

# KAPATIRAN

volume 13 • issue 6

January-February 1999

**JUST  
ONE  
SOUL**



# Breakfast Venues

## 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: Terraza Milleza (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: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal

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, SJ (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: Terreza Milleza (4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel (4th Sat.)

MACTAN: Flormont Hotel (2nd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: The Village Restaurant (4th Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (2nd Sat.)

ROXAS: Kanami Restaurant

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal (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 Parich Hall (2nd & 4th Sun.)

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

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

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

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

DAVAO: Terreza Milleza (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: Valteveian 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: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal (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 Resturant (1st & 3rd Sat.)

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

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





RONNIE CABALLERO

Greetings to all Brothers and Sisters!

Happy New Look! This is our greeting not only by appearance but in outlook as well for the New Year. Loaded with resolutions we face the year of God the Father with an ever-increasing desire to please both the BCBP member and the first-timer with an eye favoring evangelization. Every issue we will try our best to have a feature or an article on evangelization. In this issue we likewise have a new blood. We welcome aboard three new staffers to the Kapatiran team namely Buttons Sison of Quezon City Chapter who writes about a new battle cry and issue theme, *Just One More Soul*. There is also so much to expect from the entry of two brothers from Rizal, Dr. Benjie Cruz and Bro. Ricky Beltran (which explains our issue focus on Rizal Chapter). This does not mean that they are here only for their respective chapters but to give their best for the body in general.

We also have a Chapter Head in feature, that is Bro. Max Joaquin of Rizal with his message. We hope to be able to feature as many leaders as we can in every issue as everyone is unique and has much to offer in terms of wisdom which enriches everyone. So everyone must be on the ball, your turn will come sooner than you think.

Talking of leaders, we are featuring the message of Cardinal Sin on the Year of God the Father.

We wish also to take a leap forward in development of our national news. The National Council has just approved the forwarding of a monthly report from every governance team which will naturally update all of us. Please pray for this development as with the submission of each report we can really be of service to you by reporting the what, where, why and how's of every chapter and outreach which will like wise be beneficial to all.

We also continue to thank our regular columnists (Nancy, Sammy, Annie, Eddie, Tito Larry, Art and Cynthia) for their dedication and holiness. Without their sacrifices and quiet moments set aside for the glory of God, the Kapatiran would simply grind to a halt. So, here we are a mixture of old and new but of one Spirit with a fresh perspective. Can we do it? Not without you! Take a look at our new back cover and let us know. Your participation always matters to us. Amen!

*The Cover.* We wish to acknowledge Buttons Sison in his graphical representation of this issue's theme. The cover simply expresses our thoughts, that the Kapatiran issues, or any other works we do in the BCBP, can make a difference in someone's life, and save that one soul, for Christ.

**VIEWS**

*Issue Theme*

**JUST ONE MORE SOUL**

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We must not stop at inviting one person to the breakfast, or shepherding only one seeker through the BCLP. We need to see the evangelization of the marketplace as a process - a lifetime campaign! *by Buttons Sison*

*Editorial*

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They may not last long in the rubble of life without hearing the voice of the Lord. And guess whose responsibility it is to let them know that there is hope beyond the rubble of this world? *by Ronnie Caballero*

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If we do not tell the truth, we propagate the lies of the evil one. We need to ask Jesus to reveal to us the truth that overcomes all these lies. *by Eddie Mendoza*

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Evangelizing the marketplace is not only a matter of quantity or quality. We ourselves must be fit for the fight. *by Sammy M. Ulanday*

*Back to Basics*

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In the end, it is not a matter of competence and worthiness that is important; it is our simple willingness to serve the Lord that counts.

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We cannot build a strong community and do effective evangelization without firm grounding in spirituality. *by Max Joaquin*

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When your grade schooler challenges you with something from his latest SexEd class, smile, take a deep breath, say a prayer, look him in the eye, and sweetly ask: "Why do you want to know?" *by Annie Salvador*

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Jesus invites us to be with Him on the Cross. The choice is ours to make. *by Fernando de Larrazabal*

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# JUST ONE MORE SOUL

## One Vision. One Mission.

*Buttons Sison, Quezon City*

**W**e finally meshed our schedules and got together — five active men. All of us coming from different ‘walks’ of life. Careers are so diverse between us (not to mention age gaps) that you’d think common ground seems impossible. Come to think of it, what would a practicing Surgeon, a Shipping Executive, a full time Servant, a power Contractor and a Systems Consultant talk about on a lazy Saturday afternoon?

We had come together to answer an invitation to serve...in the Brotherhood...on the Kapatiran. Had some delicious ‘dimsum’ and made fun of awkward events in between bites. But this was a treat with an agenda in mind. The Kapatiran!

The question was thrown: What can we do to make Kapatiran a more effective means of communicating God’s message to the marketplace? We analyzed, argued and, at times disagreed. Our diversity showed itself during that afternoon’s brainstorming session.

And then several hours later glimmers of inspiration darted into the ‘war zone’. We heard the words “organize”, “mission”, “spirit” and “evangelistic”. We knew that a seed had been planted by the great Almighty and needed nourishment..

We decided to focus our energies on improving the Kapatiran organization, organizations always need improvements, di ba?) so that it can effectively carry out the BCBP’s Mission and Vision of evangelizing the marketplace. And all this without losing sight of the Kapatiran’s own mission and vision of answering the call for information, inspiration, formation and harmonization nationwide.

Sounds ambitious, doesn’t it? Were we trying to do too much? What would be a great focus for the Kapatiran this year? Something that would make the Lord happy.

The answer came— JUST ONE MORE SOUL! That elusive human spirit who would pick up a Kapatiran issue, lead him or her to any breakfast venue, come to terms with Lord in a BCLP, commit his or her life to discipleship and bear fruit in service. That one more soul who would read the Kapatiran for information about the Brotherhood’s mission and vision, be inspired by its features and sharings, grow through its informative articles and feel one with BCBP brothers and sisters nationwide. A magazine with a focus on JUST ONE MORE SOUL!

Does this mean ONE for the whole community? Figure it out! It can be ONE for each member, ONE for each chapter, ONE of your enemies or ONE or a HUNDRED, as long as it meets His criteria, then heaven will rejoice.

JUST ONE MORE SOUL! We must not stop at inviting one person to the breakfast, or shepherding only one seeker through the BCLP. We need to see this evangelization of the marketplace as a process, on-going, continuing and dynamic. A lifetime campaign!

Jesus never stopped telling people about the Good News. He talked about God his Father and loving one another and the path of righteousness and holiness with everyone He met. Even when He was thirsty and needed to sit down and rest—remember His powerful message to the Samaritan woman at the well? Even when the scribes and Pharisees irritated him with incessant questions. Even when the sick, the blind and the lame crowded around him so that He never had a chance to sit down or even eat regular meals.

JUST ONE MORE SOUL! A simple, short and prophetic vision for Kapatiran’s 1999. Echoed silently throughout the magazine’s pages, but loud enough for every heartbeat to hear.

So etch this vision into your heart, make every beat resound for JUST ONE MORE SOUL.

The marketplace is far and wide, but it is also the person who stands next to us in the elevator, the executive who busily occupies the office next to ours, the members of the “coffee club” and the office bowling team, the client we are scheduled to meet today, and our competitors. That ONE MORE SOUL is out there. All we need to do is open our eyes and look.

And the channel of grace for that ONE MORE SOUL can be you, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

God bless.



# The POWER of ONE

**F**or today, I will be borrowing the title of an inspiring movie about the days of racism in South Africa, to bring you this story from Dr. Scott Hahn about a father and a son. In a small community in Afghanistan there was a father who brought his ten-year-old son every day to school. He would constantly remind his son that whatever would happen he should remember his promise that he will be there to pick him up after school. And so, day after day would pass and the father would faithfully be there to pick up his son.

On one particular afternoon a powerful earthquake struck the town as the father was on his way to pick up his son. Buildings and houses were flattened in every direction the father looked. And barely had he regained his balance when the father took off in the direction of his son's school. Cries of grief and grimace filled the air and his worse fears were confirmed when he saw his son's school building flattened.

His heart sank. But immediately he recalled from the rubble he was facing the approximate location of his son's classroom. He called out his son's name several times and was met only with a stony silence. He clambered onto the rubble and started to dig with his bare hands. After a few minutes some other parents and other people came around. Some shouted out that it was useless to dig seeing the extensiveness of the building's damage. He shouted back that they can at least try for one or two hours. Some joined in and they dug and dug. Two hours, three, four passed. They continued. Six, seven, eight. Some started to go home. But the father continued. Twelve, fifteen and then twenty-four. Alone, he continued. Thirty. More people gathered shouting to him about the futility of his efforts. Thirty-eight. Hoarsely, he shouted his son's name. A voice replied, "Papa! We are here!"

It was his son! After confirming their condition, he requested their patience as he gathered more people to help him dig them out. That day along with his son they saved fourteen other children. The son, beaming before his classmates, declared, "I told you my father would come because that's what he promised me!" The power of one.

We also have such promise from a father. That we can find in God the Father. But the intensity of his love and faithfulness for us is so much more. We may be buried deep within the bonds of sin, hatred, unforgiveness, lust, materialism, corruption, what have you. But He never stops digging and calling out our names wanting with such a great desire to bring us into a new life. Unlike the human father, the Almighty Father has a big advantage. The human father above the rubble can just hope and shout for his son without certainty whether he can be heard or not. God from above sends His Holy Spirit without any hindrance from anywhere or anything except from our own free will. And for as long as we hear Him and accept Him, His Holy Spirit will transform and refresh us through our

*They may not last long in the rubble of life without hearing the voice of the Lord. And guess whose responsibility it is to let them know that there is hope beyond the rubble of this world?*

**YOURS,  
MINE,  
OURS!!!**

trials, raising our hopes. And once our hopes are raised, we can turn to those beside us who like us were formerly hopeless and tell them the reason for our joy and hope. That's the Good News!

Who knows? It may be a spouse, your own children, of-

fice-mates, bosses or subordinates who are wrapped in this hopelessness and blindness of our earthly life. They may not last long in the rubble of life without hearing the voice of the Lord. And guess whose responsibility it is to let them know that there is hope beyond the rubble of this world? **YOURS, MINE, OURS!!!** But to start with, it just needs the **POWER OF ONE. YOU!** Then God takes over.

In this Year of God the Father let us keep this story close to our hearts and know that the responsibility of evangelization cannot be just left to the clergy. There will always be people beside us waiting to hear the right voice. The voice of mercy and salvation that will lead us to Eternal Life with the Almighty Father who loves each and everyone of us like no other.



**O**ca: What initially seemed such a big responsibility as a couple to lead BCLP 7 was turned by the Lord into a personal message and blessing. Barely weeks after the start of the course we learned that Dessa was pregnant. This was a complete shock to us considering that her last pregnancy was eight years ago and we were not keen on having another baby. Surely in view of everyone's ominous forecast of hard times ahead, another baby would be an additional burden to us financially. I found myself not only praying for the participants and the service team but also for myself.

The Lord reminded us of other couples that we know who have gone to great lengths to have a child, while others have resorted to adoption just to fulfill a lifelong dream to have a baby. The Lord let us realize that we had been chosen to bring into this world another Christian and that it was a special privilege to raise another child in His likeness. He focused our attention on our four children and on how He has carefully provided for them with good health, good education and given us the means to raise them with relatively comfortable lives.



Our apprehension about Dessa's pregnancy and everything else associated with it vanished as we felt God's assurance and love. We felt that we ourselves had become "participants" in the on-going BCLP; we had ceased to become "exempted" from God's reach just because we were merely serving. We weren't just onlookers but actual recipients of His powerful grace.

**Dessa:** The orientation and 1st session of the BCLP fell on my birthday. Little did I know that the Lord had a big "birthday gift" in store for me as it was at about this time that I must have conceived our baby. My last pregnancy had been 8 years ago and it was hard to believe that I was "on the way" again.

The next few weeks were marked by severe headaches and nausea spells. I prayed that I would be okay on Saturdays for the BCLP and true enough, the Holy Spirit would empower me with the strength to listen to the talks, assist in the activities and join the prayer warriors. I was even able to continue attending to my patients on Saturdays, which were heavy clinic days for us, despite my discomfort.

**Oca:** We cannot help but look back at BCLP 7 and the numerous messages that the Lord had given us as we served as head couple. Despite the initial apparent lack of resources, low number of participants and organizational lapses, as we continually turned to Him for discernment and guidance, things began to run more smoothly as the BCLP progressed. Pledges of financial support came in, attendance improved and we felt the growing bond among participants and their discussion leaders as their spiritual growth became more palpable.

**Dessa:** I could not help but admire the Lord's wondrous ways. It seemed like the Lord was working in the participants' lives at such a pace and depth that was surprising to say the least. Imagine a participant praying in tongues even before the Baptism in the Holy Spirit! I cannot forget when during one of the sessions, I lost my wallet in the session hall. When I realized my loss the next day and went back for it, I was pleasantly surprised when one of the waiters returned it to me and I learned that he was a member of Couples for Christ!

**Oca:** Time and again, the Lord spoke to us through the concerns, problems, trials and victories of members of the service team as well as the participants. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass held prior to each session proved to be another welcome avenue the Lord used for his messages. People were touched by the talks, the music, the group discussions, the warmth of brothers and sisters, and even through the books on the book table.

**Dessa:** The Lord made us feel how sweet it is to serve Him even though it meant sacrificing one's time, talent and treasure. I personally learned new perspectives from the talks as the speakers came well prepared, well-read and spiritually ready to deliver God's message. Even before the Baptism and Commitment sessions, the participants found that they were hooked on the Lord.

# SERVING in the BCLP:

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND BLESSINGS *Oca and Dessa Cruz, Rizal Chapter*

**Oca:** In retrospect, it seems that as course leaders, we learned more than what we offered to the participants. Truly the Lord touched Dessa and me through our responsibilities as His servants.

**Dessa:** They say that serving in the BCLP almost always results in abundant blessings from the Lord even as the problems encountered are meant to strengthen us. My pregnancy, though it came as a big surprise and in difficult times, definitely is a welcome blessing. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our fifth child, a son, by the end of March. Just as we entrusted the success of the BCLP to our Lord Jesus Christ, we once again lift up to the Lord my coming delivery.



# Growing in faith

## through service in the BCBP

Erol Villanueva, Rizal Chapter

*"Obstacles come and go when there is strong faith. However, the greatest of all obstacles is losing faith. How to overcome this? Only one weapon...FAITH."*

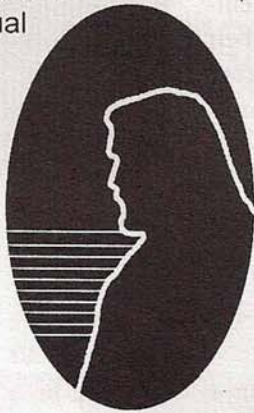
After serving as an action group leader for more than a year, I noticed that instead of growing spiritually, I was beginning to feel the pressure of my responsibilities, both in being an action group leader (AGL) and in being a manager in FEBTC. I entered a period of "spiritual dryness". Since I did not want my members to be affected by this dryness, I asked our chapter head if we could take a leave for a while as an AGL.

But the Lord did not allow me to completely lose touch with the BCBP. He sent me in another direction that freed me from my spiritual drought.

The right time came when the Lucena Outreach and the governance of Rizal chapter planned to hold a marriage retreat and Christian Life Program, respectively. My wife and I were asked to serve as a servant couple for the BCMR in Lucena. Then two days later we were invited to serve in BCLP 7 in our chapter. We readily accepted for I felt that this was where the Lord planned to overcome our spiritual drought.

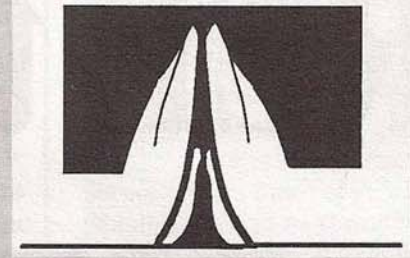
Of course, no road is smooth and fair weather is not always seen. My faith was again tested when pressing personal problems tried to distract me from the BCLP. Actually it was serving in the BCLP that helped me so much. The sharings and teachings were timely and very related to what I was experiencing at that moment. All the ways that helped our speakers surpass their problems made me realize that my own problems too would be solved in God's own time. Even the homilies during the masses enlightened me. My spirit was rekindled, I overcame my obstacles and the bond between Him and me became stronger.

Presently I experience an inexplainable bliss whenever I attend our BCBP activities. I feel complete...and I feel strong and confident that no storm can ever waver my faith in the Lord. God is always here for me and will always be. Whatever spiritual road we take, our faith becomes stronger with each step we take. God trusts us with believing that we can do it and it is up to us to use this faith to hold on to Him and walk the road that He paves for us.



# KEEPING THE FAITH

Rudy Menguita, Rizal Chapter



Like every other employee, I also was affected by the Asian regional crisis. Since our company's sales and collections were way too low — in fact, below our break-even mark — our salaries were delayed and cash advances were over-stretched. To make matters worse, most of the students who were enrolled in my wife Yoly's tutoring services pulled out as their parents also had their own cost-cutting measures.

Despite these difficulties I took comfort in the Lord's eternal and inspiring words: "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you."

In turn, these were the exact words which served as the invitation to my wife and me to serve as the assistant course leader couple in the Brotherhood Christian Life Program, BCLP #7 of the Rizal Chapter. We both enthusiastically accepted.

As the 13-week BCLP ran its course, I asked and I received, I sought and I found, I knocked and the Lord opened the door.

I was offered to be one of the resource persons to conduct PLDT's Touching Lives seminar, which in turn, allowed me to set myself free from the company I previously worked for. Similarly, I got feelers from the training group I was working with that the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation had put up a Technical Training Center. I didn't qualify for employment but my wife did.

Indeed the Lord works in mysterious ways.

On top of all that the Lord provided me with another job — I now work as a consultant-on-call at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

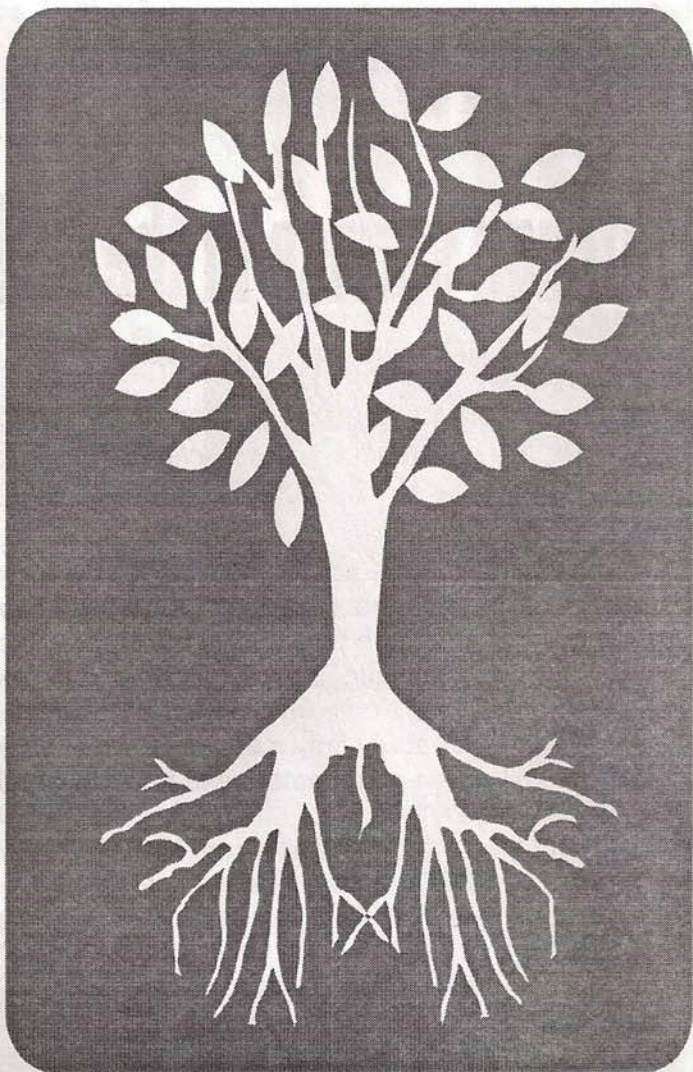
But I wasn't the only one who benefited from the Lord's blessings. All the twenty-two participants in the BCLP did, too. Aside from being blessed with material things, good relationships were formed and a lot of other couples — from confused to non-practicing Catholics — found richer, more satisfying spiritual lives.

From experience I can now say with conviction that service is a consistent source of blessings. We should never let our feelings of unworthiness prevent us from sharing our God-given talents with our colleagues. In the end it is not a matter of competence and worthiness that is important; it is our simple willingness to serve the Lord that counts.



As chapter head of BCBP Rizal, Max compares their chapter growth with that of a healthy robust tree and shares with us his vision for the chapter's next three years.

# The TREE that is RIZAL



**I** envision our chapter as a tree. The roots of the tree symbolize spirituality. The bigger the tree, the bigger the roots need to be. We cannot build a strong community and do effective evangelization without firm grounding in spirituality.



Spirituality is simply defined as our personal relationship with the Lord characterized by a deep prayer life and a hunger for the Lord's word in Scripture. I believe the Lord's call for spirituality is not only for our leaders, but for all our members as well.

The trunk symbolizes our *community life*. A healthy tree has a robust body. In the same way, a healthy community has a healthy community life.

What do we mean by this? The basic characteristic of a strong community is *unity*. The body does not split into different directions. There are no factions, no competing groups. All are working for the same purpose and goal that the Lord Himself gives to the group. Relationships are harmonious. They may not be perfect, but members are seeking to be at peace with each other. They know how to ask for forgiveness and how to give forgiveness.

Leaders care for their members and members love and respect their leaders. Just as in the story of the first Christian community narrated in Acts, the community grows in numbers very fast because outsiders are attracted by the witness of the community members.

The upper tree — the leaves, the flowers and the fruits — symbolize our *evangelistic results*. Just as the leaves, flowers and fruits of a tree come from deep roots and a healthy trunk, the evangelistic harvest that we see can only come from deep spirituality and a healthy community life. Evangelization does not and cannot operate separately from these two important areas of our life as a body.

I am also very excited to share with you what I visualize at the end of my three years as a chapter head. First, I see a strong and healthy community growing in such great numbers that Rizal as a chapter will be ready to split into two. This will be a split brought about not by division but by grace.

I see Lucena Outreach becoming a chapter.

I see our chapter being very active in corporate evangelization, building prayer communities in companies operating in our area of responsibility.

*"I see a strong and healthy community growing in such great numbers that Rizal as a chapter will soon be ready to split into two."*

Can all these happen? Too good to be true? To be sure, they will not happen because of the chapter head. Nor because we have great leaders. Nor because we have hardworking members. Let's not kid ourselves.

This is not our work. This is the Lord's work and we are only His servants. It is the Lord who will make these things happen. We just need to cooperate with the Lord in his great plan for our chapter. We look forward to seeing the tree that is Rizal not just grow in spirituality, a strong community life and evangelization but that it will become the beginning of a great forest of such trees. Will you say "Amen" to the Lord? I pray that you all do.



# Pre-planning session evaluates chapter's progress

On January 17, 1999 the Rizal chapter held a day-long pre-planning meeting for the year 1999 at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City. Chapter head Max Joaquin presided over the affair which attended by unit leaders, action group leaders and service ministry heads.

Members evaluated the state of the chapter with regards to the BCBP's mission of conversion, commitment and commissioning. Questions posed included: Where should we be? Where are we now?

The answers pointed to more leadership seminars and the establishment of a speakers and teachers pool for 1999. A lot of questions regarding worship, chapter assemblies, action group meetings and tithing were also discussed during the fruitful workshop.



*Members of the Rizal chapter leadership in conference on January 19, 1999 held at Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City.*



*Breakfast team assessing matters after launching a men's breakfast at Manila East Golf Range, Taytay, Rizal*

## Taytay breakfast launched

The Rizal chapter launched a men's breakfast on January 30, 1999 at the Manila East Golf Range, Taytay, Rizal. This venue is an extension of the regular Rizal breakfasts held at the Riverbend Hotel in Marikina City and targets businessmen and profes-

sionals in the Taytay-Cainta-Angono area according to Rizal's mission director Ping Ramirez.

Seventeen first timers and most of the Rizal chapter members attentively listened to the sharing of Atty. Ric Galing of BCBP Quezon City. He apologized for coming almost two hours late as he got lost and reached the far corners of Antipolo City in his search for Taytay. This however gave the music ministry a chance to practice and sing a lot of songs!

The first timers showed a lot of enthusiasm and promised to return with their wives in the next joint breakfast.

## Rizal BCLP 7 graduates say:

**Boyet:** "We have been truly blessed during this BCLP. My wife passed her CFA exams and I am about to finish my new course. We even acquired a better car."

**Lally:** "Henry and I attended the BCBP breakfast through the invitation of total strangers — Ping and Nitz Ramirez. Through them also, we joined the recent BCLP with a lot of reservations. Moreover, during the course a lot of big waves assaulted our married life and I considered quitting several times. But I hung on and repeatedly told myself, "God is in charge". Eventually as we continued attending the course, the

conflicts between my husband and myself were slowly resolved."

**Roselle:** "My father is a Protestant and my mother is a Catholic. And my grandmother, a Protestant also reared me. Growing up was confusing because I was continuously shuffled between my parents' and grandmother's houses. My childhood dream was to have a good Catholic husband and a family brought up the Christian way. After the BCLP, I am sure that I will attain these dreams." (Her husband also attended the BCLP and confirmed that it had strengthened his faith as a Catholic.)

## Welcome! Rizal BCLP 7

Aguilar, Henry/Lally  
Beguillo, Romeo  
Bongat, Ruben/Bing  
Bontogon, Boyet/Rem  
De los Santos, Rudy/Gina  
Generoso, Turing/Bella  
Nicolas, Lino/Telly  
Panganiban, Joi/Roselle  
Perreras, Mandy/Malou  
Pimentel, Lyndon/Tere  
Teano, Ed  
Velasco, Lito/Tess



## Cebu mission team invades Calbayog

Bishop Max Cruz had invited the BCBP Cebu chapter to introduce the BCBP to Calbayog City, the seat of his archdiocese. Accordingly the advance mission team from Cebu composed of Ed Banaag, Rene Congmon, Boy Villanueva, Toto Gallego, Rene Parel and Jack Mendez went to take a look at the industrial and commercial center of Samar.

The group met with the vice mayor and other city officials, several businessmen and professionals, the secretary of the bishop (who was out of town), and with the Poor Sisters of Saint Claire who introduced the team to their benefactors. All expressed support for the BCBP's intentions and willingness to be part of the core group of the BCBP there.

Just 72 kilometers from Samar's capital, Catbalogan, and four to five hours trip by land from Tacloban, Calbayog has a population of 150,000, most of them speaking Cebuano and the Samar/Waray dialect. Calbayog has a wharf that services boats coming four times a week from Cebu City, and an airport which, until the strike, had been served by the Philippine Airlines.

The team located a breakfast venue and plans go enthusiastically forward for a new BCBP outreach early in 1999.

## BEP held at Agriculture Dept.



The BCBP Cebu chapter held a BEP, Business Evangelization Program, through a Christian value formation program at the Department of Agriculture, Region VII, during the month of October 1998. Various section heads of the Department including its OIC's in Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor made up the roster of 23 participants.

Course leader Jimmy Escano reports that the section heads even requested the team to conduct the same program for their rank and file employees plus do follow-up teachings from time to time.

The BEP was conducted through the guidance of BCBP Cebu's mission director Ed Banaag.

## Mactan conducts governance retreat

BCBP Mactan chapter conducted a Governance Retreat on December 12-13, 1998 at the University of San Carlos Retreat House in Talamban, Cebu City. The retreat's theme was "The Reign of God Is At Hand". Discussions and reflections centered on the topics of Discipleship, The Kingdom of God, Characteristics of the Call of Jesus, and the Lifestyle of a Disciple. As a finale, each leader presented his Action Plan for the year 1999.

The two-day retreat was attended by Casi and Emma Nadela, Hector and Edna Tina, Nelson Daus, Jess and Ester Alino, Dodie and Lucy Atrofo, Jun and Neri Gula, George and Cookie Panares, Nestor and Judy Gloria, Leo and Hannah Alcosaba, Baby Pobre, Orly and Sarah Manuel, Darrel and JoAnn Sadaya, Leo and Cyd Limgenco, Ray and Atit de Guzman, Danny and Ching Sagarino, Arlin and Lita Tan, Ted and Doris Oliva, Wilbert and Girlie Ang, Butch and Inday Pilapil, Elsie Barot, EQ Cabahug, Arlene Nicolas, Dodong and Joy Jaca, Dodong and Purit Vestil, Ricky and Jojo Pakson.

Life director Hector Tina was the course leader for the retreat.

## BACOLOD

## Bacolod North BCLP 14 reaps a double 14!

Fourteen couples and fourteen others completed the BCBP Bacolod North's Brotherhood's Christian Life Program 14 which ran from September through December 1998 at the University of St. La Salle. Course leader was Andy Leonardia, with Mike Ledesma and Gassy Jugo as assistant course leader and chief servant respectively.

The BCBP Bacolod North chapter welcomes the following to its ever-growing roster of members.

Alvarez, Edgardo/Grace  
Araneta, Celia  
Arbolado, Roem/Gamay  
Bagan, Diding  
Barcelona, Robert/Cyndie  
Bustamante, Brigitte  
Camarista, Quiring/Noing  
Cordova, Monet/Cherry  
Coruna, Cesar/Norma  
Cuadra, Mike/Jojo  
Cueva, Alan/Rosemarie  
Dabao, Maricar  
Dabao, Joey/Mita  
Espina, Racquel  
Garcia, Julia  
Golez, Hector/Maricar  
Ignalaga, Gina  
de Juan, Mars/Grace  
Joson, Ditas



Lim, B-boy/Grace  
Lopez, Araceli  
Magno, Nonoy  
Martinez, Sarette  
Natividad, Angie  
de Oco, Nilo/Nerrie  
Ravadilla, Lito/Analou  
Torres, Elsie  
Valle, Naty



# Greetings from Ormoc!

Mayong Rodriguez, outreach head of BCBP Ormoc, sends his greetings for the New Year. He reports the outreach has 166 members grouped in 3 units with 14 action groups.

Their governance group includes: Mayong/Jenet Rodriguez, outreach head; Jun/Mila Capahi, mission director; Minni/Myrna Dilao, life director; and unit leaders Vince/Judy Rodriguez, Mando/Dendee Apoderado, and Ansing/Perla Malazarte.

Service heads for the outreach are: Breakfast-Roy/Teling Pangilinan; Treasury-Rad/Sally Conopio; Music - Joel/Gingging Brazil; Scribe - Joel/Ida Mascarinas; Book - Elmer/Ingrid Cimafranca.

By the month of January 1999 Ormoc will be adding a third breakfast to its schedule with the Men's and Ladies; simultaneous breakfasts on the 3rd Saturday of every month. Joint breakfasts will continue on every 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

BCLP 5 is scheduled to begin January 30.

To help the members to keep informed about all the upcoming activities, the outreach now has its own monthly newsletter called the SABWAG, which means "to spread". First issue is dated January 1999.

## 3 years old, and the youngest BCBP chapter!

Ormoc outreach celebrated their 3rd anniversary as a BCBP outreach on November 14, 1998. The date coincided with the Visayas Conference held at the Pongos Hotel in Ormoc City conducted by National Council directors for the Visayas and Mindanao regions Rolly Ona and Sadi Saguisag, respectively.

To date, Ormoc is the youngest BCBP chapter as approved by the National Council last December 2, 1998, and shall function as chapter-in-training effective January 1999. The announcement was made during the Vismin Conference last February 20, 1999 in Roxas City.

# A New Year's Message for the Brotherhood

Greetings of Peace and Love!

I congratulate my co-BCBP members for this noble venture: a newsletter about our Christian experience and our culture. I do hope and pray that this holy endeavor will all be for the greater honor and glory of God in our parish communities. For this maiden issue, I am grateful to be asked as a chaplain to give a message. Let me share something about prayer.

Prayer is like tuning a guitar for a performance. Actually it is also the same with what we do with our life. I love to play the guitar while I sing songs about God and life. From experience I cannot play well with a guitar unless it is fine-tuned. For me the true value of a guitar is not its price but its tuning and performance.

The BCBP member or any person for that matter is like a guitar. His worth before God and human beings does not depend on his title or status in society e.g. President, elder, priest, superior or lay person. It is in how he serves God and man. How? And with what instruments?

One of the spiritual instruments that I find useful in being attuned with God in daily life is SILENT PRAYER, from the heart. This kind of prayer is more of a listening to God than talking to Him. That's

*Msgr. Sabillo's "Message is taken from SABWAG'S maiden issue*

*Msgr. Benjamin LL. Sabillo, H.P.  
Ormoc City Parish Priest*

why He gave us two ears so that we can listen twice before talking. This demands silence, not a place outside the self; but from within.

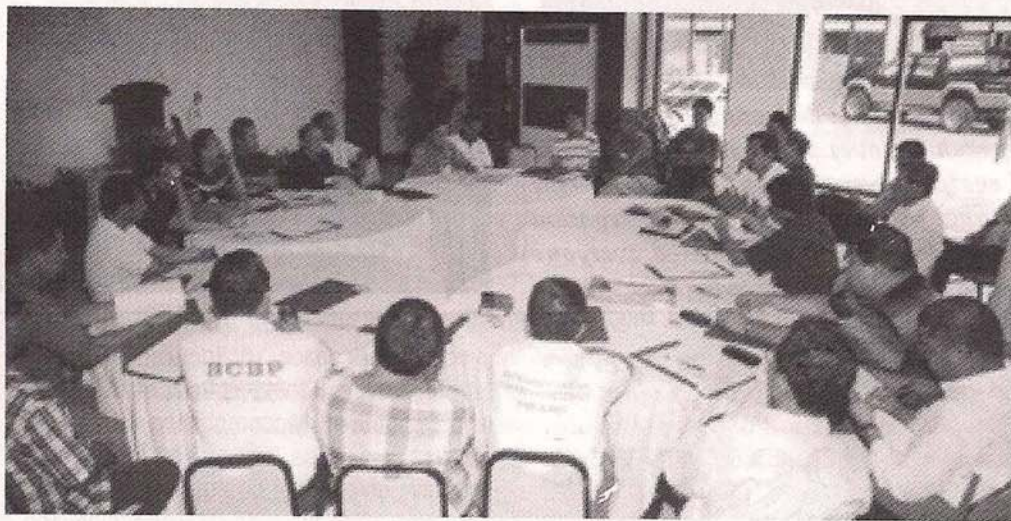
I find it difficult to be prayerful without this inner silence. It is always in silence that God speaks loud and clear. In this kind of silence I always experience a presence. I hear God. I can listen to Him. If noise is the signature of the world, silence is the music of God. Based on this experience and awareness, I therefore confess that silence in prayer is a wonderful way of tuning the mystery of one's life in God.

Tuning is prayer in a quiet heart. It is a "being" rather than a "doing". The model for this is Mother Mary. "She pondered and reflected all the things of God in her heart."

May this kind of silence though counter culture to the noise of the world, encourage us to be contemplatives in action in our business concerns. May this kind of prayer also permeate our Christian life throughout the year as we welcome the Third Millennium.

Happy New Year in the Year of the Father.

God Bless You All!



*A Visayas Conference session last November 14, 1998 at Pongos Hotel in Ormoc City conducted by Rolly Ona, Director for Visayas and Sadi Saguisag, director for Mindanao. The conference coincided with the 3rd year anniversary celebration of the outreach. A month thereafter, Ormoc was approved by the National Council to be elevated to chapter-in-training status effective January 1999.*



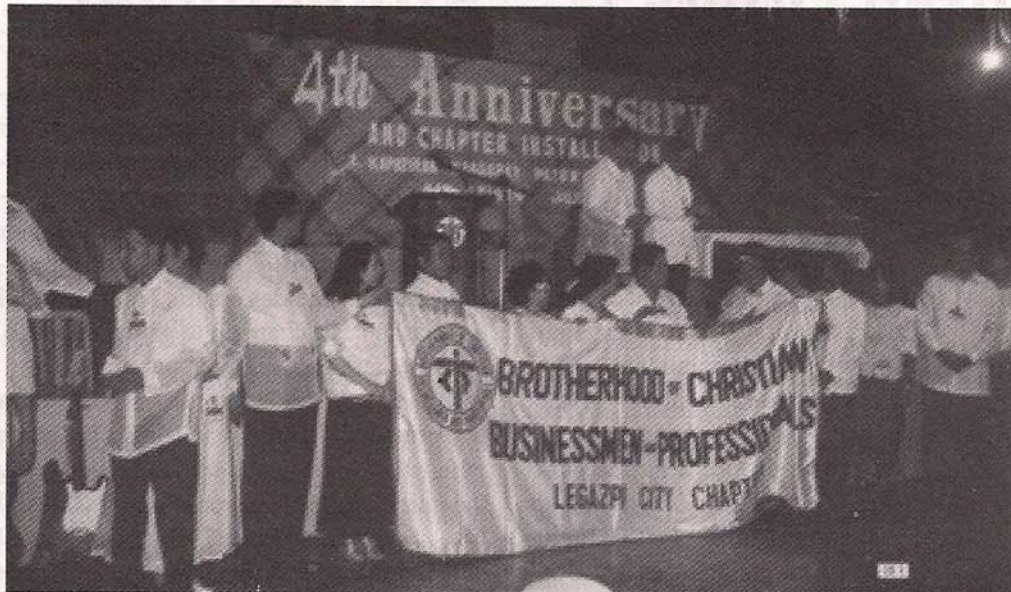
LEGAZPI

# Legazpi becomes a chapter

On July 11, 1998 BCBP Legazpi, an outreach of the Makati chapter, became a full chapter of the BCBP Community four years after the Makati "founding fathers" first came to Legazpi. The celebration's theme was "Kapatiran, Kaagapay Patungo Kay Kristo" with the affair being held at the Ibalong Centrum for Recreation in Bgy. Bitano, Legazpi City.

Installed as the new chapter head by BCBP's National President Manny Baniagan was Maning Lorenzo with his wife Pat Lorenzo. Dofel and Lyn Banares were appointed as mission director and Medes and Emy Reynoso were designated chapter life director.

After the Holy Mass, Maning Lorenzo introduced the other members of his governance team, namely Fedy/Amy Siapno, Unit I; Bon/Cora Navera, Unit II; Ely/Tety Salazar, Unit III; Benjy/Beni Santiago, Unit IV; Noel/Amy Bolinas, Secretariat; Ludy Sabater, treasurer.



Guests from Makati, Iloilo and the National Council enjoyed the lively barrio fiesta-buffet followed by a specially prepared anniversary program. The final por-

tion of the day was "Awitan At Sayawan" where the 'hidden and hiding' talents of members and guests burst forth in fun and fellowship until way past midnight.



Maning Lorenzo delivering his acceptance speech (above). Top: Members of the Legazpi governance unfurling their new banner as a chapter. Left: A delegation from Iloilo chapter surprised everyone when they came to grace the occasion.



## A Prayer before work

Lord Jesus, as I enter this work place, I bring Your presence with me. I breathe Your peace, Your grace, and Your perfect order into the atmosphere of

this work space. I acknowledge Your Lordship over all that will be spoken, thought and decided, and accomplished within these walls. Lord Jesus, I thank You for the gifts You have given me. I do not take them lightly, but commit to using them responsibly and well. Give me a fresh supply of truth, goodness and beauty from which to draw as I do my job. Anoint my creativity, my ideas, and my intentions so that even my smallest task may bring You honor. Lord, when I am confused, guide me.

When I am weary, energize me. Lord, when I am burned out, infuse me with the light of the Holy Spirit. May my daily labor, and the way I accomplish it, bring hope, life and courage to all with whom I come into contact today. And oh, Lord Jesus, even in this day's most stressful moments, may I rest in You. In Your strong and powerful name, Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I pray. Amen.

The wood for a temple does not come from just one tree.





Art Sampang  
San Fernando

# The POWER of SPEECH

**T**oday I deviate from the usual fare of this column and instead share with our readers an excerpt of a culture talk that we are to deliver before a group of participants in a Christian Life Program of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals - San Fernando, an Outreach of the Greenhills Chapter.

The subject is about Speech and Wrongdoing. Due to space limitation, the piece has been abridged to the barest minimum.

When God created man, he saw to it that he (man) was superior in all aspects to all God's creatures. He gave him a rational mind so he could think and be creative. He gave him wisdom and knowledge so he could rule over all the other living creatures. God gifted man with discernment so he could distinguish between good and evil. And along with that he gave him the will to do as he pleases according to his perception of right and wrong.

He gave man the ability to express his thoughts in spoken words. This is what we call speech.

***As individuals our words translate the thoughts of our hearts into patterns of behavior that harden into habits - either for good or for bad, like joy and faith, or depression or discouragement.***

Speech, thus, is God's gift to man to differentiate him from animals. For animals and other creatures, like the birds and insects, can produce sounds but they never speak. By the sounds they produce they may understand each other. But that ability in no way can be called speech. Because speech is spoken words that make people communicate with and understand each other.

Through this faculty of oral communication, we are able to express our

thoughts, ideas, feelings, and emotions. We can transmit expressions of love, trust, compassion, anger, hatred, envy, jealousy, distrust, etc.

Speech can be a tool for good or bad. While it cannot move mountains, it can move people to do what is bidden of them. It can be a force for good or for evil. Hitler, for example used his extraordinary ability to speak to rally the German people into conquering Europe and other parts of the world which resulted in the death of millions.

As individuals our words translate thoughts of our hearts into patterns of behavior that harden into habits - either for good or for bad, like joy and faith, or depression or discouragement.

According to the Scriptures, speech can either bring death or life. As Matthew

12:37 states: "By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned." Cursing, reviling, guile, acting as a false witness and slander are forms of verbal aggression that in a manner of speaking bring death. As Exodus 21:17 says: "Whoever curses his father or his mother is to be put to death."

Gossip is likewise a condemnable act, according to the Scripture. While it is generally considered a petty sin, the scripture classifies gossip in the same category

of serious sins like the refusal to worship God and violation of personal relationship. In 2 Thessalonians 3:11, it says: "We say this because we hear that there are some people among you who live lazy lives and who do nothing except meddle in other people's business."

And now we come to the kind of speech that brings life. What are these forms of speech that we must practice in our everyday life because they bring us closer to God and to our fellowmen?

First, we have the gracious speech - that which imparts grace - God's grace and our own. It provides words of affection, concern. They are constructive and full of substance. Thus, in Colossians 4:6, it says: "Your speech should always be pleasant and interesting, and you should know how to give the right answer to everyone."

Gracious speech strengthens personal relationships within a group and brings the members closer to God and the community.

Then there's glorious speech. Glorious speech is what elevates our relationship with God. For just as our speech can build up and strengthen human relationship, it can also build a healthy relationship with the Lord.

Indeed, speech can be a powerful force - for good or for evil. And as God and the Scriptures teach us, let us follow the right path to a wholesome, friendly and pleasant relationship with people by using the speech that brings life - the gracious and glorious way of communicating with God and humankind.





Eddie Mendoza  
Greenhills Chapter

**S**uppose that while I am giving a teaching before a large audience, someone slips me a note saying that the car of one of the members of the audience is on fire. Suppose that I read the note, but then I choose not to make the announcement because, let's say, I don't want to give cause for that car owner to be anxious or upset. And then suppose that at the end of my talk, that car owner comes to me and says, "Eddie, I feel terrible, I went out to the parking area and saw that my car had just burned down." Then I will say, "I know. You know that note that someone slipped to me while I was giving a talk? Well, it said that your car was on fire." "Why didn't you tell me?" the other guy would say. And my simple reply, "I didn't want to tell you because I didn't want you to feel bad."

Ridiculous. But we see it being done every day. "Huwag mo na lang sabihin, baka siya masaktan." "Baka siya ma turn off, baka hindi niya ako maintindihan, baka magalit pa siya."

Some people are afraid of the truth. They are afraid of hurting others or losing their love. They don't realize that truth, spoken in love, is the only way to show real love. Edwin Cole, author of the book entitled Maximized Manhood calls this best affections.

In the office, sometimes we can be so solicitous and careful not to let anything happen without approval of our friends and associates that we destroy our work atmosphere by means of best affections. For a long time, I was going around my office without hearing the Word of God because my co-workers didn't want to make me feel bad, or cause me to be upset, by confronting me about my sins and wrongdoing. All my co-workers, that is except one, a true friend, God's messenger.

Okay, maybe we do not want to sound self righteous, nor do we want to be judgmental. But brothers, there's a war out there, and there are people who are victims of evil without them realizing it. And we, who are in Christ, we know that people need the Lord. We know the strategies of the evil one. We know the truth about Jesus, and the lies that the evil one has planted in the minds of us all. And we know that Jesus can set them free.

If we do not tell the truth to these people, we propagate the lies of the evil one. If we do not tell these people about the saving power of Jesus, who's going to tell our friends and co-workers that their car is on fire?

God has a reason for calling each one of us to Him. God has a reason for bringing us all into this community, this brotherhood of Christian businessmen and professionals. God desires that we become a lamp on a pedestal, shining forth His light in the darkness of the marketplace. He has given us the power of the Holy Spirit, a power that emboldens us and gives us the wisdom to proclaim the good news about Jesus. That is why He has put us in a place of influence at work, where we are in contact with colleagues, customers or suppliers. He keeps sending us people who need Him, and yet who have not discovered where and who He is.

If, until now, you feel that you do not have that power nor that wisdom, but you want to obey Jesus, and you want to have the kind of love that speaks the truth, then call upon Jesus today and ask Him for this Holy Spirit. Ask Him to reveal to you the truth about loving God and loving your neighbors, the truth that sets you and all those who work with you free.

And in this coming season of Lent, let us repent for the many times when we have chosen not to bring Jesus into the lives of those whom we supposedly love and care for. Let us repent for those times when we have chosen not to bring the comfort of Jesus to people whom He has sent for us to call, when we have been shy to proclaim our faith because we are afraid of hurting others or of being rejected.

In Ephesians 1:18-19, Paul says, "May (the God of our Lord Jesus Christ) enlighten your innermost vision that you may know the great hope to which he has called you, the wealth of his glorious heritage to be distributed among the members of the church, and the immeasurable scope of his power in us who believe."

# TELL THE TRUTH





Sammy M. Ulanday  
Greenhills Chapter

# QUANTITY OR

# QUALITY GROWTH:

**I**n the last five years that I have been working full time for the BCBP I have seen how it has grown. At the beginning of my term, there were around half the number of chapters and outreaches that there are today.

In the last couple of years we have seen how our numbers, in terms of opening outreaches, has really multiplied. In fact, I am personally touched by such improved growth, and even proud of it. So much so that I was inspired to coin the term "The BCBP Country" with a graphical representation that is regularly printed on the Kapatiran's back cover for everyone to see.

Today this building-up trend has not stopped. At this very moment a chapter or outreach head, a mission director or even just an ordinary member is thinking of going to some place to open an outreach. Following this trend perhaps the BCBP will go global by the year 2000.

Yes, indeed we are growing. Are we, really?

We say, "*evangelize the marketplace.*" We put Christ in the marketplace and win the marketplace for Christ. Most of us would probably claim that we are living out this battle cry. But when I stop to really think about this, I wonder how many battles in the marketplace we have truly won for Jesus, in how many places have we really put Christ right smack in the center of trade and business.

To my mind one real authentic proof of our growth in Christ as BCBPers is when such callous practices as bribery, extortion, ten-percenter, tax evasion, copyright robbery (in computer software, for one), unfair labor practices, overcharging, sales padding, short-changing customers, etc. are completely weeded out from our very own corner of business or profession. These are the practical realities of the battles we have to fight and win for Christ. Every time one of these nefarious practices crumbles to the ground, it adds to the heap that bridges us closer to heaven. This is QUALITY growth.

Fortunately one of our foundational programs is directed towards fighting these so-called institutional evils. The Brotherhood's Christians in Business Retreat (BCBR) is one such program that deals exactly with how we should behave when we are confronted by these evils. Talk after talk, the course progresses toward the realization of exactly why we are all here in the BCBP — to win the marketplace for Christ.

# building bridges to heaven

In the last couple of BCBRs where I participated, there were several questions and concerns that dealt with these wrong practices. I could read between the lines that the ones asking these questions themselves are either partly or directly involved in the situation. At first I felt sad to think that these BCBPers are still at it despite having gone through the conversion process, after having attended breakfasts and completing the 13-week BCLP, finishing all the teaching tracks plus the BCMR.

However contemplating deeper brought me to the realization that it meant the other way around. It meant that these BCBPers are outrightly confronting the issues and they are craving for the much needed confirmation or advice. They are right there in the front of the fray, arming themselves for battle.

Opening outreaches is like pitching a tent in a wilderness marketplace full of sins. It means preparing for a fight, a fight that is against all odds. As Jesus said, "I tell you I am sending you out like sheep to a pack of wolves." ... (Matt. 10:16)

It is therefore of utmost importance to understand that what we are doing in opening outreaches is opening ourselves to the fangs of the commercialized wolves ready to devour us. It is equally important that we, ourselves, are fit for the fight. We should never lose our focus that in the end, this wilderness marketplace full of sins shall crumble to add to the pile that will bridge us closer to heaven. Only then can we say we have won "a" marketplace for Christ, and that truly we have grown.





Annie Salvador  
Makati Chapter

# Of Birds & Bees and other Trick Questions

"When you put a boy and a girl like this," Tono gently slapped his palms together, "what happens?" My then four-year-old was staring at me, a little too boldly, I thought, as if he knew the answer and was daring me to declare it.

I swear I broke out in cold sweat. Here it was: The Question! Luckily, I was too stunned to blurt out the reply that occurred to me. Instead, I took a deep, very deep breath and asked, "What do you mean?"

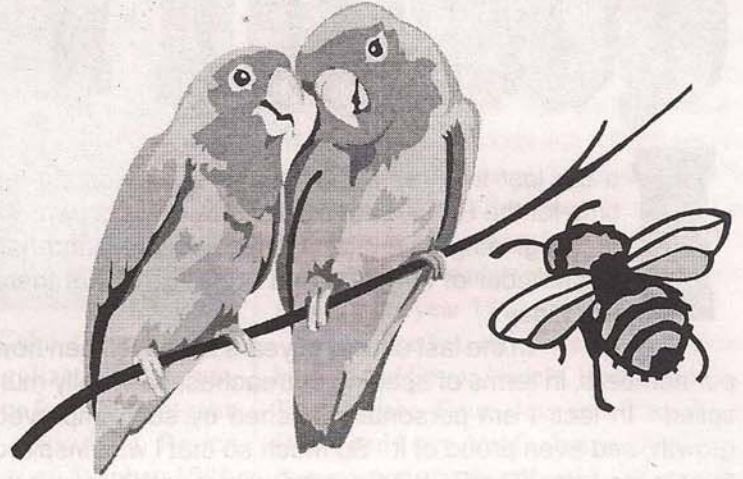
And the little boy replied, "I mean, di ba, the boy should be taller?" He was talking about HEIGHTS, for goodness' sake! Having a little sister, he thought all girls were smaller...so we talked about bigger and smaller, and older and younger...much to my relief. It was NOT yet time.

Eventually though, the questions did come, and they're still coming. Kids being kids, they range from the hilarious: "Right, Mom, Dad has five sperms, and they're all used up?" to the dead serious: "When I become a Mommy, will there be a lot of blood?" I have had to grapple with quite a lot, in terms of controlling panic, thinking at lightning speed and maintaining my poise in public.

I have discovered that no matter the phraseology, these questions and comments are quite earnest, requiring forthright and truthful responses. I can't just toss out a careless, dismissive remark and expect the child to be satisfied with that. On the contrary, it would be quite insulting and even dangerous — what if, unsatisfied with my reply, he refers the matter to his seatmate, or the family driver? If my child respects me enough to bring his question to me, I must return that respect through a straight and sincere reply. As much as I can manage, anyway. Equilibrium can fly out the window when confronted with "Where, exactly, Mom, is the cervix, show me!" while riding in the van with ALL my in-laws! Respecting my son as much as I do, he had to be content with "It's near the uterus, Nico, I'll show you when we have the book."

Yes, the book. Informative, it has illustrations, charts, arrows and all, allowing me to speak volumes, pardon the pun. Objective, it has the right words delivered in perfect balance, without resorting to useless gestures in the air and countless "you know's". With a guided walk through appropriate text, I can address my children's queries with factual, unbiased information. I must stress that "guided" and "appropriate" are the operative words here. It wouldn't do to just let a child loose with a book on sex education. A responsible adult must always be on hand to regulate the intake and clarify its perception. Similarly, my little Mia going over a book intended for a 3rd grader will be too much too soon, with consequences that may be difficult to repair.

Helpful as books are, there's nothing like a face-to-face talk. Sex is an important subject, and must not be left to reading or



even teacher's instructions. A little subjectivity will not hurt. In fact, with some involvement in replying to our children's questions on sex, I am able to impart our values — Christian values — to them.

I often use the terms "husband" and "wife" in my explanations, or Daddy and Mommy, referring to Nelson and myself. These put sex within the context of marriage. I often also allude to matters of faith: creation, God's greatness, morality and responsibility. When Marga once inquired, "When I'm a Mommy, how many kids will I have?", saying "I don't know" seemed candid and honest enough. But her question offered a little opportunity to teach, and so I said "That will depend on you, your future husband, and God." In one answer, I managed to link parenthood with marriage and put God into the picture. To her inevitable segue, "Why?", I then replied with my main message, "Because God is a part of all families, and He's in charge of building them, too." As in anything else, talking about the birds and the bees should always point to their Creator.

Pointing towards the profound doesn't always do the trick, though. We were once watching a tape of *Independence Day* and one scene depicted an air force captain marrying his girlfriend, with their young son as ring bearer. My sons were at me in two seconds flat:

Q: "Are they getting married again, because it's their anniversary or something?"

A: "No, only now. They wanted to do it before he goes on his mission to save the world."

Q: "How did they have a son if they didn't get married before?"

A: "Some people do that — it's a sin, and these two decided they want to fix it and make it right."

Q (ignoring my reply): "How did that happen, Mom?"





Larry de Larrazabal  
Makati Chapter

# ours is the choice

*“Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?’” Luke 22:48*

Judas was one of the twelve chosen apostles, the one who treacherously betrayed Jesus. The event took place on the night before Jesus was to be crucified. This eventful day is remembered by the Christian faithful on Good Friday. This day would be an excellent time to reflect on how God temporarily gave up his throne to become man, and in the redemptive process allowed himself to be arrested, tried, condemned to die, and finally, crucified. Christians, throughout the centuries, have pondered on Judas’ betrayal, the physical torture Jesus underwent, and the public humiliation he suffered on the cross.

As Jesus hangs crucified on the cross, he calls on his Father, “Forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” The merciful Jesus then shows his compassion by accepting the good thief’s contrition and promises him Paradise. Jesus, full of love for us, then gives us his

mother, to be our own. At this point Jesus is desolate, he calls on his Father and questions him, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” He receives no answer and is ignored.

His time is almost over, he feels thirsty. We must wonder whether it was a physical need to quench his thirst, or whether it was a thirst for souls — there are so many of them who need Jesus. Finally, his mission is completed, he has finished with the task assigned to him by his Father — to give sinful mankind an opportunity for life everlasting. As a final act, he commends his spirit to the Father.

As Jesus lies dead, we should contemplate our own mortality. We will all eventually die. Will we be able to commend our souls to God? Will he accept or reject us? He will either invite us to inherit the kingdom prepared for the faithful, or send the unfaithful ones to eternal punishment. The choice is ours to make!

## Prayer

*My loving Savior and Merciful God, can I be so foolish as to think I can find happiness without you? Can sin ever bring me true joy, when it separates me from you? I hope to avoid whatever displeases you and to live as you would want me to live each hour of the day. Your will shows the way to undying peace and happiness. Let me love your will in all things. Amen.*

A: “We’ll look in the book later. Now be quiet and let’s watch what’s going on.”

Well, you can’t win them all...

The short and sweet answer is always best. This learning was gleaned from not-just-a-few boo-boos committed because I chose the long-winded, wordy route. Introducing other ideas can take the discussion off into a tangent I often do not care to go into. Brevity keeps the subject matter tight and focused. Besides, we all know children: if they want to know more, they’ll ask.

Finally, clarify before you reply. As my very first example illustrates, “What do you mean?” is a gem of a response. Faced with it, the child now needs to explain his question, giving

his thankful parent the parameters within which to compose an answer, not to mention precious time to think! Whether intended or not, children’s questions are often very tricky. To assume things is conversational suicide. A quick launch into a lecture can have one end up with the proverbial foot in one’s mouth. We all heard about the hapless parent who sweated out the reproductive functions of the human species when all his kid wanted to know was if they came from Cebu or Bacolod.

So the next time your grade schooler walks up to you and challenges you with something from his latest Sex Ed class, smile, take a deep breath, look him in the eye and sweetly ask, “Why do you want to know?”



Cynthia Matas  
Cavite Outreach

## Tears

As tears trickle down my cheek, I feel a moment of release .. an easing of the pain inside me and I thank God for this gift of tears ... with it I know I am human and, humbled by this realization, I know I need my God to help me through.

Are tears an acknowledgement of weakness then? No, I like to think of them as a sign of strength to come...for there is always calm after a storm. Tears are a signal of an overflow of strong emotions ... a safety valve to prevent an inner explosion that could destroy one’s being ... an explosion that can be the result of overcharged feelings bursting out of control, making me go berserk.

Yes, tears are a sign of strength but the strength they bring can only be brought about by an acknowledgement of one’s tenderness. Tears compel me to turn to Someone greater ... urging me to let go ... to surrender to the mighty forces of stronger and more positive emotions, to be completely won over by Love, enough to quiet my heart and bring me peace.

Tears wash away the uncleanness within me, and leave me room to compose myself and start anew. Tears give me pause to regroup my scattered thoughts and emotions enabling me to face the uncertain future and negative forces that threaten to obscure the fact that I am God’s beloved.

Thank you, God, for the tears I shed today. Precious and yet freely given, I am indeed your blessed child to have such built-in protection from you within my soul.



*We begin this Year of God the Father by sharing with you Cardinal Jaime Sin's Message delivered on January 23, 1999 at PICC during the Festival of Conferences on God the Father.*

# MESSAGE TO THE

1999, the last year in the triennium, marked out for the immediate preparation for the great Jubilee Year 2000, has been dedicated to God the Father. We are thus asked to reflect prayerfully on the reality of God as he has been revealed to us by Jesus, as well as to renew our filial relationship with God as the Father of Jesus — as a loving Father. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has invited us to make this year also a time for bringing nearer to realization the Church of the Poor in our country because the Father is truly and in a special way "the Father of the poor."

It is with these two poles of reflection and deed that we entered upon our National Conference on God the Father, a "festival in honor of Our Father in Heaven." Father of Jesus...Father of the Church of the Poor.

**FATHER OF JESUS.** The very core of what Jesus came to reveal to us is that God is our Father, that God is not someone who looks upon ourselves and the world which he created "from a distance", but who is ever turned toward

us, his sons and daughters by creation and the life of grace, in caring and concern, in compassion and love.

The God whom Jesus revealed to us was a God whose very nature was to be utterly and unconditionally "for us", a God "on our side" always, a Father so incredibly loving and forgiving, we could not have imagined him by ourselves.

**OUR FATHER, TOO.** As it was for Jesus, so it must be for us. Jesus came not only to wash away our sins; he came to share his sonship with us, in the measure we can make it ours, he came to make us adopted daughters and sons of his Father, so that we too might know and love the Father, sons and daughters in him and through him, so that in the Spirit we can ourselves cry out, "Abba, Father!"

All this Jesus summed up for us in his prayer, the Lord's Prayer, where in a true sense Jesus gives us the compendium of guidelines for our lives as sons and daughters of his Father. Everything in us must be a constant turning to the Father; everything in us must be grasped and directed by the dream of bringing the Kingdom of the Father into our real world; a kingdom of truth and justice, of freedom and solidarity, of love and peace, a kingdom where everyone around us is brother and sister; sharer, companion and



friend. For this is the dream of the Father, and this is his will: that what Jesus saw in his Abba-experience, that vision which he shares with us, should be translated wholly in terms of life within our world and our history. This "translation" he spelled out in his beatitudes: sharing and solidarity, in bread and all of life's needs; lowliness of heart and unending compassion for victims and the poor; relation-

## Prayer of His Holiness Pope John Paul II

*Blessed are you, Lord,  
Father in heaven,  
who, in your infinite mercy,  
stooped down to us in our distress  
and gave us Jesus, your Son,  
born of a woman,  
to be our Savior and friend,  
our brother and redeemer.  
We thank you, good Father,  
for the gift of the Jubilee Year;  
make it a time of favor for us,  
the year of a great return  
to the Father's house, where,  
full of love,*

*you await your straying children  
to embrace them in your forgiveness  
and welcome them to your table,  
in their festive garments.*

**WE PRAISE YOU, FATHER,  
FOREVER!**

*Father most merciful,  
during this Holy Year  
may our love for you and for our  
neighbor  
grow ever stronger;  
may Christ's disciples promote*

*justice and peace;  
may they proclaim the Good News  
to the poor;  
and may the Church our Mother  
direct her love especially  
to the little ones and the neglected.*

**WE PRAISE YOU, FATHER,  
FOREVER!**

*Father of justice,  
may the Great Jubilee be the fitting  
time for all Catholics to rediscover  
the joy of living by your word*



# PEOPLE OF GOD

ships marked by a mutual "being for the other", in boundless caring and forgiving; reliance not on our human power and resources in the midst of life's trials, but trust in the power of God alone, which delivers us from all evil, and makes us free with the freedom of sons and daughters.

The Cross is not simply one moment in time and history. It is the most authentic epiphany of the nature of God, the perfect revelation of who God our Father is: the Father of mercies, the God of infinite compassion and love. Jesus on the Cross is the truest revelation of his Father in heaven. The father of the parable of the prodigal son, and the Father of Jesus meet us at the Cross of the Son. "It is the Father, living in me who is doing his works. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me." "He who sees me, sees the Father."

**FATHER OF JESUS...FATHER OF ALL.** If we are to become like Christ, we must somehow enter into Jesus' Abba-experience and make it our own. We must make that same experience the foundation of our own lives, the vision that shapes our purposes, the power that re-makes us into Jesus' disciples, those who follow his footsteps in our own histories, and try to

renew the world in the way of Jesus.

We are thus challenged constantly to be reconciled and at one with the Father; to share our reconciliation with others in all our relationships, our life-praxis, in the societies and environments we build and sustain. We are tasked to build communities that are compassionate and free, doing away with all domination and violence, with all that enslaves and violates the dignity of brothers and sisters. We are summoned above all to have God's own preferential love and caring for the poor amongst us, for the victims of every kind, for those who are in need of mercy, human and divine. We are meant to live out in fullness the great command of Jesus, "that we love one another, as he loved us." The measure of our responsibility is Jesus' own love: "that he laid down his life for us, so we too ought to lay down our lives for our brothers [and sisters]." (1 John 3, 16) "For in this we know that we have passed over from death to life, because we love our brothers."

We must build up the Church as truly the Church of the poor. This is the mandate we see when we turn with the eyes of Jesus toward his Father, the Father of the poor. "Whatever you have done for the least of my brothers [and sisters], you have done unto me." This is the task

***We are thus challenged constantly to be reconciled and at one with the Father; to share our reconciliation with others in all our relationships, our life-praxis, in the societies and environments we build and sustain.***

of the Church: to teach this by word and witness, to bring the concrete realization of this imperative in history.

We ask our Father in heaven, then, that the Lord's Prayer may not only be words spoken by our lips, no matter how devoutly, but truly be the mandate that defines and shapes our deeds and our lives and our relationships with each other in the Son, as his adopted brothers and sisters. And we ask that the Spirit may grant us the grace to make the *Our Father* the effective substance of our efforts at building our nation as the new Millennium sends us forth to take up anew our common pilgrimage to our true homeland, our *patria*, the Kingdom of the Father, to whom be honor and glory in all ages, and forever. Amen.

+**JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN, D.D.**  
*Archbishop of Manila*

## for the Year of God the Father in preparation for the Great Jubilee Year 2000

*and obeying your will;  
may they know the goodness of fraternal communion,  
as they break bread together  
and praise you in hymns and inspired songs.*

**WE PRAISE YOU, FATHER,  
FOREVER!**

*Father, rich in mercy,  
may the holy Jubilee be a time  
of openness,  
of dialogue and encounter,*

*among all who believe in Christ  
and with the followers of other religions;  
in your immense love,  
be bountiful in mercy to all.*

**WE PRAISE YOU, FATHER,  
FOREVER!**

*O God, Almighty Father,  
as we make our way to you,  
our ultimate destiny,  
may all your children experience  
the gentle company of Mary most holy,  
image of purest love,*

*whom you chose to be  
Mother of Christ and Mother  
of the Church.*

**WE PRAISE YOU, FATHER,  
FOREVER!**

*To you, Father of life,  
eternal source of all that is,  
highest good and everlasting light,  
be honor and glory,  
praise and thanksgiving,  
with the Son and with the Spirit,  
for ages unending. AMEN.*



# Y2K How to prepare for the millenium bug

*-Alfred Herzing's presentation on  
how the year 2000 might personally affect us.*

**P**ass it on to your friends and parents. These are things we can do to prepare for the coming of the year 2000.

When the year 2000 arrives (Jan. 01, 2000), there may be computer failures that may affect some of the things we manage daily. Not a serious problem since most of the utility companies are already upgrading their system for Y2K compliance. But there is a suggested preparation list:

1) Fill your car(s) with gasoline just before Dec. 31, 1999. This is because electricity might fail, thus gas pumps may not be working starting Jan. 01, 2000.

2) Have 2 weeks of cash on hand. Automated teller machines and banks may have problems. Having cash on hand will help see you through the transition. Be sure to get cash before Dec. 31, 1999.

3) Have 2 weeks of the following on hand:

- non-perishable food, water
- prescription medicine
- candles
- batteries
- flashlights

4) Be cautious about flying or riding a train on Jan. 01, 2000. Flight and train controllers may experience outages. Road gates for trains may not work.

5) Obtain a copy of your credit report before Sept. 09, 1999. Get another one after Sept. 09, 1999 (but before Dec. 31, 1999). Then get a credit report after Jan. 01, 2000. Compare these documents for errors - Sept. 9, 1999 is a problem date (9/9/99) because some sloppy programmers use a 9999 code as a reset flag.

6) Obtain paper copies of bank, investment and credit card account status.

7) Obtain paper copies of homeowner's, earthquake, flood, car, life, health insurance policies with expiration dates printed on them.

8) Submit Medicare claims as early in 1999 possible.

9) Set up finances to NOT get a refund on your income taxes for the 1999 tax year. The tax authorities may not be ready in time for the year 2000. If this happens it will mean delays in sending refund checks from income taxes.

## The LORD is my programmer

The Lord is my Programmer, I shall not crash.  
He has installed his software on the hard  
disk of my heart.

All of his commands are user friendly,  
His directory moves me to the right choices  
for His name's sake.

Even though I scroll through the  
problems of file,

I will fear no bugs, for you are my backup;

Your password protects me;

You prepare the menu before me in the  
presence of my enemies;

Your help is only a key away.

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all  
the days of my life,

And my file will be merged with His and  
be saved forever.

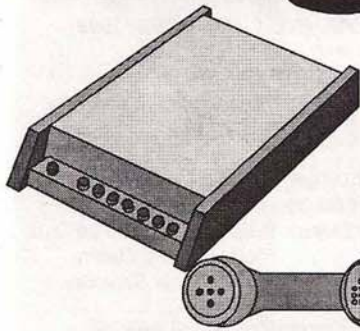
## Computer acronyms



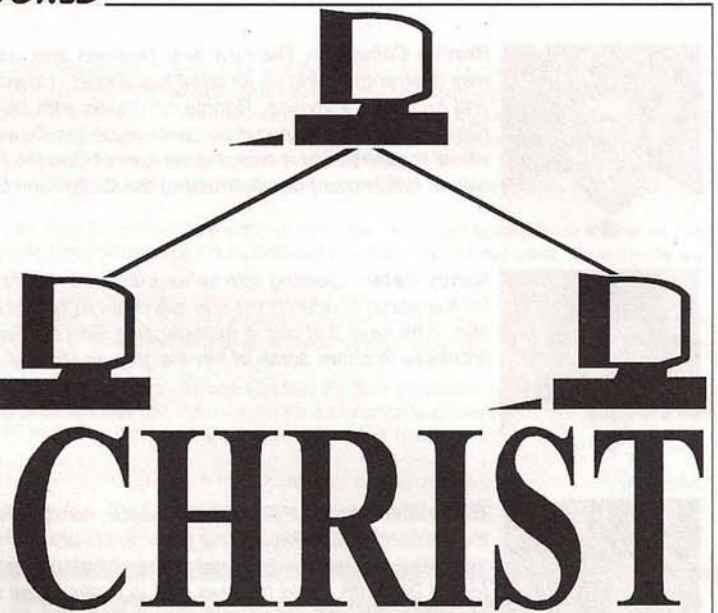
<b>AOL</b>	<i>Almost On-Line</i>
<b>Apple</b>	<i>Arrogance Produces Profit-Losing Entity</i>
<b>Basic</b>	<i>Bill's (Gates) Attempt to Seize Industry Control</i>
<b>CD-ROM</b>	<i>Consumer Device, Rendered Obsolete in Months</i>
<b>DEC</b>	<i>Do Expect Cuts</i>
<b>DOS</b>	<i>Defunct Operating System</i>
<b>IBM</b>	<i>I Blame Microsoft</i>
<b>ISDN</b>	<i>It Still Does Nothing</i>
<b>Macintosh</b>	<i>Most Applications Crash, If Not, The Operating System Hangs</i>
<b>OS/2</b>	<i>Obsolete Soon, Too</i>
<b>PCMCIA</b>	<i>People Can't Memorize Computer Industry Acronyms</i>
<b>SCSI</b>	<i>System Can't See It</i>
<b>WWW</b>	<i>World Wide Wait</i>



# Log in



# for



*The Spirit works on the internet, too!*

*by Karina M. Jugo, Bacolod North*

**I**t was over lunch just a few days before Christmas when we were blessed with precious time together amidst the holiday rush. A generous aunt just got us a new computer with all the works, except for the modem which I chose to forego. My brother Jimmy (who's also with the BCBP) was convincing us to get one and hook up on the Internet, citing all the benefits that would outweigh the cost.

Honestly I fear getting stuck on the Internet and wasting precious time surfing and chatting. I've heard startling stories about mothers forgetting to feed or give medication to their children because they lose track of time surfing. Or of couples endlessly at odds with each other because of time put into surfing rather than attending to more important matters. I'm scared, too, that my kids might just get hold of the supposedly "Ruffa and Donita shots", or of me losing precious sleep when chats get too interesting and you just can't quit!

On the other hand, I've also heard of wonderful stories about the benefits of the Internet. Readers Digest featured an article about someone with a mysterious disease in China getting cured because two US doctors picked up his friend's appeal on the Web. There are stories, too, of longtime missing persons being located, or of homeless children being adopted into caring families because of the Internet.

I almost fell off my chair when Jimmy said that the best thing he likes about the Internet is the CHAT. Among my three brothers, I consider him to be the most level-headed and spiritually mature, so what's really great about wasting time chatting with somebody in Germany or Australia?!!! I've had the benefit of surfing the Net at "friend's price" since some of my closest childhood friends set up an Internet cafe two years ago, and I've experienced how some chats could get so obscene or confrontational. What does he, a zealous servant in the community, like about these things? Without batting an eyelash, he shared with us the beautiful experience of evangelizing people anywhere through the Internet. He chats with a number of nationalities, people of varied religious affiliations, and some atheists, too, revealing to them the blessings of living a total life in Christ. Some respond, some just shut off. Others ask if he is a priest, some even ridicule.

Through his chats, Jimmy has discovered certain areas that need to be considered and dealt with in the teachings of our BCBP culture. Some people you chat with tend to be confrontational or impertinent. We as evangelizers are then exposed to the possibility of getting confrontational, too in our effort to defend our faith and our God. The most important thing, he says, is to maintain a character of genuine love and understanding towards the person you chat with, no matter what they say.

One of Jimmy's most fruitful chats was with someone from far across the globe, someone who called himself Lucifer on the web, with Satan/666 as an e-mail address. When asked why he uses such names, he answered in a matter-of-fact manner, "Because I am." As the chat progressed, Jimmy asked him if he was willing to go through an exercise. He was asked to close his eyes and explain what he sees. Nothing, he says. Next he was to look around him and see everything, then asked where he thinks all these came from. With not much thought, the guy replied that all he sees around him was created through the alignment of energies. He seemed such a smart fellow. Jimmy then led him to think along the line of energy coming from the littlest of atoms and molecules which someone must have created. And in each portion of the chat when the other guy seemed to run out of explanations, topics would be ended with an incontestable "Well, I have my own beliefs." As the conversation progressed, and with such statement being raised more often, Jimmy then felt he had done his part of testifying and sharing. To him, nothing was lost, not even time or effort.

He parted from the chat telling the other guy, "Well, I have done my part in sharing with you my beautiful experience of knowing Christ. It's up to you to accept or reject my sharing, but I think the better thing I should do is to pray to the Lord and ask Him to open roadways in your life that will enable you to experience his blessings and love." And what greater victory could compare to the fact that instead of getting the usual "Well, I have my own beliefs" line, the other guy responded with an amazing "Thank you very much. I really appreciate that."

Truly, the Spirit will work with us, even in the most unexpected places. And only in the Spirit shall some things that seem wasted, turn into great opportunities for carrying out our mission.





**Ronnie Caballero.** The new year beckons and, as usual, God has his unique way of strengthening us for what lies ahead. However despite family concerns and business activities, Ronnie continues with his vision for a more dynamic Kapatiran. In his editorial he zeros in on the Power of One and our own individual responsibility in bringing the love of God the Father to others as one good way of fulfilling our commitment to the BCBP and to Christ.



**Nancy Catan.** Dealing with serious illness in her family leaves Nancy little time for Kapatiran concerns yet she manages to lend a helping hand whenever she can. She says that she is experiencing God the Father's love in new ways and promises to share some of her insights on life and death in the next issue.



**Eddie Mendoza.** As Greenhills chapter head, Eddie is full of enthusiasm for the Brotherhood in the coming year. In his article, he cautions us against being self-righteous and judgmental and emphasizes that there is no substitute for telling the truth. And he says that in order to tell the truth as Jesus did, we must have the kind of love in our hearts and in our lives that speaks the truth without words.



**Fernando de Larrazabal.** Tito Larry certainly has a busy year ahead of him. As National Council's Director for Luzon he guides the chapters and outreaches in Luzon in their growth directions and looks forward to seeing several new outreaches being initiated during the year as well as several outreaches graduating to chapterhood. His newest book "Quest for Answers" is about to be published. Plus he is reviewing and updating the BCLP and Culture talks.



**Sammy M. Ulanday.** Is there a BCBP activity going on anywhere in the country? Can Sammy be far behind? A familiar presence both in front and behind the scenes, Sammy's activities as Administrative Manager of the BCBP National Office (his new official title) afford him the opportunity to monitor the over-all growth of the BCBP. However he invites us to check out this growth in terms of quantity and quality of membership, and in terms of impact on the marketplace. Sammy asks us, "Are we fit for the fight as we build bridges to heaven?"



**Annie Salvador.** So many times we as parents avoid discussing the subject of SEX with our children. Annie frankly shares with us her experience and insights gained as mother of five inquisitive kids when confronted with "The Question". She maintains that what matters is that we link our answers to Christian parenthood and matters of faith: God's greatness and love, morality and responsibility.



**Cynthia Matas.** Although a strong personality and a teacher of high school values and formation, Cynthia admits that she cries easily. But tears, per se, are not necessarily a sign of weakness as she points out in "Musings". They can point us to Someone greater, the source of Love and comfort and strength.



**Art Sampang.** Once again we welcome Art in the Kapatiran after a long absence. Art shares with us excerpts of the culture talk on Speech and Wrongdoing, concentrating on the good and bad aspects of speech. This New Year 1999 let us strive to use only gracious and glorious speech that can not only build up and strengthen human relationships but also our personal relationship with the Lord.

# KAPATIRAN

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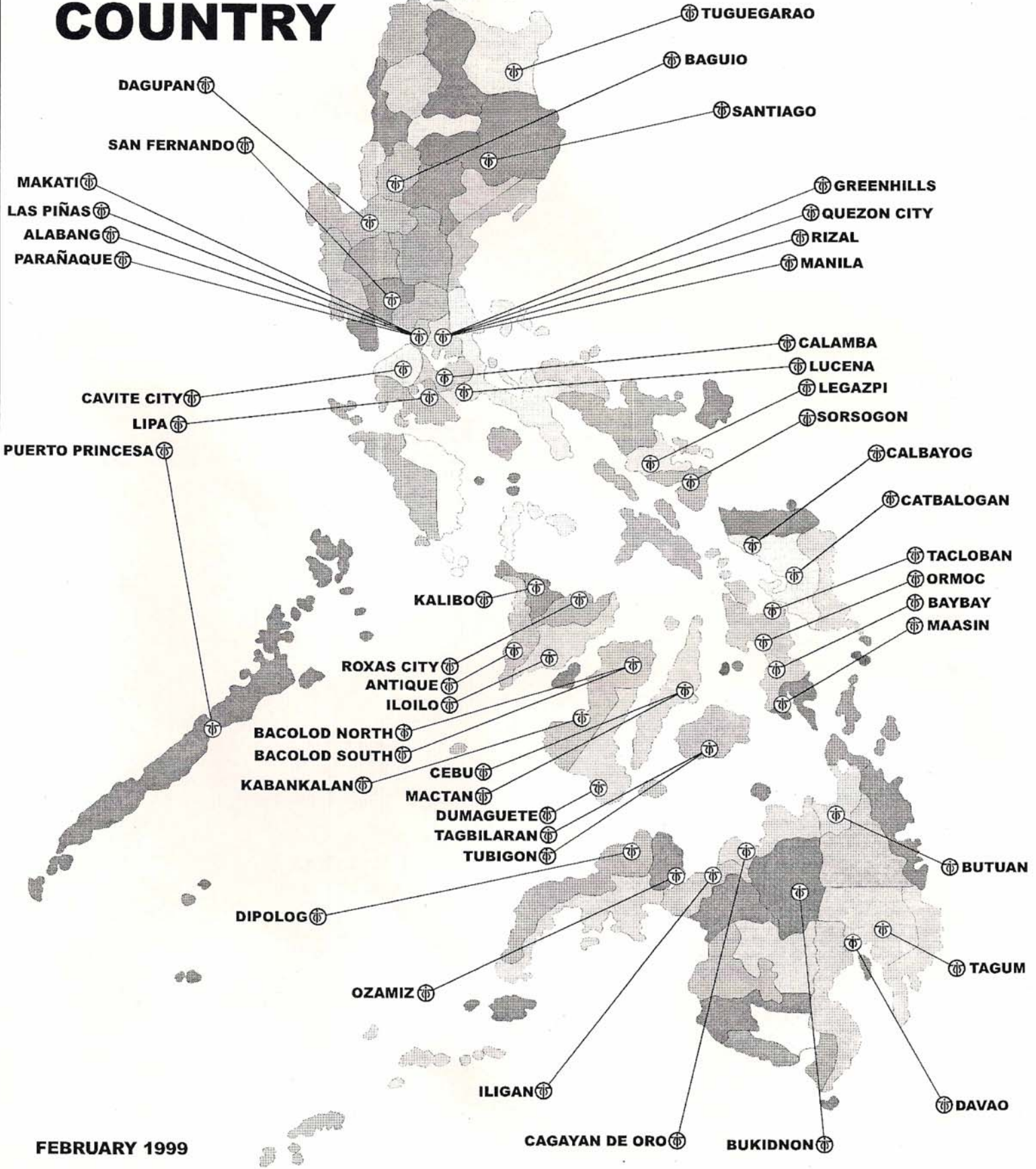
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# THE BCBP COUNTRY



FEBRUARY 1999



# Give your business a new face.

Is your business running your life?

Then it's probably time to take a new perspective.

Give your business a new focus. A new face.

The face of Peace. The face of Love.

Let Jesus Christ be your business partner and  
you 'll know your business is in good Hands.

After all, you are His business.



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