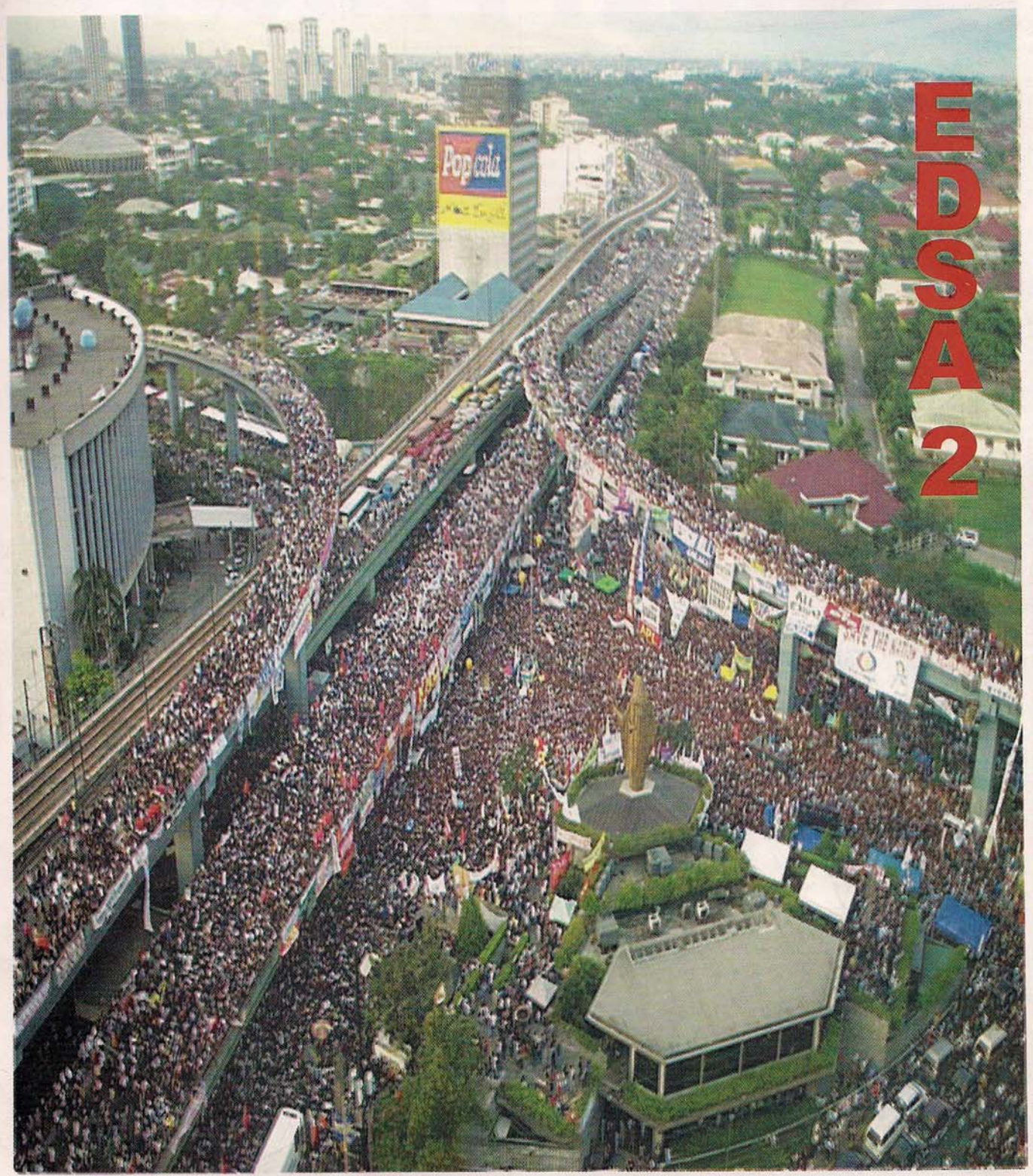


Kapatiran Magazine

Vol. XV No.1

January - February 2001

EDSA
2



BCBP

Breakfast Venues

MEN'S BREAKFASTS (7:30 A.M.)

Wednesdays – MAKATI : Makati Sports Club

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills
VILLAMOR: Villamor Air Command Staff
College (1st & 3rd)

Fridays – MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Ma. Orosa

Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club, Muntinglupa

BACOLOD NORTH: Nobles Restaurant

BAGUIO: Max's Restaurant, Kisad Road (1st, 3rd, 4th Sat.)
BAYBAY: Angelicum (1st & 2nd Sat.)

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

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, Cagayan De Oro

CALAMBA: Riverview Resort and Conference Center

CATBALOGAN: Maqueda Bay Hotel, Tomalistas Dist.,
Catbalogan, Samar,

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

DAGUPAN: Jollibee Junction A.B. Fernandez Ave.

cor. M.H. Del Pilar St. Dagupan

DAVAO: CAP Anda St. (1st, 2nd & 3rd Sat.)

DIGOS: CAP/ANP Hotel (every other Saturday)

ILIGAN: Mandelicious Native Foods (4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel

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

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel, Legaspi City

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

LIPA: Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City

MACTAN: Majestic Restaurant, Mactan City

MANDAUE: Flormont Hotel

MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Orosa St., Malate Manila

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel (3rd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: Pidente Rest. Presidents Ave. BF Homes

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel, Puerto Princesa (3rd Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, T. Morato Ave.

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal

ROXAS: Kanami Restaurant

SORSOGON: Jollibee Sorsogon (1st & 2nd Sat.)

SURIGAO: Gateway Hotel and Rest. (1st and 3rd Sat.)

TACLOBAN: YamYam Food Lane, Salazar St. (2nd & 4th Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: La Roca Hotel

TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn's Restaurant

VILLAMOR: Villamor Air Command Staff College

LADIES' BREAKFAST

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

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, SJ (3rd Thurs.)

Fridays – MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Ma. Orosa

Saturdays

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

BACOLOD NORTH: Nobles Restaurant (3rd Sat.)

BAGUIO: Max's Restaurant, Kisad Road Baguio City (4th Sat.)

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

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

DAVAO: CAP Anda St. (4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

LAS PINAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel (4th Sat.)

MACTAN: Majestic Restaurant (2nd Sat.)

MANDAUE: Flormont Hotel (3rd Sat simultaneous men's/ ladies)

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel (3rd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: Ribs & Chops, Presidents Ave., (3rd Sat.)

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel (3rd Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, T. Morato Ave. (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 BREAKFASTS (7:30 A.M.)

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

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

Fridays – MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Ma. Orosa (1st Fri)

Saturdays

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

BUTUAN: Echelon Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

BACOLOD NORTH: Noble's Restaurant (4th Sat.)

BACOLOD SOUTH: Nobles Restaurant (4th Sat.)

BAGUIO: Max's Restaurant (2nd Sat.)

BAYBAY: Angelicum Parish 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: Jollibee Junction A.B. Fernandez Ave., Cor. M.H. Del

Pilar St. Dagupan City (1st & 3rd Sat)

DAVAO: CAP Anda St. (1st & 3rd Sat.)

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

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

LAS PINAS: Italia Club 500 (1st Sat.)

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

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

MACTAN: Majestic Restaurant (2nd & 4th Sat.)

MANDAUE: Flormont Hotel (4th Sat.)

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

OZAMIZ: Supermix Restaurant (1st & 3rd Sat.)

PARANAQUE: Chilean Restaurant Nat'l Rd. Infront of Robinson's
Imus (1st & 3rd Sats.)

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel (1st Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, T. Morato Ave. (4th Sat.)

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal (3rd Sat.)

SAN FERNANDO: Café Rustico, Olongapo – Gapan Rd.

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

SORSOGON: Jollibee Sorsogon (1st & 2nd Sat)

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.)

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OUR COVER



A new year and a new beginning! What a way to start the new year than with the miracle of People Power II at Our Lady Of EDSA Shrine. Our cover depicts this historical event wherein our country is once more given the grace to overcome corruption in government, to eradicate the culture of immorality and patronage politics, to turnaround a bankrupt economy and to seek peace in our troubled and war-stricken land. Happy New Year dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

This initial issue of the Kapatiran for the Year 2001 probes the theme "Discipleship and Leadership". In the light of the recent impeachment trial and the sudden change in the presidency, the theme articles written by Bishop Leo Tumalak Msgr. Art Baluma, Manolet Siojo, Annie Salvador and Ronnie Caballero examine the symbolic relationship of these two words. One cannot be a true leader if one is not a disciple of Christ; and, one can only be a true disciple of Christ by leading others to Him.

Moreover, a special article written by Sammy Ulanday on the output of the recently concluded Mancom/BOT Planning Conference. It summarizes the programs that our national leadership will undertake for the BCBP community.

Editor's Note



Last December, we had our annual Mancom planning session in Baguio. One major issue that we discussed was about the attendance of our members in activities such as action group meetings, chapter prayer assemblies, First Friday masses, and teachings. Low attendance surfaced as a common concern as expressed by our Regional Council Directors. Of course, a member can have several reasons for not going to an action group meeting, a chapter prayer assembly, or a teaching night. And I have heard reasons such as work commitments, heavy traffic, avoiding other members, boring testimonies that all sound the same, leaders are not there anyway, etc.. And the list goes on. But I'd like to single out the issue of **leadership** and share with you some of my thoughts.

We are not short of books and materials on effective leadership. You can visit bookstores and you



*By Manolet Siojo,
BCBP Nat'l. Vice Pres.*

A Vision of LEADERSHIP

get swamped with the number of books that talk and preach about leadership in both corporate and religious groups. Theories on leadership abound and sometimes we don't know what works and what does not. Based on my own limited readings and experience there are certain leadership traits, characteristics or skills that are basic and fundamental to any kind of leadership. They are non-negotiable. I want to start with one.

The BCBP leader is visionary

Soon after the completion of Disney World, someone said, "Isn't it too bad Walt Disney didn't live to see this?" Mike Vance, the Director of Disney Studios, replied, "He did see it - that's why it's here!" What a beautiful way to explain vision. It's that uncanny ability to see the future. A visionary can see himself and his organization so concretely that he can create an image in his mind and in his heart. But that's not all. A visionary can not only see the future but can also get his companions to see it themselves. Once that happens the whole organization is drawn and in-

spired to work towards that vision. Time and again I would hear our members complain that there seems to be no direction in what we're doing in the BCBP community. Same old teachings, same old sharings. Hence, the low attendance. Things have become stale and boring.

The BCBP leader, most of all, needs to give his members direction. They need to know that the BCBP is going to a definite destination. This direction flows from our BCBP Vision which is, "Life in Christ in all its fullness for businessmen and professionals." He needs to understand and appreciate what this means as this is our beacon, our lighthouse that beckons to all of us. This vision is the sole purpose why the BCBP is here. Simply stated, we want to see a time when businessmen and professionals are fully converted into the life of Jesus Christ and experience everything that "fullness" may bring. If the BCBP leader can not see himself as an active participant in the realization of the BCBP vision - then he should not lead at all.

“We must create disciples of Christ in the businesses and professions, who bring about a transformation of the marketplace by living out Christian values and practices in their personal and family lives.”

The BCBP leader who understands and believes in the BCBP vision is inspired and motivated. He understands the value of planning and setting goals not just for himself but for those entrusted to his care. Our God is a God of order. He is a God of direction. He is a God of vision. And that's how He inspires us. He gives us a crystal clear picture of the future with Him. And that's why we follow Him. We all want to share in the vision of a new world order – of better things, a foretaste of heaven here on earth.

The BCBP leader needs to inspire his members. He needs to help them see why we have action group meetings and prayer assemblies. He needs to have a pure servant's heart so they will want to serve themselves. He needs to evangelize himself for his members to do the same. Richard Halverson writes, “Whether a man likes it or not, if he is in a place of leadership, he will be influencing others. He has no right just to consider himself. He must think in terms of his influence. This is a part of the price of leadership!... This is inescapable!” And Jesus says it so well in Luke 12:48, “When much has been given a man, much will be required of him. More will be asked of a man to whom more has been entrusted.”

Nobody said it's going to be easy to remain focused on the vision. Many forces both human and supernatural will constantly attempt to derail the BCBP leader from the path God has set. Of course, we are only human. And these will come from all directions – laziness, complacency, spiritual pride, unconfessed sin, greed, etc.. It will be extremely difficult for a leader to remain committed to the vision if he's not firmly anchored in our Lord Jesus Christ – our ultimate role model. Truly, apart from Him, we can do nothing and we are nothing. Our commitment to the BCBP vision must originate from our commitment to live the life Jesus intended for us.

The BCBP leader must already work at realizing the vision. First, with his relationship with the Lord. Through a consistent prayer life and reading/study of the Scriptures, he toils at deepening his intimacy with God. Second, with his relationship with his family. He strives to be a better Christian husband and father. Third, with his relationship with brothers and sisters in the BCBP

community. He lives out Jesus' basic commandment of loving and serving others. And fourth, in his workplace. We know that as BCBP members, witnessing and evangelizing in our specific workplaces is at the core of our mission. Remember our key task: *“Creating disciples of Christ in the businesses and professions, who bring about a transformation of the marketplace by living out Christian values and practices in their personal and family lives.”*

I encourage all of you who are in positions of leadership in our community to remain steadfast to the BCBP vision. By doing so you will inspire and motivate others to do the same. At times it will be easier to let go of it. Don't give up. The Lord will be your source of strength. Your brothers and sisters in the community will always be there for you. Let us all be reassured with this passage from Ephesians 1:17-19, *“May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, grant you a spirit of wisdom and insight to know him clearly. May he 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.”*



DISCIPLESHIP & LEADERSHIP

By Msgr. Artemio Baluma

Scholarly speaking, a person who voluntarily places himself in the school of a teacher and shares his views is a disciple. The peripatetic – (ambulant) – philosophers taught their disciples who walked with them and followed their teachings and even lifestyle. Thus, the teacher was able to lead them out (Latin: educere), to new learnings, to educate them and to change their lives. These disciples, later on would also spread to other people the teachings of their master. They now, in turn, would lead out, would educate others. The disciple transformed into a leader.

In the Old Testament, the prophets and wise men had also disciples. For example, Eliseus attached himself to Elijah (1 King 19, 19 ff). One group of fervent disciples surrounded Isaiah, receiving as trust his witness and his revelation (Is. 8, 16). The wise men had disciples whom they called their “sons” (Proverb 1, 8,10) and in whom they inculcated their traditional teaching.

We are disciples of God. The divine Word is the source of all wisdom. Therefore, it is not good to attach oneself to a human master, but be a disciple of God himself. The New Testament restricts the name of disciple to people who have acknowledged Jesus as their

Master. The twelve apostles – those to be sent on mission – were handpicked by Jesus from among his disciples. They were to lead in turn other people to Jesus, to God. The bishops and priests started in the seminary as disciples for a number of years. With the discernment of the seminary formators, they advanced to ordination, having passed strict qualifications. Then, it is their turn to lead others to Jesus, to God. The legacy of passing on responsibilities in God’s Church continues. The Pope dies, somebody is elected to his rank of the clergy and appointed to his place. The Church moves on, following the discipleship-leadership paradigm of preparation.

Even in lay organization or movements, there is that interplay of discipleship and leadership. In covenanted communities, the disciples have to be tested in their knowledge of and fidelity to the teachings of the Church before they assume leadership roles therein.

The common characteristics in this formation-spiritual, doctrinal, and moral – of disciples before they are entrusted with leadership roles are: a) calling b) personal attachment to Christ c) destiny of the cross (suffering) and d) dignity to receive the Kingdom, heaven.

Fidelity to the Church teachings, fidelity to pray with the Bible, fidelity to the Eucharist and other sacraments, fidelity to the covenant community: these make the best leaders out of the disciples.

At the end, discipleship and leadership are related. In terms of Christian service, one can be a good Christian leader only if he/she is a good, a very good disciple of Christ. We can say the same of public service. One can become a very good public servant only if he/she is a very good disciple of Christ. In other words, the solid foundation of good governance is a lived-out Christian morality both in private life and in public service.



THE LORD'S MESSAGE AT EDSA II

Last January 18, a Thursday, a full-page advertisement in a local daily caught my attention. It was a call for Christians to gather at EDSA and the reason for such a gathering was quoted from 2 Chronicles 2:14 (see inset below).

This verse pricked my conscience and pushed me to attend the "human chain" protest along Ayala Avenue that afternoon and the overnight vigil at the EDSA shrine the next day. From the shrine as I was on the way home, I asked the Lord in the silence of my heart what his message was for me in the tension-filled days of that historic week. As if to answer me, Jamie Rivera sang the song *Father Heal our Land* as I opened the car radio.

The country was in the midst of economic, political and moral crises. The peso took a nosedive as investors departed and closed down factories because of high bank interest rates, a floundering stock market and low consumer demand which indicated a fall into depression. The impeachment trial of the president and the war in Mindanao brought forth political chaos, while the disclosure of corruption in high places had left the presidency of the land bereft of any moral ascendancy.

And again, that Saturday afternoon, I tried to discern what the Lord wanted me to learn from the onrush of events in Malacanang and the EDSA shrine. When Gloria M. Arroyo took her oath of office and proclaimed that it was a time of healing, I understood that it was that the Lord speaking in that newspaper ad. It was then that I understood that the Lord was calling me by name and asking me to humble myself, to seek His face and to turn from my wicked ways. But more than that, He assured me of complete healing.

As he spoke to me personally, I realized that He was speaking to all Filipinos as well because He holds the Philippines especially close to his heart. Being the only Christian nation in Asia, he has a special affiliation with us because we are His sons and daughters and we are called by His name through His son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The miracle of EDSA was His way of calling us and reminding us that He truly loves us. *The Lord calls us to love.*

He was also reminding us that as brothers and sisters in Christ, we ought to emulate and to imitate His son, which He sent to us as a model. (Philippians 2:1-11). Just as Christ was obedient to His Father to death, so are we called to be obedient to God's will in anything and everything that we do in life. And we should do things not out of selfish ambition or vain conceit but in the service of others just as Christ took on the nature of a servant. *The Lord calls us to service.*

But how are we to be guided in our life of love and of service to the Lord and to our bretheren? He teaches us to pray as King Jehoshapat prayed. (2 Chronicles 20:6) He started with the adoration of God, reminded Him of His promises, set forth a problem and asked for help. More than that, he thanked the Lord for the answer even before it came. The Lord reminded me that no problem, no crisis and no trial of any magnitude or depth such as what we as a Christian were undergoing then can not be resolved by prayer. *The Lord calls us to trust in Him completely.*

Lastly, it also dawned on me that He was calling me for a special task. He wasn't only calling me to turn away from my wicked ways and to conversion but He was calling me to be a messenger of Christ. (2 Chronicles 5:17-19). By turning away from sin we become new creations, thus if we are in Christ then we are called to the ministry of reconciliation. For God reconciled us to Himself through Christ. We are called to bring others closer to Christ. *Thus, the Lord calls us to be His ambassadors.*

My dear brothers and sisters, may I call you to reflect on this special message from our Lord, our Heavenly Father as we begin this new year, a very special new year indeed!

*"If my people who are called by my name,
will humble themselves and
pray and seek my face
and turn from their wicked ways,
then I will hear from heaven and forgive
their sin and
will heal their land."*

2 Chron. 2:14

After the Chavit exposé, a lot of us started to pray for our country to be delivered from the extreme problems that emerged. I am just one of you who did so. I included the country in my daily prayer time as well as in all other occasions where I could pray for this intention.

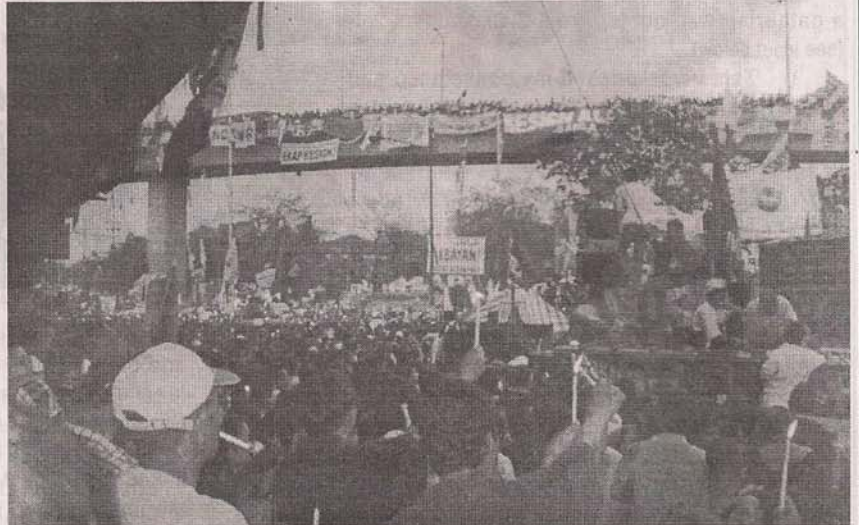
By the second week of January, I kept getting questions from BCBP brothers and sisters asking how long this ERAP impeachment would last. Will it come to a good ending? when??? I guess people were asking me about the trial more from a political standpoint and some knowledge of the workings of government. Frankly I did not have the answers from this perspective, for really who could predict this very unique situation – impeachment – a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.

At this time the only leading I had was from my prayer time. Somehow all the leadings were towards the non-conclusion of the trial... it will not finish. The source came from words that came out of the Goodbook... the Bible. Phrases like... “the Spirit testifies” “comfort my people”... “God is a great warrior by our side.” These and many more leadings convinced me that God would intercede in a fashion that He alone knew - intervention in a very dramatic way to show His faithful people not only His power over everything, but more so



EDSA

By Louie Morales, BCBP National President



His LOVE. God must have been convinced that Filipinos love Him more than enough for Him to respond and show His love in return.

So when I got phone calls from the BCBP regions, personal conversations and badgered into a position... I informed them that my leading was... THE TRIAL WOULD NOT FINISH. When asked to explain and analyze the “telenovela” events, and apart from very little inside info as they expected... I just said “something tells me that it will not finish and a powerful intervening force will come into play.”

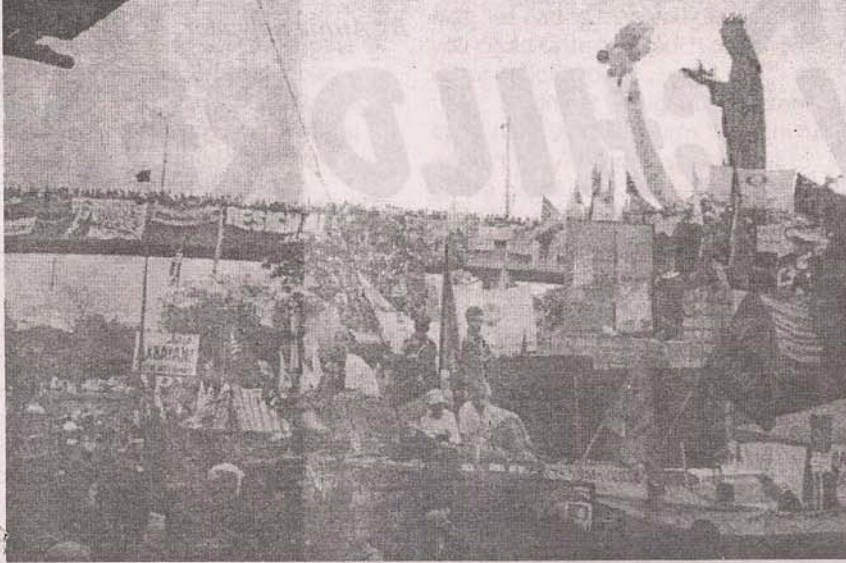
Tuesday, January 16... Psalm 111:9, “He has sent deliverance to his people.” This was the fateful day when the Senators voted not to open the second envelope. No one – but no one at this particular moment knew the significance of the

vote... only God. Through this seemingly insignificant act, God put in perfect order the beginnings of what we now refer to as EDSA 2. But only God could have woven His perfect plan for after the vote, the reaction of God’s people was instant. Go to the streets and cry outrage and oust the ogre in the palace...ERAP RESIGN NOW! That night started the unraveling of the Lord’s own “telenovela” that is perfect in its script, casting and direction. Now showing “People Power II.”

Wednesday, January 17...

Psalm 110:1, “sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool.” We were at the Makati Breakfast early in the morning. The night before I slept late due to the barrage of texts and phone calls from brothers from the BCBP all over the Philippines asking for directions on what to do. In the Makati breakfast I was likewise badgered by the same reactions and emotions. In the closing prayer I read Psalm 110 to reassure them that the Lord has

PSALMS



answered and we must follow... I gave the direction for all BCBP to follow the Psalm... go to the streets, organize in their own respective areas and go with the Lord. People power was in full production, all the elements were in place.

Thursday, January 18... Psalm 40:10, "I announced your justice in the vast assembly"... all people power assemblies nationwide had the same earth-shaking cry... ERAP OUT! The same desire had galvanized the outrage of people. It was reaching a crescendo... the rallies were getting bigger, more organized and with a single-minded purpose. The Lord had molded the hearts of the Filipinos into one. The only big question was how will it end... will it be peaceful... will it be difficult... will it be for long... will there be bloodshed... will there be war amongst us??? How will the Lord end it as He had unfolded EDSA?

Friday, January 19... Psalm 85:7, "Show us Lord your kindness and grant us your salvation"... The love of the Lord won over all options. There were a hundred possible scenarios to the ending of the EDSA 2. All man made... Erap resigns peacefully... the military will take over... the leftists will march and create havoc to force a decision. Worst situation: Erap will order a counter strike... but the Psalm answered the Lord's will. The Lord ordered His armies to show His love... in the afternoon at 3:00 pm, just like the time of His crucifixion, Black Friday... the Lord willed instead a radiant Friday... His troops came to EDSA in peace, support and love for the people... it was all over... the Lord's salvation is complete.



Saturday, January 20... Psalm 47:5, "The Lord mounts His throne amid shouts of joy... amid blasts of trumpets." The people marched to the Palace to reclaim it for the Lord and Erap fled in fear. The people prayed, cried, shouted and hugged each other for they had overcome, they had made the Lord's will a reality. They claimed His promise, they felt His power and they witnessed His victory. Only the Lord could have perfectly orchestrated the solution for the Filipinos' long malingering problem. "With Him all things are possible."

To what else can we attribute such a letter perfect drama, a flawless solution and an expression of unbounded love... *Isaiah 55:8, "for My thoughts are not your thoughts and My ways are not your ways..."* This is proof of how high, majestic and powerful the Lord is, who delivered EDSA 2 to our nation.

How can we ever repay Him? You all know the answer, Brothers and Sisters, it is in your hearts... all He asks is for our continuing love, the same way He loves us. Let us not forget again – if we do everything in His love we will always be victorious... *Romans 8:37, "in all things we have complete victory through Him who loves us."* God bless the Philippines.

AN EDSA CHRONICLE:

LETTER TO MY CHILDREN

By Annie Salvador, BCBP Makati

20 January 2001

To my dearest children, Nico, Tono, Anton, Marga and Mia,

Today, the man who called himself Erap, but whose real name might perhaps be immaterial and irrelevant in the face of his deeds, is no longer President – and thank God – for his leadership was a lie.

For a while, it seemed the issue was no longer what was right, but simply what was legal, even worse, only what was provable, and so I had lost hope in the impeachment process. Though I believed that God would see us through, I was certain it would not be via the trial. I feared things would get much worse before getting better. I worried that the prosecutors weren't making enough points through all that legal gobbledygook. You asked me about good guys and bad guys as we watched TV, and it seemed to me that there were just too many of the bad guys for comfort. I had this dreadful feeling that sooner or later, they would do us in.

Indeed they did. On that fateful night of 16 January, as you quietly slept, eleven men and women tried to steal your future. Such disservice they rendered, such betrayal. I grit my teeth at the memory of their treachery, for with arrogance and glee, they twisted the dagger that they plunged into a trusting, hoping nation.

But our God is God of all, and that includes traitor and pretenders. St. Paul said that all things work for the

good of those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose. So, on that same Tuesday night, Daddy and I, along with thousands of others, felt the flutter of wings and a whisper in our souls: "Seek refuge. Find sanctuary." (Of course, the flutter was speeded up and the whisper was amplified by the wonderful technology of texting, but where else could the inspiration have come from?)

We flocked to EDSA. Taking the motorcycle, we equipped ourselves with radio, whistle, water and chichiría – oh yes, I was expecting we would be there awhile! There didn't seem to be any agenda at first, but we were all clear on the one thing we wanted and chanted in perfect cadence: "Erap resign!"

A nation's rage and indignation rose in unison and shook the night. That could have been very dangerous and very destructive, what with fear and uncertainty in the air. Yet, by grace and nothing else, that fury was transformed into a solid resolve, based on a solid hope on a solid God. Then and there, I believe that the Erap presidency, rotten to its core, had breathed its last. As the days unraveled, the Father's will for our nation was indeed revealed to all.

Wednesday, 17 January. Daddy and I set off, again on two wheels, to join the throng that had grown overnight. We positioned ourselves on the flyover, high above the stage and the crowds. It was fun there, we would urge passing drivers to bleat out with their car horns and as they obliged, a cheer would rise and



Daddy would thump away on his drum. He was a big hit!

We followed the Mass and the speeches onstage with the radio, and with the wonderful view, we had the best of ear and eye. Imagine: neon lights blazed against a cloudy sky, as did the MetroStar as it pierced the horizon every once in a while, or darted from it. Multi layers of concrete highways gracefully reached out in all directions. Above and below, hundreds of thousands of people packed into one city corner of earth, bathed in confetti amid banners of all colors and sizes. Street vendors plied what empty spaces there were in search of a hungry protesters. And yes, the stage: awash in light, center of attraction, brim-filled with street parliamentarians, all up to here with a

sickening president, one with the multitude in decrying the rape of democracy. Together, we all sang one disgust, shouted one fury, chanted one verdict: "Gulity si Erap!"

Thursday, 18 January. At about three, Daddy, Tita Beth and I went to meet up with the others from the BCBP, this time on ground level, under the north-bound EDSA ramp. Although our view of the stage was blocked by large banners, we were close enough that I saw Cardinal Sin's face as he arrived before the Mass.

There, in the middle of a sea of people, it was very pleasant to realize that tempers were cool. Everyone was calm and in control, making the atmosphere even seem fiesta-like. Our wrath was focused, by consensus, on the common enemy: immoral leadership and hypocrisy, *sobra nang pahirap*, and lousy, lousy governance. It was another pleasant surprise that we were now more discriminating, as not everyone who came to EDSA was welcomed with cheers. There were those

who received a so-so reception, as if people were still unsure of them. And there were those who were rejected outright so that they simply had to retreat. We are learning, yessir!

Friday, 19 January. I was so happy that Cardinal Sin had said, "Bring your families to EDSA," because from day one, I had wanted to bring you all to EDSA, for you to be part of the unity to manifest there. In the morning we readied ourselves for a family trip to history. While I did some errands, Daddy went to pitch a tent – for us and for the BCBP – complete with chairs, mats, water and an electric fan, which the nearby store so willingly powered up.

I know it was too warm and you couldn't really see the stage unless you peered very hard. I know you couldn't appreciate my comment about having something to tell your children. I know it seemed like Daddy and I had gone overboard and were obsessing. But you had to be there, kids, we had to take you there, that you could taste and touch this moment in our nationhood.

Admit it though, the motorcycle rides you took turns for were fun, weren't they? And wasn't it great to grab a handful of confetti (which you had torn up yourselves) to throw to the winds? And will you surely agree that



your Jollibee sandwiches were good, no matter where you sat to eat them! Well, that might be the extent of your EDSA experience for the moment, but because you were there, its meaning will grow in your lives, believe you me.

We decided to send you home before dark (we're so sorry it took you two hours to make the trip) because there were plans to spend the night. You see, there was this feeling that EDSA 2, as everyone was now calling it, would not need to last much longer: news of high ranking officials withdrawing their support of the ERAP government and trooping to EDSA was aplenty. In my heart of hearts, I prayed: Something was going to happen! The day's reading was Psalm

85, and it would not bear an empty promise!


Saturday, 20 January. At two in the morning, fatigue had taken its toll and we returned to the comforts of home. However, sleep escaped me, as I heard that negotiations for a peaceful transition had bogged down. I was so saddened to hear that on this, perhaps the most critical night of his life, our nation's President was stone drunk.

In the meantime, the march to Mendiola would proceed at six. I texted all my friends and asked them to offer a Rosary for peace and victory. Glued to the TV set, waiting hungrily for developments, I believed I finished my Rosary before sleep overtook me.

The next events will be discussed and debated in living rooms, sari-sari stores and talk shows for a long time to come. But Gloria Macapagal Arroyo stood in EDSA at high noon to take her oath as our country's 14th President. I pray that you will remember

this day, how we rushed from Makati to be in EDSA for the oath-taking; how we had to content ourselves with listening on the radio because we were stuck in traffic; how I cried and embraced you and told you how happy I was that God loved us so.

Victory – again – for twice now, the Filipinos have come together, one and one and one until there were so many that the nation was moved to its core. Victory – again – for once more a leader who had lost his moral right to govern was sent away, quietly creeping out the backdoor.

I firmly believe that EDSA is sacred ground. I recognize 

how blessed our nation is, since twice we had been drawn into EDSA and invited to take off our sandals. Indeed, everything led to EDSA: Chavit's exposé, Villar's coup in congress, Clarissa Ocampo's courage and that of all the other witnesses, the evidence that seemed to just pour in, even the 11-10 vote on that fateful envelope. The Erap camp must have thought they had it all worked out, yet they had no idea they were being used for heaven's purpose. Yes, even the eleven Senatraitors testified, in the end, to Romans 8:28. Our God is God of all.

In 1986, I went EDSA because I wanted the Marcos dictatorship to end. Mostly, though, I wanted to experience the excitement of a rally, to sleep on cardboard and to go teary-eyed singing "Bayan Ko." Even as I discovered I was Pinoy, and proud of it, I must admit that in the ensuing years, I put being Pinoy in the back burner of my life. Now, in the EDSA of 2001, I am discovering new things. I am discovering that if I am Pinoy, then I must be Pinoy sa isip, sa salita at sa gawa, kailanman at saanman, hindi lang sa EDSA. I am discovering that if I am proud of being Pinoy, then I must work at it, in big things and small, sa hirap at ginhawa. If I want a stake in my nation's future, I must help to build it. If I love my country, then I must be loving to her. If I am Pinoy and proud of it, then that must be part of my legacy to you my children.

Well, Erap is out of Malacañang and Gloria is President. The work now earnestly begins, and it looms large ahead of us. Gloria may not have been an overwhelmingly popular choice as President, nonetheless, she is, and so we must support her and her government. We must pray for her, as we must pray for every Filipino. And we must be watchful of our leaders, of our compatriots, of ourselves. If our new President knows what's good for her, she will take the lessons of EDSA and take righteousness and true service into the heart of her

leadership. And if we know what's good for us, we too will learn the lessons of EDSA and take patriotism and personal initiative into the heart of our citizenship.

If this, the meaning of EDSA, is realized – and lived – by enough Filipinos to matter, then this, to us all, will be the miracle of EDSA. Huwag na natin sayangin ito.

I love you guys, more than ever now after I stood there in EDSA fighting for all your tomorrows. You have no idea how much I love you. Remember though that all my love is just a reflection of the love of Him who loves you most. And we have no idea how much He loves us.

Mom



STRESS RELIEVERS

Wife to husband: "What's your excuse for coming home at this time of the night?"

Husband: "Golfing with friends, my dear."

Wife: "What? At 2 a.m.?"

Husband: "Yes, we used night clubs."

Father to son after exam: "Let me see your report card."

Son: "My friend just borrowed it. He wants to scare his parents."

In a tiny village lived an old maid. In spite of her old age, she was still a virgin. She was very proud of this fact. She knew her last days were getting closer, so she told the local undertaker that she wanted the following inscription on her tombstone: "Born a virgin, lived as a virgin, died as a virgin."

Not long after, the old maid died peacefully, and the undertaker told these men what the lady had said. The men went to carve it on the headstone but as the lazy no-goods they were, they thought the inscription to be unnecessarily long.

They simply wrote: "Returned un-opened."

A teacher asked her class for sentences using the word "beans".

"My father grows beans," said one student.

"My father cooks beans," said another.

Then little Johnny spoke up: "We are all human beans."

Teacher: Let's take the example of the busy ant. He is busy all the time, works all day and every day. Then what happens?

Little Johnny: He gets stepped on.

Son: Mom, when I was on the bus with Dad this morning, he told me to give up my seat to a lady.

Mom: Well, you have done the right thing.

Son: But mom, I was sitting on daddy's lap.

Husband: You always carry my photo in your handbag to the office. Why?

Wife: When there is a problem, no matter how impossible, I look at your picture and the problem disappears.

Husband: You see, how miraculous and powerful I am for you!!

Wife: Yes, I see your picture and say to myself, "What other problem can there be greater than this one?"

MARKETPLACE MATTERS

By Francis J. Kong



"You're suffering from 'low interest yield blues'"

Management experts agree that the attitude of a person toward his work determines its outcome.

Back in the middle ages, a dispatcher went out to a building site in France to ask laborers how they felt about their work. He approached the first worker and asked, "What are you doing?" The worker snapped, "What are you, blind? I'm cutting these impossible boulders with primitive tools and putting them together the way the boss tells me. I'm sweating under this blazing sun. It's backbreaking work and it's boring me to death."

The dispatcher quickly backed off and retreated to a second worker. Responding to the same question, the next worker said, "I'm shaping these boulders into usable forms which will be assembled according to the architect's plans. It's hard work and sometimes gets repetitive, but I earn five francs a week and that supports my wife and kids. It's a job. Could be worse."

Perspective:

Are you a stonecutter or a cathedral builder?

Encouraged somehow, the dispatcher went on to the third worker. "And what are you doing?" he asked. "Why can't you see?" said the worker as he lifted his arm to the sky, "I'm building a cathedral!"

How, that's the attitude.

The first worker is so bored that he sees his work as a curse. He snaps back at anyone who comes his way. Daily grind has become a routine torture that has affected not only him but the people around him as well. In time, he will either destroy his work or his work will destroy him.

The second person views work as a necessary evil. Work is now seen simply as a means to sustain family. Sure, he follows instructions but his sole motivation for working is to sustain

support for his family. He would dare not take any risk because things may get worse. This is a surefire formula for mediocrity.

The third person is a visionary. He sees things beyond the daily grind. His task, to him, is a sacred commissioning of building a great and grand cathedral and not just messing with boulders. For this person, success is sure to follow.

How do you see your job? Do you see yourself as one who merely skims through paperwork or as a contributor to the progress and development of our country? Do you consider work a necessary evil you have to endure to live up to your lifestyle?

I don't care if you're the janitor or the Chairman of the Board. The title of your job is not the issue. The nobility you put in your job is.

The Word of God says that it is the Lord who gives us the ability to make wealth as well as to work. And if work is seen as a gift from God, then don't you think that we have a sacred responsibility to do our best for Him who is our Boss?

Are you a stonecutter or a cathedral builder?

Used with permission.

- Year-end Planning conference in Baguio, Dec. 17, 2000
- Mancom 2nd Semester Report, Aug-Dec. 2000

YOUR BCBP LEADERSHIP AT WORK

By Sammy M. Ulanday, BCBP Admin. Manager

I'm back! I wasn't able to beat the deadline of our last issue due to numerous chores. One of these was the preparations I made for the Mancom/BOT Planning to be held then on December 16-17 in Baguio City, to coincide with the Installation of BCBP Baguio as the 32nd chapter.

I have been asked so many times as to what exactly the national leadership is doing for the community. I reckon that the proponents of this question have seen how their particular chapter leadership has been doing and now they want to know more about the "bigger organization" to which they belong. Interesting, and it's my privilege to respond to the question.

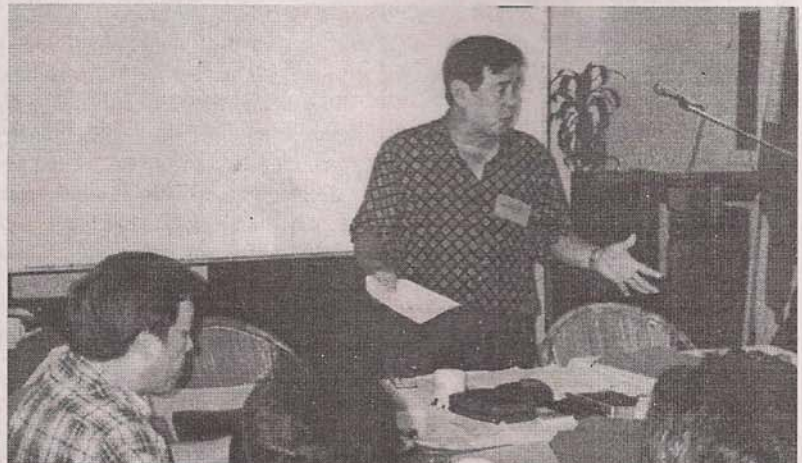
Generally, the national leadership is composed of the Board of Trustees (BOT) which is the policy-making body, and the Management Committee (Mancom) the executive body, of the Brotherhood. How does this system work?

Starting from the Action Group level, members discuss their topics and conduct mini prayer assemblies. Should there be some issues that may crop up that may require further discussion, the AGL brings up the matter to his Unit Leader. The UL then brings up the matter to the Chapter governance where it would be taken up for decision and action. Further on, if such issue is of importance to other chapters and outreaches in the region, the chapter head initiates its discussion during their Regional Council meeting under the RCD. The RCD then may in turn refer the matter to the Mancom when it may affect the whole community. The Mancom may decide to assign the matter to any one of the National Service Coordinators who is directly involved in the matter at hand. Subsequent implementing guidelines may be issued to effect compliance; this is usually done for short term issues. However if the matter of such importance and its effect determined to be long-lasting and instrumental for future

activities and issues of the Brotherhood, the matter is elevated to the BOT for consideration and eventually for policy issuance. The flow is then reversed for implementation to reach each individual member.

The foregoing is the natural course of events. In some cases, some issues may crop up anywhere along the chain, and ultimately reach the Mancom. Each issue is studied in terms of relevancy, materiality and urgency, and in accordance with the BCBP's 5-year development plan. All that reach the Mancom are compiled and acted on as timely as possible. Towards the end of the year the Mancom meets in a Planning Conference to draw up the activities for the following year. This year-end Planning Conference is what was held last December 17, 2000 in Baguio City.

Amidst the cold, fog and the bustling preparations for the coming yuletide celebration, your BOT and Mancom were at work in Baguio City. I must say that those in attendance tried hard to look into all issues presented, however, there may have been some matters which were not taken up. We must understand that their perspective is more on the national and total organizational level. Indi-



vidual issues may seem to have been set aside but not necessarily resigned to back burners; I'm sure they will be addressed in due time. I'd like to provide you the salient points resulting from that planning conference.

As required, all concerned, particularly the RCDs, reported their individual Year-End Review and Status Report. Based on these reports, the achievements were identified against regional targets and plans. The "unachieved" items, or those which need further attention, were then named as "Gaps". Accordingly, the following were agreed upon as Gaps or unachieved goals common to all regions.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Tithing | 8. Regional Organization |
| 2. Discipleship/ leadership dev't | 9. Membership support (livelihood, calamity, emergency) |
| 3. MIS | 10. Regional Teaching Group |
| 4. Selection of Leaders | 11. Family Programs |
| 5. Recruitment | 12. BEPs |
| 6. Program for Singles | 13. International Evangelization Program --- Proposal Stage |
| 7. Attendance in Assemblies | 14. Communication |

The identified Gaps were synthesized to form the following general categories. These categories were established as: the 5-Point BCBP-Wide Goals for the Year 2001.

POINT ONE: DISCIPLESHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

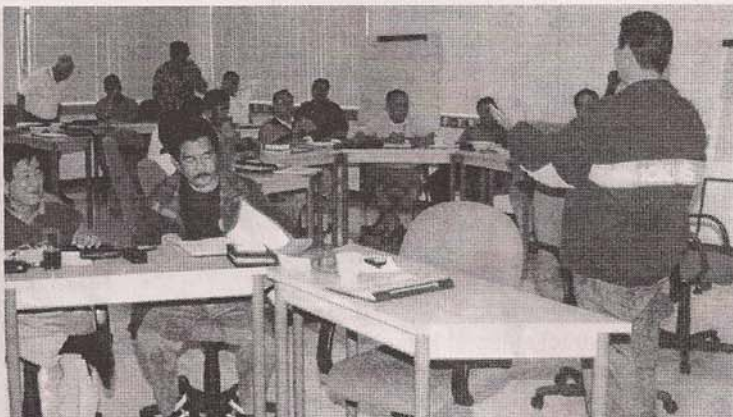
A. OBJECTIVES

- 1). Acquire Christian Character - intra
- 2). Develop Strong Christian Relationship - inter
- 3). Learn to Empower others - meta

B. CONTENTS - Spiritual Formation for Brotherhood Leaders. The Vice President and concurrently NSC for Life, Teaching and Training, Manolet Siojo, was tasked to develop the SFBL manual. Accordingly, a Discipleship/Leadership Development Program shall be undertaken in February of 2001 with the Metro Manila Chapter Governance and RCD's nationwide as participants.

POINT TWO: REGIONAL ORGANIZATION 2001

A. REGIONAL REORGANIZATION: In the previous years, there has been a great numerical leap in our organization. In addition, some regions are far too big that it is physically difficult to complete certain programs, caring systems and support. This necessitates strategic reorganization in order that proper and quality time and support can be accorded. The following regional reorganization was approved and



shall be effective immediately upon concurrence of the new leaders who were identified and given the responsibilities:

1. Luzon Region Split: Due to its size Luzon Region shall now be divided as follows:

- a. North Luzon Regional Council - Coverage includes all provinces north of Metro Manila
 - Ted Siapno, former Chapter Head of BCBP Dagupan was appointed as RCD
 - Lito Acosta, former Outreach/Chapter Head in Training of BCBP Baguio was appointed as Deputy RCD
- b. South Luzon Regional Council - Coverage includes Palawan, Bicol, Southern Tagalog Provinces
 - Fuji Rodriguez, erstwhile RCD of entire Luzon, shall now be the RCD for this new Region.

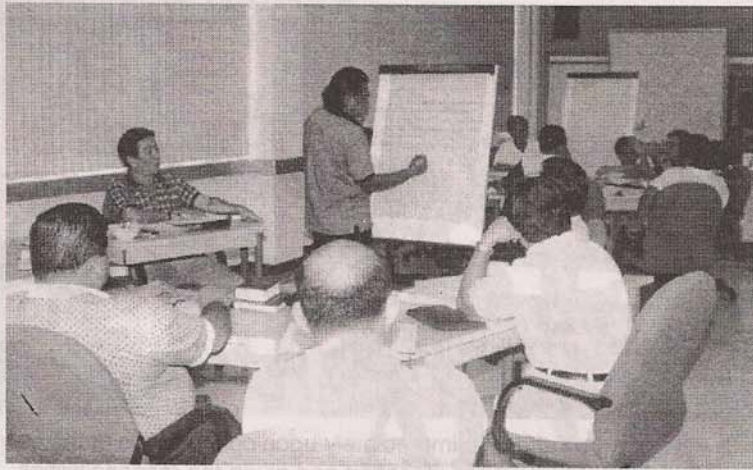
2. Visayas 1 (East) Region: Visayas 1 (East) Region shall now be split into two regions as follows:

- a. Visayas East Regional Council - Covering the provinces of Samar and Leyte, including Masbate
 - Larry Veloso, former chapter head of BCBP Cebu was appointed as RCD
- b. Visayas Central Regional Council - Covering Cebu and Bohol provinces
 - Sadi Saguisag, erstwhile RCD of Visayas 1 (East) was appointed as RCD

3. Visayas 2 (West) Region shall now be as follows:

- a. Panay Regional Council - Gau Arancillo, former chapter head of BCBP Iloilo appointed as RCD
- b. Negros Regional Council - Art Legarde, erstwhile RCD for Visayas 2 (West), appointed as RCD





4. Mindanao Regional Council shall now be as follows:

- a. Mindanao East Regional Council - Covering CDO, Davao, Butuan, Surigao)
 - Joe Coruna, erstwhile RCD of the entire Mindanao Region, now appointed as RCD
- b. Mindanao West Regional Council - Covering Iligan, Zamboanga, Ozamiz
 - Casi Nadela, former Chapter Head of BCBP Mactan was appointed as RCD

B. REGIONAL TEACHING GROUPS: In a further decentralization effort to provide a more direct and easy-access teaching mechanism, a decision was made to establish Regional Teaching Groups. These Regional Teaching Groups (RTGs), four (4) per region, are planned to undergo a series of trainings and orientation in order to achieve and maintain uniformity in all aspects of the teaching programs, specifically in terms of Teaching Programs to be given in accordance with the BCBP Curriculum, manner and process of delivery, techniques, references and Scriptural bases, and administrative and management facilities.

C. RECRUITMENT POLICIES: It has been observed that of late, recruitment for membership has shifted to accommodating more single males and females, and those married but without their husbands, who in many cases, are not "Brotherhood Material". Brotherhood Material in this sense we define as one who is in the marketplace, engaged in a business or profession, who could be a potential agent of change by virtue of his/her position and influence in his/her organization. In line with this, the new BCBP Recruitment Policies are drawn up in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Special Program to Bring Husbands - At present, regional councils are enjoined to put in motion their creativity to come up with programs or activities in order to attract more husbands and/or males as potential members. The main purpose is to balance the ratio at 50-50 + 10%, the latter that of being in the male gender.

2. Separate Men's and Ladies' Breakfast - As a matter of policy, all chapters must have separate Men's and Ladies' Breakfast. It shall now be a Prerequisite to have a separate Men's and Ladies' breakfast before an outreach may be considered for chapterhood.

3. Recruitment of Singles - Singles whether male or female, are not excluded for recruitment as long as they qualify as "Brotherhood Material" as herein defined.

4. Preference on Married Males or Single Males rather than Married Women or Single Women - As in many occasions, married women alone are recruited, and only later, but in very few cases, that they eventually bring their husbands to the BCBP. The reverse is much preferred.

D. SELECTION OF LEADERS- The selection of leaders in the chapter level, namely; Chapter Head, Mission Director, Chapter Life Director, Programs and Services Director, shall be the responsibility of the RCD's. Any move to change these chapter leaders shall be coursed through the RCDs who shall in turn make the proper recommendation to the Mancom for approval.

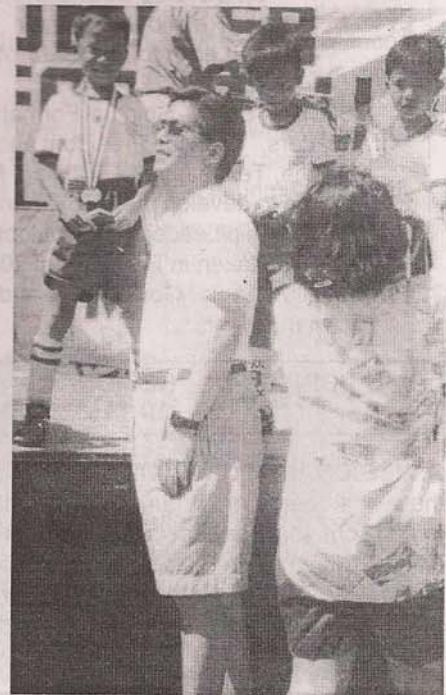
POINT THREE: FAMILY PROGRAMS

A. STRUCTURE:

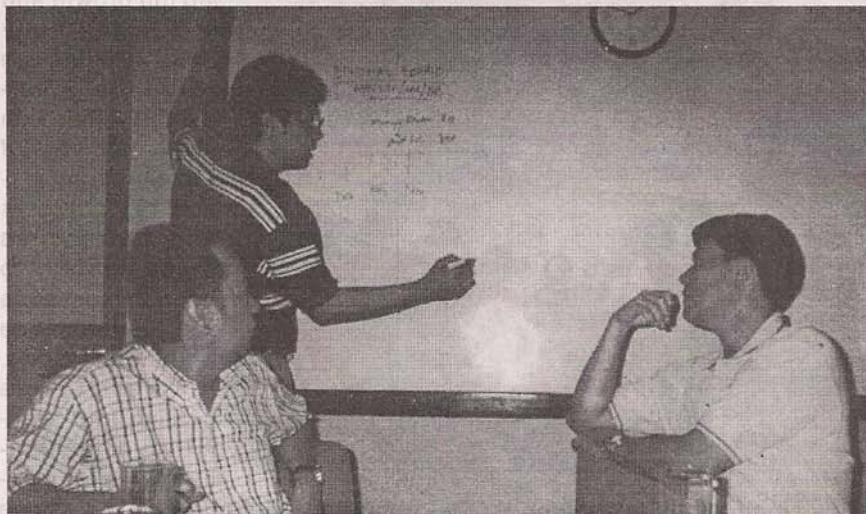
There shall be a separate National Service Coordinator for Family Life. However, in the Chapter level, Family Life Programs shall be part of the Programs and Services Directors' responsibility. Identified Family Life Programs are as follows:

Children's Formation, Youth (Young Adults), Parenting, Family Encounter, and Husband - Wife Relationships - this should be addressed by the BCMR 2 Program now being developed by the NSC for Teaching and Training, Manolet Siojo.

B. INITIAL IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINE: Rey Feria, NSC for Programs and Services has been tasked to collate all family



In a further decentralization effort to provide a more direct and easy-access teaching mechanism, a decision was made to establish Regional Teaching Groups.



programs available, and in coordination with the NSC for Teaching and Training come up with Plans and Programs that will be adapted by all chapters.

POINT FOUR: MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS)

1. Equip all chapters with computers and internet facilities. In relation to this, an inventory of secured access to computer/internet facilities has to be conducted. And further to this, Rey Feria, NSC for Programs and Services and Manny Jimenez, BCBP National Treasurer are tasked to come up with a program to facilitate procurement and/or funding of Chapter IT facilities.

2. Clarify the role of Chapter Secretariat. The Chapter Secretariat is the custodian of all chapter records, e.g. membership lists, minutes of meetings, attendance sheets, teaching manuals, activity reports, etc. He reports to the Programs and Services Director (PSD). During chapter governance meetings, he may sit as a recording secretary but not as a voting member.

3. National Directory shall be fully implemented using the National Office standard format. We have sent a program to facilitate this. The National office still awaits the submission of many chapters.

4. Permanent Record (History and Financials) of chapter - These shall be identified and shall form part of the Chapter accountabilities.

POINT FIVE: BUSINESS EVANGELIZATION PROGRAM (BEP)

A. BEP MANUAL - It was noted that the BEP Program disseminated illustrates the "How To's" in opening a BEP.

However, it was the consensus that a more comprehensive Manual should be formulated. It should include among others, some specific Talks particularly adapted to business or marketplace milieu. A review of the existing BEP has to be undertaken with an end in view of achieving any of the following Objectives:

1. Conversion + Prayer Life = Corporate - Simply put, this equation means that the initial target is for the people in a particular business organization to go through a conversion process. Once achieved, the lives of the converts shall now be transformed into a life of prayer. Thus Jesus becomes the center of their being, particularly in their business and professional dealings. This transformation should eventually be radiated throughout the corporate organization, at which point, BCBP/BEP participation is deemed completed.

2. Sustained Program - This second BEP thrust follows very much the same trend as the previous. In addition, BCBP/BEP participation may be sustained as opportunities arise. This means that BCBP may continue to support the established corporate evangelization in every way possible up to a point where it may be included in the BCBP roster of outreaches; or some members of the corporate evangelization may be recruited to join regular BCBP chapters or outreaches.

B. BEP AS AN EVANGELIZATION THRUST. As a policy, all chapters shall maintain an Outreach at any given time. BEP on the other hand may be undertaken as an additional evangelization program but not in lieu of an Outreach.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

With these tasks at hand, your leadership is on its toes working to meet these objectives. As of this writing, they have eight (8) months to accomplish them. We ask for your support and cooperation in order that we all can benefit from the results; prayers for our leaders are most wanted so that they may be endowed with needed wisdom and strength to handle their duties and responsibilities. Our leaders are not magicians nor know-it-all macho men. They are human just like you and me. They are subject to temptations, stresses, physical weaknesses and all human frailties. But I have met, talked, worked, slept, mingled, ate, joked, fellowshiped, cried, laughed and prayed with most of them. And one thing I can assure you - their commitment to serve is unquestionable. They are not "trapos" who, after being elected into position do nothing but fatten their bellies and pockets. No, my dear brothers and sisters, they do their work, perhaps in some ways they may seem to do it wrongly but that's why we are here to call their attention if they err, to encourage them when they are down, to lend our hand when their hands couldn't be stretched further. We are in this together.



Sometime ago, I advocated and coined a motto that says: "**Be there when it happens**" - this is the least we can do for our leaders, for our community. Do your share, attend and support all the activities by your mere presence, by your material resources and talents. After all, God Himself has given His valuable support to the Brotherhood for the last 20 years, I'm sure we can do the same. God bless us all. -0-0-0-0-0-



The first semester report was a comprehensive compilation of the significant events and growth that the Brotherhood had gone through during the first six months of our administration. A fitting conclusion to that report is yet another chronicle of the remaining six months of the year 2000. Herewith is our report covering the period August to December 2000.

Throughout the year, one focus of the Mancom activities was towards emphasizing the growth of life in the Holy Spirit. During the year, the president together with some members of the Mancom visited the chapters and outreaches extensively bringing the message of love and peace in the Holy Spirit. In these visits healing and praying over assemblies were conducted led by the president. The underlying purpose of these visits is for the appreciation and exercise of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is an essential element of our BCBP Way of Life and an important ingredient of our evangelization work. The greater purpose of this evangelization work is the practice of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

MANCOM 2ND SEMESTER REPORT - Aug. - Dec. 2000

I. CHAPTER/OUTREACH VISITATION

- A. Luzon Visits.** Laoag, Tuguegarao, San Fernando Pampanga, Lipa, Calamba, Puerto Princesa, Legazpi
- B. Visayas Visits.** Cebu North and South, Calbayog & Catbalogan in Samar, Tacloban, Ormoc, Baybay and Maasin in Leyte, Tagbilaran, Iloilo, Roxas & Kalibo in Panay Is., Dumaguete
- C. Mindanao Visits.** Cagayan de Oro East and West, Iligan together with Ozamiz and Pagadian, Dipolog, Davao

II. MISSION AND EVANGELIZATION

A. Chapter Growth

1. **Tagbilaran** now has grown into Tagbilaran North and Tagbilaran South.
2. **Puerto Princesa** is now Palawan North and South.

B. New Chapters

Calamba with Angel Sabas as Chapter Head
Roxas with Rene del Rosario as Chapter Head

Baguio with Lanny Tampinco as Chapter Head
Manila installed as a full chapter in January
San Fernando, Pampanga as a full chapter in January
Butuan in February
Lipa is scheduled in the 1st semester of 2001

Calbayog to be recommended as Chapter-in-Training with the opening of its Catarman Outreach

Catbalogan to be recommended as Chapter-in-Training with the opening of its Borongan Outreach

C. New Outreaches

Imus opened by Paranaque
Olongapo opened by San Fernando, Pampanga
Binan- San Pedro by Calamba
San Pablo by Manila
San Fernando La Union by Baguio
Pasay-Villamor by Alabang

Bais by Dumaguete
Silay and Victorias BEP have been converted to become full outreaches

Talisay by Cebu South
 Bogo by Cebu North
 Bantayan Island by Cebu North
 Mandaue to open a BEP in Consolacion
 CDO West opened Gingoog
 Oroqueta by Dipolog

D. Target Outreaches and Assignments

Siquijor assigned to Tubigon
 Cabanatuan assigned to Greenhills
 Mindoro assigned to Lipa
 Angeles to Quezon City
 Malolos to Rizal
 Batangas to Alabang

E. Totals

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Number of Full Chapters to date: | 34 |
| 2. Number of Chapters in Training: | 6 |
| 3. Number of Outreaches: | 34 |

F. Breakfasts

1. Metro Manila Breakfast. This is held every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Makati Sports Club, a joint effort by the 8 Metro Manila Chapters. Another Metro Breakfast, projected to be held at the Ortigas Center, is planned to be held on a Thursday.

2. Metro Cebu Breakfast likewise was launched last September 30.

G. Chinese BCLP. Studies are being undertaken to come up with a BCBP Chinese BCLP.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Mancom Support Group

1. National Service Coordinator for Programs and Services. We have instituted the 3rd Director - Programs and Services, and Mancom has appointed Rey Feria, former Las Piñas Chapter Head as NSC for Programs and Services. Consequently, all chapters have been advised to submit their recommendations for this third director position.

2. Deputies

a. Ted Siapno, former BCBP Dagupan Chapter Head appointed as Deputy Director for Luzon Regional Council & subsequently promoted as RCD for North Luzon.

b. Ed Banaag - Deputy of NSC for Mission

c. Orly Neri - Deputy for BEP, Mindanao Regional Council

d. Bobby Cabrera - Deputy for Life, Mindanao Regional Council.

e. Pepot Fortich - Deputy for Mission, Mindanao Regional Council.

f. Jun Densing - Deputy for Social Action under NSC for Programs and Services

3. Delineation. Family Programs

which includes Family, Singles, Youth and Children Formation shall be the responsibility of the NSC for Family Programs, Charlie Carballo in coordination with RCDs.

B. Chapter and Outreach Leadership

1. Greenhills - BCBP Greenhills has a new Chapter Head in the person of Roy Siojo who took the helm starting January 2001.

2. Baguio had a change of leadership with Lanny Tampinco appointed as the new Chapter Head, Armand Castro as Chapter Life Director and Gus Altuna as Mission Director. Baguio was installed as the 32nd full-pledged chapter in 2000.

3. Tagbilaran has now grown into 2 chapters, Tagbilaran North headed by Marjoe Magallano with Albert Uy remaining as the Chapter Head for Tagbilaran South.

4. Puerto Princesa has grown into Palawan North headed by Ding Reyes and Palawan South headed by Santi Marquez.

5. Bacolod North - the Mancom has approved the recommendation for Boy Magalona to replace Nene Gamboa whose term has ended in year 2000 as Chapter Head.

6. Pagadian - Romeo Reyes replaced Fred Santillan as Outreach Head of Pagadian.

C. Kapatiran

1. Ronnie Caballero has requested to be relieved as Managing Editor and recommended (and subsequently approved). Ricky Beltran of Rizal to replace him.



2. Also approved were Regional Editors to be appointed to facilitate better submission of articles.

3. Kapatiran shall also be made available through the Website. Plans and mechanics are now being drawn up in collaboration with the NSC for Programs and Services, Rey Feria.

IV. LIFE

A. Organizational Order

1. Program Review and Manualization.

Review of all programs has been completed and all programs have now been given to chapters in Manual Format.

2. New Programs

a. Growing in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The National Leaders Retreat conducted by Fr. Herb Schneider, BCBP Spiritual Director, was centered on the Growing in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, the retreat proceedings was then converted into a teaching track, now available to all.

b. Caring System. Another emphasis in the Life Programs is the Caring System. Thus in response to this, the president wrote another teaching track known as "Care for Brothers and Sisters in the BCBP" to compliment the BCBP Way of Life.

3. Chapter Governance. The Mancom discussed and redefined the Chapter Governance functions as follows:

a. All the ULs are under the Chapter Head as their AGL, and not under CLD as others are practicing.

b. The Chapter Life Director will be responsible for the continuing growth process of the chapter membership. He takes on the task of formation of members upon completion of the BCLP. He takes care of all teaching and training programs and is fully responsible for the conduct of assemblies, action group

meetings and the agenda to be taken up in these meetings as well as the social functions of the chapter and all other activities that contribute to the well-being and growth of the members.

c. Chapter Treasurer. The Chapter Treasurer should now be a regular member of the Chapter Governance.

d. Hands-on training Program for Chapter Heads. The Mancom approved this in principle. It is now on a pilot run following the proposal of Roy Calleja of the Hands-on-Training Program for incoming Chapter Heads.

B. Policy Directives Review and Amendments.

Throughout the 2 years of the Brotherhood, the then National

Council issued Policy Directives in response to the manifold issues and concerns that are presented. At the instance of the Mancom, the Board of Trustees sat down to review, and as needed, amend all existing Policy Directives, so that they be attuned with the times. At this juncture, review results and proposed amendments have been completed. Final drafts of the new Policy Directives are now being compiled and will soon be issued together with their corresponding Implementing Guidelines. In addition, new Policy Directives have been approved:

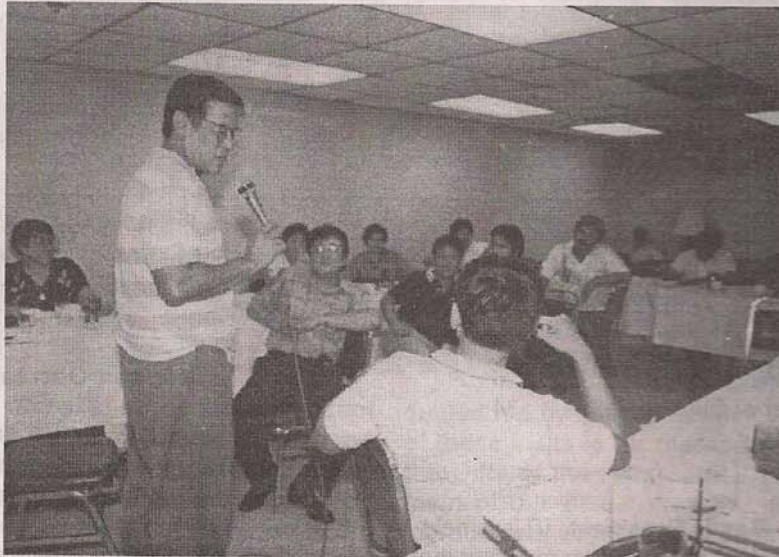
1. Policy on Multiple Membership and Major Service Requirements (PD 45, to be re-numbered)

2. Policy creating the office of the Director for Programs and Services. (PD 47, to be re-numbered)

3. Amended Policy on Consolidated Treasury Policy (to be numbered). This includes the following Policy Directives:

a. Chapter Treasurer has to submit a monthly Financial Report to the National Office.

b. The principle of "One Fund" is in effect. This means that love offerings, donations and the like should be incorporated to a single fund of the chapter.



The 25% remittance shall be known as "National Operating Fund" (NOF).

c. Donation and Love offerings are not to be equated with Tithe.

d. Tithing for outreaches should be encouraged after the 2nd BCLP.

e. The 25% remittance shall be known as "National Operating Fund" (NOF).

f. Chapters should set a fund for Visitation (CRV) as well as for National Anniversary Celebration (sending at least one couple) and National Leaders Retreat.

g. The role of the RCD's wife when he goes to the province should be defined in order to appropriate travel fund.

4. Policy on Unfinished Term (to be numbered) which states that if an appointee is unable to finish his term for whatever reason, the replacement leader shall merely fill out the remaining period of the term.

5. Chapter Head Term of Office (to be incorporated and numbered). This is a transitory policy, the objective of which is make all new chapter head appointees start their term in January. This means that incumbent chapter heads regardless of the month their term will end, shall hold over until their replacement shall officially take over in January of the following year.

6. Opening an Outreach - An activity plan & budget proposal to open an outreach should be submitted and approved by the RCD. It is only when the Outreach will be considered to become a Chapter-in-Training that the Mancom makes the decision. Consequently, the Outreach Head is appointed by the RCD, while Chapter Head is appointed by the Mancom.

C. National Day of Prayer and Novena. The Mancom approved the recommendation for the BCBP to observe a National Day of Prayer and Novena in view of the present situation and afflictions

experienced by some members of the community. This was held on October 27 to November 3.

D. National Anniversary. The date for this national event was moved to **April 20-22, 2001.**

V. FINANCIALS AND NATIONAL OFFICE

1. The BCBP has maintained a healthy financial status throughout the year. Except for delays in remittances and payments, the BCBP treasury remains stable and has met all its obligations.

2. In line with its mission to serve the membership more effectively, the National office has refurbished its staff by hiring a new Website, Computers and Communications personnel, and an Accountant/Bookkeeper.

VI. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

A. Advocacy. Conformable with the Brotherhood's commitment to support the Catholic Church, the BCBP actively participated in the Prayer Rally called by the Church last November 4. Reports reaching the Mancom revealed that other chapters in the provinces likewise supported their particular diocese activities.

B. Social Action. The Mancom has approved in principle the Micro-Lending Program proposed by Jur Densing. Plans are underway to pilot the program in one of the Metro Manila chapters.

C. PIM. This year the BCBP withdrew its membership from the Partners In Mission (PIM). With the institution of the new BCBP organizational structure together with the mandate imposed by the National Strategic Planning Retreat 2, it has become evident that the Brotherhood must give more options on empowering our local chapters through their respective Regional Council Directors.

D. WOC. In the past years, the Workers of Christ (WOC) had established its own organization, instituted their own rhythm of evangelization strategies and culture, and acquired their own charisms. In view of these



Those who only sample the bible never acquire a taste for it.

upon request by WOC leadership, the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals has effected its release of the Workers of Christ as a singular organization, independent of support from the BCBP.

VII. DIRECTIONS

In view of the foregoing report and pursuant to the Output of the National Strategic Planning Retreat 2, it is now evident that the directions to be taken by the Brotherhood are as follows:

A. Expansion Program. It is clear that as far as outreach development is concerned, we are at a peak, especially in the Visayas and Mindanao regions. However, in the Luzon region, the eastern and central part of the island are yet to be tapped for evangelization. In connection with this, the following issues are to be stressed:

1. Outreaches are to be established in "Business Centers" of the country.
2. Business Evangelization Programs (BEP) should be further pursued, in particular, by those chapters which, by geographical constraints, are unable to expand. Further to this, business/commercial establishments especially where members are directly affiliated, government and non-government institutions are to be looked into.
3. By this time, groundwork for a Foreign Outreach Program should have been put in place.

B. Organizational Development

- 1. Membership Commitment.** Items that should be addressed include:
 - a. Marketplace Impact.
 - b. 50% Commissioned Members should be clearly defined and subsequently achieved.
 - c. Formulate Diagnostic Indicators on Attendance, Tithing, Service, Breakfast.
 - d. Implement measurable Personal Growth Plan for members.
- 2. Leadership Formation.** The results of the Leadership Formation Program piloted by the Metro Manila Regional Council should now be evaluated and subsequently implemented on a nationwide basis.

3. Organizational Order

- a. Family Programs should be finalized.

- b. Establish a job network and placement program.
- c. The Curriculum addresses the life cycle of a BCBP Member. Supplementary guidelines and monitoring process should be instituted.
- d. Procedures for Outreach establishment have been taken up and discussed. They should now be disseminated, implemented and monitored.
- e. A Bible Study Program has to be instituted.

C. External Programs

1. Advocacy. The Brotherhood has started the ball rolling towards this end. Significant national and political issues in collaboration with the Church saw Brotherhood advocative participation.

2. Pro-poor. A micro-lending program as proposed and approved in principle, addresses our Pro-poor program. Follow-up steps are to be put in place.

D. Summary

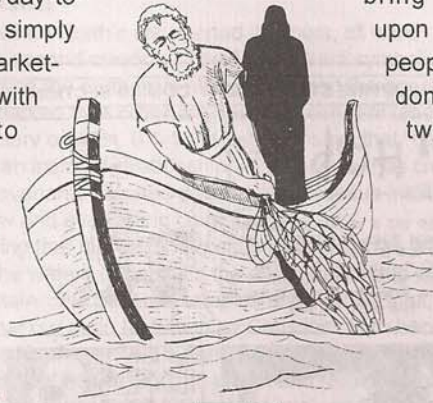
Mission work is well on its way but emphasis on Business Evangelization Program is to be undertaken. While opening outreaches has become our way of life, qualifying the target venues should be underscored. Pursue Foreign Program.

Life. Process of implementation and monitoring of all teaching tracks is evident to achieve our goals. Enhance life activities to elicit more involvement. Bible Study program should amplify our teaching programs. This should pave the way for better achieving properly commissioned members.



Greetings to all! It is not just after all, a New Year we are facing together, but a new life for our nation after a tremendous experience of God's intervention resulting in EDSA Dos. As part of greeting the New Year, the new Managing Editor, Bro. Ricky Beltran of the Rizal Chapter has assigned me to do a column on the "Marketplace" addressing at best relevant workplace issues, trends, beliefs and the like facing the Christian businessman and professional in his day-to-day existence. Instead of simply calling the column, The Marketplace, I have replaced it with the Lord's command to Simon Peter, "LOWER YOUR NETS", in Luke 5:4 where the marketplace was transformed simply through St. Peter's obedience.

If you recall the whole experience (Luke 5:1-11) Peter was frustrated in catching fish after spending a whole evening trying at the best fishing spots to his knowledge. However, here comes a carpenter's son, Jesus, who advises him to set off again and cast his nets this time at Jesus' command. Simon Peter's positive appraisal of Jesus then at that point had already progressed as Jesus had just launched his ministry in Galilee. And not long before this day, Jesus had entered Simon Peter's house and healed his own mother-in-law of a severe fever. To Simon Peter's own surprise he found himself with the catch of his life as their nets were close to tearing and their boats so filled that they were nearly sinking. But Simon's reaction from this point was astonishing. He falls to his knees, asking the Lord to depart from him as he felt unworthy even being around Jesus as he was a sinful man. Simon Peter recognized a power he had never seen before as evidenced by their enormous catch. This awareness humbled him



into realizing he was in the presence of an awesome person who was inviting him to be a part of his ministry. Fear gripped Simon Peter, James and John. Jesus sensing this immediately said, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." What a spectacular scene it must have been. In the midst of those nets bursting with the catch of their life, they are called further, beyond that earthly existence, to a divine call, to

bring multitudes upon multitudes of people to the Kingdom of God. In a twinkling of an eye, Jesus shared a powerful vision of his mission to these three astonished men. And they were

the ropes" in this cut-and-dried game of business enterprise. For some, who through sheer curiosity, may follow the outsider's advice for the right investment moves and suddenly find themselves awash with a windfall profit beyond their dreams will have a knee-jerk reaction of forging an immediate merger contract with Jesus with the very intention of holding an IPO at the earliest possible instance.

But how many really will have the perspective that Simon Peter takes? How many in their confidence and inflated egos will see themselves humbled in the light of God's greatness or even at the least recognize their sinfulness? How many will see the vision laid out by the Lord for his Kingdom? How many will be blinded by their own desire to pursue their earthly wealth against the riches of the Kingdom? How many will miss seeing the pearl of great price?

Jesus' purpose in entering our marketplace is not to show us a better way to increase our profits and assets, but primarily to show us His way is the best. While we may have exhausted all the best means of running our business or even our

life, Jesus can and still has a way to show us. To lower our nets at His command is to trust Him with our lives. To lower our nets when all has been said and done for naught means we are willing to see things done His way. To lower our nets a second time means we are leaning on His ways and are willing to wait for things to come in His time. To lower our nets means we are willing to keep on listening to Jesus until we arrive in His Kingdom full knowing we have succeeded in bringing to port the catch of our life - Jesus and eternal life with Him.

The CATCH of your LIFE

*By Ronnie Caballero,
BCBP Makati*

moved, they were touched to their deepest core and they left everything to follow him.

These are images which should continue to hover over our consciousness, images which we should take to heart. In the marketplace, a place where we claim dominance, competence, cutting edge capabilities, intellectual superiority, confidence and for some, arrogance while at the helm of seemingly inexhaustible capital resources we will hardly take a second look at someone outside of our circle who will "show us

A Look at Creation

Endings & Beginnings

By Nancy R. Catan,
BCBP Manila

During my visit to my Mom last November in Chazy, upstate New York, we often passed the time weather-watching. From her windows we can see to the far horizons in several directions, across Lake Champlain all the way to Vermont's Green Mountains to the east, and across the cornfields to New York's Adirondack mountain range to the west. The month of November is a time of waiting – autumn leaves have changed color and fallen leaving the trees gray and stripped of foliage; crops are being harvested leaving the fields bare and dry; the greens of summer have given way to the browns and grays of November; even the skies seem to reflect this time of waiting between seasons, between autumn and the snows of winter. It is a time to remember the joys of summer, the fruits of the autumn's harvest and prepare oneself for the snow, ice and cold of winter. A time of endings... A time of anticipation, too...

As soon as I arrived home in early December more endings and beginnings were waiting for me. The end of the calendar year and the beginning of the New Year 2001. The end of the Jubilee Year and the beginning of a new liturgical year. The end of BCBP Manila as an outreach and its beginning (on January 20) as a full chapter. EDSA II marking the end of Erap's presidency and the beginning of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's taking over the reins of the government.

It is not coincidence that as I began gathering my thoughts for this article that the daily bible readings were from Genesis, the creation story. Or that the Philippine Star's Sunday comics section on January 28 included a profound statement from Calvin and Hobbes on the old year and the new year ending with the statement: "The problem with the future is that it keeps turning into the present." And so the cycles of life continue. Endings give birth to beginnings and beginnings flow into endings.



Creation and the Creator

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Holy Scripture begins with these solemn words. We echo them in the profession of our faith when we confess that God the Father almighty is "Creator of heaven and earth" (Apostles' Creed), "of all that is, seen and unseen" (Nicene Creed). The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that creation is the foundation of "all God's saving plans," "beginning of the history of salvation" that culminates in Christ (CCC 279-280). Creation concerns the very foundations of human and Christian life for it recounts the beginnings and gives meaning to the cycles and endings of life.

The very existence of God the Creator can be known with certainty through his works. How can one doubt the existence of a Higher Being when rejoicing in a glorious sunrise, or watching the sun chase a rain cloud across the mountains, or standing under a sparkling canopy of stars in the midnight sky? In Hebrew the verb "create" – Hebrew bara – always has God for its subject. The totality of what exists depends on the One who gives it being. And because creation comes forth from God's goodness, it shares in that goodness – "And God saw that it was good...very good" (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 31), a point that He emphasized over and over.

The hope of the future is that it flows from the present

But with infinite wisdom and goodness God freely willed to create a world "in a state of journeying" toward its ultimate perfection ... a process of becoming. We humans as part of God's creation have to journey toward our ultimate destinies using our free choice and exercising preferential love. God has enabled us to be intelligent and free beings in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for our own good and that of our neighbors. Though we may, many times, be unconscious collaborators with God's will, we can also enter deliberately into the divine plan by our actions, our prayers and our sufferings. We then fully become "God's fellow workers" and co-workers for his kingdom (CCC 307, 310 with Col. 1:24; 1 Cor. 3:9).

God's Second Creation

After the great flood when Noah's ark opened its doors, all within exited to a new world, a new beginning, God's second creation. The flood waters symbolically had swept away what was evil and cleansed the earth from all that offended the goodness of God. And this new beginning was marked by a covenant, the first covenant God initiates with man. Fr. Rudy in his commentary on Gen. 9:1-13 in Sabbath says that "covenants are signs of God's desire to be in an intimate relationship with those He has created in His image and likeness. These covenants reached a climax when Jesus instituted the Eucharist and called it the 'new and everlasting covenant.'"

He continues by saying that this second creation foreshadows what happened when we were baptized. "In the waters of baptism, the evil in our hearts was swept away. We were cleansed from any stain. We became 'temples of the Holy Spirit,' new creations." Fr. Rudy points out that our main task then as Christians is to become what we are – new creations. Whereas Noah received a rainbow as a sign and reminder of God's promise, we have Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as a sign and reminder that truly we are all part of God's creation, that He connects all humankind into one family, which He (Jesus) brings into the presence of His heavenly Father. This reminder, Jesus Christ, is always present to us in the Holy Eucharist in the Mass and in the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel.

We are God's new creations

Our Father in heaven has given us a series of new beginnings. Through a virgin, He brought forth a new birth into the world; through His miracles, a new power; through Christ's suffering, a new patience; in His resurrection, a new hope, and in His ascension, new majesty (Liturgy of the Hours, Week III, Monday, Morning Prayer).

This morning, and every morning that we awake, God renews us in His image and likeness and gifts us with the wonderful hope of a new day. As renewed Christians we have received a new heart full of praise and joy even as He has promised, yet it is sad that despite our new hearts many of us still struggle with our "old minds" – old minds full of intolerance of people with differing viewpoints, of little true concern for the cries of the unloved, the poor and those neglected by society, of desire for power, prestige, status, wealth and the lures of the world, of apathy and reluctance to seek justice and correct unrighteousness.

Creation is a process; renewal is part of this process; transformation into what God wants us to be is the destination of this journey. We must not get bogged down along the way or accept only that part of the process that gives us joy. Spirit and mind and heart should not occupy separate niches in our lives, exclusive of each other.

Because we are created in the image and likeness of God, each of our faculties – intellect, emotions, conscience, imagination, intuition, memory – has both a spiritual and a natural dimension. Ideally then our spirit and our heart and our faculties should work together to create an integrated whole. This is God's promise to us. He wants to continue the creation process by the renewal of our minds and our hearts to complete our transformation so that we will think and act like Him (Romans 12:2).

When all is said and done, if we are thinking and acting according to the "same old way", then we have to admit that we are not allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us. If, however, we are displaying ever increasing degrees of love, compassion, patience, generosity, and peace, we can be confident that we are being changed little by little into the likeness of God. Further, when we see negative patterns such as anger, resentment,

envy, or selfishness diminish, we can take heart that God is transforming us and completing His creation process in us (The Word Among Us, Feb. 2001).

And the Cycle of Life continues...

Each morning is a new beginning; every evening is the ending to another day. There is a beautiful poem by German poet Rainer Rilke that says:

*I am the rest between two notes,
which are somehow always in discord
For Death's note wants to climb
over –
But in the dark interval, reconciled,
They stay there trembling.
And the song goes on, beautiful.*

I see the notes as the wonderful things, events and people in my life. The Death note of discord and distraction and disharmony tries to intervene but it doesn't have to win. (This is where renewal of our mind becomes important to get rid of the "old mind".) During the rest between the notes, life happens, value and meaning are given form, the soul deepens its reach, and the song is saved once again. Then as another note sounds and resonates, my life regains its focus. And it goes on being saved and renewed again and again in all the pauses and the rests, between notes of the song of my soul, the song of my heart. The song of my life goes on singing! Beautiful!

Morning and evening, the old year and the new year, birth and death – these are some of the everyday notes in the song of Creation and Life, in the rains and the dry months in the cycle of seasons, in the mountains and valleys of our journey and our "becoming". It is between these notes that life happens, that God's creativeness comes into full force and we grow into more mature Christians.

'Today is the first day of the rest of our life' – another beginning, a gift from God to give us another chance for the Holy Spirit to spur, with our cooperation, the creation process of renewal and transformation within us and around us. Let us live today, let us live this present moment so that, unlike Calvin's complaint, we can confidently say, "The hope of the future is that it flows from the present."

*"Be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit
and be His witnesses."*

Coming of AGE

By Edel C. Mapile, BCBP Manila

At last! The longest BCBP breakfast finally graduated into a full BCBP chapter on that very historic day, January 20, 2001. Over 200 chapter members and guests from the ManCom and other BCBP chapters attended the gala celebration at the Phil. Columbian Association clubhouse in Paco, Manila. Many had just come from EDSA II having witnessed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo take her oath as the new president of the Philippines.

Emphasizing the new chapter's theme and motto "Be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, and be His witnesses." (Acts 1:8) the afternoon's celebration began with a chapter assembly and empowerment led by the BCBP National President Louie Morales. The Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Paul Glenn Gomez, SVD, followed at the end of which the formal chapter installation rites were held. Manila's mother chapter Makati chapter head Nelson Salvador presented Manila for chapterhood, President Louie Morales accepted and read the appointment papers of the new chapter's key people: Jun Catan as chapter head, Francis Mapile as mission director, and Mon Cabayu as chapter life director. After making their commitment as chapter leaders together with their respective wives, Nancy, Edel and Mila, the team led its members in a candle-lighting ceremony and recommitment for everyone.

With the main business of the afternoon completed, everyone enjoyed dinner, fellowship with BCBPers from other chapters (Calamba, San Fernando Pampanga, Dagupan, Cavite, Davao and most Metro Manila chapters) and a program of musical numbers and dances. A special dance was presented by Manila's newly opened outreach in San Pablo, Laguna. The program was capped by Makati's serenading their "anak". In the spirit of EDSA II, they then led everyone in singing an emotional "Heal Our



Land". Ballroom dancing completed and ended the evening on a high note even as it marked the beginning of a new period in the BCBP Manila Chapter.

For a brief history of BCBP Manila, please refer to "Coming of Age" (Part I) in the July-August 2000 issue of the Kapatiran. Chapter head Jun Catan and the committee on "chaptering" headed by Mon Cabayu would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the many people who worked hard to make the affair a big success. Special thanks go to Manila's music ministry that was supplemented by some members from Makati and the Mapecon's music ministry (Mapecon is a business outreach of BCBP Manila).



ABOVE: The new BCBP Manila Chapter leaders being presented to the assembly: (r-l) Jun and Nancy Catan, Chapter Head, Francis Mapile, Mission director, and wife Edel, Mon Cabayu, Chapter Life director, and wife Mila. LEFT: BCBPers from Manila and other chapters and outreach groups give praise to the Lord for His abundant blessings during the assembly and empowerment, January 20, 2001 at Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila.

By Edel C. Mapile, Manila

Growth in BCBP Manila is inversely proportional to the growth of BCBP Manila into chapterhood. It took all of 19 years before the Manila BCBP breakfast became a full-pledged chapter on Jan. 20, 2001. However, my growth in BCBP is faster than this.

Barely five months from my BCLP 24 commitment in Makati, I was forced by necessity to be a discussion group leader in BCLP 1 Manila. I was like one of the Hebrews in the Letters of St. Paul. "Instead of eating solid food," I "still have to drink milk" (Heb. 5:12) because I was still a child in the spiritual realm. Suddenly I was an adult and a discussion leader no less. I took a leave from my teaching job in the university to concentrate on my new assignment. We were a handful who served the BCLP 1. We had to do several things at the same time. My husband Francis and I were DGLs and Music Ministry Heads at the same time. Coping with the expectations and requirements of the Governance Team composed of Jun and Nancy Catan, Vic and Rita Cuna among others, was quite a challenge.

Being assigned as Action Group Leaders after the BCLP, we knew we were into a more serious task. Francis and I handled a group of ten. Later it grew into a bigger one when one action group disbanded. We were different from one another yet we found truth in "there is unity in diversity" as someone put it. Sometimes, my husband and I were marriage counselors; at times we were brother and sister, parents, but always we were friends to our members. In being AGLs we learned to build bridges, not walls. We learned to face trials, knowing that smooth seas don't make skillful sailors. We were proudest when we had to disband our Action Group to give way to our members' new assignments: as AGLs and Unit Leaders.

Seeing truth to Luke 12:48 "Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given," Francis was assigned as Mission Director while I helped in the Secretariat. Surely we were experiencing God in big and small ways. Francis was Breakfast Head, Assistant Course Leader for BCLP 2, then Course Leader for BCLP 3 and Course Leader for BCBP 1. We were Course Leaders for BCBP 1.

As the Mission Director's wife, I am his chief of staff of one, reminding him of his obligations, schedules and

preparing materials for the activities he is in charge of like the breakfasts, the BCLPs, the BCBP, the San Pablo City Outreach and the BCBP, an assignment from the Chapter Life Director. I make myself available for the services due him and keep myself visible especially for activities he would not be attending, as the Mission Director alternate. As he is busier than I in his business and profession, I echo to him the talks and the sharings that he misses. My reward? He says that I am the "wind beneath his wings".

Being a mathematics teacher, I feel comfortable relating with mathematics as I did in my introduction. According to Proverbs 11:24: "Some people spend their money freely and still grow richer. Others are cautious and yet grow poorer." This is God's mathematics which is different from man's mathematics. The more you give, the more you have. In Matthew 14:17-21, Jesus took the 5 loaves + 2 fish, gave thanks to God and broke the loaves and everyone, 5,000 plus women and children had their fill and there was even a remainder of 12 baskets of left-overs. Amazing mathematics, isn't it?

I'd like to apply that Divine Mathematics in my service to the Lord and the people that I may inspire or whose lives I may touch: $5 + 2$ doesn't equal 7 and 5×2 doesn't equal 10. The rewards of service far exceed mathematical logic. I believe this can be done as I make God's will my goal in life and strive to do everything for the greater glory of God!



Growing BCBP in Manila

ZAMBOANGA

Welcome!

Thirty BCLP 4 Participants signed their white cards during the Commitment Night on Dec. 9, 2000, held at the Country Chicken Pavilion, with Bro. Manolet Siojo giving the commitment talk. **CONGRATULATIONS to the new graduates:**

Rey & Del Corpuz

Flor Cael

Vivianne Perez

Ramon & Elvie Lubaton

Sarah Fabian

Nene Pulumbarit

Cety Fernandez

Jess Ramirez

Shanon Alob

Cesar Ramos

Julie Ramos

Cris Asagra

Louie Ignacio

Edwin & Jingle Custodio

Bobby Rivera

Jane Baroquillo

Vita Jairal

Ben Rubia

Raquel Bello

Fiel Lagmay

Nonie Samson

Lovely Cabico

Madel Pascual

Manny Solis

Star Sario

Jane Villaret

Cherry Yeung

"WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE"

By Alex Vidal

My study abroad gives me the opportunity to interact with people of multi-cultural background. This experience enabled me to share my faith with fellow students of different religions like Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. I learned that we share common ground with other religions specially in the concept of justice, respect and kindness to fellowmen. But there is one aspect that makes Christianity unique from other religions and that uniqueness can be stated in one word according to C.S. Lewis and that's "grace." Indeed other religions emphasize man's perfection based on man's effort. Grace means, no matter how sinful and imperfect "I" am, there is a God who accepts me just as I am. A God who puts much faith in

me to the point of giving His own life for my faith. An unconditional love given to an unworthy person like me, free of charge – no strings attached. When we celebrate Jesus' birth may we reflect on the real meaning of His birth as a born human for our sake. Let us celebrate Christmas (and other holidays) not with the gifts we give or receive, but with the preparations on the table, but cherish the moments we spend with our loved ones reflecting on the love that God gave to us – to give part of ourselves to tell others about God's love for us. Let us spread the message of His love and become ministers of reconciliation (Kuya Alex came home to celebrate the holidays with his family. He is currently on scholarship grant in Singapore.)

BOHOL

"Erap, Wake Up To Realities"

Bishop Leo Tumalak echoed the call for Pres. Estrada to "wake up to realities" as evidence against the latter continued to build up each day at the on-going impeachment trial.

He called on the Boholanos to fervently pray that the senator judges will vote according to their conscience.

Tumulak issued the call Jan. 14 during the premier breakfast fellowship for the year of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP) at JJ's Seafood Village.

Meanwhile, eight public officials who are BCBP members held an overnight recollection last Friday at Olman's View.

Louie Morales and Manolet Siojo, BCBP national president and Bohol president, respectively, and Saúl Ulanday flew from Manila to conduct the recollection.

A covenant of public servants was formulated during the recollection. The signatories were Gov. Rene Relampagos, Vice Gov. Edgar Chatto, Rep. Erico Aumentado, Rep. Eladio Jala, Vice Mayor Joe Torralba, Vice Mayor Jorge C. Tubigon, Vice Mayor Rene Villaber, and Clarin Kagawad Jun Amodia.

UNITED IN PRAYERS. Politician-members of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP) forge a covenant for public servants during a recollection to the filing of their certificates of candidacies, (r-l) Rep. Erico Aumentado, Vice Mayor Jorge Cabalit, Clarin Kagawad Jun Amodia, Tubigon Vice Mayor Rene Villaber, Vice Mayor Edgar Chatto, Mayor Joe Torralba, and Vice Mayor Rene Relampagos, (not in the photo) Bohol BCBP National President Louie Morales and Vice Pres. Manolet Siojo conduct the recollection at the Olman's View in Olman's View town yesterday.



CHAPTER HEAD...LINES

To All My Dear Kuyas & Ates:

Every year, we express and celebrate Christmas in many different ways. But we all believe that the "reason for the season" is that "God so loved the world that He sent His only son... our Lord Jesus, to be our Emmanuel."

Thank God there is Christmas! Thank God we have Jesus! He is now within us. Let us all welcome Him in our hearts and let it be His manger. Let us all welcome Him in our BCBP community and let it be His Bethlehem.

Rejoice, for God is with us! A Blessed Christmas & Happy New Year to All!

Kuya Nelson & Ate Baby

(This Yuletide message did not appear in the last issue due to time constraint. Nevertheless this message is clearly timeless and holds true for any season of the year.)

FAMILY DAY

Indeed, Christmas is a family affair. The BCBP Mactan family including tots, teens, aunts, uncles, yayas and even grandparents joined in the fun and feasting during the Family Day & Christmas Party held at the spacious Mactan Air Base Gym on Dec. 3, 2000. Unit members came in color-coded shirts. A smorgasbord of specialty dishes adorned the table. If food was aplenty, so were the door and games' prizes. No one went home empty-handed. In spite of the Christmas rush, the Music Ministry came up with beautifully – rendered Christmas carols. The program was emceed by veteran hosts, Rene & Susan Recamara.

ANNUAL PLANNING

The governance team, service ministry heads, AGL & AAGL's convened at the Mactan Philippine Dream as venue for their Annual Planning on Dec. 10, 2000. Fr. Pius Alejo inspired the group with his topic on: "The Holy Spirit: the giver of life." Kuya Nelson served as the planning leader of the day. The unit leaders & AGL & AAGL's reflected on 2 questions as basis for their action plan.

1. What to continue doing.
2. What should I start doing.

The service ministry on the other hand tackled the question:

How to expand their ministry more to accommodate others to serve?

Units A, B, C, D, "contextualizing" their plans used this framework:

1. Could our members identify with our plans?
2. Are the plans attainable?
3. Will it foster closer relationships among members?
4. Are the plans related to our faith?

IN HIS SERVICE

BCBP Mactan is proud of its "Treasure-Keeper," the bespectacled couple who safeguards the chapter's ledgers, balance sheet & bank account, keep tabs of all debits & credits and faithfully distributes the tithe envelopes to remind us of the monthly tithe. This couple is among the pioneers of the BCBP Mactan Outreach (1994) & had consistently served the community, growing and blooming with its present status. Here's a glimpse of our Treasurer couple Ernie & Lita Punongbayan.

BCBP ENCOUNTER:

Ernie: I was selling insurance when I was first invited to my first breakfast in Mactan Outreach. I could not say "no" to my sponsor, so I bought my own insurance to heaven! The group appeared elite & socio but I was enlightened by the message of the sharer and I found bonding with the dialect of some kuyas from Luzon. Parang kapamilya ko sila. So I came back and became a regular breakfaster & joined the first CLP.

AGAINST THE ODDS:

Ernie: Single ako na nagaatend ng Breakfast & CLP. Hindi ko madala si misis. I received the "cold shoulder" treatment and a long face from "Tata" all the late Saturdays I came home from attending CLP. I enjoyed it all "para walang gulo." Until God did His part.

Tata: I am a homebody, shy & taking care of 2 very active boys then. "Dili ko gusto ng sosyalan" and that was what I thought Ernie was into. Then came the home visits of some "ATES" and I was touched by their gestures of concern, sincerity and warmth. So I gave the breakfast invitation a try – and I was hooked! I joined CLP 2.

BCBP COMMITMENT:

Ernie: I was happily serving CLP 2 because Tata was now among the participants. I had a full commitment to community service from then on, from menial to bigger tasks. My spiritual awakening has led me to the outpouring of blessings and graces in improving my family life, fostering better relationships with others, guiding me in work & career & giving direction and focus to my life as a whole. God fills all the gaps. I am happy and fulfilled when I allow God to use me for His purpose. My training and profession is God's gift which I offer back to the Giver in service as the Treasurer of BCBP Mactan. BCBP is now my second family.

Lita: Serving through BCBP has enriched my life and changed my outlook radically. I was drawn out of my shell by the support and care of the members, especially from my action group. I know that is God's loving call for me.

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Ernie is head of the Finance Office of EUPEN Cable Asia. Simple and humble, he is one of the silent pillars of BCBP Mactan. From a long face, he now exudes a happy face and is always on call for BCBP service. Lita is full-time Home Manager.

SAN PABLO

Manila opens San Pablo Outreach

In Matthew 12:30 Jesus warns "...anyone who does not help me gather is really scattering." Answering this call, the BCBP Manila Mission Team prayed for guidance and asked the Holy Spirit to lead us to a place where we could organize an outreach. Our search brought us to San Pablo City.

It was the Lord's hand at work. Bro. Ehrnie Espejo was teaching in the Graduate School of the National University and among his students was Bobby Santos, a native of San Pablo City, who is now working on his dissertation with Dr. Espejo as his adviser. Bay Lorenzo, a member of Ehrnie's action group is also from San Pablo. He and Bobby were magkabayata. Bay's wife Edna, grew up in nearby Alaminos and is now teaching in that town. Their son

Rayner is also a member of the BCBP Manila. Vic and Loy Cadacio, also members of Ehrnie's action group are from San Pablo City, too. Cynthia Gaité, unit leader for our singles group, also hails from this city. Jerry and Manny Magpayo and their sister Beth Lugtu have relatives who live and have businesses in the place. Really this is not coincidence as everything that occurs is according to God's purpose.

We formed the San Pablo City outreach service team with Ehrnie Espejo as outreach coordinator, Bay Lorenzo as breakfast head and Jerry Magpayo as head servant.

We then asked permission from the parish priest and organized our first breakfast. This took place on Sept. 9, 2000 at Texas Chicken Restaurant, Paulino St. and was well attended by 34 from San Pablo City and the nearby

town of Alaminos. The service team from Manila numbered 38. Distinguished guests included Roy Calleja RCD, Makati chapter head Nelson Sador and wife Annie, Makati mission director Topy Vasquez and wife Susan. BCBP Manila head couple, Jerry and Nancy Catan, were the sharers. We felt victory for Christ, "all who believed were together...and ate together with glad and humble hearts" (Acts 2:44-46)

Rain or shine, we now set out early every second and fourth Saturdays of the month for San Pablo City. As St. Paul admonished the Hebrews "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more..." (Heb. 10:25). We are looking forward to our first BCL within the next few months. Against all odds, we are determined to carry out God's calling as we are "God's own people, chosen to proclaim His wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into His own marvelous light." (1 Pet. 2:9) Praise God!
Francis Mapile, Manila Mission Director

ONE MINUTE MEDITATION

By Fernando de Larrazabal, BCBP Makati

It is not a privilege

"It is God's will that you grow in holiness."

1 Thess. 4:3

Holiness is for all who wish to follow Jesus. It is not a privilege of a few chosen ones, but rather, an obligation, a call for all Christians.

Holy people are ordinary people who love Jesus, are faithful to the duties of their state in life, and comply with what the Church teaches. They live in the world, but are not of the world.

They come from every conceivable corner of the world – the rich, the poor, the learned and the ignorant,

who are capable of overcoming the barriers the world offers. Sanctity is a badge that all true Christians must wear, which sets them apart from all others.

Holy People are ordinary human beings with weaknesses which they have to struggle with and overcome. No one is born holy, they have to work and grow at it, to comply with the call of holiness.

You can also be holy if you make up your mind to be holy – Jesus will help you accomplish it.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, the state of my soul is far from being holy. I find difficulty in following your ways. I struggle to overcome my many faults, but most of the time I fail. But nevertheless, I continue trying. Dear Lord, forgive me for my past failings and give me the grace to strengthen my will so I can always abide by yours. I promise to go to confession and cleanse myself from the sins I have accumulated. Help me to change.

**It is only
when You
Were There
that you can
talk about
it.**

**"Be There
When It
Happens".**

OUR LORD'S GRACE AND TIMELY HELP

By Bong F. Pelaez
BCBP, Cagayan de Oro

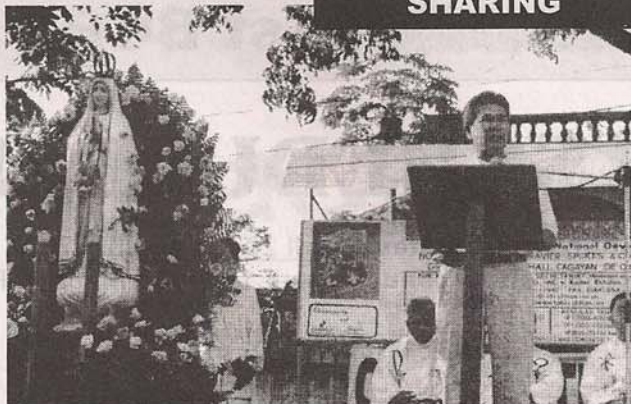
January 13, 2001 (Saturday) is a memorable and joyful day for the Pelaez family. I started my day (5:30 am) with prayer and reflection on the first reading for the day: *Hebrews 4:16* "so let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help."

I wrote my reflection asking our Lord's grace and timely help.

"Lord, 51 days have gone since Rico's abduction. The suffering, depression, and anguish experienced by Rico and the family members are beyond words. May we find the grace for your timely help in having a breakthrough with the kidnapers. May both, our family and the kidnapers, have the hearts of understanding and compassion. Your will be done."

Within five hours from my reflection, my prayer had been answered. Rico, my younger brother, through divine intervention saved himself from his kidnapers in Iligan City. A breakthrough literally took place as he was able to get hold of two guns from his two 24-hour kidnaper/security guards.

SHARING



Two hours later, my older brother Ernie, my son Bebo, and I joined him in the safe house of an Iligan BCBP family of Buddy Gerona. The reunion was an answered prayer. God is good, all the time.

Rico had lost 20 pounds but his moral certitude and spirits were high. He thanked me for the *Miracle Hour Book* by Linda Schubert which I was able to send him in his second week of captivity. The pamphlet was his source of hope and guidance on how he would be able to free himself. He used it as a prayer three times a day.

The experience of having a missing member in the family gave me a better understanding on the power of prayer. Our petitions are always in our Lord's grace and timely help. His will be done.

BIBLE SHARING

LOVE is a Verb

Liking is a feeling, but loving is a verb. What actions (verbs) characterize or accompany love according to the following verses?

Matthew 5:44

Romans 12:9-10

1 Corinthians 13:7

Galatians 5:13

Ephesians 4:2

1 John 3:16-18

On slips of paper, write the verbs or actions you discovered. Put the papers into a basket and have each member of your action group (or family) draw one. During the week and until your next meeting, practice the verb on your paper – especially with each person in your group (or member of your family). At the end of the week, try to guess who drew which verb, then discuss your experiences and what you learned about love.

21st BCBP Anniversary

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Anniversary Dates : April 20, 21 and 22, 2001

Registration Venue : (April 19, 1:30 PM. up to Friday) Davao Convention & Trade Center

April 20, Friday

Part I - Sports Activities

- 5:30 AM - Assembly for "5 Km. Funrun" - Victoria Plaza Mall, J.P. Laurel Avenue
- 7:00 AM - Golf & Tennis Tournaments - Lanang Golf & Country Club, Lanang, J.P. Laurel Avenue
- 1:00 PM - Start of Bowling Tournament at Fairlanes, along F. Torres St.

Part II - General Assembly - Davao Convention and Trade Center

- 4:00 PM - Start of Assembly at the Davao Convention & Trade Center
- 7:30 PM - Dinner at the same venue

April 21, Saturday

Part I - 21st Anniversary Grand Breakfast - Grand Men Seng Hotel

- 6:00 AM - Start of Breakfast Service at Grand Men Seng Hotel, Magallanes St.

Part II - Business Matters - Hotel Maguindanao

- 10:00 AM - Mancom Annual Report
- 1:00 PM - BOT - MANCOM Meetings

Part III - 21st anniversary Celebration Program

- 5:00 PM - Eucharistic Celebration - Msgr. Fernando Capalla, Archbishop of Davao
- 7:00 PM - Buffet Dinner
- 8:00 PM - Start of Fellowship Night (Luau Motif) at the Davao Convention and Trade Center. Presentations (Awarding of Prizes at intervals)

April 22, Sunday

- 7:30 AM - Start of Bay Tours - Paradise Island (Samal Island) & Pearl Farm at Talikud Island
- 3:00 PM - End of Bay Tour & Head for Home

Early Registration up to February 28 - P 600.00 per head. Late Registration & On-site
- P 750.00 per head. Register at anniversary@bcbp.org

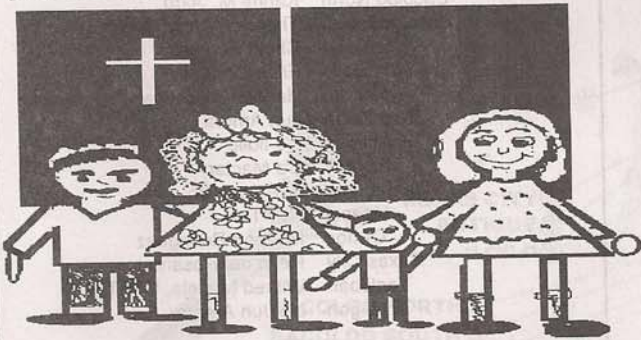
For your information, please
e-mail at anniversary@bcbp.org

Henry Drummond once said, "To love abundantly is to live abundantly." All of us want to see our children live rich, abundant lives filled with compassion and kindness for others. The best way to help them do that is to teach them through the example of our own loving hearts and attitudes.

Here are some concrete things we parents can do to help our children learn to love:

Love for Family

- **Create meaningful times together.** Between school, church, friends, work, sports, and numerous other activities, children can easily go weeks without having so much as a prolonged conversation with mom, dad, or their siblings. If we want our children to learn to love each other, we must find creative, meaningful times just to be together. A weekly "family night" – with the TV off and the phone off-limits – is a good step in the right direction.
- **Teach them to speak and act kindly.** Put two children together in a room and odds are it won't be long before they start bickering. It's okay for children to disagree, as long as it's done in civil tones and in love. But name-calling and harsh, unkind words should be off-limits.
- **Teach them to pray for each other.** As you pray with your children individually, remind them to pray specifically for each family member. In our times of prayer throughout the day, we never forget to mention each child and parent by name, thanking God for them and asking Him to guide them. This has now become a natural part of our son David's prayers as well.



Love for Others

- **Talk positively about your friends.** We all get angry with our friends and associates from time to time, and it's tempting to "unload" our resentment at home. But if we want our children to develop a genuine love for others, we parents need to guard our tongues from "harmless" gossip.
- **Reach out to those in need.** Children can be taught to help others in need. Devote one Saturday a month to help the sick and elderly – cleaning yards, painting fences, making a batch of brownies for a sick neighbor. It can be an invaluable investment in the future of your children's lives and hearts.
- **Open your home to the hurting and needy.** If children are going to learn to love and serve others, they must see that willingness and compassion in the lives of their parents. When your children see you open your home to those in need, they will get a clear picture of what it means to truly love others and will be likely to follow your lead.

Teaching Your Children How to Love

By Frank and Ruby Martin

Love For God

- **Talk about God throughout the day.** Home life brings many possibilities during the day to recognize God's wonderful love and grace. As you go through the day, talk to your kids about all the good things God has done for your family. Thank Him for the trees and the flowers and the nice home He has given you. Praise Him with your words and actions, and your children will learn to do the same.
- **Play and sing praise songs throughout the day.** We have declared our home a TV-free zone. Instead we fill our airwaves with praise and worship music. It's wonderful to hear David lifting his voice in song to God during the day instead of wasting time and brain cells watching television. We've seen first-hand the difference it has made in his actions and attitudes – not to mention his love and adoration for God.
- **Keep a family prayer journal.** The prayer needs of others – as well as answered prayers – are easily forgotten unless we do something to remind ourselves. Keeping a prayer journal will not only remind your children how important it is to pray for others, but will serve as a daily reminder of how good God has been to you and your family. It will give your children a first-hand look at God's goodness, mercy, and involvement in their lives. And it will teach them the joy of serving a living, loving God.

(From *Discipleship Journal*, issue 79)

COLUMNISTS' CORNER

Ricky Beltran. It is very appropriate that for his first issue as *Managing Editor*, Ricky focuses on the issue on *Discipleship and Leadership*. Ricky is a member of the Rizal chapter where he has served as *Breakfast Head and Action Group Leader*. He has been actively involved in the *Kapatiran* for several years before taking the reins of its leadership. He urges everyone to contribute articles and sharings to enliven the issues and pledges to do his best to lead the *Kapatiran* into new millennium.

Ronnie Caballero. Although ronnie has stepped down from *Kapatiran* editorship, he has graciously agreed to write a regular column that he entitles **Lower Your Nets** to reflect the BCBP's mission in the marketplace. In this issue he defines that it means for us to lower our nets at Jesus' command.

Nancy R. Catan. As the New Year begins, Nancy takes a look as the *Creation Story* and the many endings and beginnings that we face in our lives. She maintains that as we grow in the Holy spirit, our faith will let us see that the hope of the future is that it flows from the present.

Louie Morales. BCBP's national president Tatang Louie takes us step by step through the exciting events of EDSA II and shows us how the Lord revealed Himself to us all along the way. And he challenges us not to forget the great love that the Father has shown us at EDSA II.

Manolet Siojo. BCBP's national vice president, joins us in this issue with his vision of what it means to be a BCBP leader. He says that most important of all, a BCBP leader must be a visionary.

Annie Salvador. In her column Annie writes a letter to her children all about EDSA II and what it means to them and their future. Would that we could all be as articulate in expressing our feelings and thoughts to our children in helping them understand the events happening nowadays.

Fernando de Larrazabal. Tito Larry talks about holiness. It is not a privilege, he maintains, but God's will that we strive toward holiness. We can be holy if we only decide to be holy - Jesus will help us accomplish it.

Sammy M. Ulanday. Sammy outdoes himself this time by giving us a complete report of the Board of Trustees and Mancom's planning session with its definitions and directions for the year 20001, plus the semestral report of all the Mancom's activities during the last half of 2000. Really interesting reading and a MUST for all leaders and members!

Msgr. Artemio Bataluma. Msgr. Art is the Legal Counsel of the CBCP. In his column in this issue he focuses on our issue theme of *Discipleship and Leadership* tracing their development from the Old Testament times, to Jesus' time, to the modern day Church.

Francis J. Kong. Author of "Only the REAL matters", a book of short musings on what it means to be a practical Christian in today's business milieu, Francis asks us to check out our reasons and perspective as to why we work. Are we just piling stones or are we building a cathedral?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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KAPATIRAN

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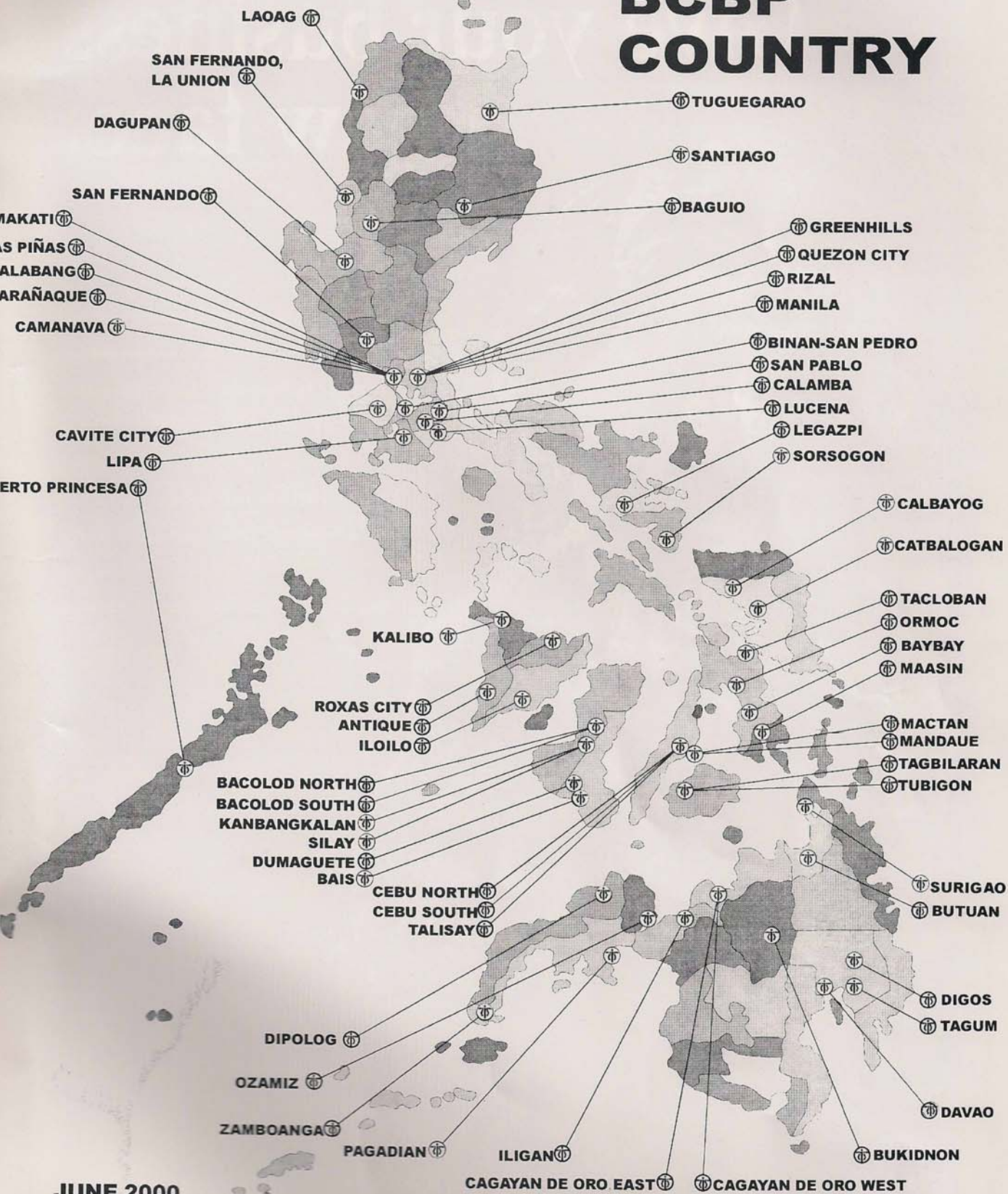
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THE BCBP COUNTRY



JUNE 2000

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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