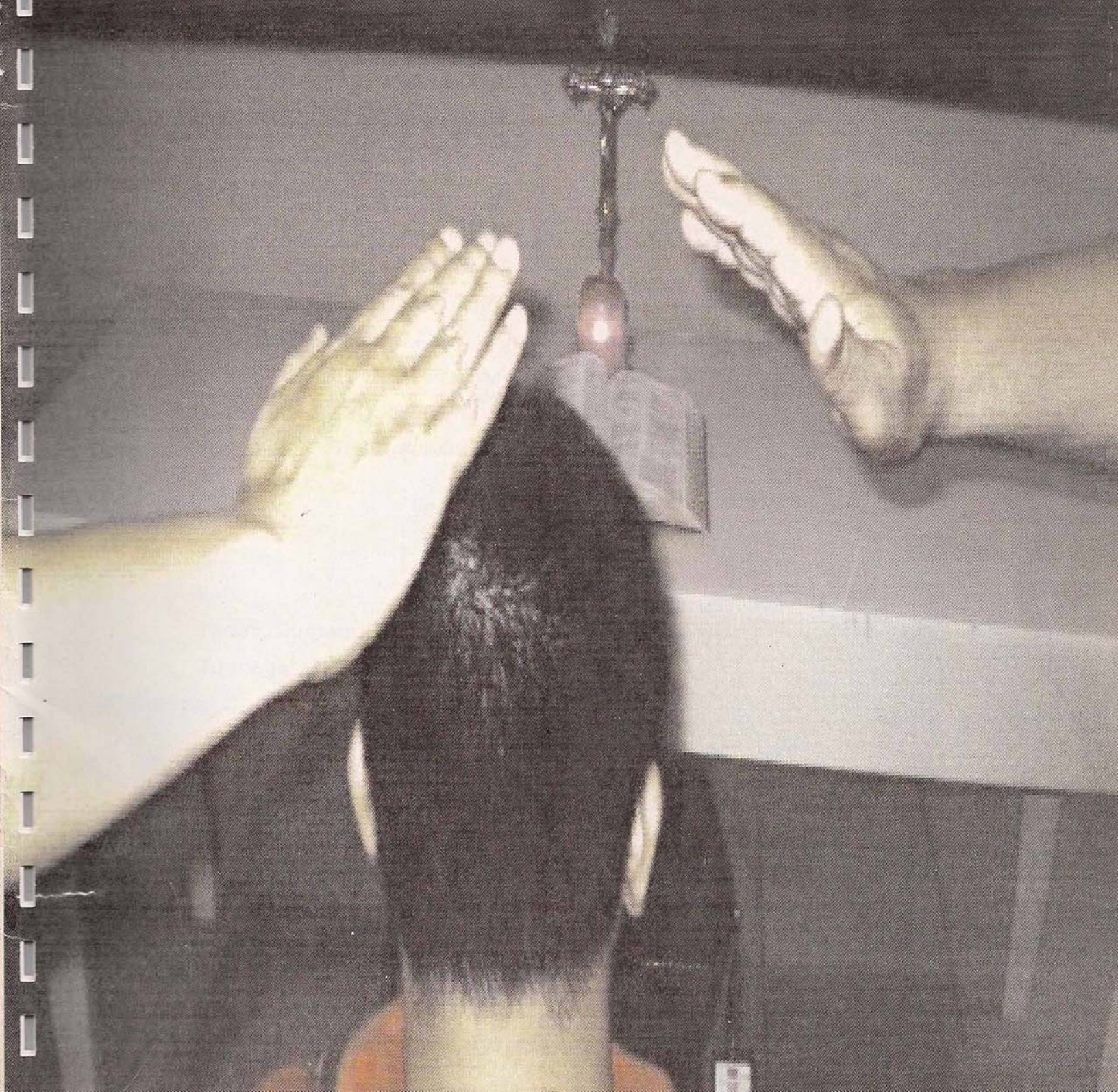


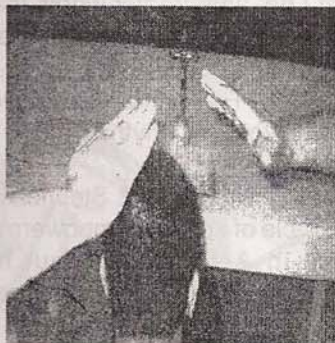
# Kapatiran

VOL. XVI No 3

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2001



□Focus: <i>Spiritual Empowerment</i>	page 2
□BCBP Way of Life: <i>Community Building is Community Empowerment</i>	page 4
□One Minute Meditation: <i>Follow the Leader</i>	page 5
□Editorial: <i>In Troubled Times, Jesus Empowers Us to Share</i>	page 6
□Advocacy: <i>Greenhills Adopts a Hectare!</i>	page 7
□Back to Basics: <i>You Want Me To Go Where?</i>	page 8
□Lower Your Nets: <i>Don't Even Try!</i>	page 10
□Features: <i>Sunday Morning Prayer</i>	page 12
<i>Where Was God On Sept. 11?</i>	page 13
<i>Praying for "Senseless" Tragedies</i>	page 13
<i>The Healing Power of Faith</i>	page 16
<i>Songs from the Bible</i>	page 19
<i>Letters: Response to: Where the Heart Lies</i>	page 27
□Sharing: <i>I was Clinically Dead But God Revived Me</i>	page 14
<i>By-pass Operation By-Passed Me</i>	page 15
<i>Bible Sharing: The Light of the Word</i>	page 15
<i>Youth Sharing: I Have Found My Star in the Dark Night</i>	
<i>and My Journey Continues...</i>	page 21
□From Cries To Kisses: <i>Moving Forward, Looking Back</i>	page 18
□Marketplace Matters: <i>The Business of Christianity</i>	page 20
□News	
Greenhills	page 22
Alabang	page 23
Iloilo	page 24
Tarlac, Dumaguete, Bais	page 25
Tuguegarao, Cebu South, Baguio	page 26
□Columnist Corner	page 28



*COVER UP: Praying over is one of our Community practices when we invoke the Holy Spirit to empower us, especially at times when we embark on mission tasks. This issue chronicles the Spiritual Empowerment in the lives and experiences, insights and reflections on the matter, of Brotherhood members.*



By Ronnie Caballero, BCBP Makati

# Spiritual EMPOWERMENT

**T**oday is providential. I passed by a street this morning that is usually just full of diggings and saw a startling sight. Gallons upon gallons of fresh, clear water gushed forth deluging the street. Months ago that spot was covered with layers of concrete. But our village association found a competent well digger to select a spot out of the many hectares of land in our village and find us water. And find water, he did after months and months of digging!

This is very much like our life in the Spirit. Who else but the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit can fathom the depth of one's life and know that there is a deep potential for life, life in its fullest, within each one of us just waiting to be tapped? Previous to my own BCLP and baptism in the Holy Spirit, I never considered myself a 'spiritual' person. But since that event I have never looked back nor have ever had the inclination or reason to abandon my life in the Spirit. I find strength, empowerment and encouragement in His words in John 14:5-20: He will be with me forever, even the Spirit of truth ... He says, "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you and because I live, you will live also ... you in me, and I in you."

Life in the Spirit is truly an experience in empowerment. Within our BCBP community context, we find ourselves enfolded in a Spirit-environment, enabling us, encouraging us, supporting us to do the will of the Father. We remember the Hebrew baby boy set afloat in the waters of the Nile who grew up to lead the Israelite nation out of bondage. And the young shepherd boy anointed to be one of Israel's greatest kings. One after another we see the unlikeliest of prophets all resisting and running away from the call of the Lord who yet end up accomplishing His will with full obedience and trust. Yes, we resist being asking to step beyond our limitations (sometimes even hearing the complaint "abuse of the Holy Spirit") but when we do, we find that we soar with confidence to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus clearly says this in John 14:12-14: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it."

The story of St. Stephen is a good example of spiritual empowerment. We read in Acts 6:2-6 about how the community needed some people to 'serve at table' so they gathered together in prayer choosing among others, Stephen. The apostles prayed and laid

hands on them to empower them in His service. The account continues and shows us that the choice of Stephen unleashed a well-spring of faith as Stephen, filled with grace and power, went on to work great wonders and signs among the people (v.8), speaking with wisdom and the spirit (v.10). I'm sure it was a surprise to the elders and the community to see the one they had selected and anointed to 'serve at table' be so transformed by the Spirit that when he appeared before the Sanhedrin his face was 'like the face of an angel' (v.15). Imagine the great transformation in this man! This, to me, is a true miracle of empowerment!

How do we know the Holy Spirit was involved in Stephen's transformation, and the transformation of many others in that early Christian community? By their fruits! We see in the succeeding chapters how the life of Stephen took tremendous leaps of faith and commitment leading to his eventual martyrdom. We see a life transformed - way beyond any human estimation, way beyond human experience and native talent. This to me is the core of the miracle of spiritual empowerment, when with the help of the Spirit, we can say one plus one equals one thousand... when out of nothingness through simple obedience and trust we become witness and participant in the unveiling of great spiritual works through the unlikeliest of human "instruments".

Does this mean we are to throw away all possible human means of

approaching a life in the Spirit and depend solely on the Spirit to work? Does it mean that we should abandon all BCBP teaching, training and leading by example to rely solely on the laying of hands? No, I don't believe so. As in the principle of making an offering, we do not come before the Lord empty-handed. We offer something for him to bless, no matter how 'human' it may seem. So, no matter how simple or basic our teaching programs may seem to be, let us remain involved and active, so we will have a committed discipleship life to offer to the Lord and Holy Spirit to empower.

In closing, let me just run through the other aspects of spiritual empowerment that can help us recognize the fruits of a Spirit-empowered life. EMPOWER: E-Equips, M-Motivates, P-Prays, O-Obeys, W-Wisdom, E-Encourages and Enlivens, R-Responds and Renews.

What, then, is empowerment? The dictionary says it is to enable, to give ability and to authorize. This is the delightful task of the Holy Spirit - to enable us to live full lives as Christ's disciples in today's world, to give us the ability to transform our lives, and to authorize us to do the work He has planned for us to do. In the BCBP He calls us to bring our marketplaces to Christ and to bring Christ into our marketplaces. Even as we allow ourselves to be empowered, transformed and as we answer God's call in our BCBP community, we will find we are abundantly blessed and, wonder of all wonders, we become a blessing to others. We can say with Job: I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be hindered. *I have dealt with great things that I do not understand; things too wonderful for me, which I cannot know. I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eye has seen you.* Job 42:1-6

### **E-Equips**

Empowerment supplies the needed resources, talents and strength to carry out the intended task for His glory.

### **M-Motivates**

More often than not the task at hand calls for selflessness and self-sacrifice. Simple pressure from a leader may not be enough to humanly motivate the person. But with the Spirit at work, we see wonders accomplished.

### **P-Prays**

The absence of this will definitely derail any empowerment. Both leader and the empowered member must have a mature prayer life. This is a non-negotiable component of empowerment.

### **O-Obeys**

Full empowerment is a result of a series of obedient responses, not just one.

### **W-Wisdom**

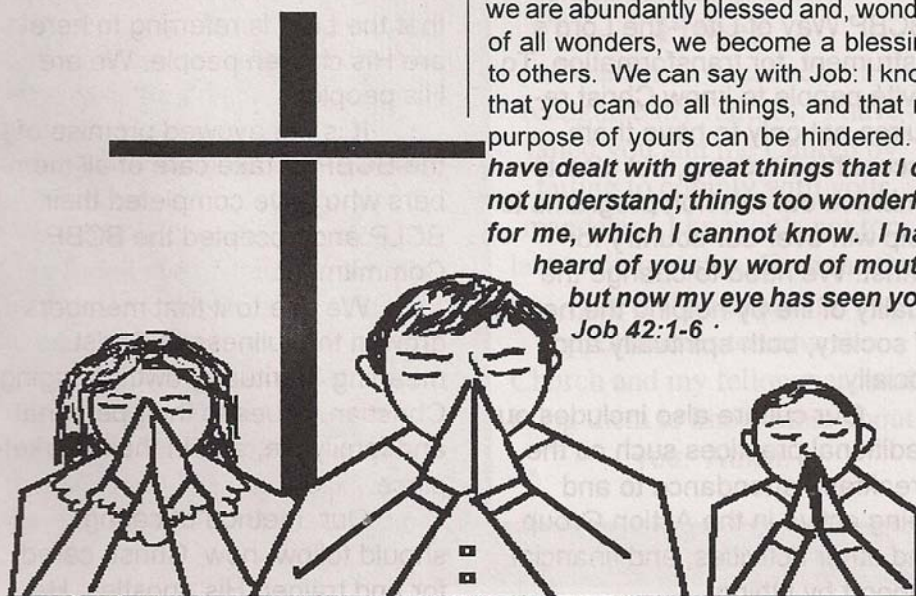
This is where empowerment is truly tested. A spiritually mature servant knows how to 'wait on the Lord' for an answer before acting. Any 'empowered' action or decision founded on human wisdom will fail. Guidance and prayer will always precede wisdom in action.

### **E-Encourages and Enlivens**

An empowered person is infectious. Not only does he move with definite momentum, he carries others along with him. His presence in community is encouraging and a source of life. This is the fire that we seek in our community.

### **R-Responds and Renews**

The empowered person after thoroughly weighing things in prayer and consultation will ACT. His actions will be a response to the love of the Holy Spirit with the sole intention of pleasing the Lord. Yet, as we know the Lord, He is never to be outdone in generosity. We find that the empowered person becomes further transformed as he continues to turn over his life for God's glory. As he is blessed, he becomes a blessing for others.





# COMMUNITY BUILDING IS

# COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

*Louie Morales, BCBP President*

**O**ur mission is to provide a way of life and support environment where businessmen and professionals, guided by the Holy Spirit, can experience Christ through a continuing process Conversion, Commitment and Commissioning.

As we walk our life with Christ, we learn His values, laws and commandments, and we Commit to them. Then as we progress and grow mature, we become sufficiently equipped to bring these to the marketplace. We become "experts" of the 3 C's.

At this point, when the BCBP has grown so much and we are so preoccupied with our task of evangelizing the marketplace, we are prone to set aside a fundamental responsibility that each and everyone of us has to perform. This responsibility is expressed by way of a fourth C— **Community**.

The basic elements of Community can be expressed in

yet another set of C's,— Creed, Culture and Caring.

**Creed** is best explained by through the meaning of the Apostles' Creed—"I Believe in God". Here we vow to the "Lordship of Jesus Christ". That nothing can we ever do without the Lord's presence in our life.

**Culture** is defined in the "BCBP Way of Life"- the Lord's instrument for transformation. To invite people to know Christ requires not only to have them accept his Lordship, but also to embrace our mission programs to help win over our country for Christ. We need to change the quality of life by helping the needs of society, both spiritually and socially.

Our culture also includes our traditional practices such as the Breakfast, attendance to and being active in the Action Group and other activities, and financial support by tithing.

**Caring.** The essence of caring is embodied in John 21:15: "Take care of my lambs." The Lord asked Simon Peter three times if he loved Him. And three times Peter said yes, and three times the Lord commanded him to "take care of my lambs... take care of my sheep". Of course we know that the "lambs and sheep" that the Lord is referring to here are His chosen people. We are His people.

It is the avowed promise of the BCBP to take care of all members who have completed their BCLP and accepted the BCBP Commitment.

We see to it that members grow in the fullness of Christ... meaning Spiritual growth, bringing Christian values to their personal and family life, and in their marketplace.

Our method of caring should follow how Christ cared for and trained His apostles. He

emphasizes the role of **Shepherd, Steward and Servant** and asks us to take on these roles in caring for the people entrusted to us, regardless of service, position or status.

**Shepherd** - Acts 20:28 says; "so keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock which the Holy Spirit has placed in your care. Be shepherds of the church of God." John 10:1-18: "I am the Good Shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep."

A good shepherd knows his sheep by name, smell, and voice...his sheep listen to his voice. He leads them to grass and water, always on paths that are out of danger. He looks after the sheep and goes after the lost ones. He protects them and lays down his life for them if need be.

On being a good **Steward**, we are inspired by Matt 25: 14-30: "Well done you good and faithful servant! You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!"

Use all the blessings that were given us: talents, resources, power, time etc in providing care to our brothers and sisters.

**We must first be Servants.** Matt. 20:25-28: "If one of you wants to be great, you must be the servant of the rest." We should take on the example of Christ, who did not come to be served but to serve.

Moreover, we need to look at BCBP members as individuals, not as group. What happens to the people entrusted to us depends

on us. They can grow, stagnate or worse get lost. The Master who has appointed us to do His work will finally judge how we cared.

When we care enough, when we serve enough, we shall see an Empowered Community. When the prayer habit is growing and spiritual temperature is at its peak, we shall see a better personal relationship with God and others. Caring will normally be reflected in family harmony and is a good check on improving and putting good order in our personal lives. And being seen as good examples in our line of business or profession is a result of good caring.

In building and sustaining a caring community we can realize a truly empowered community.

# FOLLOW THE LEADER

*One Minute Meditation  
By Larry Larrazabal*

*"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." Jn 20:21*

This is a clear mandate that applies to all Christians, but not everybody is aware of what it implies. Where is Jesus sending us and what are we supposed to do? The great majority of Filipinos are Catholics, but are ignorant of what Jesus is calling them to do. The vast majority focus principally on two themes and aspects of the life of Jesus.

One is the infant Jesus, the cute little babe of Bethlehem. The birth of Jesus has become familiar to us. We have an infantile love for the baby Jesus, which is almost tantamount to idolatry. People forget that the Santo Nino grew up to manhood. The other aspect of the life of Jesus is the short period

## Prayer

Dear Jesus, I realize and recognize my failures. I have failed you and the Church by failing to comply with your mandates. I know it's not too late to do my part. Give me the grace, the talents and opportunities to serve the Church and my fellowmen, and bring them to know more about you. Amen.

of Holy Week, culminating in Easter when we focus on his suffering, death and resurrection.

While these two chapters of the life of Jesus are most important, we would miss much of what is relevant if we do not focus on what happened in between. Jesus came to teach us a new way of life, to provide us with his Church that will guide us in our journey with him. Before he ascended into heaven, he gave us last-minute instructions - to make disciples of all nations and to teach them to observe everything he has commanded (Mt 28:19-20). So, as the Father has sent him, he now sends us to bring the good news to one and all. We need to Christianize the world around us.

# In troubled times, Jesus

**T**hese are troubling times. Our economy is falling from recession into depression. This is reflected in our stock market which is at its lowest performance in decades. The country's exporters face markets that are reeling from September 11 terrorist attacks. Tourists are staying home. And so factories are closing down, companies are re-trenching employees and our industries are slowing down production.

Facing uncertainties and in the gripe of despair, most breadwinners are asking "What in Jesus name is happening?" Yes, what indeed is happening and what do these trying times call on us Christians do?

St. Luke reminds us that each Christian has received a "gift" that is immeasurable and valuable. This is the power of God, a power to transform seemingly hopeless situations into triumphant events. Remember Joshua and the Israelites who crossed the River Jordan into the Promised Land after wandering in the desert for 40 years. We as Christians have the power through Christ Jesus in reversing this deep economic depression. Acts 1:8 states that we have been empowered in Jesus name.

What should be done is reflected in Romans 1:6-11. We have to power to love, of sharing our good fortune with others. And since

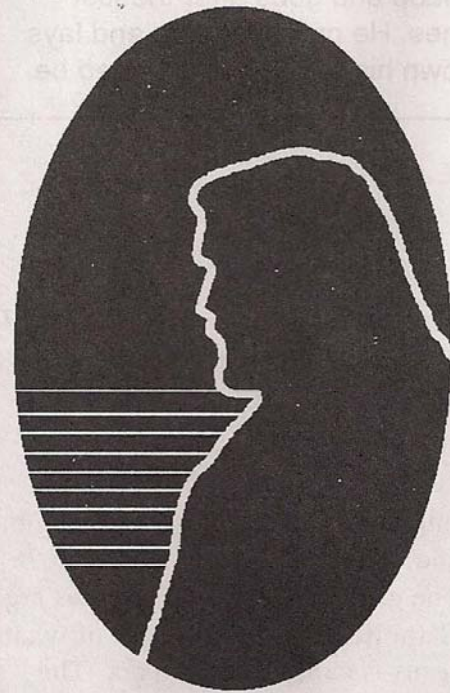
we are empowered in Christ's name, we are also obligated to act and to reach out to our brethren who may be in need.

Moreover, our individual gifts do call on each one of us not necessarily to perform miraculous feats but rather to do simple and collective acts that will produce puissant changes. We are therefore simply asked to be more diligent, more honest and more productive in each of our own work places, in our businesses and professions. We may be called to sacrifice profit to sustain our employees' job security. We may be called to accept salary cuts or shorter working hours to keep the company afloat or to keep it from shutting down. And we may be called to invest more of our savings that we may still have in our banks. We as consumers may be called upon to buy more local products or avail of more domestic services.

But what about our brothers and sisters that may not have work? Luke again calls us to give one of our shirts if we have two. A shirt in the form of a loan, or part time employment. Or a shirt in the form of outright financial support.

We are called to be one in Christ. We are empowered to share as brothers in Christ. And we shall overcome all tribulation in the name of Jesus Christ.

# EMPOWERS US TO SHARE



Imagine a merry band of middle-aged men and women with teenage kids in tow slip-sliding down a muddy path on a Saturday morning (last June 30) and you have the Greenhills Chapter "foresters" tree-planting in the vast La Mesa Watershed.

This was the Greenhills chapter's first-ever effort towards helping out in improving the environment - a tree-planting session done in coordination with ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan program called "Adopt A Hectare Project" for the La Mesa Watershed.

Through its Advocacy Ministry, the Greenhills chapter adopted one hectare in the Las Mesa Watershed by raising P41,300.00 and planting almost half of the 513 seedlings in its adopted hectare. La Mesa foresters committed to plant the rest of the seedlings and nurture them all to full growth. The seedlings were all a variety of Philippine endemic species including, among others, molave, apitong and narra.

The La Mesa Watershed, which is in Barangay Macabud, Rodriguez, Rizal, straddles the boundaries of Rizal, Quezon City and Caloocan. Bantay Kalikasan aims to rehabilitate, develop and protect the 2,700 hectare watershed which provides a vital water resource for Metro Manila and counteracts the region's air pollution. According to Bantay Kalikasan, five full grown trees are

needed to counteract the pollution brought about by one car.

The Greenhills chapter foresters took a 20-minute hike from the parking area to the planting site. More than half of the trail was covered with puddles and mud, ankle-deep in many places. At the planting site, Bantay Kalikasan Program Director, Marlo Mendoza, welcomed the foresters and briefed them on the background and status of the watershed. Then the Greenhills foresters clambered over fallen tree trunks, crawled under low-lying branches and hopped across a stream to plant their seedlings. Laughter, jokes and one-liners reverberated throughout the forest as the Greenhills contingent obviously enjoyed the activity. In fact everyone was so involved in getting their hands dirty that nobody bothered to take pictures during the actual planting.

To date, 450 hectares have been reforested and the program proponents continue to ask for help in fast-tracking the development of the watershed. Interested chapters and groups may contact Bantay Kalikasan at 415-2227 or 410-9670.

So how many trees does it take to save Metro Manila? A lot, tens of thousands maybe. This means we have to start planting now before Metro Manila runs dry and the air pollution chokes us completely!

# Greenhills adopts a HECTARE!



By Nancy R. Catan

# You want me to go where?

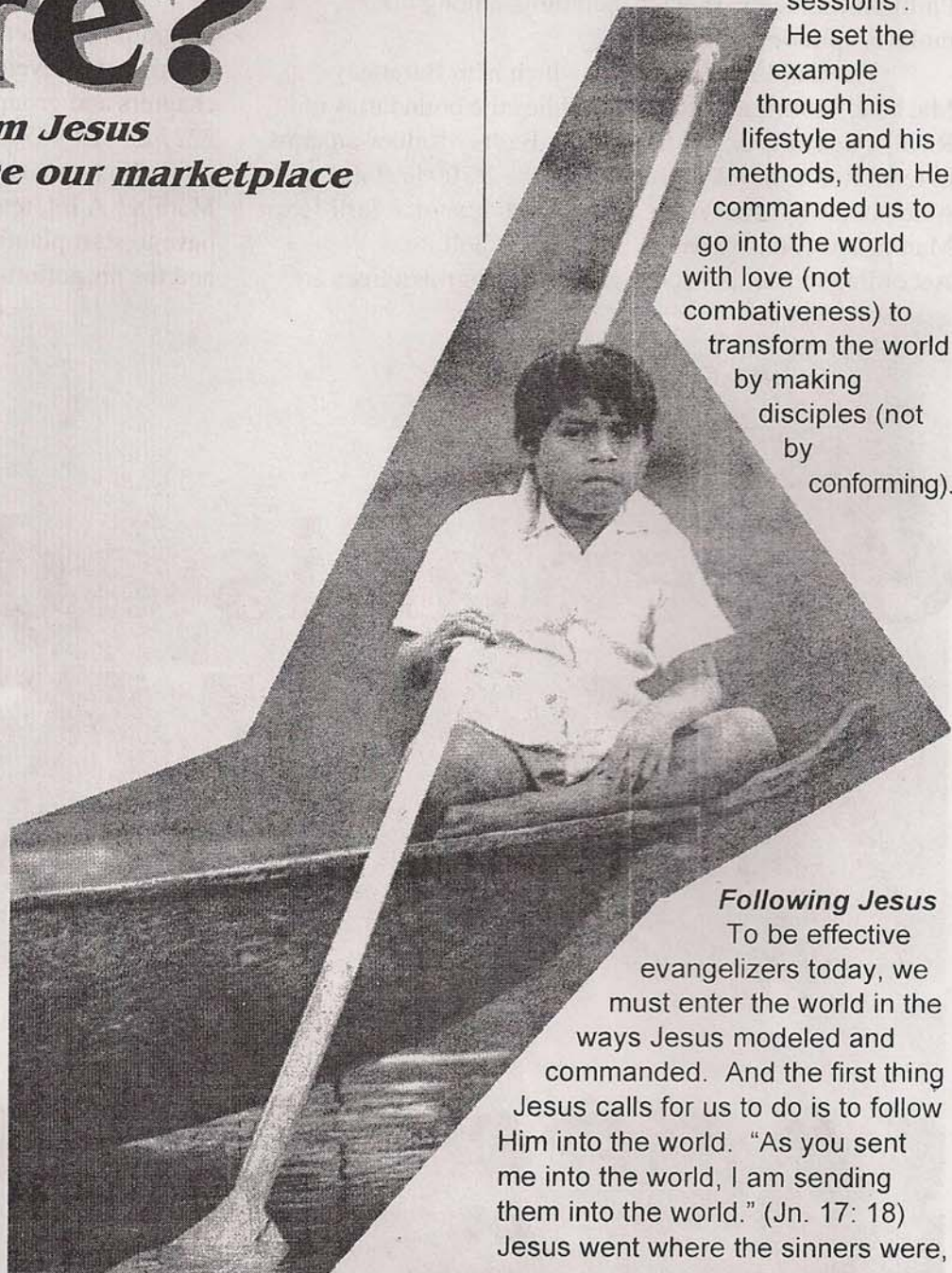
*Tips from Jesus on how to influence our marketplace*

**W**e see many styles of evangelism flourishing today. There is 'protective cocooning' where a community sets up barriers to keep the "good" ones in and the "bad" ones out. Some Christians practice "combative evangelism" with the hostile, aggressive attitude of "it's war, it's us vs. them". Then there is the opposite camp that believes in a 'conformist evangelism' that seeks to blend themselves into the pagan culture like chameleons, changing their lifestyle and even beliefs in order to hope to 'influence' the culture. Unfortunately the result is that oftentimes the evangelists are the ones influenced to leave the faith rather than the pagans converted. Another type of evangelism is 'compartmental evangelism' wherein the followers are ultra-

conservative and moral in some areas of their lives, while totally ignoring Christian values in other areas of their lives.

Jesus calls us to a different kind of evangelism. He did not set up camp on a mountaintop complete with sentries to keep his enemies away while he taught his chosen few. He did not conform to the customs and practices of the times by allowing his disciples to attend pagan ceremonies, neither did He aggressively engage the religious leaders of that time in argumentative, inflammatory 'blame sessions'.

He set the example through his lifestyle and his methods, then He commanded us to go into the world with love (not combativeness) to transform the world by making disciples (not by conforming).



### **Following Jesus**

To be effective evangelizers today, we must enter the world in the ways Jesus modeled and commanded. And the first thing Jesus calls for us to do is to follow Him into the world. "As you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world." (Jn. 17: 18) Jesus went where the sinners were,

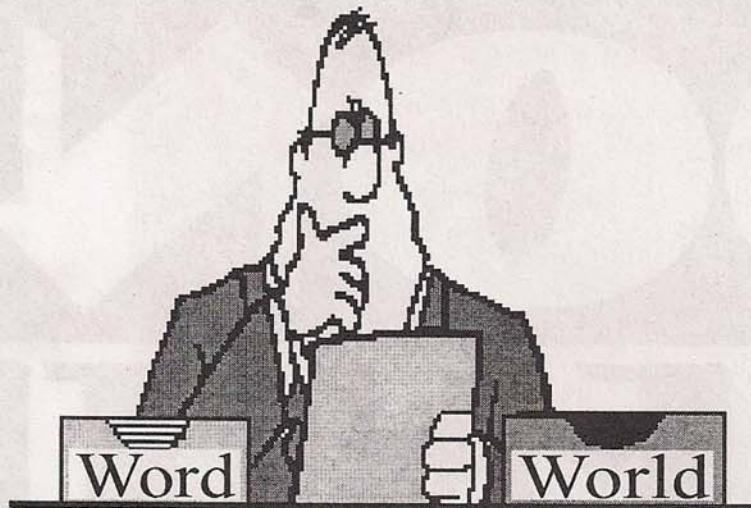
he made friends with tax collectors and prostitutes, he took advantage of chance meetings (the Samaritan woman at the well, John 4). He could be found with the crowds in the temples and in the marketplaces. He welcomed the curious as well as the onlookers and believers along the roads as he journeyed from one town to another.

He mingled with them, ate with them and interacted with them. But He never tried to conform to their ways. He empathized with them in love. Instead of arguing and debating with them, He was compassionate toward them and lovingly showed them the way to God.

Jesus asks us to leave our respective comfort zones and venture into sometimes unknown territory, like our marketplaces where sin, graft, corruption and unethical business practices are found. He does not want us to conform; he wants us to influence others with our lifestyle, with our faith and trust in God, in such a way as to lead them closer to God. He calls us to be a "transforming" presence wherever we are and in whatever we are doing. In the words of St. Francis of Assisi, we must "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words."

**How did Jesus evangelize?**

Jesus evangelized simply and effectively. He went where there were people, people who needed him. Jesus was patient, understanding and full of grace. He answered questions in terms that his listeners would understand, often using parables or life-examples to illustrate the points he wanted to make. He sought to understand them and their



problems and difficulties. He prayed for them. He prayed with them. He had them accompany him on his travels throughout the villages. He loved them unconditionally. He rejoiced with them; he wept and shared their sorrow. He empowered them. A reading of any of the four gospels shows dozens of examples of how Jesus evangelized simply but effectively.

None of these methods is very unusual or exotic or hard to do. What is necessary is our personal conversion and transformation of lifestyle, our commitment to Jesus and to His mission for us, our focus on evangelizing the marketplace, and the discipline and perseverance to step out of our comfort zone and go where He wants us to go.

How then should we evangelize? By being faithful in obeying Jesus' commandment to go into the world, by our credible and transforming lifestyle, by our compassion and integrity, by our reliance on God through His Spirit to work in us and through us.

The Apostle Peter describes the process of evangelism this way. First, we need to conduct (ourselves) in an exemplary manner (1 Pet. 2:12). St. Peter says some people will be won over without a word, simply by watching our

behavior (3:1). Second, we must always be ready to make our defense to anyone who asks about our faith, with our responses being done with gentleness and reverence (3:15).

**We are not in this alone -**

If we are going to not only make a difference but be a difference, our lives must be deeply rooted in prayer as our Lord's was -

in not only personal individual prayer, but also in family, community and Church prayer — prayer with and for God's people. And it is in prayer, and through prayer, that we open ourselves to the working of the Holy Spirit - to transform our personal lives, and to work through us to transform others. We thus become channels of grace, channels of Divine Love and instruments of His healing touch to the hurting world around us.

But we cannot do this alone. Even as Jesus worked in and with his community of apostles, disciples and friends, we must also be part of a community that marches to a different drumbeat than the secular worldly culture around us. The support system that our BCBP community gives us provides the training, the focus and the encouragement to follow Jesus into the world as his disciples and evangelizers. Through our community we learn how to live out the right-side-up values of God's Kingdom in an otherwise upside-down world. And with our lives being transformed by Him day by day, we ourselves become God's transformers, His evangelizers, to our respective marketplaces as we live out day-by-day, moment-by-moment, the mission and vision of the BCBP.

# DON'T EVEN TRY

*Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always. "Jesus answered and said to him, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him."  
John 14:15-23*



By Ronnie Caballero,  
BCBP Makati

**I**t was an uncanny experience. Here we were on a tourist bus for our family vacation to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon when our tourist guide made a most unexpected statement. He said, "When we get to Las Vegas, DON'T EVEN TRY AT ALL TO GAMBLE!" My wife Mari and I plus our children Alfie 14 and Anelli 7 did not really have any such intention as we had been encouraged by friends to see the transformed part

of Las Vegas that now catered to families with wholesome entertainment. But others on the bus clearly wanted to gamble. In the strongest terms our guide laid out his arguments against it. "Don't even try because there's no way you will win. Everything is controlled, you may win a few but in the end you will lose big." He went on to recount how he personally lost USD 300,000 in one wild weekend that ended in his signing away his family

**“There  
is a  
God  
and he is  
glorious,  
fantastic,  
stupendous  
and  
incredible!”**

seemed to stretch endlessly into eternity. I felt small and awed at the power, magnificence, immensity and marvelous imagination of the Creator. Here was something that stood out and proclaimed, “There is a God and he is glorious, fantastic, stupendous and incredible!” A moment of worship and closeness to God!

What struck me, too, was the distance from one point to another. There seemed to be no point where two beings could possibly join their hands over the wide chasm. Just like when we are in sin. I even pictured myself standing at one point trying to reach across and felt the sheer hopelessness of reaching out to someone on the next peak. “What

and find ourselves enjoying the green jokes, unlimited rounds of drinks and haviing our arms around the most dazzling young GRO's. Or we may find ourselves in a chance encounter with a flame from the past and find the emotions of infidelity overpowering. Or be celebrating and faced with the tantalizing “Just one sip!” or “Just one puff!” or “Just one snort!”

Our tourist guide's advice is the best: **DON'T EVEN TRY! YOU WILL CERTAINLY LOSE.** As God's people, no matter how tough it may get resisting the taunts of past addictions, weaknesses and seemingly harmless invitations, we must realize **WE CAN NEVER WIN BY INDULGING OURSELF IN SIN.**



home. He also warned us of the severe punishment for minors who wander into the gambling areas in the hotels that are tantalizingly close to hotel guests as you walk through to your rooms. I felt like Lot's wife who was warned not to look back at Sodom and Gomorrah.

Our next main destination was the Grand Canyon. The astonishing facts rolled out - it was 275 miles long, 13 miles wide and 5,500 feet deep. It takes three days to go from the rim to the bottom, and to really see the whole thing, three months would not be enough. In fact, a movie was made to fully appreciate this work of God and it took them one year to shoot all the scenes which they felt would do justice to this marvel.

Arriving there, I saw the biggest chasm I have ever seen in my life; it

about hell?" I asked myself. Is this how deep we will fall and how far we will be from God for eternity?

Sometimes life in the Spirit is like our trip to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon. As renewed people we still do walk in this materialistic world dangerously close to the temptations and weaknesses that once brought us down into the deepest recesses of our sinful past - like our having to walk by so many gambling areas in the hotel. We may find ourselves hanging out with the meanest bunch of people we knew from the past who have not changed

What then do we do? Jesus tells us in the gospel of John, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.” With his Spirit dwelling in us we should take “risks” in evangelizing others, participating

in our action groups zealously, learning to give teachings, continuously improving our witnessing and sharing, endlessly giving Him praise and worship, learning to live in community, growing in compassion and holiness, never tiring in doing good and constantly seeking Him. And the “jackpot”? Love everlasting from the Eternal Father who will not be stopped by even the deepest and widest chasms you can imagine.

I've been sitting here in the living room for close to an hour and I can't get into the mood for introspection, let alone a focus for prayer. It's not that the children are noisy - they're watching TV and the volume is reasonable, the words are muted from here. They have, however, one at a time, all come to me for one reason or another. Anton has a sore throat and wants to know what he can do to make it feel better. Nico lost an eyeglass screw and needs help with his emergency repair. Mia is asking whether I had seen the bag that she was just playing with last night. Marga wants to play in the grass and is looking for something to sit on so she won't feel itchy. Tono has an asthmatic episode right now and is complaining that he's not feeling any better from last night.

Not too long ago, I would have dismissed their approaches with a quick "later," because I was at prayer and did not wish to be interrupted. Even considering that

I'm struggling with my prayer time today, I'm mildly and pleasantly surprised at my reaction to my children as they come to me. I simply break off from my struggle to focus and address the need with a question or two to clarify, and then a gentle response or a short instruction. And after the child turns away, contentedly considering my comment, I even go off on a spin, dwelling more into the situation presented to me for a few moments, until I remember I am trying to pray and so redirect myself towards the effort.

It continues to be difficult, and I realize that today is one of those days. My children's interruptions notwithstanding, I keep going off on tangents, thinking about the plans we have for the day, the list of errands I prepared last night, the talk I want to have with our cook, the menu I am planning for Wednesday's meeting and so on and so forth.

My failure to focus saddens me somewhat, and I am about to dwell on this feeling, when a sudden thought occurs. What if God, already knowing everything that's in my heart and mind, doesn't want to listen to me this morning, wanting to just speak to me instead? What if He's telling me something already, through my distractions? Isolated - and yet connected - phrases come to my mind: sanctity of the ordinary, holiness in the routine, divinity in the workday.

Now, that's interesting. In my prayer time, I freely switch my prayer methods, using Bible reflections, contemplative prayer, journal writing or other means to bring my thoughts and feelings before the Lord. But almost always, I now realize, I hold control, playing time manager and agenda master. Well, perhaps this morning the Lord has decided to take charge of things from the very start, and rightly so. No wonder the day's readings held no treasure for me. That's why no words would come from mouth nor mind nor pen.

And yet, now I am led to Paul's address to the Ephesians (4:1), "Therefore I, the prisoner of Christ, invite you to live the vocation you have received..." and I experience a eureka moment. Indeed, this is God's call for me today —He invites me to immerse myself in my life!

Being a Sunday, we will all be together today, whether we go somewhere or just stay home. What a splendid chance to love and share and just touch base with each other! I will have considerable time on my hands, I can use that to restore, to maintain, to build up our home - physically as well as metaphorically. I have two sons who are not in tip-top shape today, I will treat them with favorite snacks and gentle ministrations. My girls, who are still at that stage of following me around whenever I'm home, will be at it again today. We shall have intimate conversations and shared activities to make it worth our while. And Nico, oh, let me just behold him today, lingering with him before he flies off to be the teenager he almost is!

There are so many opportunities before me today, and as I assume the roles of healer and helper, partner and playmate, I will take them. The Lord speaks, and as I realize what He is saying to me, I understand. And yes, I will obey. And I know it will be a wonderful day!



**All of us have been faced with times of difficulty and lack of focus during our prayer time. Annie shares with us her insights on one way to look at this situation.**

# Sunday Morning Prayer

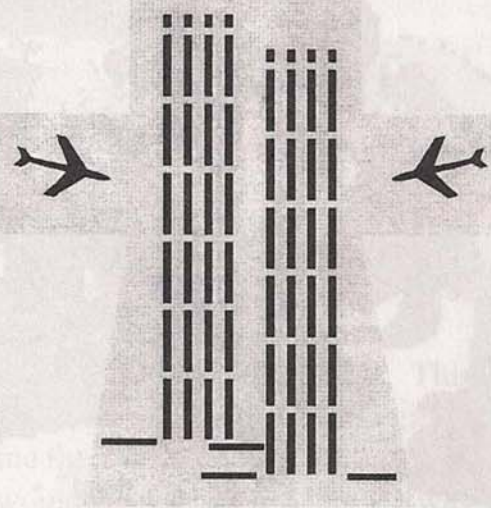
By Annie Salvador, BCBP Makati

*This inspiring message, received through e-mail from a friend, helps us to better understand God's message to us in the terrorist attack that that fateful day in September.*

**Dear Family and Friends,**

I had a very dear friend question my faith in God right after the terrorist attack on America. Her question was simply put, "Where is your God today?" She was very hurt, as all Americans were, so I tried not to react defensively. Since that moment I prayed and grieved over the disastrous events. However, I believe I have the answer. I know where my God was that morning of September 11, 2001! He was very busy. First of all He was trying to discourage anyone from taking this flight. Those four flights together held over 1000 passengers and there were only 266 aboard. He was on all 4 commercial flights giving terrified passengers the ability to stay calm. No one of the family members who was called by a loved one on one of the high-jacked

# where was GOD on Sept 11?



planes said that passengers were screaming in the background. On one of the flights he was giving strength to passengers to try to overtake the highjackers.

He was busy trying to create obstacles for employees of the World Trade Center. After all only around 20,000 were at the towers when the first jet hit. Since the buildings hold over 50,000 workers, this was a miracle in itself. How many of the people who were employed at the WTC told the media that they were late for work or they had traffic delays.

He was holding up 2-110 story buildings so that 2/3 of the workers could get out. I was so amazed that the top of the towers didn't topple when the jets impacted.

Although this is without a doubt the worst thing I have seen in my life, I can see God's miracles in every bit of it. I keep thinking about my friend and praying for her every chance I have. I can't imagine going through such a difficult time and not believing in God.

Life would be hopeless.  
Thanks for letting me share this with you!

## Praying for "Senseless" tragedies

When we hear about another random act of violence, our first response is usually to pray away the pain or pray that this will never happen again. But how can we pray beyond the fear and shock, beyond the most obvious needs, for the issues of God's kingdom? We give you some prayer points originally written by "Pray!" Nov/Dec 1999 issue (and circulated on the NavPress 'net') with the hope that they will act as a springboard for your own prayer in the wake of tragedies that defy human understanding and are becoming more frequent.

### Praise

Though it is difficult, start with praise. Focus on God's character.

*\* Praise God that He is sovereign, that He has ultimate control over all, and that nothing takes Him by surprise (Is. 45:5-7).*

### Petition and Intercession

\* Ask God to use this situation to bring unprecedented spiritual openness to people affected by the tragedy, and ask Him to show His face to them.

\* Ask God to bless the ministry that will be thrust upon the church or community affected by the tragedy. Ask Him to empower them with a powerful witness when they are called upon to be

involved in or speak about or reflect on the situation.

\* Ask God to stand against the enemy's attempts to make families experience unresolved anger or guilt over the loss of loved ones.

\* Ask God to focus the minds of public officials on the need for prayer and to provide people who will continue to pray for the situation.

\* Ask God to equip leaders who will be called upon to mentor and minister to people in the aftermath of tragedy (Heb. 13:20-21).

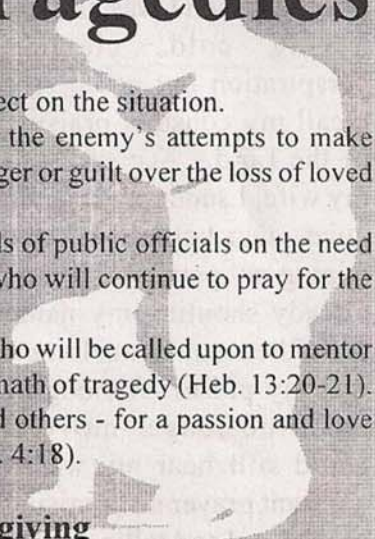
\* Ask God - for yourself and others - for a passion and love for Christ that drive out fear (1 Jn. 4:18).

### Thanksgiving

\* Thank God that the enemy has made a tactical error, since martyrdom and persecution have always strengthened the church, and that God will use for good what Satan has intended for harm (Gen. 50:20-21).

\* Thank God for the people who will be drawn to seek God's face because the overwhelming nature of the tragedy leaves them nowhere else to turn (Jon. 2:1-9).

\* Thank God for a vivid reminder of your own mortality and vulnerability, asking Him to prepare your heart and spirit for a faithful response when you are faced with tragedy.



# I was clinically dead but God revived me...

I remembered feeling some pain in my chest three days before but I never made a fuss about it. I just prayed and was relieved. I never told my wife about it except on that particular afternoon. After a bath, I told Rhea we would pass by the hospital on our way home from the airport. When she asked me what was wrong and I told her of the chest heaviness I felt, she insisted that we will just go directly to the hospital instead of going to the airport. Because of my uneasiness, she called the ambulance and asked me to lie down.

By then I was already having cold, clammy perspiration but could still recall my constant praising of the Lord. According to my wife, I suddenly became quiet. Our helper who was wiping my perspiration was already shouting my name and Rhea could no longer feel my pulse. Although I could no longer move, I could still hear my wife's constant prayer and praising of the Lord and telling me to hold on. Even when I reached the Emergency Room, I could still hear the doctors saying, "No pulse, no blood pressure". It was then I said to myself, "Lord take charge of my life."

I blacked out and when I woke up, I saw a very

bright light. Thinking that I was dreaming, I closed my eyes then opened them again and I felt Jesus and Mama Mary's presence. I thought I was in heaven but when I opened my eyes I saw my doctor standing at my side. The doctors who were there were so happy to see me smiling, not knowing that I was showing my happiness at seeing Jesus and Mama Mary. I remembered 1 Timothy 1:14: "Oh, how kind and gracious the Lord was! He filled me completely with faith and the love of Christ Jesus."

I was then brought to the ICU after being revived for almost thirty minutes in the Emergency Room. This was when I knew that I was "brought back from the

dead" - no blood pressure, no pulse and a flat-line tracing of the heart. I was defibrillated, given an electric shock, three times. It is a big miracle! God's amazing grace!

January 3, 2001, was another day of revelation! For me, it was the fulfillment of God's message sometime ago when I prayed asking for the name of my guardian angel. I received this answer: LIV. When I asked

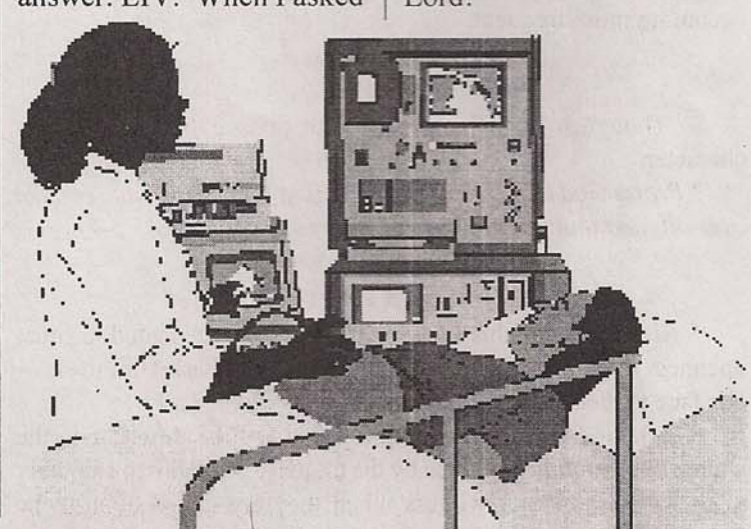
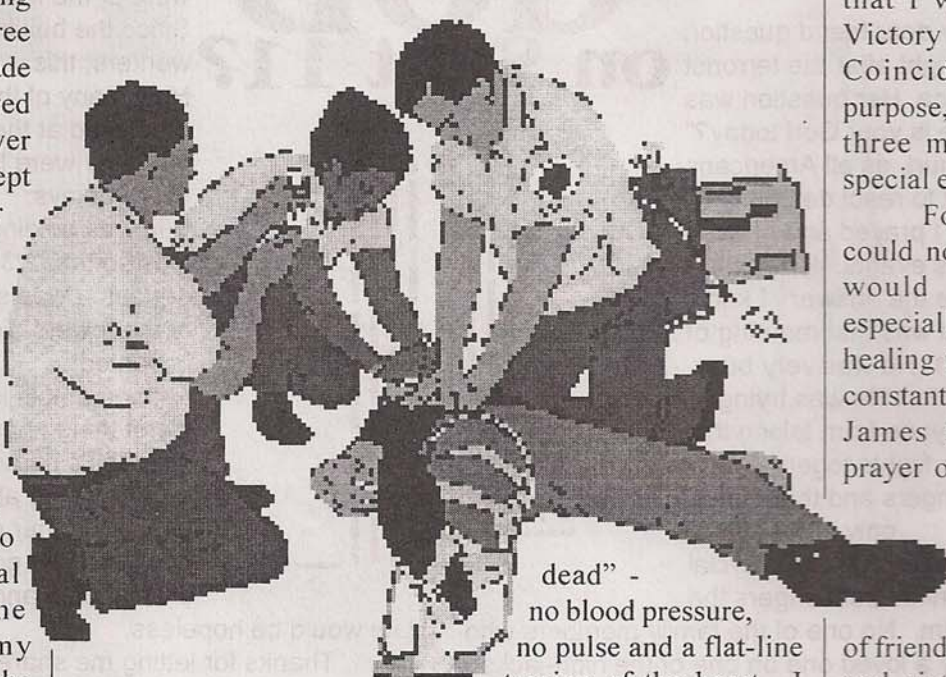
one of our brothers in the BCBP to interpret this for me, he replied, "Living In Victory". Rhea, my wife, interpreted it as the Roman numeral for 54, concluding that I will be "Living in Victory at the age of 54". Coincidentally or God's purpose, I had just turned 54 three months before this special event occurred.

For my friends who could not believe that this would happen to me especially since I am in the healing ministry, this is my constant answer taken from James 5:15: "And their prayer offered in faith will

heal the sick and the Lord will make them well."

Yes. I know a lot of friends, relatives, brothers and sisters in community offered prayers for my healing and recovery. God just couldn't say no to so many prayers and so I am here today to serve Him more faithfully.

As a bonus to that miracle, my last ECG tracing looked normal so the doctor said there was no need to go for an angiogram. Praise the Lord!





## “By-pass operation by-passed me...”

I've had this heart ailment for two years now. I was in and out of the hospital until on April 25, my doctor advised me to see a heart specialist in Manila. While in Manila with my husband, Kelly, I had to undergo an angiogram. I was devastated ... and lifted everything, my life, and my all to God, placing my life in His hands. We did not have the money for the next alternative, a heart by-pass operation.

The BCBP community bombarded heaven with prayers. My thanks to them and to the BCBP text brigade who were in constant touch. They boosted our morale and helped me face the angiogram operation with courage. My prayer then was that I would not have to undergo a heart by-pass or angioplasty.

By Ruby Merto

The day before my scheduled angiogram, while closing my eyes, suddenly I saw the image of Jesus crucified, His face very near to mine. Twice I saw His face. This vision strengthened me and gave me the assurance that all things would work out well, that He was with me and healing me.

Right after my operation, while I was resting in my room with my husband and some friends, I saw a ball of fire, the size of my thumb, floating beautifully upwards from the foot of my bed. It was gold in color and shone brightly. I called my husband's and my friends' attention but they could not see it. The ball disappeared before it reached the ceiling. I was surprised and did not understand it but Kelly said it was the Holy Spirit. This to me was an affirmation that God was with me ... because of my prayers and the prayers of all my friends.

Indeed I consider it a miracle for the doctor, after my angiogram, declared that I don't have to undergo a heart by-pass or angioplasty, that my ailment could be cured by medicines. Truly God loves me and He will never forsake me.



Bible Sharing

## The Light of the World

1. In Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus calls us “the light of the world.” According to these verses, when are we most effective as light?

2. When are we least effective?

3. What are some keys to being “shiny” and “shining” Christians? What other keys can you think of in addition to the ones mentioned below?

Psalm 34:5

Daniel 12:3

2 Cor. 3:18

Phil. 2:14-16

4. Every light needs power to turn it on and for it to shine brightly. In your walk with Jesus in your marketplace, where do you get the power for your “light”? Can others see this “light” in you?

5. In what ways can you become more effective as an empowered “light” in your marketplace?



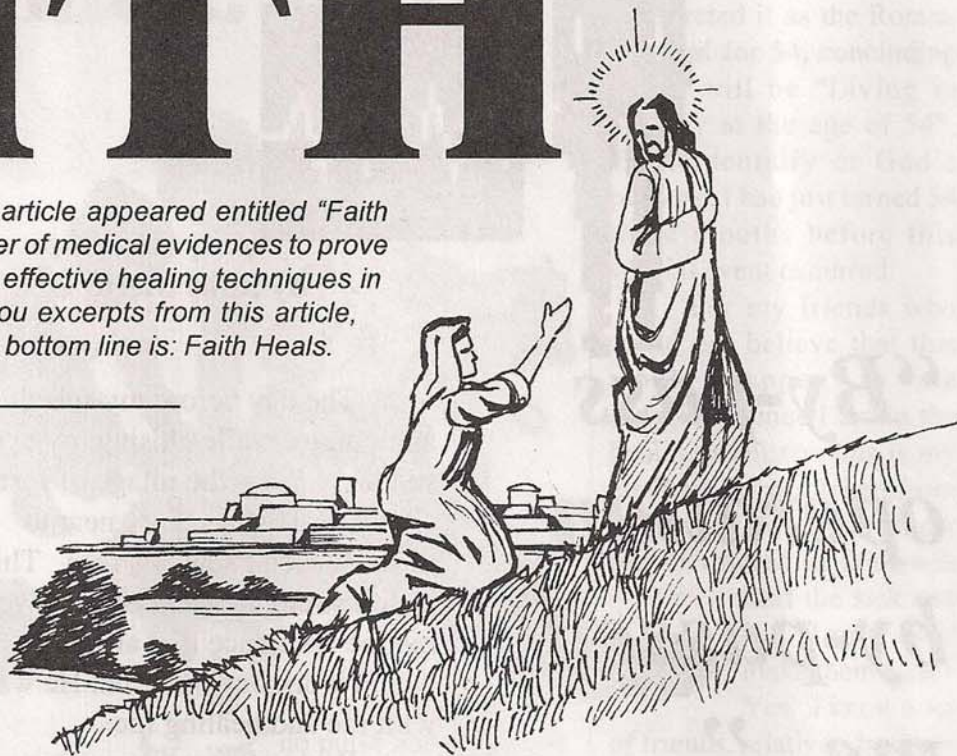
# The Healing Power FAITH

*In the September 2001 Readers Digest, an article appeared entitled "Faith Heals" by Lydia Strohl. She presents a number of medical evidences to prove that prayer and one's spiritual resources are effective healing techniques in many instances of illness. We share with you excerpts from this article, adapting them to our BCBP community. The bottom line is: Faith Heals.*  
-Nancy R. Catan

**S**trohl's article opens with a testimony given by a man who had been stabbed in the heart, stomach and spleen and who had completely recovered. Tom Long, the patient, said that his source of strength during his long recuperation from surgery and skin grafts came from God. Long's testimony is only one of many that seem to show a general return to spirituality on the part of both patients and medical practitioners. "Religion and medicine are inextricably related," says 1st-year medical student, Reghan Foley. She believes that everyone has spirituality, that basically it's what gives one's life meaning.

The connection between spirit and body may be age-old, but as medical science and technology have progressed and given us 'miracle' drugs, Western practitioners have veered away from spirituality and religious issues. However, there is a growing awareness that meditation and spirituality still play a significant role in many Eastern healing practices. Now in the West the trend is toward a return to spirituality, with organizations like the Jewish Healing Network based in Washington holding spiritual support groups for people who are ill.

A wave of recent studies is chipping away at the wall between church and lab. Research has shown, for example, that people who attend religious services more than once a week live, on average, seven years longer than those who do not. Strohl cites a 1998 study by Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, N. Carolina, that found people who attended church weekly were not as likely to be hospitalised, and when they were, they did not spend as much time in the hospital as those who went to church less frequently. Although these correlations can be partially explained by the fact that churchgoers are less likely to smoke, drink or engage in risky sexual behavior, studies say that more than those factors, it is the network of social support that contributes most positively to the healing process.



"We don't understand the mechanism of many drugs. We know, from observing cause and effect, that they work," says psychiatrist Martin Jones, of the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington. "Likewise," he continues, "we can see the effects of a person's spiritual consciousness on his outcome, so why not use that? It's like the placebo effect. Why did it work? Belief. It's a very powerful force."

Richard Sloan, a professor at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, is against the "meddling" of doctors in patients' religious beliefs. He opines that such reliance on belief can make a patient feel guilty as it implies that being sick or failing to recover is a product of insufficient faith. Other doctors agree and say that it is crucial to use faith only as an accessory to medical care, and only if the patient is open to talking about his or her beliefs.

## MOVING TOWARD WHOLENESS

Joe Semmes, an emergency-room doctor at Arlington Hospital in Virginia, was told in 1996 that he had pancreatic cancer with a 50% 5-year survival rate. He recounts how his wife Elonide, a practical businesswoman and a woman of faith, asked for healing prayers from their church. "All these people put their hands on me and sang hymns," he says. "It was incredible, the power of this community." His tumor was inoperable so he had radiation and 36 weeks of chemotherapy. This treatment shrunk the tumor to where an 11-hour surgery successfully removed it. Today, five years

after, Semmes shows no active evidence of the disease. He believes it was the radiation and surgery that excised the cancer but that the prayers helped keep him optimistic. He says, "Healing is a movement towards wholeness - waking up to where you are, being connected to others, and loving. Spiritual growth in the time of physical collapse is tremendous. I got that wake-up call."

Internist Dale Matthews, author of *The Faith Factor: Proof of the Healing Power of Prayer*, early in his career began to sense that his patients wanted something more than just a diagnosis and treatment. "I didn't have any models," he says. "My inclusion of spirituality in the doctor-patient relationship evolved by listening and paying attention and finding people relying on their faith." He occasionally writes Bible references on his prescription pad and refers those whom he feels are ready for it, to various spiritual resources. One of his patients comments, "My faith brings me to a point of balance where I don't feel that my illness is a burden."

## FOCUSING ON FAITH

US radio talk-show host Diane Rehm experienced a sense of peace and rightness after she was prayed over for the healing of her voice. She had suffered for more than seven years with voice difficulties, consulting many specialists and undergoing tests and therapy, and ending up losing not only her voice but also her job. Rehm began taking the healing rite weekly at her church although she did not give up seeking medical help. Several months after the healing prayers had begun, she met doctors who diagnosed her condition as spasmodic dysphonia and recommended periodic injections to temporarily paralyze her overactive vocal muscles. The treatment worked and she has returned to her job.

Rehm says, "Healing may come in the form of acceptance, dealing with yourself and others in a different way, maintaining a sense of peace in the face of affliction." She stresses, as do others, that faith is a complement to medical treatment.

***"Physicians are called to a service, to put patients' good above our own. That's a very spiritual calling. But with managed care and making medicine a business, we're in jeopardy of losing that sense of purpose and meaning."***

## RX: PRAYER?

Strohl believes the medical establishment may be embracing spirituality because they themselves could use something to believe in. She quotes Dr. Christina Puchalski, assistant professor of medicine at George Washington University in Washington: "Physicians are called to a service, to put patients' good above our own. That's a very spiritual calling. But with managed care and making medicine a business, we're in jeopardy of losing that sense of purpose and meaning."

In a 1996 survey conducted by the Association of American Medical Colleges on what should be the objectives for medical schools, there was an overwhelming response to include cultural, spiritual and end-of-life issues in the curriculum. And schools are answering this demand: in 1992 only a few taught spirituality; now some 50 of the 125 medical schools in the U.S. have such curricula. One example is the course called *Religious Traditions in Health Care* offered to 1st-year medical students at Georgetown University that covers the correlation between spirituality and health, and teaches the major religions of the world from a medical perspective.

This interest in the various aspects of spirituality embraces the views of different faiths on euthanasia, transfusions, and the use of drugs and technologies, as well as on traditional and non-traditional methods of healing. Brownell Anderson of the Assoc. of American Medical Colleges says that the students are in back of this growing interest. "Students enter medical school because they want to take care of people. They see the technology is great, but they also want to be able to communicate with people so they can care for them. They want to do it with soul."



Science has indeed made incredible progress in terms of diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Life expectancy has increased by almost 2/3 in the twentieth century. And almost daily the laboratories develop new medicines to combat modern-day illnesses. But many now agree that science by itself does not have all the answers, it is not the total picture. Howard University's Jones, a cancer survivor himself, believes that while disease has a physical basis, "there is a hierarchy: the physical level, the emotional level, the intellectual level and the spiritual level." He foresees a subtle shift in the practice of medicine, from treating disease to treating the whole person.

Thus healing should not only focus on the physical aspects of the body and its disease, but at the same time the patient ... and his/her doctor ... should open their hearts to the power of faith and to God's healing power. In other words, not faith healing, but having faith in the healing power of God.

**T**here is a morning ritual that I engage in every school day. Rising at ten minutes before six, I pad over to my children's room to wake them. Of them all, Nico has always been the simplest to coax into his morning preparations for school. He would moan, stretch, open his eyes and get up. Lately, however, Nico's waking has taken a different turn. He takes time before that initial moan, and then would moan some more. It takes a bit of urging before he finally stretches, and still his eyes would not open. Eventually though, he gets up. It would have been very irritating to have to deal with this change, which is apparently for the worse, were it not for the reason behind it. Nico, my firstborn son, months shy of his thirteenth birthday, is "turning adolescent."

Funny, it doesn't seem so long ago when, emerging from a difficult pregnancy, I was anticipating his birth. And now, as I watch him resist wakefulness each morning, I can almost see him growing before my eyes. All too soon he will be too big for his bed, and bigger than me. One rainy Saturday, sitting quietly and pondering this, I remembered the journal that I kept around the time when he was born. Fishing it out of my hope chest, I

snuggled with some pillows and traveled a bit backwards, deep into the words of my heart.

**7Feb89.** Three weeks to today. It was very difficult to imagine I'd make it this far, but look at me now: I'm big and swollen and walking like a duck... But that's all fine with me. The way I'm feeling, nothing can get me down - I'm so overwhelmed by my anticipation... nine months and I still can't get over the idea that I'm actually going to be a mother, that the Lord has actually favored me for this special, special blessing. I will be grateful all my days for this wonderful gift.

**3Mar89.** Hi baby, we made it to a March birthday for you... You like it inside, don't you? Five days overdue and no signs of labor.

Lord, I ask for strength for me and my child: please grant us a safe and easy birth, and my husband an experience that he shall remember all his life as a manifestation of how wonderful you are.

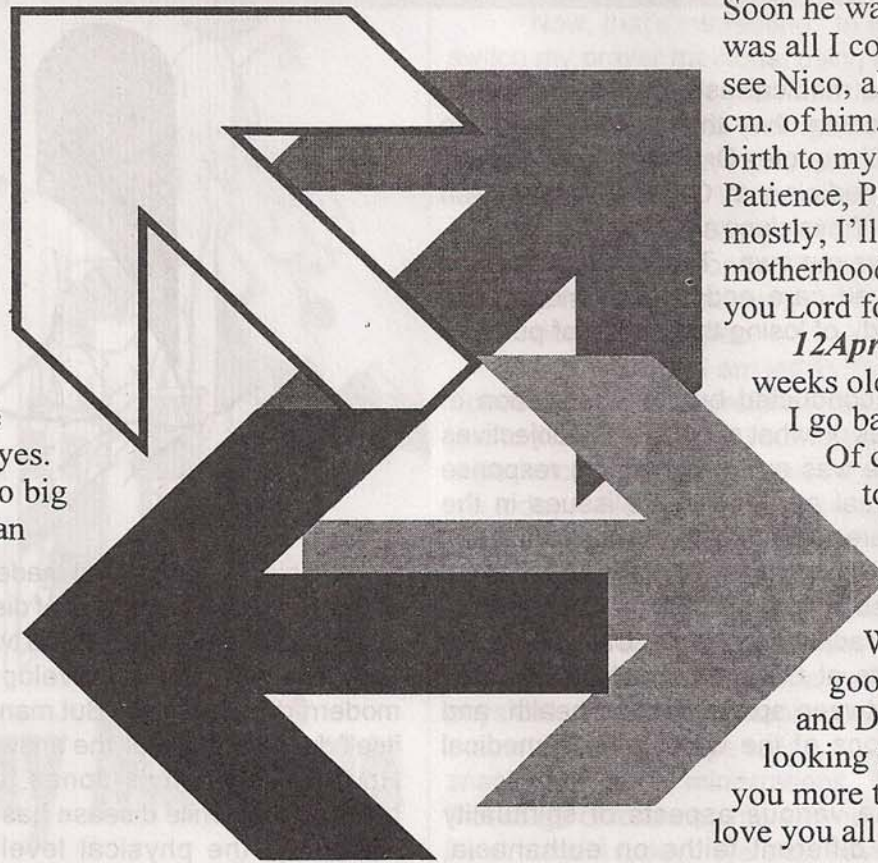
**7Mar89.** ...then the transition-phase contractions came, about 3 minutes apart, peaking instantly, gripping my insides with nerve-wracking, oh-my-GOD kind of pain. But Nelson was very supportive, telling me that it was almost over, true, and that the pains couldn't get that much stronger, also true, but I didn't know that then! To divert myself, I thought about the beaches of Boracay, marine life in Puerto Galera, about sunbathing and being sexy again... Our son was born at 3:58pm that fifth of March, 1989.

Soon he was taken to me and it was all I could do not to weep to see Nico, all 7 lbs 10 oz and 52 cm. of him. I learned a lot giving birth to my son. About waiting. Patience, Pain, Relief. But mostly, I'll soon find out what motherhood really means. Thank you Lord for blessing us so richly.

**12Apr89.** My baby's five weeks old already! Next week, I go back to work already!

Of course, it's only going to be for six more weeks. By mid-June I'll be a fulltime Mom! Oh Nico!

We're going to be so good together - you and I and Daddy. I'm sooo looking forward to being with you more to watch you grow and love you all along the way.



By Annie Salvador,  
BCBP Makati

# **MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK**

**19Apr89.** Funny how things are. At the office, save for the fact that everyone keeps welcoming me back and asking about the baby, it seems like everything is as it was before. Oh, but how different they actually are! When I got home yesterday, my first day back to work all my aches and pains (from eye-strain, shoe-strain, tight skirt-strain and engorged breast-strain) just vanished when I saw Nico. How adorable he is, how delicious, how good to come home to. Can I stand this, I wonder, for six weeks until I quit work altogether?

Well, I left my job, turned fulltime Mom, and the rest is part of our family history. Now Nico, in turning adolescent, is writing more of it. As is his lot as firstborn, he continues to be a trailblazer for his siblings, setting precedents, teaching lessons, offering opportunities for improvement. And I cannot think of a more fitting young man for this role. Nico has grown, and continues to grow, into a thoughtful, responsible and caring

## BABY MINE

(Valentine's day, 1989, while waiting for Nico to arrive)

whenever you move inside me,  
it tells me you're alive  
and growing more and more  
and stronger and stronger,  
oh, how I love you! it won't be  
long now, baby, till I see your  
little face. and hand to tiny  
hand, you and I shall touch.  
right now, I need no arms to  
hug you - I'm all around you!  
but you shall be running about  
and away, all too soon:  
going your own direction, living  
your own life, being your own

person, perhaps bigger than I,  
but between now and then: I  
hope and pray and promise  
that I am able to give you, with  
faith and hope and love,  
all the best that I know and  
have and for you to be all  
the best that you can, oh, how I  
love you! and whatever you do,  
wherever you go, whoever you  
become, always remember,  
child: your first home was  
within me - under my heart,  
and in it.

young man, regardless of how difficult it is to wake him up on school mornings.

There will be other difficult moments in the next years with Nico, I'm certain. Yet I breathe a sigh of gratitude, because during all the years past, God has granted Nelson and me the grace to plant seeds as parents. And following the principle of the field, I trust

that despite the storms and droughts, the worms and weeds, we will be witness to a most wondrous unfolding in our son: a harvest rich and bountiful, a yield generously blessed.

In the meantime, I go on praying for my Nico, that the Lord continue to guide and protect him. And for myself, as I prepare for more and more calls to let go.

# Songs from the Bible

Many of the songs we sing in our Praise and Worship come directly from the scripture passages. How many can you identify of these familiar songs?



You Are Near  
For You Are My God  
Taste and See  
Consider the Lilies  
All My Days  
A New Commandment  
Let Us Exalt  
Yours is the Greatness & the Power  
God Is My Refuge  
Create in Me  
Unto the House of the Lord  
Magnificat  
Once No People  
Hiney Ma Tov  
Praise the Lord, O My Soul  
Great and Wonderful

Ps. 146  
Ps. 34  
1 Peter 2:9-10  
Ps. 51  
Ps. 139  
1 Chron. 29:10-13  
Rev. 15:3-4  
Ps. 16  
Ps 133  
Ps. 34  
Matt. 6:25-34  
John 13:34-35  
Ps. 8  
Ps. 46, 121, 62  
Luke 1:46-55  
Ps. 122



"Patrick, they tell me you've got religion," said a man who wanted to confirm the news that his friend had suddenly become religious.

"I sure have," Patrick replied.

"Then I suppose you go to church every Sunday."

"That's right! I started six months ago and I haven't missed a service since."

"And I suppose you're going to quit smoking and drinking," the man blurted out as if testing Patrick's patience.

"I already have. In fact, I haven't smoked a cigarette nor took a sip of alcohol for the past six months."

"Does that mean you have given up fooling around with women, too?" the man wanted to make sure.

"I sure have remained faithful to my wife, yes, for the past six months now."

The man dropped his bombshell, "I suppose, too, now that you've got religion, you would pay me the money you borrowed six years ago?"

Patrick suddenly lost his cool and stormed, "Now wait a minute! That's not religion you're talking about; that's business!"

There seems to be this popular notion that Christianity and practical living do not mix. How many times have I heard people say, "Well, it's OK to be religious but when it comes to business, we have to be practical. Business is business and Christianity is not practical."

Authentic Christianity is not a new set of compartmentalized rules but a relationship - a living one-on-one personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. This relationship moves us to submit - without anyone pressuring us - every area of our lives to the lordship of the living God. Yes, including our business.

A visit to the local bookstore will show us volumes of "technique books" that guarantee success and prosperity.



By Francis Kong

# THE BUSINESS OF CHRISTIANITY

We have read many of those books for years but we are not prospering.

***\* The secret of true success and prosperity does not lie in these technique books written by human authors who are sure to fail just like you and me.***

It's been amusing to see best-selling authors, like Lee Iacocca and Donald Trump, flaunting their gospel of success, then not long after, become the subjects of insolvency and bankruptcy.

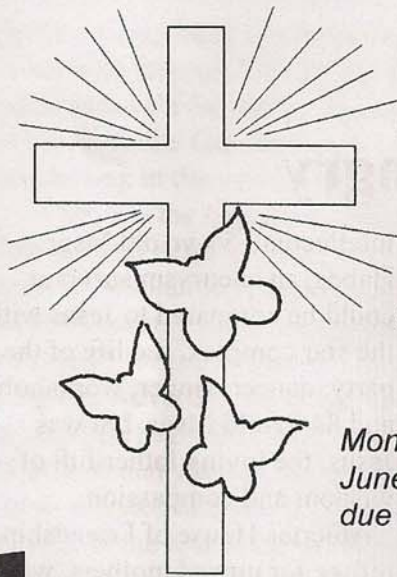
There is only one best-selling book of all time which will never fail - the Bible.

Psalms 1 says: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord. And on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by

streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does, he prospers!"

In the book of Joshua we find: "Be strong and be courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn from it to the right or to the left that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth. Meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Since the beginning of time this Book, the Holy Bible, sets forth the ways to achieve success and prosperity that last. Each time I meditate on its precepts, I have the confidence that the living Author is with me at all times. How assuring it is to know that this Book is authored by the One who never fails! - Reprinted with permission



# "I have found my star in the dark night and my journey continues..."

By Monica Lopez, BCBP Greenhills Youth Group

*Monica shares with us her experience at the BCBP Crossroads Retreat she attended June 2-3, 2001, at the Baguio Mary Hill Training and Youth Center. We regret that due to space constraints we have had to shorten her sharing a bit. - Editor.*

**b**efore i joined the youth group, I was at the point in my life when I felt so down and felt that everything is not on my side. Not that I did not have pretty good relationship with God. I did. In fact during these trying times, I tried holding on to Him and praying harder. I prayed different novenas; I prayed all the "stampitas" that I had; I even visited different churches — all to get God's attention so that He would answer my prayers. I prayed hard for my family to be OK soon, for my studies, for a better relationship with my boyfriend and for my Lolo to get well soon. But all the opposite of what I prayed for happened — we had a crisis in the family, I had to extend for one semester to revise my thesis for my Masters Degree. I had endless fights with my boyfriend and my Lolo died. I really felt bad and started doubting God.

Then my parents invited me to go with them to Ateneo for a "youth thing". There I was reminded of a dream I once had when I was in high school — to start a youth group for BCBP, and I found myself committed to come up with such a Youth Group.

My Tita Ace then informed us about the upcoming retreat. I wanted to go so much but I was kinda hesitant because of my age; I was shy to be the oldest participant in the retreat. But I went. The talks were OK. Most of the things I had already heard before but the impact was a little bit different. When one of the speakers said, "God is calling you by name." I felt as if God was talking to me and affirming that it was His plan for me to attend the retreat. That whatever crisis I was going through, to forget about it for a day and a half and give Him a chance to talk to me. That He had allowed the Big Blows to happen in my life as a wake-up call. He wanted to remind me that I was strong and would be able to face all the challenges in my life if I believed in myself.

After the retreat, miracles started to happen. My siblings and I went home with a happy family. Even if I did not graduate on time I found a great job. My relationship with my boyfriend improved and everyone in the family is slowly recovering from the loss of my Lolo. I have found my star in the dark night and my journey continues.

Through the youth group, the retreat and the get-togethers that we've had, I've learned to commit more and be more accepting to the different youth in the BCBP Greenhills that wanted to join our youth group. I've learned that teenagers, whoever they are, want to belong. God might have called them in different ways but they were too busy doing different things of interest to hear His call. But He makes a way for His voice to be heard even as He did make it possible for our core group to be formed. I am sure that He will also make a way for the other Youth Groups to be established throughout the BCBP.



## GREENHILLS

# Operation: Share your food with the hungry

□ John's message in 1 John 4:7 spurred the Lenten season project of the BCBP Greenhills chapter. Action groups chose an outreach community to serve and interact with during the season.

Sonny and Bing Duque's action group selected the Nazareth Growth Homes in Project 4, Q.C., a safe house for



intellectual, 54-yr-old Msgr. Habos, an aneurysm survivor could be compared to Jesus with the star complex, the life of the party, dancer, singer, workaholic, and 84-yr-old Msgr. Lat was Jesus, the loving father full of wisdom and compassion.

Abiertas House of Friendship, a refuge for unwed mothers, was the choice of Precy and Danny Lazo's action group. Although they were unable to interact with the would-be mothers as their



abused and exploited women. One of the BCBP members commented that "this experience will remain in our thoughts for a long time because it reminded us to be more thankful for our blessings and to be more sensitive to the needs of others and more generous in giving love to others."

The members in Chi and Noli Castro's action group visited squatter families in Don Enrique Heights, Commonwealth, Q.C. They took their children with them to interact with 25 squatter children. It was a day of fun-filled entertainment, eating and enjoying each other's company.

"We learned that sharing doesn't have to be expensive. When it comes from the heart, it brings joy to many lives, all it takes is a little effort on our part." This was the reaction of members of Ging and

Robi Sison's action group who took Chuckee the Mascot of Kentucky Fried Chicken with them in their visit to CRIBS.

The elderly priests were the focus of the action group of Jo Mendoza. Jo recounts that their visit to three elderly, retired and ill priests allowed them to experience Christ in three personalities - 84-yr-old Msgr. Arroyo personified Jesus the

identities are kept secret, they visited the nursery. "This activity helped us realize that the Lord provides for the needy through the efforts of generous and helpful people. We realized our role in bringing God's love by providing for those who have less in life."

Glo and Nane Arabelo's action group went to the ancestral home of BCBP Greenhills member Eddie Dee that presently serves as a home for street children under Father O'Brian's Angels Foundation. The group plans to continue their outreach activity by looking for a more permanent home that is less congested and help subsidize part of the rent requirement.

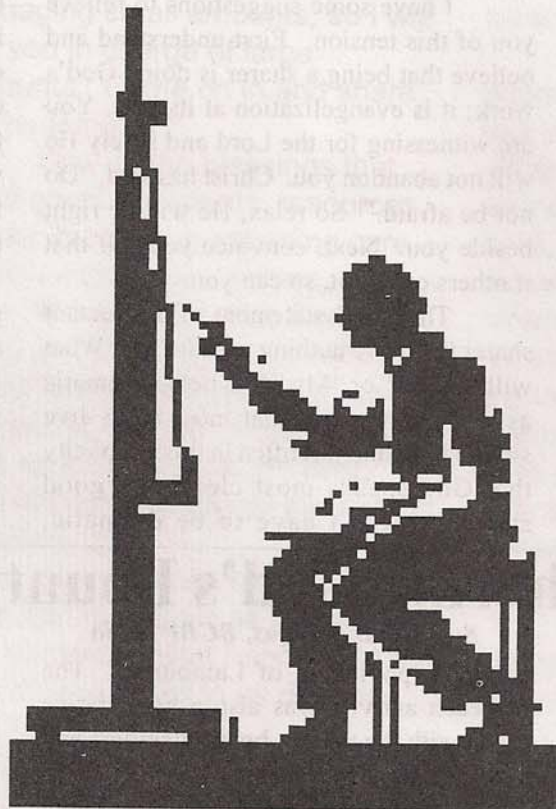
## ALABANG

# Art in the Breakfast

□ Since more than a year ago, sharers in the Alabang Men's breakfast have enjoyed something that only this sharing venue could give. Apart from the customary token of appreciation for the sharer, the sharer is awarded a commemorative sketch on 12" x 18" drawing paper, courtesy of the chapter's resident artist Tony Serrano. The sketch is done on the spot by Bro. Tony and is framable for posterity.

Tony and his wife Marilou joined the Alabang Chapter in 1993 via CLP 23 under action group leaders Johnny and Tere Borra. Tony is a retired marketing man while Marilou manages the family flower shop business in Makati. They are blest with four daughters, all of whom are now working (Nicole-British Airways, Dionne-Citibank, Ina-BPI Family Bank, Denise-Interior designer). Although retired from corporate life, Tony continues to do what he is gifted with - painting. Although he has dabbled in painting and the arts since his elementary days, he has had no formal training.

When asked how this sketching in the breakfast started, Tony recounted, "One Saturday breakfast in 1999, I happened to be seated at the service table of the Acacia room. As I listened to the sharer, I got hold of a bond paper and a signpen and started sketching the sharer including the rest of the breakfast attendees in my line of vision.



A brother saw the sketch and suggested that we offer it as a token to the sharer. This we did and later it was suggested that I do this regularly as an added service to the Lord. Nowadays the sketches are done on drawing paper and in full color."

Unselfish sharing of his talent is something that comes naturally with Tony. In 1998 at the BCBP National

Anniversary Prayer Rally in the ULTRA, he did a 4' x 5' oil painting of Christ the King which was used for the parade and later enthroned. At the BCBP National Anniversary celebration at Subic, he designed the 9' Holy Door which was used as stage background and later on graced the cover of the Kapatiran.

Tony sees his life in the BCBP as a "spiritual re-awakening experience that made me realize the value of faith in God to sustain family unity. Within our lifetime, we are challenged to extract from the gift of life the fullest potential of which we are capable of. God grants us life, but putting value to our life is our contribution and our own responsibility."

His faith was tested and further strengthened during a severe attack of emphysema in August 1999 that caused him to be confined in the hospital ICU for 10 days. Doctors later informed him that had he been delayed in reaching the hospital for even 10 minutes, he would have died instantly as his acid levels were already threatening his brain. Grateful for another lease on life, Tony has not only learned to call on God in time of necessity, but to also let go and let God. His fight against illness is not yet over and he asks the community's continued prayers for his healing confident in God's mercy and love.

## Breaking new grounds for BCBP Alabang in Batangas City

□ If the United States Navy has the SEALS (think Steven Seagall), what does BCBP Alabang Chapter have? Answer: the Men's Breakfast Outreach Team!

For several years now, the Men's Breakfast Outreach Team, currently headed by Buboy Aquino has been doing what it does best, which is to set up breakfast venues as the forerunner of full-blown Brotherhood evangelization activities. Traditionally the men's breakfast has been

the chapter's first initiative in setting up outreaches.

One can see the team's progress in a visit to the newly opened Batangas Outreach. The venue is an excellent place for a Brotherhood breakfast, at the Days Hotel right in the heart of the city. The place, food, facilities and the service are all positive ingredients for a successful BCBP outreach. The Batangas Outreach will be an outreach to watch!

## Alabang launches newsletter

□ In response to the chapter's growing need to keep the members informed about developments and affairs of the chapter, the chapter recently launched its newsletter, the Tambuli. The name, suggested by our chapter head, Bobby Atendido, describes the newsletter's purpose - to announce. Plans include monthly publication with contributions (sharings, announcements of future events, reports about chapter activities, etc.) from the chapter members encouraged. Articles may be either faxed to 759-2113 or 'mailed' to [tambuli@mail.com](mailto:tambuli@mail.com).



# Are you the Next Sharer?

By Jimmy Ascalon, Iloilo Chapter Head

□ One of the most remarkable achievements in the life of a Brotherhood member is having been able to share in a breakfast. Those who have had the privilege to share their life testimony can tell you that truly their sharing was an important milestone in their spiritual growth as a BCBP member. Yet, why is it that many brothers and sisters dread giving their breakfast testimony? Some brothers would rather postpone and others postpone indefinitely, *ad infinitum* (how about sometime next year?) thus only prolonging their 'agony'. Some have experienced indigestion, nervousness and a terrible Friday night.

I have some suggestions to relieve you of this tension. First understand and believe that being a sharer is doing God's work; it is evangelization at its best. You are witnessing for the Lord and surely He will not abandon you. Christ has said, "Do not be afraid." So relax, He will be right beside you. Next, convince yourself that if others can do it, so can you.

The usual statement of a reluctant sharer is "I have nothing to share" or "What will I share?" or "My life is not as dramatic as his." Remember that most of us live simple lives and it is often in this simplicity that God speaks most clearly. A good sharing doesn't have to be dramatic,

bringing listeners to tears. Every sharing is interesting since we all have different experiences in our lives, God touches each of us uniquely. Prayers that were answered, family experiences, the storms in your life, victories in the marketplace, etc...you will find upon reflection that your list is endless.

Lastly, pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and for the words to say. Also, ask your action group to intercede for you. Relax and step out in faith and your sharing is guaranteed to be powerful! Then you can say with a smile on your face "tapos na ako" for the first time ... and even look forward to the next time.

## Sharing God's Bounty

By Rene B. Ortigas, BCBP Iloilo

□ Everything that we are comes from God. Everything that we have comes from Him, too. There may be some discrepancy in the distribution of His bounty but this was definitely not meant to be so. God wants us to share what we have with those who have less. With this in mind, our action group decided to conduct an outreach activity to the most depressed area we could reach. Together with an interested group from the Dr. Ricardo Y. Ladrido Memorial Hospital we selected a mountainous barangay some 18 kilometers

from the poblacion of Lambunao. The outreach activity was also a cooperative effort with the mayor, board members and staff of the municipality of Lambunao.

This barangay has a very indigent population, meager educational facilities with only a solitary elementary school, a simple barangay station to attend to minor health needs, and no regular form of transportation. If sickness occurs they walk a rough feeder road for three hours to reach the hospital. The road is usually unreachable during rainy season.

On June 2, 2001, we reached this barangay with the BCBP Iloilo contributing canned goods, rice, salt, soap, matches and sugar, used clothing, shoes, bags and toys. The hospital provided the much needed emergency medicines, supplies and medical expertise. Amid the happy hearts and faces of the more than 250 families in the area we ended the day with songs of praise and the distribution of rosaries as we thanked God for blessing us with good weather for our mercy journey.

## Iloilo Update

### □ Multi-purpose cooperative

A BCBP Multi-purpose cooperative has already started its lending operations to members who may need financial assistance. The cooperative began with an initial capital of 110,000 pesos and is duly registered with the COOP Development Authority. It has its own complete set of directors and officers. The cooperative was formed to limit the borrowings of BCBP members from one another and therefore avoid unnecessary conflicts.

### □ BEP conducted at PECO

In March of this year BCBP Iloilo conducted the Business Evangelization Program (BEP) for Panay Electric Co. personnel in a two-weekend program. As

**22nd**  
**BCBP NATIONAL**  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
**April 26-27, 2002**  
**Hosted by**  
**BCBP ILOILO**  
**Makitaay Kita**  
**Sa Iloilo!**

a result of the efforts of Bro. Willie Bobis, Personnel Manager of the Panay Electric Co. and Iloilo's mission director Edwin Acheron, employees from the administration and electric plant attended the sessions.

## Youth alive

□ Last year six kids of BCBP Iloilo members, a member from Lingkod Ng Panginon and Bro. David Recio got together to brainstorm how to get BCBP members' kids active. On September 9th sixty-four kids celebrated the launching of BCBP Iloilo Youth through an acquaintance party. This was followed a month later with an overnight Crossroads retreat for 84 participants from Iloilo and Kalibo, organized with the assistance of CYA, LNP and ACTS2 Bacolod.

November and December saw the Youth raising funds through old newspapers in preparation for the LSS which was attended by more than 50 young people. More and more activities are scheduled for this year 2001 with Bro. David as Iloilo's Youth Coordinator.

## TARLAC

# Mama Mary blesses Tarlac's 1st Breakfast

□ As if to say "Thank you my children" Mama Mary blessed the Tarlac Outreach of the Makati Chapter during its opening breakfast on September 8 with an audience of the "who's who" of Tarlac's civil society. Among those attending were Tarlac Governor Jose Yap, Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinense, City Mayor Genaro Mendoza, Tarlac Medical Society's president Dr. Shelly Mangahas, secretary of the Diocesan Service Commission Badette Lim. Also in attendance were representatives from the United Architects Tarlac Chapter, Tarlac Chamber of Commerce, PICPA Tarlac Chapter, Gerona Sangguniang Kabataan and the Tarlac Public Market Association.



*Tarlac's Bishop Cinense*

Governor "Aping" Yap and Bishop Cinense each gave messages welcoming the BCBP in the city and offering support for BCBP activities. The breakfast was cohosted by Andy Fornier, Beth Ginete and Joey Avellana. Guest sharers were Roy and Janet Calleja of the Board of Trustees. Bro. Ronnie Caballero gave the scriptural response to the sharing.

The breakfast was preceded the night before by a "Harana kay Maria" at the San Sebastian Cathedral where BCBP Makati's music ministry sang several Marian songs along with the rest of the charismatic groups who are members of the Diocesan Commission. - *Danny Silbor*

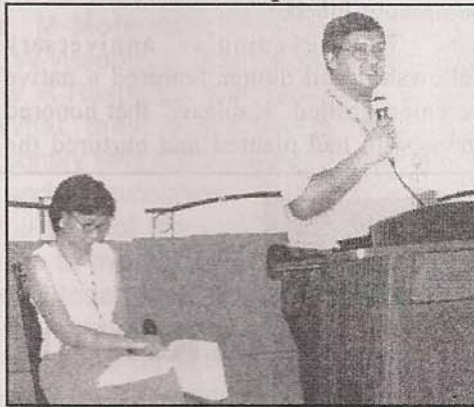
## NEWS

## DUMAGUETE

## Dumaguete is one year old

□ The BCBP Dumaguete chapter turned one year old on July 15, 2001, with the announcement of the chapter's new governance team during the anniversary celebration at the beach house of Sis. Lu Teves in Cangmating, Sibulan. The celebration began with an anniversary Mass followed by a Family Day celebration. The program for this event was coordinated by Fellowship ministry head Bro. Bunny Alcantara with his wife Edna.

Leo Cabrera heads the new governance team as chapter-head-in-training under Chapter Head JV Imbo. His team is composed of Life Director Terry Orbeta, Mission Director Jimmy Dumalag, Programs and Services Director Fred Magallano, with Archer Palubio as chapter treasurer. Unit leaders for their five units are: Frank Ontolan, Ely Escorial, Ted Cortes, Dodo Omictin and Ranie Pacaldo. The secretariat is headed by Boy Diputado; music ministry head is Edgar Diputado. Ely Dejaresco assumes responsibility for the breakfasts with Joe Nakao as Men's Breakfast Head and Nening Mercialdo as Ladies Breakfast Head.



*Sharers Roy and Janette Calleja*



*Tarlac Gov. Aping Yap*

Newly formed ministry teams and their respective heads, under Programs and Services include Hosting - Aping Biglete; Sunshine - Archer Palubio; Teaching - JV Imbo; Advocacy - Albert Flores; Fellowship - Bunny Alcantara; Books - Wading Buenavista; Social Action - Andy Andaya; Liturgy - Cap Balbuena; Healing - Jimmy Buenavista; and Information and Communication - *Ely Dejaresco*.

## NEWS

## BAIS

## Bais at 1 yr. old

□ Bais Outreach, a project of BCBP Dumaguete, observed its 1st birthday as a BCBP outreach on May 26, 2001. Bais is a city in the center of the Negros Oriental sugarland, north of the City of Dumaguete. A member of the mission team remembers "...how eagerly prospective members responded when we knocked on their doors to invite them..."

The first breakfast venue was the La Planta Hotel. Later the group moved to Bais Bahia Restaurant which could have been the perfect place except for its distance. Now the outreach meets at the Coconut Grill in the heart of Bais sugarlandia.

Twenty-five couples completed BCLP 1 with Bro. Ely and Sis. Anne Escorial as course leaders. Five couples joined the July BCMR 6 in Dumaguete City.

The Council of Servants is composed of Bro. Jojo Vidal, chief servant, assisted by Bro. Jun Buenavista - breakfast head, Bro. Steve Villanueva - music ministry head, Bro. Q and Sis. Marriet Bascos - secretariat, and Bro. Ed Sibala - treasurer. The four action groups are headed by brothers Beco Ferraren, Dodo Alicante, Boboy Luba, and Harte Fuentes.

## TUGUEGARAO

## Tuguegarao celebrates 8th anniversary



□ August 18, 2001 was a red-letter day for BCBP Tuguegarao - it was their 6th anniversary as a BCBP chapter. An anniversary breakfast at the Brickstone Mall Food Court began the day. Members joyfully welcomed two distinguished guests from Manila: Bro. Rem Gopez, who had originally led the first group of evangelizers that brought the BCBP to the far north, and Bro. Lito Pardo, the incumbent Paranaque chapter head who was also the breakfast sharer.

After the breakfast, the whole group went on a pilgrimage to our Lady of Piat at the Basilica Minore in Piat, Cagayan. There they attended Mass officiated by Msgr. Gerry Perez, the parish priest who is the son of the chapter head, Bro. Diddi Perez. Msgr. Gerry also treated the group to a sumptuous lunch.

The evening's anniversary fellowship and dinner featured a native ceremony called "Kablaaw" that honored those who had planted and nurtured the

seeds of BCBP in that part of the country. A choral contest highlighted the affair, with the best rendition of the BCBP's theme song "One Family" vied for by the six Tuguegarao units. Surprisingly, the judges declared a tie! The objective was achieved, however, as the elders discovered that many members could easily qualify as music ministry members.

**Other news.** The BCBP Tuguegarao chapter conducted a Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat (BCMR) on July 6, 2001 at the Holy Spirit Sisters Retreat House at Maddarulug, Solana, Cagayan. Nine couples from the chapter's outreach in Santiago, Isabela, and three couples from Tuguegarao successfully completed the BCMR.

Presently, the chapter is preparing for its next Christian Life Program scheduled to begin in late September.

-Nene de Leon

## NEWS

## CEBU SOUTH

VisMin Music Ministry Workshop:  
Singing to the Glory of His Name

□ The dream of "Singing to the Glory of His Name", a verse from Ps. 66:2, came into reality for the Visayas and Mindanao BCBP with the holding of a Music Ministry Workshop on July 20, 2001. 107 participants from the BCBP Visayas and Mindanao chapters and outreaches attended:

Planning for the affair began early last year by the Cebu South chapter. But it was only mid-May this year 2001 that these plans crystallized with the acceptance of Joey Villamor and the Ligaya ng Panginoon music ministry to conduct the weekend's workshop in July. Response from the VisMin chapters and outreaches was overwhelming as everyone arrived with their respective instruments and voices, keeping the service team from Cebu South headed by Jaime Gallego, Programs and Service Director, and assisted by Ben and Yolly Ycong and Juls and Cecil Felicilda, very busy.

The 12-member LNP music ministry team headed by Joey and Joan Villamor kept the participants busy and inspired through the Spirit-filled worship sessions, challenging talks and informative open forums. The participants then was divided into groups (guitarists, vocals, percussions, sound arrangers, keyboards) for the hands-on workshop portions. In the evenings everyone gathered together for fellowship and instant jam sessions.

Right after Sunday mass, the groups all joined together to play the same song "The People of God". Just imagine 34 guitarists, 35 vocalists, 8 keyboards, one percussionist, one drummer, one base guitarist, one violinist and one flutist all harmonizing together "Singing to the Glory of His Name"! We all felt the presence of the Holy Spirit most strongly during this closing 'concert'. The entire weekend was indeed a weekend that we will long remember.-  
*Boy Villanueva, Cebu South.*

## NEWS

## BAGUIO

Baguio's 1st  
BCBR

□ BCBP Baguio's Brotherhood Christians in Business Retreat, BCBR, saw 38 participants focusing on current concerns in the marketplace like bribery, extortion and labor problems, examining them from the viewpoint of a Christian. Bro. Emil Morales was the Course Director, sharing the topics with brothers Vic Tolentino, Ted Velasco, Art dela Cruz, Dodo Sta. Maria and Loy Judan.

The participants examined the motivations for working and God's plan for us at work. They studied the leadership of Jesus as an example for Christian managers and learned how to cope with the challenges of loving others in the marketplace such as customers, competitors, stockholders. They also reviewed their priorities between work, family and community. One of the more challenging talks was on how to combat institutional evil and how to let Jesus be the Lord of the workplace.



## COLUMNISTS CORNER



**Ricky Beltran.** Ricky puts together a varied selection of topics for your reading in this issue.



**Ronnie Caballero.** He uses St. Stephen as model for his discussion on Spiritual Empowerment, this issue's focus. And he tells us about his trip to Las Vegas and the Grand Canyon in his regular column.



**Nancy R. Catan.** She says we need to look at Jesus as evangelist when we are called to bring Christ into our marketplace.



**Louie Morales.** Tatang Louie asks us to see empowerment as a community-building process.



**Annie Salvador.** Addressing the problems of prayertime focus and of raising a budding teenager, Annie shares with us her difficulties and God's message to her ... and us.



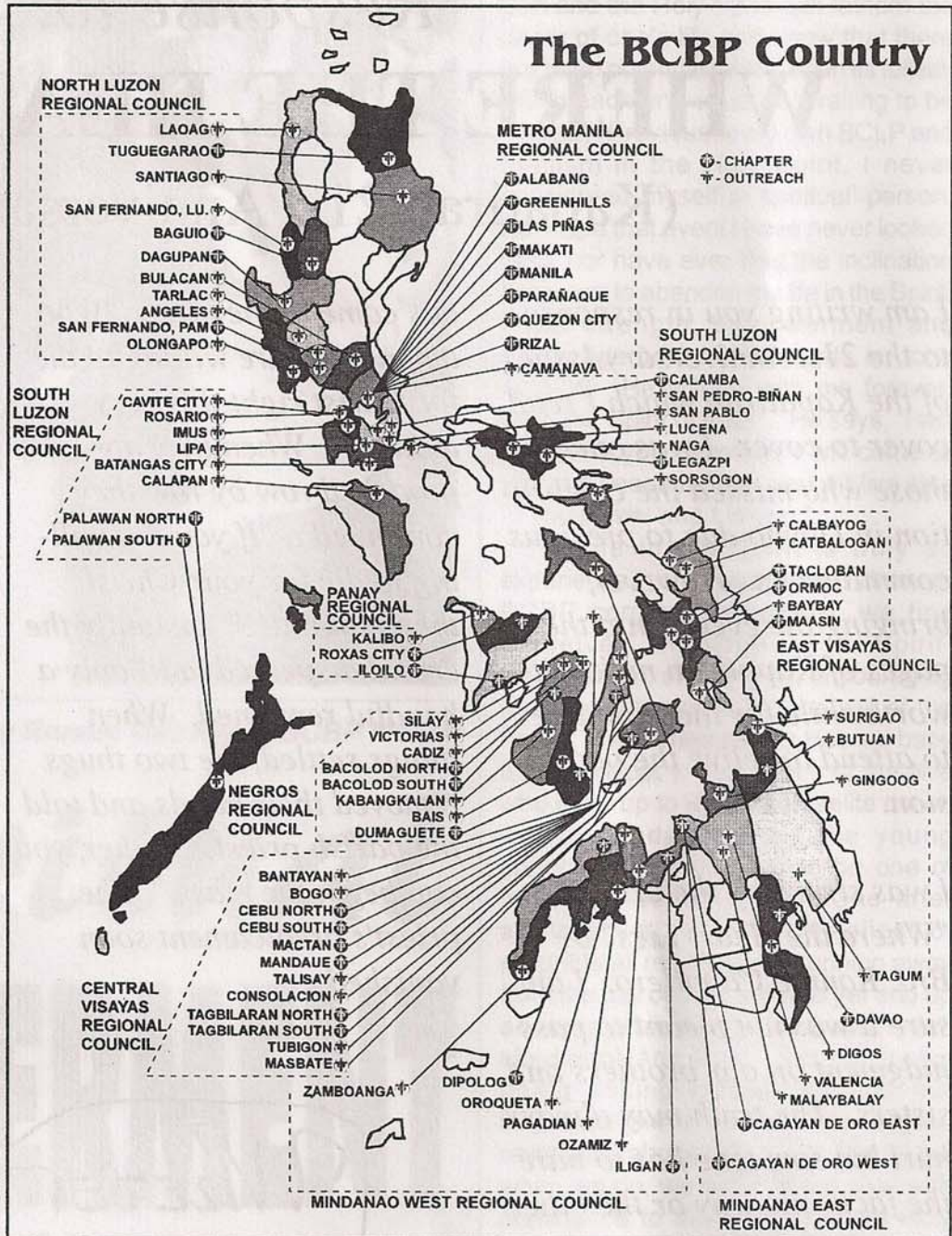
**Fernando de Larrazabal.** His column in this issue is reprinted with permission from his new book "Quest for Answers", published by St. Pauls.



**Francis J. Kong.** He says that the secret of true success and prosperity does not lie in the many "techniques" books but in God's word.

## The BCBP Vision

Life in all its fullness for businessmen and professionals  
(John 10:10)



**22nd BCBP NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY**  
**April 26-27, 2002**  
**Hosted by BCBP ILOILO**  
*"Makitaay Kita Sa Iloilo!"*

www.jimitron.com.ph/BCBP  
 jimitron@iloilo.net

# Brotherhood

## BREAKFAST VENUES

### METRO MANILA

Alabang	Sat	(M) Ayala Alabang Country Club
	Sat (2nd)	(L) Ayala Alabang Country Club
	Sat (4th)	(J) Ayala Alabang Country Club
Greenhills	Thurs (3rd,4th)	(M) Club Filipino
	Sat (1st)	(M) Racks Restaurant-
	Sat (1st)	(L) Julia Vargas Street-
	Sat (2nd)	(J) Ortigas Pasig
Las Piñas	Sat (2nd,3rd,4th)	(M) BurgerKing Philam Village-
	Sat (1st)	(J) Alabang Zapote Rd.
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Fukuicki Restaurant
Makati	Weds	(M) Makati Sports Club
	Weds (2nd)	(L) Makati Sports Club
	Weds (1st & 3rd)	(J) Makati Sports Club
Manila	Fri.(2nd,3rd,4th)	(M) Pinausukan Rest. Malate, Mla
	Fri. (2nd)	(L) Pinausukan Rest. Malate, Mla
	Fri (1st)	(J) Pinausukan Rest. Malate, Mla
Parañaque	Sat (1st,3rd,4th)	(M) Txoko Restaurant
	Sat (4th)	(L) President Avenue
	Sat (2nd)	(J) BF Homes
Quezon City	Sat (1st,3rd,4th)	(M)Bistro Torillo Sacred Heart Q.C.
	Sat (1st)	(L) Bistro Torillo Sacred Heart Q.C.
	Sat (3rd)	(J) Bistro Torillo Sacred Heart Q.C.
Rizal	Sat (1st,2nd,4th)	(M) Manila East Golf Club,Taytay, Rizal
	Sat (1st)	(L) Manila East Golf Club,Taytay, Rizal
	Sat (3rd)	(J) Manila East Golf Club,Taytay, Rizal
Camanava	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Merchelle Bldg. William Shaw St. Kal.
Imus	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Rojonet Aquinaldo H-way, Imus Intrstrc
Lucena	Sat	(J) Halina Hotel & Restaurant
Pasay/Villamor	Sat	(M) Villamor Golf Club Greenside Dinning
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Villamor Golf Club Samguita
	Sat (1st)	(J) Villamor Golf Club
Rosario	Sat	(J) Servato's House Restaurant (2nd)

### NORTH LUZON

Baguio	Sat (1st,3rd,4th)	(M) Max's Restaurant
	Sat (4th)	(L) Forest Inn
	Sat (2nd)	(J) Max's Restaurant
Dagupan	Sat	(M)Jollibee Junction A.B. Fernandez Ave.,
	Sat	(L)A.B. Fernandez Ave., cor.
	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) M.H. del Pilar St.
Tuguegarao	Sat (1st, 3rd & 4th)	(M)Brickton Mall
	Sat (4th)	(L)Pampagueña Restaurant
	Sat (2nd)	(J) Brickton Mall
Angeles	Sat	(J) Garden Dine Restaurant
Bulacan	Sat	(J) The Ark Restaurant
Laoag	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Golden Cow Restaurant
Olongapo	Sat	(J) Ann Raquel Restaurant, Magsaysay Blvd.
San Fndo-LU	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Sea & Sky
San Fndo-Pamp.	Sat	(J) Villa Conchita Olongapo Gapan Rd.
Santiago Isabela	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Greenview Hotel
Tarlac	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Nay's House Restaurant

### SOUTH LUZON

Calamba	Sat (2nd,3rd,4th)	(M) Riverview Resort & Conferen Center
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Riverview Resort & Conferen Center
	Sat (1st)	(J) Riverview Resort & Conferen Center
Legazpi	Sat (4th)	(M) Albay Hotel, Legazpi City
	Sat (4th)	(L) Albay Hotel, Legazpi City
	Sat (2nd)	(J) Albay Hotel, Legazpi City
Palawan North	Sat (3rd)	(M) Legend Hotel
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Legend Hotel
	Sat (1st)	(J) Legend Hotel
Palawan South	Sat (4th)	(M) Palawan Garden
	Sat (4th)	(L) Palawan Garden
	Sat (2nd)	(J) Palawan Garden
Biñan-San Pedro	Sat (1st,3rd,4th)	(M) Max's Restaurant
	Sat (4th)	(L) Max's Restaurant
	Sat (2nd)	(J) Max's Restaurant
Batangas City	Sat (1st)	(J) Days Hotel
Calapan	Sat (2nd,4th)	(J) Parish Hall Calapan Cathedral
Cavite City	Sat (3rd)	(J) Pat's Restaurant
Lipa	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(M) Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City
	Sat (2nd,4th)	(J) Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City
Naga	Sat (1st,3rd)	(J) Champange Garden, Apo Dr. Mayon Ave
San Pablo	Sat	(J) Patio Verde Restaurant
Sorsogon	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Jollibee Sorsogon

### CENTRAL VISAYAS

Cebu North	Sat (3rd)	(M) Grand Convention
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Grand Convention
	Sat (1st)	(J) Grand Convention
Cebu South	Sat (2nd,3rd,4th)	(M) White House Filipino Grill
	Sat (3rd)	(L) White House Filipino Grill
	Sat (1st)	(J) White House Filipino Grill

Mactan	Sat (4th)	(M) Majestic Restaurant
	Sat (4th)	(L) Majestic Restaurant
	Sat (2nd & 3rd)	(J) Majestic Restaurant
Mandaue	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(M) Saroza Int'l Hotel
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Saroza Int'l Hotel
	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Saroza Int'l Hotel
Tagbilaran North	Sat (3rd)	(M) JJ Seaford Village
	Sat (3rd)	(L) JJ Seaford Village
	Sat (2nd)	(J) JJ Seaford Village
Tagbilaran South	Sat (3rd)	(M) Hotel Laroza
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Hotel Laroza
	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Hotel Laroza
Bantayan	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Bantayan Southern Inst. Social Hall
Bogo	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Rooftop Northern Cebu Colleges
Consolacion	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Fatima Parish Social Hall
Talisay	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Don Bosco Seminary Chapel
Tubigon	Sun (2nd & 4th)	(J) PPC Hall

### EAST VISAYAS

Maasin	Sun (3rd)	(M) Hunning Tune Restaurant
	Sun (3rd)	(L) Hunning Tune Restaurant
	Sun (1st)	(J) Hunning Tune Restaurant
Ormoc	Sat (3rd)	(M) Pongos Hotel
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Pongos Hotel
	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Pongos Hotel
Tacloban	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(M) Casa Anson
	Sat (2nd)	(L) Casa Anson
	Sat (4th)	(J) Casa Anson
Baybay	Sun (2nd & 4th)	(J) Angelicum School
Calbayog	Sun (1st & 3rd)	(J) Bread Mix
Catbalogan	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Maqueda Bay Hotel & Restaurant

### NEGROS

Bacolod North	Sat (1st,2nd,3rd)	(M) Jollibee La Salle
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Jollibee La Salle
	Sat (4th)	(J) Nobles Restaurant
Bacolod South	Sat (1st,2nd,3rd)	(M) McDonald Lacson
	Sat (2nd)	(L) Jollibee La Salle
	Sat (4th)	(J) Nobles Restaurant
Dumaguete	Sat (3rd)	(M) Bethel Restaurant House
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Bethel Restaurant House
	Sat (1st)	(J) Bethel Restaurant House
Bais	Sat (2nd)	(M) Coco Grill
	Sat (4th)	(J) Coco Grill
Cadiz	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) RL Pensionne House
Silay	Sat (2nd)	(M) JOF Diner
	Sun (2nd)	(L) JOF Diner
	Quarterly	(J) Heftia Restaurant
Kabangkalan	Sun (1st & 3rd)	(M) Snack Plaza
Victorias	Sun (2nd & 4th)	(J) Marjon's Restaurant

### PANAY

Iloilo	Sat (2nd,3rd,4th)	(M) Amigo Terraces Hotel
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Amigo Terraces Hotel
	Sat (1st)	(J) Amigo Terraces Hotel
Roxas	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(M) Pizza Junction, Rizal St.
	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(L) Molino Place, Roxas Ave.
	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Nesta's Hill Top Rest.
Kalibo	Sat	(J) Mary's Refreshment

### MINDANAO EAST

CDO East	Sat (1st,2nd,4th)	(M) Mahogany Cafe
	Sat (4th)	(L) VIP Hotel
	Sat (3rd)	(J) Silver Court Restaurant
CDO West	Sat (1st,2nd,4th)	(M) VIP Hotel
	Sat (2nd)	(L) VIP Hotel
	Sat (3rd)	(J) VIP Hotel
Davao	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(M)Dsuru Japanese Restaurant
	Sat (4th)	(L) Dsuru Japanese Restaurant
	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Dsuru Japanese Restaurant
Butuan	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Embassy Hotel
Digos	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) CAP Bldg.
Gingoog	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) New Lanes Rest. along National H-way
Malaybalay	Sat (1st & 2nd)	(J) House Malibu
Surigao	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J) Gateway Hotel
TaguM	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) CAP Bldg.
Valencia	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Taipan Restaurant

### MINDANAO WEST

Iligan	Sat (3rd)	(M) Mandelicious Native Foods
	Sat (3rd)	(L) Maria Cristina Hotel
	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J) Maria Cristina Hotel
Dipolog	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J)Top Plaza Hotel
Oroqueta	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J)Lumantas Garden
Ozamiz	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J)Royal Garden Hotel
Pagadian	Sat (2nd & 4th)	(J)That's Diner Restaurant
Zamboanga	Sat (1st & 3rd)	(J)Lutos Rest. Astoria Hotel

**JOHN 21 : 12**

Jesus said to them,  
"Come, have breakfast."  
And none of the disciples  
dared to ask him,  
"Who are you?"

because they realized  
it was the Lord.



**BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN  
BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS**