucena participants

Junteral, Ben
Lo, Pepito P.
Mendoza, Edgardo
Oliveros, Illuminada
Profugo, Rolando
Talabay, Manuel/Teresita
Uy, William

Happenings up north



Tuguegarao chapter head in training Diddi Perez (below left) in one of our BCBP-wide celebrations. Ninoy Carag, (above) chapter life director, stresses a point during their leadership training sessions.

laying down the foundation for said outreach. On October 10, 1998, a follow-up meeting was held to familiarize the prospective recruits with the Tuguegarao membership to further enlighten them on the vision and mission of BCBP held at 456 Restaurant. This time a big group of Tuguegarao members (more than 50) travelled to the city to lend support to the outreach. With the positive response of those who were present who promised to help invite more participants for the first CLP, the Tuguegarao group

is hopeful that they can formally start in the first quarter of the coming year.

BCLP no. 7 in Tuguegarao started last November 14, 1998. This is being held every Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning at the St. Louis College of Tuguegarao. Baptism in the Holy Spirit will be on November 28, 1998 while Commitment Day is scheduled on December 13, 1998. There are 31 participants of which there are six (6) couples and nineteen (19) married singles.

ner and fellowship followed the ceremonies at the Halina Hotel and Restaurant.

Special guests were Bros. Manny Banigan, National Council President together with his Las pinas action group, Sadi Saguisay, BCBP Managing Director for Mindanao and Romy Tocjayao, past Rizal Chapter head.

Welcome

Rizal participants:

Arabello, Gerry/Mercy
Guarin, Rey/Dang
Paz, Didi/Beth

ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
APRIL 23-25, 1999
PLAZA HOTEL
BACOLOD CITY
THEME:
"THAT WE MAY ALL BE ONE"
JOHN 17:21

See you all there, "That we may all be one."



**Bible
Sharing**

**The Bible in
Brief**

(50 words only!)

God made,
Adam bit,
Noah arked,
Abraham split,
Joseph ruled,
Jacob fooled,
Bush talked,
Moses balked,
Pharaoh plagued,
People walked,
Sea divided,
Tablets guided,
Promise landed,
Saul freaked,
David peeked,
Prophets warned.

Jesus born,
God walked,
Love talked,
Anger crucified,
Hope died,
Love rose,
Spirit flamed,
Word spread,
God remained.

Discussion Starters

1. How briefly, can you summarize the Bible?
2. What, to you, is the key message of the Bible?
3. What parts of the Bible do you like the best? the least? Why?

**“BLESS” -ing
your family**

As the holidays draw near, you will probably have more opportunities to reflect the love of God to your family. Here is an easy way to remember how to “bless” your family when you come together:

B- Beauty: In your heart, acknowledge that every member of your family is beautiful in God’s eyes. Focus your attention on God’s love for them. Criticism and judgmental thoughts will be dispelled, and God’s love will flow through you more freely.

L-Love: Can you tell each of your children, “I love you”? This may be especially difficult for fathers and sons. If it is too difficult, make sure at least that your demeanor and the expressions on your face reflect a generous love for them. Don’t assume they know.

E- Encourage: Make sure your children know that you see and appreciate all that is good in them: their generosity, their strength, their hard work, their compassion. All children — however old they are — want their parents to be proud of them.

S- Smile: Show your children affection with a warm hug or kiss. An affectionate greeting or a warm smile may be a small gesture, but your children will recall such displays for many years. The practice of showing affection can leave a lasting impression on them and become something that they will pass on to their children.

S- Serve: When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he showed how deeply he wanted to serve them — even to death on a cross. Ask the Spirit how you can serve your family and express the same heart of a servant that Jesus showed. Don’t worry if you are not appreciated. Remember that you are serving Jesus himself and that he sees and blesses every act of love and concern.

Source: Word Among Us, Advent 1998.



TITHING:

Are you continuing the endless chain of grace?

Nancy R. Catan, Manila Outreach

Several years ago my aunt gifted me with a book of short reflections by Maya Angelou. I was touched with her thoughts on charity. She believes that the act of giving liberates the soul of the giver and increases "that intangible but very real psychic force of good in the world."

She tells us that when we cast our bread upon the waters, we can presume that someone downstream whose face we will never know will benefit from our action, as we who are downstream from another will profit from that grantor's gift. This forges an endless chain of grace.

This idea that giving is an endless chain of grace is one dimension that seems to be lacking in many Catholics' understanding of tithing. If we review the biblical origins of tithing, we see that the tithing principle was first practiced when Cain and Abel brought the "first fruits" of their labors to God (Gen. 4:3-4). Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek; Jacob pledged to God one tenth of all he had received from God (Gen. 14:20;28:22).

Throughout the Bible we find references to tithing and giving back to God a portion of all that He has blessed us with. Jesus Christ did not do away with this principle; He even endorsed it when he scolded the Pharisees and scribes for their hypocrisy. He told them that they should pay attention to all the matters of the law, and to faith and mercy. "These you should have done, without neglecting the others." (Matt. 23:23); with "others" referring to the paying of tithes.

This chain of grace originating in the time of Cain and Abel reaches us today as we participate in the life of the Church and pledge our tithe to her support. If we do not give our tithe, we weaken this chain of grace.

Tithing vs. Alms-giving

What is the tithe? In the Old Testament, the tithe was a mandatory program of giving one tenth of "all your produce" (Prov. 3:9) that applied to everyone in Israel. This tithe belonged to the Lord and was considered holy. Abraham as our spiritual father set the example when he offered tithes to Melchizedek.

Did you know that Christ dealt extensively on the subject of money and possessions, with 16 out of 38 of his parables dealing with this subject? Nancy synthesizes various teachings and articles and concludes that tithing is our obligation to God as a Christian in obedience to the First Great Commandment. She further points out that failure to tithe indicates to one's poor stewardship and lack of confidence and trust in God.

This practice has been continued down through the ages by the Church and its payment was considered by Church Fathers and Theologians as a divine obligation, since it is paid to God, who is the owner and giver of all we have. In 585 A.D. the Council of Macon even decreed that anyone who refused to pay tithes had committed a grave sin and was to be excommunicated.

Today all Christians are encouraged to set aside a "tithe" as part of their commitment as a member of the body of Christ in support of the Church community where we receive our spiritual nourishment and sacramental graces. The New Code of Canon Law in 1983 affirms the right of the Church to demand support for its ministers, worship, apostolic and charitable works, but, in line with the growing emphasis on Love as a basis for action, prefers that this will be a free-will offering.

However we must not read this most recent statement as diminishing the importance or the obligation of tithing; it merely shifts the emphasis from that of being a "regulated" obligation to that of being "an act of love".

What is the difference between tithing and alms-giving? The 10% tithe comes off the top of whatever we earn or possess from whatever source. Alms-giving is over and above the tithe and comes out of the 9/10 remaining after the payment of the tithe. Tithing is our obligation to God as a Christian and can be considered obedience to the First Great Commandment. Alms-giving is one good way of loving our neighbor in response to the Second Greatest Commandment.

4 basic principles

Instead of viewing money as the root of all evil, we need to remember that Christ dealt extensively on the subject throughout his teachings. Did you know that 16 out of 38 of his

parables deal with money? That there are only 500+ verses on both prayer and faith but more than 2000 verses dealing with money and possessions? That more is said in the New Testament about money than heaven and hell combined?

The Parable of the Talents sets out four basic principles governing money and possessions.

Firstly, God owns it all. That's right, everything we have came from Him and is His. We are his stewards only for the period of time that He allows us to be. What this really means is this: God has the right to whatever He wants whenever He wants it. It is all His, because an owner has rights, and we, as stewards, have only responsibilities. (Matt. 25:14). When a father allows his son to drive the family car, the ownership is still the father's, but the son has the responsibility to return the car in good condition and, hopefully, with a full tank of gasoline. In the same way, since God owns it all, we literally possess much but own nothing. If we really believe this, we become free to give generously of God's resources for God's purposes and for His Church and His people.

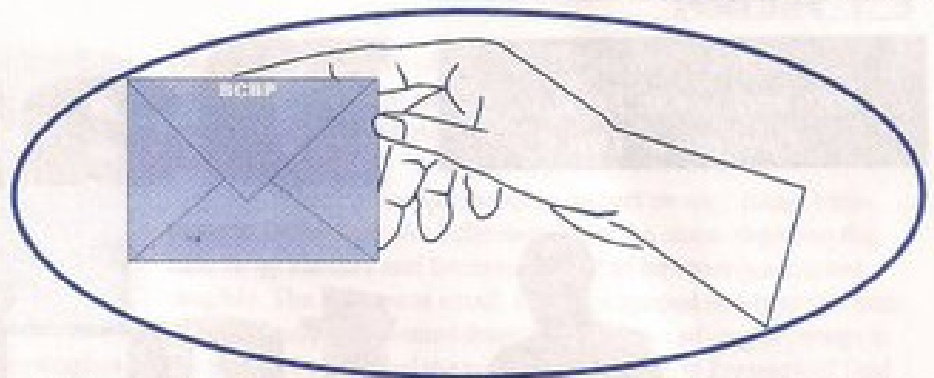
Secondly, we should view each spending decision as a spiritual decision. Ask yourself: if God audited your spending decisions, your checkbook and your bank account today, would He approve of the way you disburse His money?

Thirdly, God uses money and material possessions in our earthly life as a tool, a test, and a testimony. Money and possessions are a tool that God uses to help us grow up. God is not trying to frustrate us when He limits our financial resources. He is just trying to get our attention! And, let's admit it, money is the best attention-getter! He tests our faithfulness through our use of the possessions He has given us (Luke 16:11-12). And how we feel about using our wealth for the good of others is our testimony to the world. Do we want to keep things for ourselves or share them generously with others (Matt. 5:13-16)?

Lastly, Jesus points out to us in the Parable of the Talents that the amount is not important. What is important to God is how we handle what we have, what He has entrusted us with. We are not more or less Christian by how much or how little we accumulate or give away. God looks at the means of acquisition and the joy we have in using or giving away what we have acquired.

Tithing in the BCBP

Financial giving is part of a mature Christian life and an important part of being a member of the BCBP. If this area is not in good order, the person has not fully committed to the BCBP community, its vision and mission and certainly not its core values of "Love for God", "Love for Community", and Commitment to the Lord's work". It is precisely because we are Christians and part of God's



Church, as well as the BCBP community, that we are called to a life of service, sharing and stewardship - and therefore we share the responsibility for the continued existence of both the Church and the BCBP.

Your failure - or reluctance — to contribute to the support of the Church and those people or organizations doing God's work, like the BCBP, points to poor stewardship, lack of confidence and trust in God, the dominance of materialism in your life, and an ungrateful spirit for all the God has done for you.

How much do I have to give? This is the wrong question to ask as it presumes that you still feel obligated to tithe. Yes, tithing is an obligation but the practice of tithing should be approached with an attitude of joy (for the abundance God has given you), love (for God), responsible stewardship and a generous spirit.

How much? The general rule is 10% and is the benchmark we all must look to. However for some people, 10% may be too much. And for others, 10% may be too small. We should all examine our own circumstances and the vast amount of blessings we have been given through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us and the gift of the Holy Spirit to us. We should reflect on the endless chain of grace (How strong is it in my life?) that we need to continue to build on and strengthen. We need to remember God's challenge and promise in Malachi 3:10 and St. Paul's advice in 2 Corinthians 9:6-10.

In the Old Testament, the Jews were instructed to take their tithes "to the storehouse", which was the temple - the center of religion for the entire country. Today, since the body of Christ has so many manifestations (churches, communities, missions, hospitals, etc.) people can choose where their tithes and resource-sharing should go. It's important that you give your tithe to the place that feeds you spiritually. If your spiritual growth comes from BCBP, then BCBP should be a channel for your tithes since membership entails responsibilities as well as privileges.

Giving one's tithe today is not just a matter of determining how much, what percentage of your income. To be able to respond to the responsibility of stewardship that God demands of us requires more soul searching, more training of the conscience, more selfless love for others, more faith, more voluntary sacrifice and less compulsion. True tithing tests our values, what we treasure most and where our hearts are.

In the Brotherhood, we give our tithes through our action group leader who turns them in to our chapter or outreach treasurer. All amounts are duly receipted and recorded in the books. The BCBP is audited by Sycip, Gorres and Velayo Auditing Firm and the books are open for inspection.

Our mission in the Brotherhood is to bring Christ to the marketplace. Remember — 50% of all funds received are used for accomplishment of this mission.

God challenges us: "Try me and see what happens. I will open the floodgates of heaven and pour out abundant blessings on you!" Happy Tithing! ☺

**It's important
that you give your tithe to
the place that feeds you spiritually.
If your spiritual growth comes from
BCBP, then BCBP should be a channel for
your tithes since membership entails
responsibilities as well as
privileges.**

Book Review:
by Charisse Ch. Fortich,
Cagayan de Oro



Daring to Live on the EDGE

*The adventure of faith
and finances*

by Loren Cunningham

All of us have experienced the "El Nino" or economic crises in our businesses and professions. About a week ago, our efforts to correct and stabilize some financial liabilities caught up somehow with these difficult times. As I continued to pray for guidance, this book gave back my confidence and peace. Let me share parts of it with you.

Chapter 4 (p.47) God and Money

Why does money hold such power over men?

What does God think of money? Does He see it as a necessary evil? Didn't Jesus put God and money in opposite corners when He told us, "You cannot serve both God and Money" (Matt. 6:24)?

Money is not evil, though the love of money is. Paul said the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10 KJV). There's nothing wrong with money itself. But because of the sin in men's hearts, the love of money can lead to pain and bondage - even for Christians. Money itself is not evil. Money and God are not on opposite sides either. In fact, God uses money

as a practical tool for many things. He uses money, or the lack of it, to test us, to see what is in our hearts. How we use money is a gauge of where our priorities are.

God also uses money to teach us to trust HIM. Remember how Elijah was led by the Lord to a brook where he hid out for some time during a severe famine? God didn't allow him to become comfortable trusting in that brook, even though it had been God's provision for him. He was ready to lead Elijah somewhere else, so He caused Elijah's brook to run dry.

When our financial brook runs dry, we are ready to listen to the Lord who wants our willful dependence on Him. His only aim is to teach us and to bring us closer to Himself. We need to realize that the lack of money is just as definitely from God as the provision of money. When the brook dries up, we need to ask God how to move on, like Elijah did. Because money is important in our lives, God's Word devotes much space to it. In fact, there are 3,225 references to financial matters in the Bible.

Chapter 14. When It just doesn't work

What happens when you hear from the Lord, move out to obey Him, and the money runs out? You try to concentrate on your work, but all you can think of is, "Why isn't God supplying my need! I'm doing what He told me to do! Why isn't this working?"

God is absolutely faithful - He can't be anything else. When He gives His word, He will bring it about. Unless ...

You see, God's promises are always based on fulfilling conditions. They are never automatic. Let's look at some questions to ask yourself during those times when it just doesn't work:

1. *Do I love things more than I love God (materialism)?*

2. *Have I missed the will of God?*

3. *Am I in debt?* "Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another." (Rom. 13:8 NASB) Debt can be the reason you are in financial difficulty. God in His love for you holds up your finances until you set matters straight and learn to live responsibly within His provision for you. What God is telling us in Romans 13:8 is to be up-to-

date, to be current with our obligations. It is financial wisdom to only borrow items with equity, which can be resold to pay your debt if you are unable to meet your obligation.

4. *Have I been tithing?* Malachi chapter three states that we are robbing God if we are not giving one-tenth of our income on a regular basis. If we obey Him and start tithing, God promises in Malachi 3:11 (NASB) to "rebuke the devourer for you, so that it may not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes..." If your finances are being devoured, perhaps you have not been diligently obeying God in this area.

5. *Have I been generous?* Giving could be the key to your financial breakthrough.

6. *Have I been grateful for God's provision?* The formation of Christ's character in us is what God considers most important.

7. *Have I been faithful over the small things?* This principle of being faithful over a little before we are given responsibility for much is repeated in many areas of our lives. God in His faithfulness will not subject us to the test of abundant money until we have been faithful with our nickels and dimes. (Zech. 4:10)

8. *Have I disobeyed anything God has told me?* Sometimes a lack of finances can be God's signal to us that we have gotten off the track somewhere. God knows that, and in love and mercy to us sometimes withholds our provisions until we seek Him and repent.

9. *Have I asked God to supply my need?* James 4:2 says, "You do not have, because you do not ask God."

You don't have to set aside ten days to pray and fast to ask Him either. Just ask Him.



It is financial wisdom to only borrow items with equity, which can be resold to pay your debt if you are unable to meet your obligation.

10. *Am I more interested in learning what God is trying to teach me or am I more interested in having my needs met?* What God teaches us is built into our character and our knowledge of Him and His ways. These are the treasures in heaven of Matt. 6:20 which we are accumulating. These treasures can never be taken from us.

11. *Is there "sin in the camp"?* This is a question to ask if you are leading a group or an organization that has been facing an unmet need. The phrase, "sin in the camp" comes from the story in Joshua 7 of the defeat at Ai because of the sin of one man - Achan. It is important to point out that this question is only appropriate if you are in leadership and a group is suffering financial setbacks that are otherwise unexplainable. Also, remember that God's provision for you is not dependent upon other's obedience, but upon yours. Even if others are disobedient, if you remain faithful and obedient to God, He will find a way to meet your need.

12. *Am I reaping from past sins or wrong choices?* When we have to live with the consequences of our sin, reaping their effects even after we have received God's forgiveness, it builds a hatred for sin into us. Another possibility is that you are facing the results of foolish choices, not sinful ones. In either case, ask people to pray with you. Such curses or consequences can be lifted, lightened, or shortened through the intercessory prayer of others.

13. *Have I been working hard?* God put within everyone a desire to be productive. Of course, there are those who cannot work, and we should show them mercy and give them aid. But we should never encourage laziness.

14. *Have I touched God's glory?* This is a Bible term which means taking

credit away from the Lord and giving it to yourself. (1 Chro 29:11-12) There is a danger in success in every avenue of life, including ministry. We can allow a subtle shift of attention away from Jesus and onto ourselves as leaders. Money problems are one of the ways the Lord uses to signal that something is wrong.

15. *Have I been independent and proud?* God wants us to be dependent upon Him and interdependent upon one another, not independent. If we have trouble with an independent spirit, He can use financial holdups to try and get our attention.

16. *Have I been looking to people rather than God to supply my needs?* This is the wonderful thing about living the life of faith. We can never get too far from our dependence on the Lord. He can use financial need to get our attention, moving us to rely on Him again.

17. *Am I fearful of the future?* This kind of insecurity grows and grows until it becomes a paralyzing bondage. Perfect love drives out fear, according to 1 John 4:18. We can turn to Jesus for complete freedom from fear. We can trust Him with our future. Everything else is ultimately insecure. Are you putting your trust in savings? If you put your trust in the systems of the world, they will fail you. Yet Jesus is greater than the world which He created, greater than the universe which He is sustaining every second by "His powerful word" (Heb.1:3).

Chapter 15 - If you fall off the edge...

Good fathers provide for their children. Good fathers also answer their children's questions when something goes wrong, when your money stops coming in, just go to your heavenly Father in prayer and ask Him what is causing the holdup. ➔



Daring to Live on the EDGE


Your first step is to ask God to tell you. Proverbs 4:7 (NASB) says, "with all your acquiring, get understanding." Too many fail to do this.

They get guidance from God to do something, it doesn't work, and they limp away without stopping to find our why. Living by faith means you have to know why it doesn't work when it doesn't work. Learning to have faith in God means asking questions.

If you have gone through all seventeen points in the chapter 14, and still don't know why you have "fallen off the edge" financially, ask God if you are being attacked by Satan. If it is something Satan is doing to you, not something you are responsible for yourself, you can easily withstand him with the authority Jesus has given you as a believer. Command the devil to withdraw from you, according to James 4:7.

While waiting for God to provide, recount His faithfulness to you from the past. Thank God for supplying your past needs. Often, we only notice God's daily provision when it stops.

There are many blessings during times of financial need which cannot come in any other way or time. You can learn strength through times of need. You also learn during a time of financial lack the truth of God's Word in Luke 12:15, where it says a man's life does not consist of what he owns. You learn that His joy is greater and is not dependent upon money. A time of financial need restores our sense of trusting in God. Finally, while waiting on God for financial release, meditate on Psalm 37. This psalm seems to be written especially for someone needing money.

That's what it means to live the life of faith. You have to have real confidence in the One who is carrying you across. But are you willing to have Him carry you across a tightrope, high above a roar of water? You can have that experience, you know. You can have the thrill of trusting God and seeing Him meet your needs. 

WHAT IF:

WHAT IF,

God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank Him yesterday?

WHAT IF,

God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?

WHAT IF,

We never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when GOD sent the rain?

WHAT IF,

God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?

WHAT IF,

God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

WHAT IF,

God took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?

WHAT IF,

God didn't send His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin,

WHAT IF,

the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?

WHAT IF,

God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

WHAT IF,

God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him yesterday?

WHAT IF,

God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?

WHAT IF,

God met our needs the way we give Him our lives???

why grow OLD when you can stay young?

by Anonimong, Davao



Don't ever say or think that you are getting old, because ageing is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you think you're growing old and weak, you are. But if you think there is a way to delay the ageing process and "be young", you will. WE PRESCRIBE WHAT WE ARE, AND WHAT OUR LIFE IS GOING TO BECOME.

A simple exercise routine like walking or dancing can redefine the meaning of 'getting on in years'. Growing older need not mean losing one's exuberance for living, one's innate vitality, or one's capacity to learn a new activity. Being advanced in years should not deter us from entering a new level of experience, albeit with a little assistance from our younger peers. Scientific studies have revealed that elderly people taking up new hobbies or projects tend to prolong their lives by as much as 20% more than the average lifespan. Taking up writing, for instance, can improve one's memory and perception significantly, as brain cells need to be re-activated.

One day, it will no longer come as a surprise when centenarians can enter and finish a full marathon. Even now, past the 50th mile of our lives, as we come to grips with the limits of our physiology, we begin to question age-old perceptions (or myths) about ageing. Call it a paradigm breakaway, but we senior runners - who compete with other runners 20 years our junior, have discovered that it is not the decades of years, but deactivated "gears" that make our bodies deteriorate. Lack of a REGULAR exercise, due perhaps to laziness, poor motivation or self-discipline, is the main cause of disease. Any muscle in the body that we neglect to use or exercise regularly will become weaker and smaller, and may

even atrophy, and naturally, this only contributes to ageing.

Gen. Carlos Romulo once quipped, "Age does not matter, as long as what matters does not age." There is in fact no matter on earth that does not deteriorate with inactivity. Said another lothario, "if you keep using it, you'll never lose it." True. And it applies not only *muscles*, but to all the other organs in your body as well.

For us blood galleons, it can also be said: "if you keep losing it, you'll always be using it." Of course this applies to bloodletting - losing one's blood for the use of those in need of it. But the same principle applies most dramatically to the adding of years to our life. The more you give, the more you receive in terms of reversing

the ageing process, because your blood is constantly rejuvenated, and the production activity keeps the whole body vibrant. Plus the fact that this noblest form of charity — shedding an ounce of one's life for another - makes one blessed and happy.

The correlation of ACTIVITY to LONGEVITY applies not only to muscles, blood, organs, and bones, but even to inanimate objects like wood and steel. Left to the elements without use, metal soon corrodes with rust; but employed even under heavy stress or heat, it will stand the test of time. How much more for living tissues that are nourished by nature's powers, plus the Will of the Divine?

My own indefatigable mother is a strong case in point. She is approaching her diamond year, but this lady is still going strong - on the dance floor. And to think that only three years ago, the only music she could dance to was the waltz! She is getting a lot of exercise and aerobic benefits for her heart, lungs, muscles, ligaments, bones (even her once irascible temper has improved!) - all because she's having a good time dancing. And she's not even getting proper sleep from this activity. But what the heck, she's having the time of her life, and we, her children, are the happier for it.

Life is too precious to let every moment that passes go by without being relished or employed for something worth its time. Yes, time is gold if well spent. But time can be so fleeting it can leave us empty, if we do not give it meaning for the glory of its Maker. Not until we have given selfless value to life down to its last drop can we welcome with open arms that which is the best of portions — which is why it's saved for the last — sweet eternal rest. ☺



Ronnie Caballero. In keeping up with so many comments, recommendations and suggestions being received, Ronnie is now busy organizing a more cohesive and permanent Kapatiran staff. With this group together with the full support of the National Council, Ronnie announces that a new Kapatiran will emerge in the years to come. In his editorial piece, Ronnie emphasizes that there is no other option in living in a community such as the BCBP, but to love.



Nancy Catan. Even still very busy as the supportive wife of the Manila Outreach head, Nancy still maintains her presence in the Kapatiran work. In this issue she writes about one of the basic concerns of any community - Tithing. She also shares with us her latest travel, this time to the Holy Land. Nancy leads us to reflect on the importance of the past. She says that tracing our roots is important because as we come to a clearer understanding of the events and lives of the past, we can put our present into clearer focus. And so face the future with confidence.



Eddie Mendoza. Fresh from successfully running the BCBP for the Luzon region, Eddie now goes back to his chores as Greenhills Chapter Head. He is scheduled to have a planning session for the chapter early 1999 which is expected to render a busier year for him and his governance. In his "Jesus was no wimp" article, Eddie assures us that Jesus, though submissive, was forceful, direct to the point, a no-holds-barred kind of guy, even as he was always thankful and compassionate, bold but willing to look foolish, stuck to his mission despite severe odds, and held people accountable but He himself was very transparent.



Fernando de Larrazabal. Tito Larry is finishing up his new book entitled "Quest for Answers" 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. He is currently finalizing the program that will be undertaken for the forthcoming Luzon Council Conference, slated in February in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.



Sammy M. Ulanday. "The BCBP Country" the picture we see on the back cover of the Kapatiran, is further expressed, this time in words by Sammy, and given the title "The BCBP Country, the Brotherhood Community." With a little bit of geography lesson, this piece gives us a better perspective of where we are and our present "magnitude", at least in terms of locations in the archipelago.



Annie Salvador. Besides writing her column "From Cries to Kisses", Annie now has accepted the invitation of Ronnie Caballero to be a member of the Kapatiran permanent working staff. Her experiences as a writer, mother, wife and BCBP Makati servant will definitely provide the needed backbone for the Kapatiran editorial team. Annie's "Money Talks" gives us a lesson we can teach to our children regarding this often times "trouble-causing" thing called money.



Cynthia Matas. Cynthia's "Musings" in this issue gives us the chance to distinguish if Time is a friend or an enemy. This short but meaningful piece drives home the point the importance of making the most, and the "goodest" in the short time that we are allowed by God to live on this earth.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Rollie Ona, Roy Calleja, Rayben Maigue, Dodo and Junette Sta. Maria, Buttons Sison, Nene Bondoc Ocampo, Allan and Evelyn dela Cruz, Ric Galing of Quezon City Chapter, Joe Coruña, Charisse Ch. Fortich, Sandra Yap Ng, Pinky V. Lim of BCBP Cagayan de Oro, and Anonimong of BCBP-Davao

Albert Morales of FTC, Ellen Quijano of Starweek Sunday Magazine of Philippine Star 28 June 1998 issue, Word Among Us, Harvard Business Review, Neal F. McBride; Published by NavPress, and Ann Landers as shared by Mrs. Lesly Vick, Westlake Village, Calif.

Bacolod North and South, Baybay, Cagayan de Oro, Lucena, Mactan, Manila, Quezon City, Rizal, Tuguegarao Chapters/Outreach.

Article submitted but not published?



First and foremost, we would like to apologize for our oversight of not properly and timely acknowledging your contributions to the Kapatiran.

Secondly, we thank you for your submissions, suggestions and comments. These keep us going and encourage us further more in undertaking this service.

Thirdly, the explanation. As you may have noticed, we carry a theme in every issue, like in this case - "Community". This means that if your article does not run parallel to this theme, chances are it will not be published. However, we would like to make it clear that these "non-theme articles" do not go to the shredder. They go to our files and bring them up when they coincide with the chosen theme. Themes in the two succeeding issues are printed below the Table of Contents.

Of course there are exemptions, especially if an article carries a concern that is deemed very significant. This is an editorial prerogative.

Recently, we have implemented a program wherein 2 to 3 chapters/outreaches are featured in an issue, which is assigned around 25-30 percent of the total pages. Therefore, if it's your chapter/outreach's turn to be featured, your article would have more chances to be published. If your chapter/outreach is not featured, your articles and submissions can always be accommodated in the other 70% of the contents.

At any rate, we encourage you to keep those submissions coming. Who knows, your thoughts expressed in words may save a soul, in God's time.

-Editorial Staff

The BCBP Breakfast



The Laviñas, Bobby and Marite, witnessing for God during a breakfast meeting on the occasion of BCBP Iligan's installation



The Caballero's, Ronnie and Mari enjoying a light moment at Makati breakfast meeting.

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: Riverbend Hotel, Riverbank Commercial Complex, Marikina City

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 (1st 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: Riverbend Hotel, Riverbank Com'l Complex, Marikina City (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 Roa 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: JJ's Seafood Village (2nd & 4th Sat.)

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

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

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

THE BCBP COUNTRY

