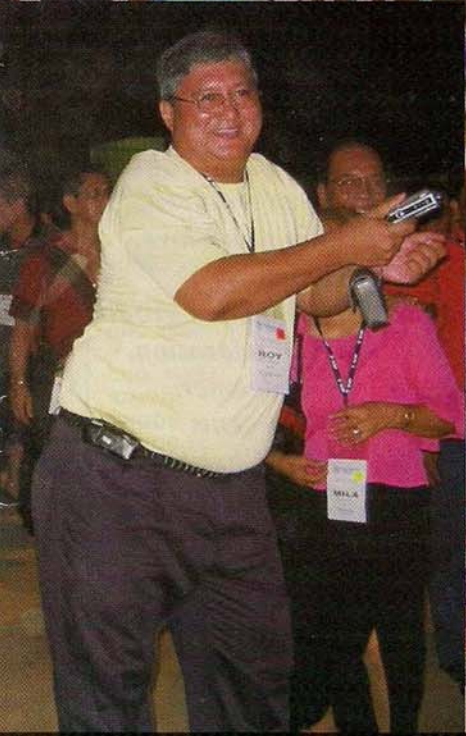


KAPATIRAN

M A G A Z I N E

june 2004



BCBP

24th National Anniversary

April 16-18, 2004
Dipolog City

THEME

*"You Can Do All Things Through
Christ Who Strengthens You"*

The BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

VISION

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

MISSION

We provide a way of life and support environment where businessmen and professionals, guided by the Holy Spirit, can experience Christ through a continuing process of:

Conversion to a personal relationship with Christ
Commitment to the values espoused by Him, and
Commissioning as disciples to spread the Good News in the marketplace.



The LOGO of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals captures the very essence of the Community. The Cross in the middle of the logo symbolizes Christ, who is the heart of the Brotherhood. Christian tenets and values are central to all endeavours of the Community. The arm of the Cross - indeed, Christ's outstretched arms, welcome all who come under His salvation and love.

It symbolizes, too, the mission of the group to increase its members by evangelization. The twin figures on the logo's foreground are the two active groups of the Brotherhood - businessmen and professionals. They are bent in adoration, typifying the Brotherhood's acceptance of Christ as Master and Redeemer.

Finally, enveloping all the elements of the logo is a circle. It represents the unity of the Brotherhood - one in purpose, one in spirit, one in Christ.

The BCBP CORE VALUES

LOVE for GOD

LOVE for COMMUNITY

COMMITMENT to the LORD'S WORK



We begin a new year ... the BCBP's 25th!!

We are approaching a significant milestone in the BCBP - our 25th year as a nationwide Catholic Christian organization of businessmen and professionals who are committed to bring Christ into the marketplace and, likewise, to bring the marketplace to Christ. Last April we celebrated our 24th national anniversary in Dipolog. In this issue we share with you a glimpse of this joyful and celebratory event so that you can anticipate an even greater outpouring of the Spirit during next May's 25th celebration to be hosted by the BCBP's Cebu chapters. Cebu, here we come!

With this upcoming milestone in BCBP history the Mancom together with chapter governance teams have been looking back to the BCBP's earlier years at what practices really worked contributing to BCBP's growth from the initial breakfast of 12 men (or was it 25 - reports and memories seem to differ a bit here) to the present membership of more than 30,000. In this issue we focus on Mission's Best Practices; in future issues we will feature Chapter Formation, Finances and Tithing and Programs and Services basic practices of our Community. Highlighted will be those non-negotiable practices that must continue in order to spur BCBP's growth toward even greater impact in the business world.

In addition to our regular features and sharings we give you a listing of all regions, their Regional Council Directors, Chapter Heads and Outreach Heads for your handy reference as well as the various breakfast venues nationwide.

As Editor and on behalf of all of us who work to make the KAPATIRAN possible, I would like to thank with heartfelt appreciation the Mancom and Regional Directors for giving the KAPATIRAN a fresh mandate and support for the coming year. We pledge to continue to carry out the 5-fold mission and vision of this publication:

Inspiration, Information, Evangelization, Unification and Formation.

We look forward to the coming year with great anticipation that the Holy Spirit will continue to make Himself known to each and every BCBP member and radiate God's goodness throughout business and professional marketplaces ... to fulfill the promise in 1 Peter 2:9 that the Philippines and the BCBP "are a chosen race, a holy nation, a people of God's own, called out of darkness into His own wonderful light to announce His praises to the nation and to the world".

- Nancy R. Catan, Editor-in-Chief

**SUBSCRIPTION
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KAPATIRAN
M A G A Z I N E

A new Subscription Scheme for chapters and outreaches is in the works. Better. Simpler. Watch out for it! Members are advised to coordinate with your respective chapter/outreach head for their individual subscription.

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25th
year
of
thanksgiving



**"Magkita
kitang
tanang sa
Cebu, Bai!"**

May 20-22, 2005

KAPATIRAN MAGAZINE

The national magazine of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals.
Vol. XVII No. 5. June 2004

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one-on-one **CORE OF OUR CARING**

I have always maintained that I have remained in the BCBP this long because I had good leaders. They were brothers who took care of me and were always available. They always had time. They made sure that we had our regular one-on-one meetings at least twice a year. The one-on-one meeting was, for me, Christian love truly concretized.

I realized that my one-on-one meeting with my leader was vital for several reasons. First, it empowered me to build a positive relationship with God, my family, my co-workers, and my brothers and sisters in community. Second, it built trust and rapport with my leader so he could help me with my growth. And third, it helped determine my readiness for service. And my leader did these one-on-one meetings with just an authentic concern for my welfare. Now if that is not real love, I don't know what is.

You may ask, who's supposed to conduct one-on-one meetings? I say all those in our community who play the role of an action group leader. This means anyone who takes care of a group of brothers. Our caring system focuses on the individual's spiritual growth as well as his or her growth as a member of the BCBP community. This is the main responsibility of the action group leader. So who plays the role of action group leader in the BCBP? To me that includes the National President, the Regional Council Director, the Chapter or Outreach Head, the Unit Leader and the Action Group Leader. And logically, their spouses

Brotherhood Way of Life

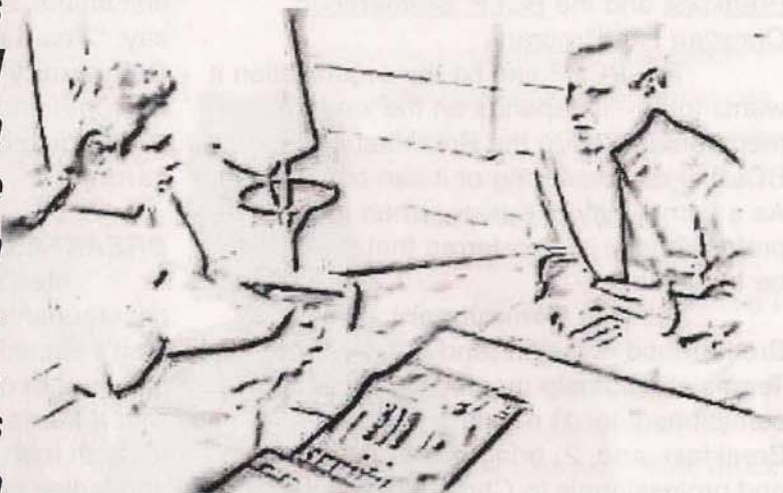


Manolet M. Siojo

(wives) are expected to conduct one-on-one meetings with the spouses of their action group members.

What is taken up in a one-on-meeting? I remember my leader would focus on victories and concerns in four major areas: My Prayer Life which includes time for Scripture and Sacraments; My Family Life which includes my spouse, children and relatives; My Professional Life; and My Community Life which includes my relationship with members in my chapter. There would be some meetings that would focus on just one area especially if I felt that needed to be immediately addressed.

***One-on-ones
"...empowered
me to build a
positive
relationship with
God, my family,
my co-workers,
and my brothers
and sisters in
community."***



In all of those meetings I knew my leader observed strict confidentiality and that enhanced the trust and bonding in our relationship.


Brothers and sisters, what really made my one-on-meetings with my leader so effective was that I knew he did not have any pastoral authority over me. In the end, I was still responsible for the decisions and choices I eventually made. But I knew my leader was always there to listen, to pray, to give me moral support, and to love me unconditionally. And that's why Carla and I have been in this

community for 19 years. Community life has not been easy. But the caring given to us, especially through the one-on-one meetings, have made living in community joyful as well. That's why we're still here.

In 1 John 3:18 we are challenged by these words, "*Our love should not just be words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.*" I proclaim that the one-on-one meeting is love in action. I call on my brothers and sisters (as I also call on myself) who play the role of action group leaders to live out our commitment to really care for those who have been entrusted to us. Stephen Clark says it so beautifully, "*We recognize that*

because we are one body in Christ and have put our lives in common, that we are no longer masters and owners of our own lives, but our lives belong to one another."

A community can be so output-and-result-oriented that it may fail to see that what keeps it together is really not so much the accomplishments as the loving relationships of its members. We must never forget that.

We can only be useful instruments for the Lord's work if we commit to the ministry of caring for one another. God bless you and your families. 

"NON-NEGOTIABLES"

BCBP Community Best Practices

Starting in this issue we are publishing a series called "NON-NEGOTIABLES: the BCBP Community Best Practices" to serve as a fundamental reminder and review for leaders and members of those practices that have been instrumental in our Community's growth over the past 24 years. In the first of this series, we focus on MISSION Best Practices. -Editor

BCBP Mission

THE MISSION DIRECTORATE

The Mission Directorate's goal is **EVANGELIZATION** - to run programs in recruiting businessmen and professionals to join the Brotherhood. The individual's entry point to the BCBP is still through the Breakfast and the BCLP, Brotherhood Christian Life Program.

The BCBP can be the organization it wants to be - it depends on the kind of members invited to the Breakfast and the BCLP; it can be strong or it can be weak. As a community of businessmen and professionals, it is preferred that the BCBP be MEN-led.

Mission Commitment. The Brotherhood Mission (and Leadership) Teams should help members live out their commitment to: 1) regularly attend the Breakfast, and, 2) bring other businessmen and professionals to Christ through the Breakfast and the BCLP.

The Mission Team's thrust is to make sure that: 1) members "**feel like coming home**" in all Mission activities. This means that members coming to any BCBP breakfast and hearing the opening songs and opening prayer, welcoming of first timers, sharing, etc., should be able to say: "**Yes, I'm home, this is the BCBP Community**", and 2) first timers feel welcome and want to come to the succeeding breakfasts "**To get their white card.**"

BREAKFAST NON-NEGOTIABLES

Men's Breakfast is a "MUST". All chapters and outreaches must have a Men's Breakfast. It is essential that those planning to open a new BCBP location start with a Men's Breakfast, not a Joint Breakfast for both men and women. Joint breakfasts and ladies' breakfasts only follow once the Men's breakfast is strongly ongoing.



Members' Breakfast Attendance.

Although the Breakfast is the recruits' portal into the Brotherhood, regular members are not excused from attending. It is clearly stated in the members' Commitment Card that as members we commit "to regularly attend the BCBP Breakfast."

First Timer

Invitation. Inviting first timers to the breakfast is every member's

responsibility, as clearly stated in the Commitment Card, B.4. It is not an exclusive task of the Mission or Breakfast Team. It is the task of every member.

Four Breakfast Attendance. This practice has been and still is very much a requirement prior to a person's taking the BCLP course. Modification to this: the recruits must complete the required four breakfasts before graduating or completing the BCLP.

The BCBP Breakfast Guidelines.

The Guidelines are readily available in the BCBP's National Office. They provide a detailed explanation of important aspects of the Breakfast, including the following: Starting and ending on time. First Timers Welcome. Music Ministry. Food. Opening Prayer (First Timer Friendly). Grace before Meals. Sharing. Scripture Response. Closing Prayer. Announcements. Regular Evaluation of the Breakfast.

OPENING A NEW OUTREACH NON-NEGOTIABLES

Chapters opening a new outreach should observe the BCBP's guidelines. A 24-36 month manpower plan and budget shall be prepared covering the period from opening to the outreach's becoming a chapter. To be included in this plan are the location survey of the area, Mancom approval, formal launching, the holding of BCLPs, leadership development and formation necessary leading toward



achieving chapter-in-training status. Step-by-step guidelines are available at the BCBP National Office.

Location Survey. There are several elements that the target area should have as prerequisites for consideration. These include the presence of business establishments, schools, banks, local Chamber of Commerce organizations, churches, etc.

Mancom Approval. The results of the Location Survey, the Bishop's nod, and the Action and Budget Plan must be presented to the Mancom for approval before launching. The intention is to ascertain that such location will be one where a strong BCBP presence can be established, maintained and nourished to fruition, eventually becoming a BCBP unit of note, that it will be a potent agent of change. One of the hardest things that the Mancom can be confronted with is to regress an outreach or even "chapter" for that matter.

Business Evangelization Program (BEP). Chapters with no more geographical areas for outreaches are advised to concentrate on opening Business Evangelization Programs (BEP). This is one area of our evangelization thrust which has been sidelined for a time. At this point, all chapters are required to have a BEP in addition to regular outreach activity. Complete "How To's" are available. →



BROTHERHOOD CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM (BCLP) NON-NEGOTIABLES

BCLP in its entirety. It is our policy that no alternation or modification shall be made in the BCLP (and all other teaching and training programs, for that matter) without the express permission of the Mancom. In cases of "compressed" version of the BCLP, not more than two (2) talks per session are allowed.

One-on-ones. This portion of the program must never be taken lightly. The one-on-one dialogues must be given due course and time. If needed, training can be availed of.

Discussion Group Size. It is recommended that a maximum of four (4) couples for BCLP discussion groups is maintained.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit. There must be regular training and practicum conducted much earlier so the event will go smoothly. "Read-out" prayers should be avoided.

Commitment. As much as possible Commitment should be held within the Eucharistic Celebration, and therefore solemnity must be preserved accordingly.

Timing. In the BCLP course outline, Commitment comes at the end of Module Four. However, it is now allowed to be undertaken after 3 to 6 months living-out the BCBP community way of life and after a final one-on-one dialogue. This practice has minimized the fallout ratio between graduates and active membership.

FOOTNOTES

Breakfast venue. The venue should be appropriate to the occasion. However, it does not mean that the venue must be one with "star" quality. At some point in the early days of the BCBP, in at least one particular chapter, Breakfasts were held in a member's home.

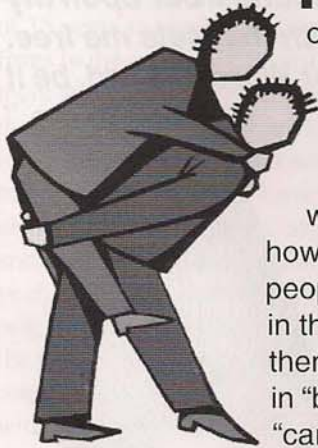
Mission Teams. The bottom line in selecting members of the teams is their commitment and dedication to serve. They must never be selected on the basis of what they can just do nor their capacity to personally fund their trip. Team leaders must also be cautious not to allow cliques to develop. Mission teams must never be a substitute for, or be a "might-as-well-be" Action Group.

Finances. Perhaps among the three directorates, Mission involves more monetary consideration due to the very nature of its activities. Some chapters have employed fund-raising campaigns as a tool to support mission programs. This is a NO-NO. One should never embark on any project with meager financial resources. Financing a mission activity (and all other BCBP activities for that matter) is the responsibility of each and every member through their regular tithing. And tithing together with other related topics on Chapter Financials will be the subject of the next installment of this series. **K**

Condensed from the BCBP Community Best Practices Workshop Talk of Sadi Saguisag, NSC for Mission.

Nancy R. Catan

We are Promises Waiting to be Fulfilled



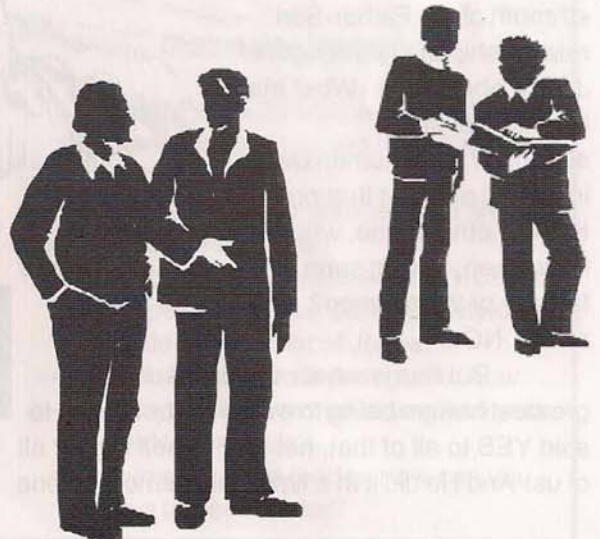
I recently read in one of the issues of the "Discipleship Journal" about a Bible study group of young men and women who learned how to "bother" about people. Not bothering in the sense of seeing them as trouble, but as in "bothering" or "caring" to take the time to get to know them better, to listen to their concerns, to lend a helping hand. One of the activities they did was to put something in their pocket to give away during the day - a pack of gum, a Bible verse written on a piece of paper, a few extra coins - and go through the day looking for somebody who might need to receive. Another exercise of caring and concern: each of the group members practiced saying five simple words, "How can I help you?" to at least one person every day.

This is everyday evangelism, this is witnessing for Christ in action. Being aware of the needs of people around us. Being ready to listen, to help, to encourage, to laugh or even cry with others. Resolving to make room in our hearts for others, even for those who differ from us - those on whom we want to close the doors and say, "There is no more room in the inn!"

Bishop Luis Tagle in his book **An Easter People: Our Christian Vocation to be Messengers of Hope** (Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc., c2003)

writes that "every person is a promise waiting to be fulfilled". We not only need to hope in the goodness of each other, but we are called to see the good and the gift in the other, even as God hopes in us and expects us to be the channels of his hope, his caring and his concern to the hurting world around us. We are God's promises waiting to be fulfilled. An awesome thought!

Caring and concern are what the BCBP is all about. We learn this by sharing experiences, joys and sorrows, triumphs and difficulties in our action group meetings and during assemblies. And, I believe, that it is this atmosphere of caring and concern that needs to be translated into carrying out our mission in the marketplace. Little acts of kindness, "bothering" to listen to a co-worker's woes or joys, sharing our lunch or merienda, or inviting a friend to breakfast (BCBP breakfast, of course) help make Christ's love more tangible every day. ✠



The Gethsemane Experience: **PEACE THROUGH ACCEPTANCE**

"Be it done to me according to your Word. According to your promises I will stand secure. Pour upon my heart the truth that sets me free. According to your Word, O Lord, be it done to me."

The most frequently asked question during and after Holy Week this year was, "Have you seen the movie 'The Passion of Jesus Christ'?" I watched it and it made an impact on me.

A most poignant scene for me was Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. I watched the progression of emotions through Jesus' face from fright (at the initial revelation of the extent of suffering) to pleading/bargaining (that the cup of suffering may pass) to final obedience/acceptance. It was an amazing display of emotions that Jim Caviezel, the actor portraying Jesus, communicated without the benefit of dialogue.

Those of us who watched "The Passion" could not help but realize that no human mind can assess the strength of the Father-Son relationship or the strength of Jesus' obedience. What made Him accept such suffering? As a human being in Jesus' place at that precise time and situation in Gethsemane, what would our answer have been, having seen all the gore, cruelty and ferocity of the passion? Be honest! The answer? NO...

But this is what makes Jesus the greatest human being to ever live - because He said YES to all of that, not for Himself but for all of us. And He did it at a time when almost no one



**Lower
Your Nets**



Ronnie Caballero


could understand or appreciate what He was to undergo.

Another thing that Jesus had going for him at that time was his knowledge of the love of the Father. And this surely made him TRUST the Father. Mel Gibson, the director, made it a point to include the devil in the garden to treble the difficulty of Jesus' making the final decision. For Him to crush the serpent's head was a powerful image of truly the GREATEST step ever taken for mankind.

For me the greatest moment was that mere fraction of seconds when the camera focused on Jesus' face right after making that crushing step. His face exuded confidence and PEACE. He knew every second of the Passion, every blow, searing pain, insult, broken bone, gushing of blood and cruelty was a price to be paid for all of us, no more, no less. No discounts for true justice, only God's justice to be served.

Although admittedly we may never face the same stakes that He did, we do know that we live in a world full of suffering, and we too are called to trust the Lord in order to endure our trials.

I, myself, faced sleepless nights a few years back when I was diagnosed with a life-threatening heart valve problem. On the first night I tossed and turned over the implications of prematurely leaving my wife and two kids of grade school age. After two nights, my struggle shifted to acceptance. I said that if this were the will of the Lord for me I would accept it and live the rest of my useful, shortened life, working full-time for the Lord. After that prayer, I was flooded with great peace and slept like a baby. The following day it did not seem to matter anymore what the final verdict from the doctors would be regarding other test results. I was even having a relatively normal working day when the doctors called to tell me there had been a mistake in the diagnosis and I was cleared medically of the life-threatening condition.

Since then other major trials have come and gone. But when faced with a Gethsemane experience, I remember Jesus and anchor my trust and confidence in the Lord, knowing that PEACE will come and I will be able to endure whatever trial I may face with Him at my side. 

Activating Your Action Group

20 Questions...

Turn your action group meeting into a "fun forum". Have each member draw a question from the "fun forum basket" and answer it for the group. These questions can help members get to know each other better in a friendly and fun way.

1. Where did your family live when you were six? When you were 12?
2. What was your favorite subject in school? Why?
3. What was your least favorite food as a child? How about now?
4. How old were you when you had your 1st boyfriend/girlfriend? How long did that 'crush' last?
5. If you were beginning life again and could choose any career, what would you choose?
6. What is the most valuable thing you've learned in the past 10 years?
7. What lost person or thing in your life do you miss the most?
8. What is the most encouraging word anyone can say to you?
9. What was the loneliest moment of your life? Why?
10. What single accomplishment in your life have you been proudest of?
11. What is your favorite season/time of the year and why?
12. If you had an unlimited budget to remodel just one room in your house, what would you do? In which room?
13. What was your favorite song when you were sixteen?
14. If you had to spend a year alone on a desert island and could take just three things with you, what would you take?
15. What's your idea of a truly perfect morning? What would you do?
16. In what area of your life do you feel most successful? Least successful?
17. If you could be any animal, what would you like to be? Why?
18. If you had a chance to go to the moon, would you go? Explain your answer.
19. What is the best gift that a friend can give you? Why?
20. What are three ways that you practice to de-stress? Do they work?

24th

We all felt the oneness in spirit and the presence of the Lord. One feature of the worship that touched us was the formation of small groups for the members to be prayed over for spiritual and physical healing. In our group former national

president Bro. Louie Morales and present national treasurer Fuji Rodriguez led the Spirit-filled prayers. It truly was a sight to behold and an experience not to be missed.

*- Fil and Clare Agbisit
BCBP Tuguegarao*

It is always so fulfilling and joyful to pray and laugh as one with all our BCBP brothers and sisters every year. And so..... see you all in Mandaue, Cebu, next year!

***Emil and Vivian Sison
BCBP Davao***

I felt the national BCBP anniversary was 1. Spirit-filled with the thousands who came from various places of our country unified in faith, trust and commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, and, 2. wisdom-filled as we learned the values of humility, service and unity in making the ideals of BCBP a living reality.

*- Ulysses S. Lopez
BCBP Davao*

Dipolog anniversary was once again a meeting of all of us brothers and sisters to praise and worship Him as one big community. It's like coming home again after a year's work for the Lord, and again being rejuvenated for another year of evangelization. God bless us all!

*- Angel Sabas
RCD Southern Tagalog*



DIPOLOG CITY

A N N I V E R S A R

IMPRESSSIONS

24th

A N N I V E R S A R

Kudos to the food committee for the well-organized meals. With so many food booths and catering attendants assigned to groups of 50 participants, queuing for food was hassle free. The menu carried great dishes. It was gastronomic!

*- Linda Caragos
BCBP Cagayan de Oro West*



We just got back from Dipolog City yesterday evening, a long 12-plus hour drive, but it

was worth it. Ollie, my wife, finally decided to come last minute, with caution to the contrary, despite the doctors' advice to rest her body.

at the last minute, throwing the wind despite the doctors' advice that her recurring pains might not take too kindly to the long trip. She put her faith in the Lord's mercy. So did I, and two other couples who rode with us. And our combined faith in the Lord worked: not a single flat tire or any mechanical trouble.

Together with the more than 2000 brothers and sisters who attended we experienced the palpable presence of the Holy Spirit in our spirited praise songs, the warm fellowship, and the throng of goodwill and love that reverberated in the gymnasium where the festivities were held. Truly we can "do all things through Christ Who strengthens me."

*- Eduardo "Momong" Robillo
BCBP Davao*

It is amazing that a BCBP chapter from a very small city can successfully host the national BCBP anniversary celebration. This is a Herculean task. Our Lord is teaching us that there is nothing too difficult for godly, prayerful and committed people to accomplish. With God, nothing is impossible.

*- Linda Amoguis
BCBP Davao*

DIPOLOG CITY

BCBP
24th National Anniversary
April 16-18, 2004
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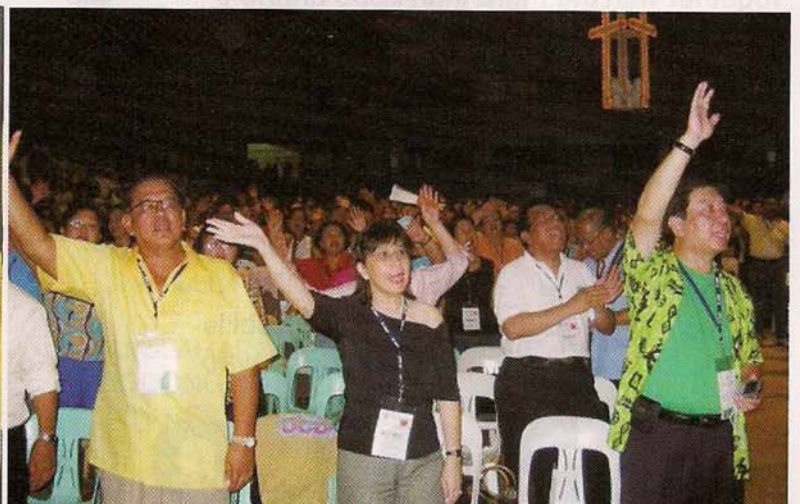
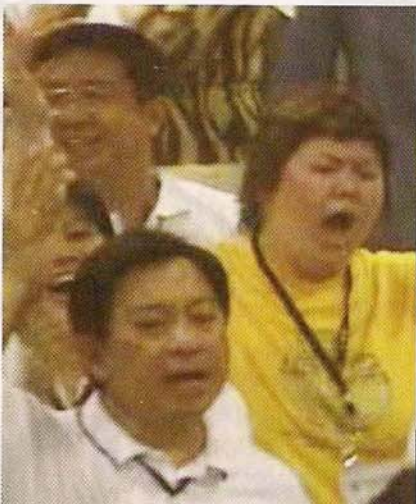
THEME
"You Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens You"

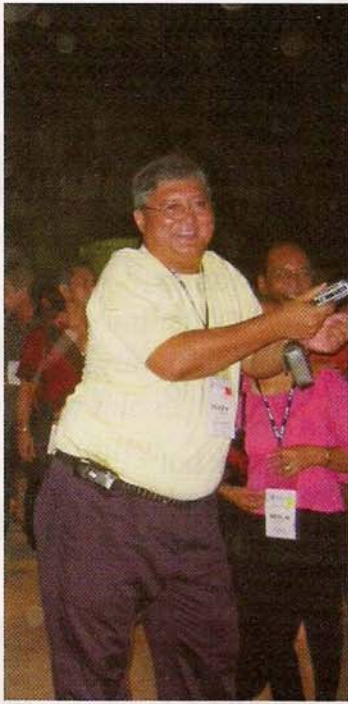


*Praise!
Worship!*

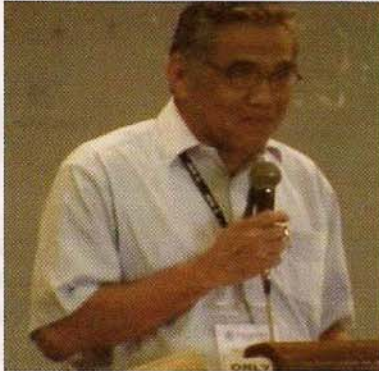


*Thanksgiving!
Love!*





*Fun, fun fun!
Spirit!
Courage!
Christ!*



24th

A N N I V E R S A R

When the moment of vocal worship set in, it was as if the gym was transformed into a global network but all seemed

to be interconnected to a powerful and holy source of energy.

- Sally Htun
BCBP Davao



For me, the time of ministering to one another was a high point. It was an experience of genuine fellowship and love. We should do this every year.

- Ray Garcia
RCD Negros

Never in my last four consecutive BCBP anniversaries that I have attended have I experienced a standing ovation for a grand breakfast sharer like the one accorded Bro. Boysie Rosales, "kilabot ng mga druglords". Those who missed the Dipolog 24th anniversary celebration will never know what they missed! Also I would personally rank Dipolog among those serving the tastiest food.

- Ernie O. Jamora
BCBP Davao

It was a Spirit-filled anniversary!

Not by our personal ability but by the work of the Holy Spirit. Give thanks to God!

- Ed Poserio
BCBP Dagupan

IMPRESSIONS



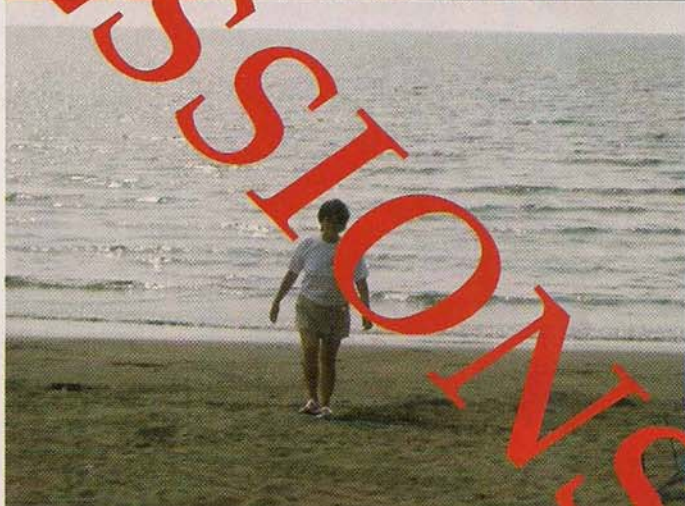
DIPOLOG CITY

24th

A N N I V E R S A R

Dipolog chapter is a model of genuine humility, selflessness, obedience and dedicated service, completely relying in God's power and provisions. We truly witnessed and felt this! Thanks Dipolog chapter! It was another meaningful and memorable experience of community!

*- Beth Ginete
BCBP Makati*

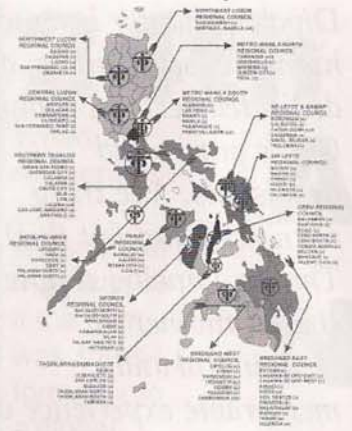


The joyful spirit of the Dipolog Chapter Music Ministry enlivened all the activities of the National Anniversary celebration. They gave the best performance ever heard in a BCBP gathering. The grand dinner fellowship featuring seafoods galore redefined hospitality and warm fellowship the BCBP way. Our hearts overflowed with joy.

*- Gus and Fe Dacudao
BCBP Davao*

DIPOLOG CITY

The BCBP COUNTRY-MEN



M. MANILA NORTH REGION:

CAMANAVA (CIT)
BULACAN
GREENHILLS CHAPTER
CABANATUAN
QUEZON CITY CHAPTER
ANGELES
RIZAL CHAPTER
MARIKINA

BOBBY A. ATENDIDO "FE"

PANCHO JAMLIG "NETH"
OBET OCAMPO
ROY PUNO "IRMA"

LUIS FERRER "SUSAN"

ART LAYUG "LITA"
OCA CRUZ "DESSA"

M. MANILA SOUTH REGION:

ALABANG CHAPTER
BATANGAS
PASAY/VILLAMOR
TRESE MARTIRES
LAS PIÑAS CHAPTER
CALAPAN, MINDORO
MAKATI CHAPTER
TARLAC
MANILA CHAPTER
SAN PABLO
PARAÑAQUE CHAPTER
SAN JOSE, MINDORO

RENE CORTES "NONEE"

MANNY JIMENEZ "REGGIE"
VIC RAMOS
BENRU MACAIRAP
SEN CID C/O PASAY/VILLAMOR OUTREACH
JUN OBRA "MINA"

TOPY VASQUEZ "SUSAN"

JUN CATAN "NANCY"

JOE GILLO "JANETTE"

NORTH EAST LUZON REGION: DIDI PEREZ "TERESING"

SANTIAGO, ISABELA (CIT)
BAYOMBONG, N.V.
TUGUEGARAO CHAPTER

WILLY SIMBUL "BEVERLY"

OSCAR GANABAN "TESS"

NORTH WEST LUZON REGION:

BAGUIO CHAPTER
SN.FERNANDO, L.U.
DAGUPAN CHAPTER
LAOAG

TED FERNANDEZ "BING"

BENIGNO C. MANGSAT "JOYCE ANN"

VIC ANCHETA
ED POSERIO "MARIE"

CENTRAL LUZON REGION:

SN FERNANDO, PAMP. CH
OLONGAPO

ART DE LA CRUZ "LALI"

SOY DAYRIT
WALTOR AUTANCIO

SOUTHERN TAGALOG REGION:

BIÑAN-SAN PEDRO CHMEL REBUTICA "DEL"
LIPA
CALAMBA CHAPTER
DAET
CAVITE CITY CHAPTER CAYETANO BELOSTRINO "MERCY"
IMUS
ROSARIO, CAVITE
LUCENA (CIT)

ANGEL SABAS "MYRZA"

BERT MASICLAT
MARCE LANTICAN "AYI"

JERRY ARABELO

RANTE PAMFILO "ALELI"

The BCBP COUNTRY-MEN



BICOL-PALAWAN REGION:

LEGAZPI CHAPTER

NAGA

SORSOGON

PUERTO PRINCESA-NORTH

PUERTO PRINCESA-SOUTH

MAX JOAQUIN "MIMAY"

ED ARAGON

TONY CONCEPCION "GIE"

ARTURO PERDIGON

SONNY CAMPOSANO "NECI"

CONCEP MAGAY "BETH"

NE LEYTE & SAMAR REGION: MAR FIGUEROA "MILA"

CATBALOGAN (CIT)

BORONGAN

TACLOBAN CHAPTER

CALBAYOG

NAVAL, BILIRAN

CATARMAN

RAUL REYES "PERLA"

WILLY VARONA

VIT LACABA "NAIDA"

SOUTHWESTERN LEYTE REGION:

MAASIN CHAPTER

SOGOD

ORMOC CHAPTER

BAYBAY

PALOMPON

HILONGOS

MAYONG RODRIGUEZ "JANET"

LINO GONZALEZ "DAISY"

VANDO REBAYLA

MINNI DILAO "MYRNA"

BONG MODINA "CAROL"

C/O BAYBAY OUTREACH

CENTRAL VISAYAS REGION:

CEBU-NORTH CHAPTER

BANTAYAN

CEBU-SOUTH CHAPTER

TALISAY

MACTAN CHAPTER

BOGO

MANDAUE CHAPTER

CONSOLACION

NELSON DAUZ "BABY"

WILLY PUNO "PILAR"

RAMON TINGA

ED BANAAG "CECILIA/BEBE"

JESS ATOC "BABIE"

BUTCH PILAPIL "INDAY"

TAG/DUM REGION:

DUMAGUETE CHAPTER

BAIS

SAN CARLOS

TAGBILARAN-NORTH

TUBIGON

TALIBON

TAGBILARAN-SOUTH

SIQUIJOR

PETER DEJARESCO "SARAH"

LEO CABRERA "BABES"

FRED VELEZ

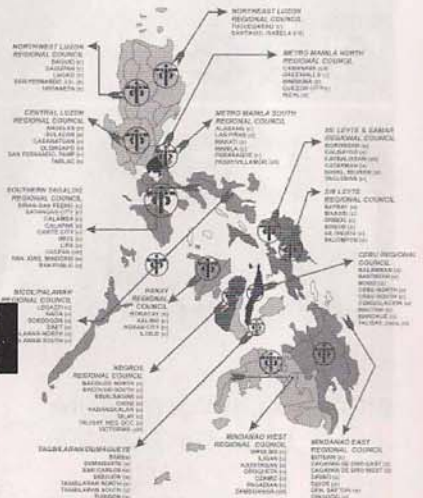
ALBERT SANVICTORES

BONG BOLOTAOLO

C/O TUBIGON OUTREACH

ED ESCALONA "LIGAYA"

The BCBP COUNTRY-MEN



NEGROS REGION:

BACOLOD-NORTH
CADIZ
VICTORIAS
BACOLOD-SOUTH
KABANKALAN
BINALBAGAN
SILAY (CIT)
TALISAY

RAY GARCIA "LUDY"

BOBBIE LEGASPI "G GIRL"
JING SALDARRIAGA "BODETTE"
ABERIC BALLARES
JIMMY MONTALVO "SUZETTE"
ALBERT GARCIA "NELDA"

LEONEL HORVIDALLA
ROGER LUCMAYON

PANAY REGION:

ILOILO CHAPTER
MOLO

JIMMY ASCALON "MONINA"

NOEL AMANE "TATA"
TAM CHENG CHUA (Outreach Coordinator)

KALIBO CHAPTER
BORACAY
ROXAS CHAPTER

ARLEN MAGALLANES

OCA ANDRADA "AGNES"

EAST MINDANAO REGION:

BUTUAN CHAPTER
SURIGAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO-EAST
MALAYBALAY
CAGAYAN DE ORO-WEST
GINGOOG
VALENCIA
DAVAO CHAPTER
DIGOS
GEN. SANTOS
TAGUM
PANABO

OSKEE OLIB

RUDY DESOLOC "LINDA"
BOY TRINIDAD
JONG TIRO "SANDRA"
LINO EPIE
PEPOT FORTICH "CHARISSE"

JAKE APELLADO
EMIL SISON, SR. "VIVIAN"
RUDY ESCUVILLO

ROYCEE GARCIA
C/O TAGUM OUTREACH

WEST MINDANAO REGION:

DIPOLOG CHAPTER
OROQUEITA
ILIGAN CHAPTER
OZAMIZ
PAGADIAN CHAPTER
KAPATAGAN
ZAMBOANGA (CIT)

BOBBY BORROMELO "NENEN"

CHITO LOPEZ "APRIL"

JUN LAGAPA "BADDY OR JERESE"
DODONG MANAGO
BOY REYES "EVE"

BULOY MENDOZA "ANN"

SHARING

I Was a Tax Collector and a Sinner



By Luis Ferrer, BCBP Quezon City



I was a tax collector and a sinner when Susan and I were invited to the Brotherhood in 1990. I was reluctant because of my BIR experience - businessmen and Christians are two different beings. To tax collectors, businessmen always cheat on their taxes and are tax evaders. To businessmen, tax collectors are all corrupt and are extortionists.

Early on when we were just starting in the BCBP I began to agonize in my work as tax collector, trying to rationalize everything. I told myself that I am not like other tax collectors who put first their personal interest over that of the country. I took pride that my team set records of some sort for the high amount of our tax collections.


I am not without sin, but at that time I told myself that I have to sin in order for me to do greater good. I even argued to myself that what I was doing was a sacrifice for which I should be commended. I argued with the Lord that while others always just complained about the corruption and inefficiency in the government, I was trying to do something about it from the inside. As the saying goes, for evil to triumph, it only needs the good men to do nothing. To our critics, I would tell them that it takes two to tango, for every sinful tax collector, there are two or more sinful taxpayers.

I thought I had won all my arguments for my continued stay at the BIR when we were asked to serve as discussion group leaders

and treasurer of the Q.C. chapter. I turned to scripture, namely Eph. 4:1, 1 Peter 1:16 and Matt. 5:48. When you are called by the Lord to serve Him, he does not want 50% or 80% of you, He wants all of you ... and the Lord wanted 100% of me.

So I quit my work in the BIR. It was a difficult decision for me because of the many worldly things that I had to give up. At that time I was considered as one of those most promising in the BIR and had been recommended to study International Tax in Harvard Law School.

When I gave up worldly things for the Lord, He returned them a hundred-fold. The jobs I got after leaving the BIR were not only good paying but allowed me to have training abroad, to travel to the US, Europe and Asia and to work with international institutions.

My present work is full of challenges but has a lot of pressure. Working with young, very talented and highly driven professionals, not to mention very demanding clients keeps me on my toes. All these, however, cannot compare to the joy that I experience doing God's work in bringing people back to Him through the BCBP. 

Luis Ferrer presently serves the Quezon City Chapter as its Chapter Head. He is a partner in the SGV firm. His wife Susan shares, "When we took care of God's business, He took care of our careers."

Last May 14, 2004, I had the benefit of going to Germany, in my capacity as the Executive Director - Philippines of the Youth Arise International. It has been a long time since I first came to Europe (I was just then a new College graduate!) and so, it was really like a first visit again. As I was travelling alone to attend this YAI conference, I had mixed feelings of excitement, anxiety and joy.

Alone in my flight to Germany, I could remember myself saying, "You are not alone - God will be with you!" I was really praying for the Holy Spirit (for Wisdom and Guidance) to be with me all the time. After 15 hours flight, and a 2 ½ hour train ride (Intercity Express train runs more than 200km/hour!), I arrived at our meeting place, a cozy country-side parish-owned retreat house in Schermbeck. I was looking at my new surroundings and asked, "Where are the malls? Where are the stores?" The place was surrounded with rice fields, grazing cattle and sheep, singing birds and humming insects.

were all united while singing "Shout to the Lord," "Lord I lift your name on High", "The power of your love" and as we spoke in tongues, my heart overflowed with joy! Were they speaking in their own languages? Were they speaking in tongues? It was a great encounter with the Holy Spirit!

There were no longer differences in our languages, nor color, nor culture! We were all God's children unified by one faith, one mission, one heart's desire! And through the messages and prophesies, I was assured, we are not going to be on our own doing this work - the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised, will always be with us! It is He who will lead us to go where we need to go, to speak, to spread His word! Those whom we shall bring shall grow stronger in faith and will encounter the Lord in a most unique way!

My confidence was restored! I realized it is not truly my first time to do this work! My experience in the BCBP community all these 18 years has been preparing me all along from

Encountering the Spirit in Germany

The purpose for this one-week meeting was to prepare for the Youth Arise International Youth Festival - a one week celebration from August 11-15, 2005, prior to the World Youth Day (August 16-21). Close to 25 youth leaders from Europe, North and Central America, Oceania and Asia met and deliberated on how the YAI Youth Festival would best be organized. The role given to me was to promote the YAI Festival and the World Youth Day in our country and recruit 1000-1500 delegates to this event.

Each day was a learning day for me. I realized how inadequate I am! But then slowly, peace came to me. As I participated in the liturgical daily masses, worship, intercessory prayers, singing and praising, I truly had a taste of the "upper room" experience. These leaders

organizing the events, administrative work, identification and invitation of speakers, preparing the program, and working with the youth! All of these are God's plan to equip me for this work ahead. Now I look forward to the work as part of a greater mission - to be God's instrument in our country, to help the Philippines be a beacon and His Light in Asia and throughout the world! ✠



By Beth Ginete, BCBP Makati

SHARING

Maintain Job Security or Resign?

By Tess Estanislao, BCBP Davao

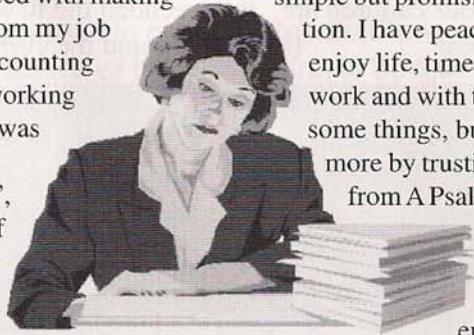
I have been a certified public accountant for the past 17 years. Many of my waking hours are spent in my workplace and most of the challenges to live out my Christian convictions arise in my job.

Several years ago I was faced with making a major decision. Should I resign from my job of 15 years in one of the biggest accounting firms in the country? Or continue working there and maintain job security? It was the most difficult decision I have made in my life. My heart said "go", but my mind said "no". I was full of useless anxieties, worldly worries and concerns. It took me about a year of praying, of thinking, of praying some more, before making the decision. All the time I was praying, the Lord's message to me was always, "Trust in Me." So against all odds but with hope and trust that He would take care of me and my family, I quit my stable and promising job.

As I look back, I am amazed at what has happened since then. And I realize why I experienced heartaches, why the troubles and trials, why I was made to stop my running when I was about to

get to the finish line, why I was made to stop climbing when I had almost reached the top.

I am now enjoying a simple, less complicated and less pressured job as a controller of a simple but promising manufacturing corporation. I have peace of mind, with ample time to enjoy life, time to balance my life at home, at work and with the BCBP. I may have missed some things, but I know that I have gained more by trusting in Him. These words



from A Psalm for Busy People are now my hymn of praise: "By anointing my mind with His oil of tranquility, my cup of joyous energy overflows. Surely

harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours. For I shall walk with the pace of my Lord forever." ❧

Tess Estanislao and her husband Naning joined the Brotherhood, Davao chapter, in 1995 and since then have served as Action Group Leaders, Course Leader of the BCMR, the Brotherhood's Christian Marriage Retreat, and Unit Leader. The couple are currently handling the chapter's Treasury.

Lead As A Shepherd Does

A New Look at Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd

In Psalm 23, we learn not only about God's nature, but also about His leadership. Both the Old and New Testaments use the term "shepherd" to illustrate leadership. The word communicates the love, nurture, and spiritual care a godly leader provides. It involves both the rod (correction) and staff (direction). Devotional writer John Maxwell tells us that Psalm 23 describes the Ultimate Shepherd as performing several functions.

The Shepherd:

Provides necessities	Gives rest
Confidently leads	Renews and restores
Guides and directs	Protects from harm
Feeds and anoints	Corrects
Loves unconditionally	Comforts
Furnishes permanent shelter	

Bible Sharing



Discussion Starters

1. Read Psalm 23 from several different translations. How are they alike; how do they differ?
2. How do you see yourself as a sheep under Jesus' care?
3. In your leadership role in the BCBP or in your family, compare your style of leadership to that of Jesus.
4. With Psalm 23 as your guide, how can you improve and strengthen your leadership skills?
5. If you are not a leader, how can you be a better follower?

One funny thing out of having moved to Baguio is that nowadays, we vacation in Manila. And, being the height of summer, the month of May kept Barangay Salvador busy. The children opened the month attending camps: CISV's Precamp for Marga and BCBP's Gimikamp for the other four.

After they had all come home and their clothes laundered, we left on the nautical highway for Boracay. It was rough, coming and going, seasoned as we and our children are. But like all things in the Philippine Islands, it's actually lots of fun if one sets one's mind for some adventure. Besides, Boracay is well worth any trip any time.

Back from there we set off again, this time to Baler in Aurora Province, with the Olarte and Nanagas families. Did I say going via the nautical highway was rough? I guess I spoke too soon: "rough" is Baler, Aurora's middle name. But, at the risk of being redundant: it was worth it.

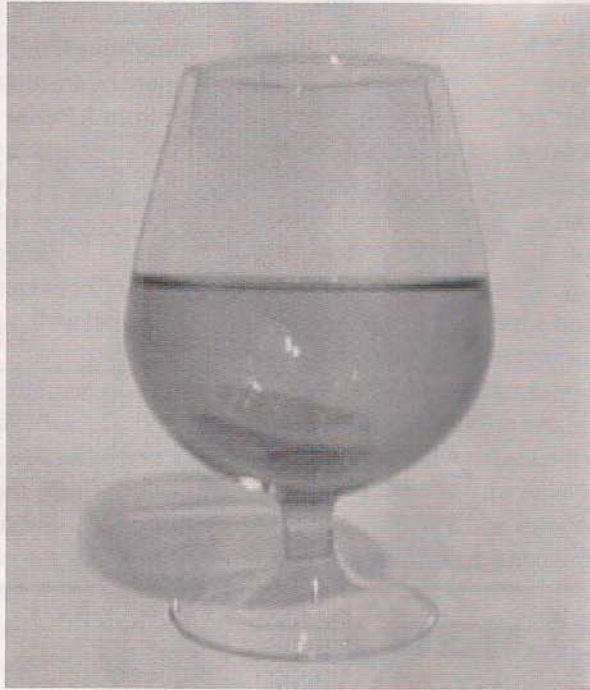
As concrete gave way to stone-and-dust roads, we entered a rural landscape I have not seen in many years: fern-covered hills and far-reaching meadows, undisturbed verdant land. We passed a low bridge across a clear-water stream where a humungous pig was being

anything but. Uncertainty over the recently-held elections was everywhere: in the editorials, the dollar rate, the business community, the post-election scene. Accusations of fraud and accounts of violence screamed from the pages! What a raging contrast to the serene landscape outside!

I looked behind me, at each sleeping child's face, peaceful, content and secure in our company and protection. My thoughts echoed the newspapers though... What was around the corner for us as a country? What would these elections bring us and our children's generation? Just a week ago, we had made the wrenching decision to cut our Boracay vacation short in order to exercise our duties as citizens. But, far above providing a good example of national piety to the children, I guess love for country is as much admiring its natural bounty as helping to build its government. It's looking at and looking out for. It's

embracing land and people in my arms and carrying their weight on my shoulders.

Driving to and from Baler, we saw patches of bare and burnt mountains, helpless victims of the unscrupulous and their notions of progress. The Balite tree in Aurora, reputed to be Asia's oldest at 400 years, is a marvel to



SUCH IS HOPE

scrubbed clean by its owner. On the other side a stark naked grown man was happily emerging from his early morning nature bath. How rustic can things get, and how peaceful?

However, inside our 4WD, I was scanning the day's papers, and its contents were

**Licensed
to Parent**



Annie Salvador

Pray and Be Generous

1 minute meditation



Larry de Larrazabal

Your prayers and almsgiving have ascended as a memorial offering before God. Acts 10:4

How are you experiencing God? How does he manifest himself to you? Some have difficulty experiencing the presence of God in their lives. They fail to experience peace, only frustration and disappointments. The reason for this could be the absence of an ongoing rapport with God. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of getting to know him well.

Can you get to know a person and make of him a friend without first developing a relationship between the two of you? And there can be no relationship without rapport. You build this relationship by getting to know each other. Prayer is the way we listen and talk to God, and by this we get to know him. Listen to him and then talk to him as if you were talking to a friend. Tell him about your needs, disappointments and frustrations. Ask

him to help and guide you. Tell him how much you love him, and he will remember you.

Be generous with God as he is generous with you. But is he really generous? Not all are happy in this world, how then can they be expected to relate their life with God's generosity? I don't have all the answers, but the only thing I can say to prove God's love for you is his death on the cross. If this is not generosity, I don't know what is. By his death Jesus gave us an opportunity to reach heavenly glory, but of course, much depends on our conduct. His generosity does not end here, for he provides us with his grace, without which we can never hope to reach heaven.

Pray and be generous, and he will remember you and give you eternal life.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, teach me to be generous as you are generous. Give me the grace to experience your presence, allowing me to learn and serve you the best I can. I want to know you better and love you more. Dear Jesus, grant me the strength to live a holy life and follow your footsteps. Amen.

behold. But her majesty is dying, marred by countless fallen branches and tree-rot. Even in Boracay's paradise the snake has reared its head with a recent triple-murder. Its cousins, in fact, have been residents for quite a while: beachside debris, crass commercialism and a nearly uncontained decadence. I can go on and on. Everything in the Philippines is a study in contrasts.

The glass is either half-empty or half-full. I can shut my eyes and moan and groan... or I can open them and look harder, deeper. For behind realities, lies truth. I believe in God, the Father Almighty. He holds me in the palm of His Hands: in His will, His keeping, His purpose and His time.

Amid the consumerism and flesh-consciousness of seaside Boracay, it was so

refreshing and reassuring to find, on Saturday morning, a BCBP Breakfast, complete with "Blessing and Glory," right there behind the Station 2 boat stop. And later on, in the nearby church, to discover a wonderful, gentle homilist who told us about John the Apostle's lifelong call for all to love, for "it will be enough."

In Baler, the roads were unpaved and the houses were unkempt. Poverty is corollary to much of rural living. But at night we slept to the lullabies of the wind and the water. And in the morning, from near and far, we saw an endless, pristine beach.

Endless! Pristine! Such is hope. I believe in God, the Father Almighty. He holds me in the palm of His Hands. In mine, there is a cup. I say, it's half-full. ❧



In His Steps

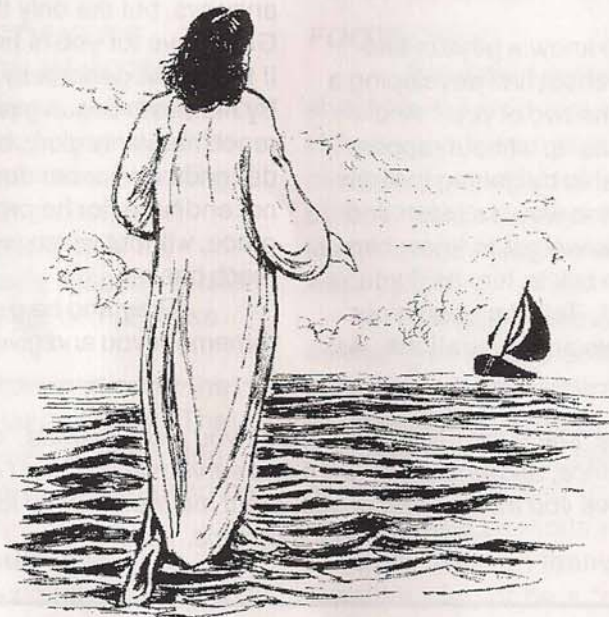
By Charles M. Sheldon

The little church's pastor rose slowly and approached the pulpit for his homily. But this time he had no notes. He spoke from his heart. "What I am going to propose now is something which ought not to appear unusual or at all impossible of execution. Yet I am aware that it will be so regarded by a large number, perhaps, of the members of this church. ... I want volunteers from the First Church who will pledge themselves, earnestly and honestly for an entire year, not to do anything without first asking the question, 'What would Jesus do?' And after asking that question, each one will follow Jesus as exactly as he knows how, no matter what the result may be. ... In other words, I propose we follow Jesus' steps as closely and as literally as we believe He taught His disciples to do."

With this challenge, the story begins ... of how different businessmen, professionals, men and women take up this challenge and what happens in their lives.

More importantly is the great step in faith they take, a step anchored in prayer and trust in God.

Some of those who take up this challenge are the editor of the city's Daily News, the superintendent of a large railroad, the president of a local college, one of the biggest merchants in the city, a doctor, an author, an heiress and an aspiring opera singer.



First published in 1897, **In His Steps** soon became a runaway bestseller, purportedly the widest read book next to the Bible. Its message is as relevant today as it was in the early 1900's; its challenge faces each reader, regardless of station or status in life. You cannot read this book and remain unchanged as you, the reader, are directly confronted with the question: Could I do as they did? Only decide and act as Jesus would ... for one whole year? Is my faith in Jesus strong enough to do this? **K**

—Reviewed by Nancy R. Catan (**In His Steps** is reprinted with publisher's permission by Word of Joy Foundation, Inc.)

It was in the morning of 9 July 1993 that I received a call from Bro. Johnny Avila, a resident of Parañaque, and a relative, inviting me to attend a meeting at Pension Lorita. I did not entertain his invitation because at that stage in my life I was not disposed to join any religious organization or activity; I was full of hurt memories and harbored ill feelings against persons and events, and the be-all-and-end-all of my concerns then was my law practice.

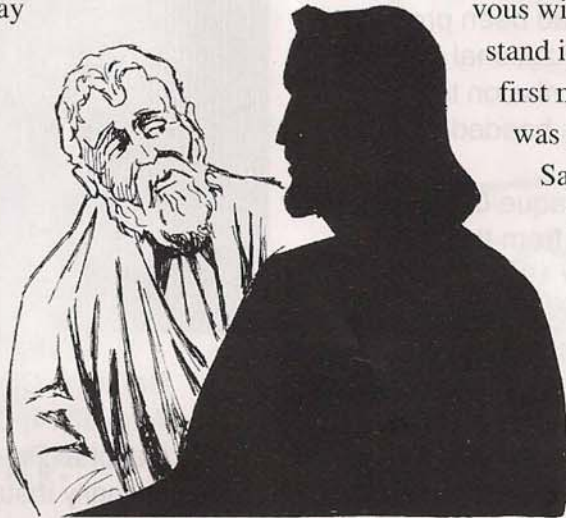


Didi Perez, RCD Northeast Luzon

My Rendezvous with God

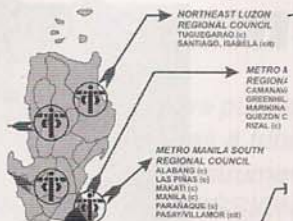
When I got word from my secretary that Johnny was on his way to visit me at home, I decided to hide. But a client came and while I was entertaining him, the BCBP 3-man delegation of Johnny, Mael Kalata and Rem Gopez appeared. So I promised to attend the meeting although I did not intend to do so.

Looking back I cannot now explain my change of heart because before the 3:00 pm meeting time I was there. I did not know then that that meeting, insignificant as it might have looked, was more significant and historic than the launching of the first astronauts to the moon, for it was indeed the “giant leap” toward the establishment of the BCBP Tuguegarao Outreach. And it was the beginning of a “giant leap” in my journey of faith, from distancing myself from Christ to embracing Him and serving Him in the BCBP and in the Church.



When the Lord calls us to a rendezvous with Him, no obstacles can stand in the way. Soon after that first meeting in Tuguegarao, I was invited to attend the Saturday Las Pinas breakfast and it appeared that I could since I had a scheduled hearing in Quezon City the day before. What struck me, though, was the unsolicited promise of Bro. Johnny to pick me up in my

residence at Provident Village Marikina to bring me to Italia 500 in Paranaque in time for the 7:30 breakfast. When I woke up on that day, it was raining cats and dogs and I was expecting that he would not come. To my great surprise at 6:00 am he arrived ... and all the way to the breakfast he monopolized the conversation detailing his renewed spiritual life in the BCBP. Why I was not turned off by this 30-km monologue is beyond me; instead it softened my resistance against joining the BCBP. And the rest is history. **K**



TUGUEGARAO

“The Farthest with the Mostest”

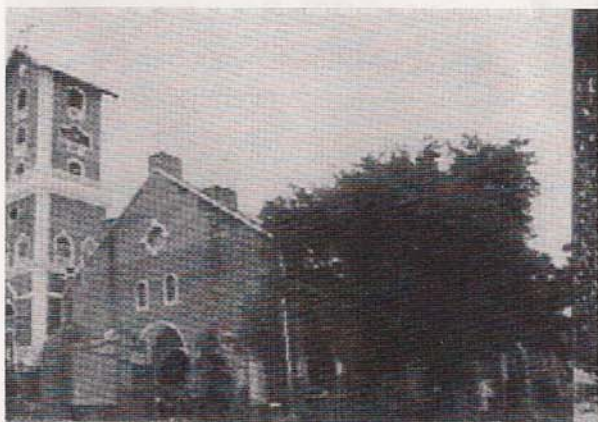
- Thirty local businessmen and professionals plus a large group of brothers from Las Pinas attended the August 15, 1993, inaugural breakfast meeting. Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan graced the occasion and gave the response to the sharing of the President of the BCBP National Council Manny Banigan. This had been preceded by several organizational meetings attended by the mission team of BCBP Las Pinas headed by Rem Gopez.
- When the Paranaque Chapter was formally created from the “ribs” of Las Pinas in July 1994, the Tuguegarao Outreach was turned over to the new chapter.
- BCLP 1 in January 23, 1994, graduated 13 couples and 8 singles, while BCLP 2 produced 12 couples and 4 singles in June of the same year.
- In 1999, on May 15 the chapter-in-training opened its outreach in



Santiago City, Isabela.

- August 14, 2000 saw BCBP National President Banigan formally install the outreach as a full chapter in the BCBP.
- 47 members of BCBP Tuguegarao Chapter attended the 24th BCBP →

The pride of Tuguegarao: Top: The miraculous image of Our Lady of Visitation of Piat; Left: Basilica Minore Piat; Below Callao Caves.



On the Way to Chapterhood



Northwest Luzon Regional Council Director Teddy Fernandez with wife Bing after their sharing at the newly opened Nueva Vizcaya Outreach.

Santiago has 3 units with 8 action groups.

- The regular 3rd Friday assemblies, with praise and worship before the teach-in, are attended by at least 40 members every time.
- In November 2002 BCBP National President Louie Morales elevated the outreach to a Chapter-in-Training status, appointing Bro. Willy Simbul as chapter-head-in-training.

- On May 15, 1999, at the Greenview Hotel and Restaurant, BCBP Tuguegarao chapter-in-training launched the BCBP breakfast of its outreach in Santiago City. BCBP members from Paranaque and Alabang chapters were on hand for guidance and inspiration.
- Upon completion of BCLP 5 in October 2003, regular membership is now 144, with 36 of its 60 couples having taken the BCMR. BCBP

- Members are very active in their local Church activities as Special Ministers of the Eucharist, as volunteer catechists, as daily mass goers, and as enthusiastic participants in other parish and diocesan activities.
- Last April 17, 2004, their mission team held the inaugural breakfast in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya at the FTM Bakery and Restaurant for their proposed Bayombong-Solano, NV outreach. As of May 17 they have held 3 Saturday breakfasts with plans for a BCLP in the making.

From reports by Fil Agbisit, Willy Simbul and Oca Gannaban ✕

anniversary in Dipolog this year 2004, earning the chapter the prize for being the "Farthest Delegation with the most number of participants coming from Luzon". Some members even brought their families bringing the number to a total of 66!! The delegation included Fr. Perry Coballes, Prefect of Discipline of San Jacinto Seminary, the son of BCBP members Ronnie/Mameng Coballes.

- BCBP Tuguegarao is one of the lead organizations for the Archdiocesan celebration of the Golden Canonical Coronation of the Image of Our Lady of Piato on June 21, 2004.
- The chapter is preparing the groundwork for a new outreach in Aparri, Cagayan, since its Santiago outreach will soon become a full chapter. ✕

—From reports by Fil/Clare Agbisit, Oca Gannaban, Didi Perez



condemned the public reading of a chart containing the sins of the penitents.

In the early Church a sinner confessed to a bishop or to a priest penitentiary. In some regions, it was common for a severe sinner (those guilty of apostasy, adultery, and murder) to be dressed in sackcloth, a garment made of goat hair, and covered with ashes to give visible symbol of separation from the faithful. During Mass, such persons were kept away from the Offertory, Prayers of the Faithful, and the Eucharist; penitents also fasted and contributed alms to the poor. They were reconciled on the Thursday before Easter. Lesser penances included fasting, prayers, and almsgiving.

In Celtic lands there developed a different custom from that found on the Continent. The minister of reconciliation was customarily the priest abbot of the monastery dominating the area or a priest monk in one of the surrounding churches. Penances were also much more severe. A →

The Origin of **CONFESSION**

Catholics understand that the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession is one of the important rites in the Church. Confession reconciles us with God and is one of the elements distinguishing Catholicism from the other religions. What is the history of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? In answer we share some excerpts from EWTN Q&A.

Most of the first churches followed the teachings of St. Paul (e.g., 1 Cor 5:3-5; 2 Cor 2:7-11) in which he stressed the power of the keys, namely the authority to bind and loose — placing the sinner under ban of excommunication and then reconciling the sinner. Initial custom saw a public confession of sins. However by the fifth century this was discouraged by Pope St. Leo I the Great who, in 459,

Discovering...



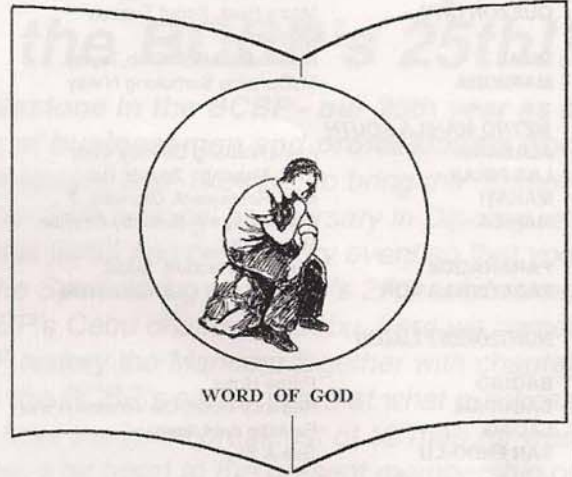
Alex Tan



The Test of Faith

Once read about a man who was asked if he was a Christian and his reply was "several times". He had religious experiences, but they did not seem to stick. He would hear mass or attend prayer meetings and cry out to God for peace and support, and he would get what he asked for. Then he would encounter some troubles at work or at home, and he would then conclude that God had abandoned him.

Many of us are like this man. Trouble comes and we fold up. Our faith becomes a Sunday obligation or a set of intellectual beliefs. But things change for the better once we realize that being a Christian is not having a golden parachute with all needs provided for. Being a Christian is not a way of bailing out of trials and difficulties, but rather a way of coping with them.



Sirach, chapter 2, tells us that even as we are tested, if we cling to Him our defects are peeled away and what is left is the golden core of godly character. We must be a practicing Christian, not 'several times', or some of the time, but every time and all the time. **K**

person guilty of serious sins might be exiled, forced to wander for years with a pilgrim's staff. For minor transgressions, punishments included prayers, fasts, or living on bread and water for a prescribed time.

The Irish monks fostered two other innovations: the permitting of repeated penance and the granting of immediate absolution with penance to be performed later. This practice of immediate absolution subsequently became very popular, carried throughout Europe by the missionary Irish monks.

During the Middle Ages, the Western Church recognized penance as a sacrament. Both St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas Aquinas stipulated that the matter of the sacrament was in the act of the

penitent and the form of the sacrament was the absolution of the minister.

Penance was subsequently defined as a sacrament at the Council of Lyons in 1274. In 1545-1563 the Council of Trent issued some nine chapters and fifteen canons on this sacrament to counter the Reformers who were de-emphasizing the need for a priest. The Council stated that all Christians should confess their mortal sins, both by number and species, to a priest who was empowered to grant absolution.

While reaffirming the teachings of Trent, Vatican Council II in the 1960s emphasized the healing and reconciling nature of the sacrament of penance asking the faithful to seek this Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year. **K**

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST VENUES

CHAPTER/OUTREACH	VENUES	DAY	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	NOTE
<u>METRO MANILA NORTH</u>							
METRO-WIDE	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	WED			J		
CAMANAVA	Max's Restaurant, EDSA, Kal	SAT	S	M	J	M	
GREENHILLS	Club Filipino	SAT	S	M	J	M	
QUEZON CITY	Max's Rest, Scout Tuazon	SAT	S	M	J	M	
	Stepsaperp	SAT	-	-	S	-	
RIZAL	Manila East Golf Club, Taytay	SAT	M	S	M	J	
MARIKINA	McDonalds Sumulong H'way	SAT	J	M	J	M	
<u>METRO MANILA SOUTH</u>							
ALABANG	Ayala Alabang Country Club	SAT	M	S	M	J	
LAS PIÑAS	KFC Alabang - Zapote Rd	SAT	J	M	-	M	
MAKATI	Max' Restaurant, Glorietta 3	WED	J	S	M	M	
MANILA	Orchidarium & Butterfly Pavilion, Rizal Park	FRI	J	S	M	M	
PARAÑAQUE	Max's Restaurant, Sucat	SAT	M	J	M	S	
PASAY/VILLAMOR	Villamor Golf Club Greenside	SAT	J	M	S	M	
<u>NORTHWEST LUZON</u>							
BAGUIO	Prime Hotel	SAT	-	J	M	S	
DAGUPAN	Regency Hotel, De Venecia H'way	SAT	J	S	M	M	
LAOAG	Palazzo del Laoag	SAT	-	J	-	J	
SAN FNDO-LU	Sea & Sky	SAT	J	J	-	-	
<u>NORTHEAST LUZON</u>							
TUGUEGARAO	Hotel Roma	SAT	M	J	M	S	
SANTIAGO ISABELA	Greenview Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	
<u>CENTRAL LUZON</u>							
ANGELES	KM 86 Food Rest, Sta. Maria, Balibago	SAT	J	J	J	J	
BULACAN	Max's Restaurant, Guiginto, Bulacan	SAT	J	J	J	J	
CABANATUAN	Royce Motors Canteen, Maharlika H'way	SAT	J	J	J	J	
OLONGAPO	Ann Raquel Restaurant, Magsaysay Blvd.	SAT	J	J	J	J	
SAN FNDO-PAMP.	Villa Conchita Resort, Olongapo Gapan	SAT	J	J	J	J	
TARLAC	Nay's House, Romulo St., Tarlac	SAT	-	J	-	J	
<u>SOUTHERN TAGALOG</u>							
BATANGAS CITY	Alpha Hotel	SAT	-	J	-	-	
BIÑAN-SAN PEDRO	Max's Restaurant	SAT	J	M	S	M	
CALAMBA	Riverview Resort & Conference Center	SAT	J	M	S	M	
*CALAPAN	Parish Hall Calapan Cathedral	SAT	-	J	-	J	DCA
*CAVITE CITY	Pat's Restaurant	SAT	-	-	J	-	DCA
DAET	Villamila Hotel	SAT	-	J	-	J	
*IMUS	Rojonet Aquinaldo H-way, Imus Intrsect	SAT	J	-	J	-	DCA
LIPA	Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City	SAT	M	S	M	J	
LUCENA	Halina Hotel & Restaurant	SAT	M	J	M	J	
ROSARIO	Servato's House Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	-	
*SAN PABLO	Coco Palace, Nat'l Highway	SAT	J	-	J	-	
<u>BICOL-PALAWAN</u>							
LEGAZPI	Hotel La Trinidad, Legazpi City	SAT	-	J	-	S	
NAGA	Champagne Garden Mayon Ave.	SAT	J	-	J	-	
PALAWAN NORTH	Legend Hotel	SAT	S	-	J	-	
PALAWAN SOUTH	Barcelo-Asturias Hotel	SAT	-	M	-	J	
SORSOGON	Jollibee Sorsogon	SAT	J	-	-	J	
<u>CEBU REGION</u>							
BALAMBAN	Balamban National High School	SAT	-	J	-	M	
BANTAYAN	Bantayan Southern Inst. Social Hall	SUN	J	-	J	-	
BOGO	Marcella	SAT	J	-	J	-	
CEBU NORTH	City Sports Club, Ayala	SAT	J	M	S	M	
CEBU SOUTH	Sacred Heart Center, D. Jakosalem	SAT	J	S	S	M	
CONSOLACION	San Narciso Church	SAT	J	-	J	-	
MACTAN	Majestic Restaurant	SAT	M	J	M	S	
MANDAUE	Mc Donald's, JY Square, Lahug	SAT	M	J	S	J	
TALISAY	Chowking Talisay	SAT	-	M	-	J	

LEGEND:

M - Men's; L - Ladies; J - Joint; S - Simultaneous

DCA - Data Changes Maybe Applicable. Please call BCBP National Office for update.

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST VENUES

CHAPTER/OUTREACH
NOTE

VENUES DAY 1ST 2ND 3RD 4TH

TAG/DUMAGUETE

BAIS	Bros Haven	SAT	-	M	-	J	
DUMAGUETE	Bethel Guest House/DepEd City Div. Conf Hall	SAT	J	M	M	-	-
	PHHCI-PRCC	SAT	-	-	S	-	-
SIQUIJOR	Garden Orchid, Larena	SAT	J	-	M	-	-
TAGBILARAN NORTH	JJ Seaford Village	SAT	-	J	S	M	
TAGBILARAN SOUTH	Bohol Tropics	SAT	-	J	S	M	
TUBIGON	PPC Hall	SUN	-	J	-	J	

NE LEYTE & SAMAR

BILIRAN	Country Inn Hotel	SUN	J	-	J	-	
BORONGAN	Esadel	SAT	-	J	-	J	
CALBAYOG	Bread Mix	SUN	J	-	S	-	DCA
*CATBALOGAN	Maqueda Bay Hotel & Restaurant	SAT	J	-	J	-	
DCACATARMAN	DCC Annex	SUN	-	J	-	J	
TACLOBAN	Agus Restaurant, Real St., Tacloban	SAT	S	-	M	J	

SOUTHWEST LEYTE

BAYBAY	Angelicum School	SUN	-	S	-	J	
*MAASIN	Ampil Function Room	SUN	J	-	S	-	
ORMOC	Pongos Hotel	SAT	-	J	S	J	
SOGOD	Parish Center	SAT	J	-	-	-	
HILONGOS	-	SAT	J	-	J	-	DCA
PALOMPON	Palompon Institute of Technology	SAT	J	-	M	-	

NEGROS REGION

BACOLOD NORTH	Hotel Alhambra	SAT	M	M	M	-	
	Jollibee - La Salle	SAT	-	-	L	-	
	Casa Noble	SAT	-	-	-	J	
BACOLOD SOUTH	Bacolod Exec Inn	SAT	M	M	M	-	
	Mc Donalds - Lacson	SAT	-	L	-	-	
	Casa Noble	SAT	-	-	-	J	
*CADIZ	RL Pensionne House	SAT	J	-	J	-	DCA
*KABANGKALAN	Snack Plaza	SUN	M	-	M	-	DCA
*SILAY	JOF Diner	SAT	-	M	-	-	DCA
	JOF Diner	SUN	-	L	-	-	DCA
	Heftia Restaurant	QTR	J	-	-	-	DCA
*VICTORIAS	Marjon's Restaurant	SUN	-	J	-	J	DCA

PANAY REGION

ILOILO	Amigo Terraces Hotel	SAT	J	M	S	M	
*KALIBO	Mary's Refreshment	SAT	-	J	-	J	DCA
ROXAS	Pizza Junction, Rizal St.	SAT	-	M	-	M	
	CAP Auditorium	SAT	J	-	J	-	
	President's Inn	SAT	-	L	-	L	

MINDANAO EAST

*BUTUAN	Luisiana Convention Center	SAT	-	J	-	J	DCA
CDO EAST	Mindy's Restaurant	SAT	M	M	J	M	
	VIP Hotel	SAT	-	-	-	L	
CDO WEST	Vip Hotel	SAT	M	S	J	M	
*DAVAO	Royal Mandaya Hotel, J Palma St., Davao City	SAT	M	S	M	J	DCA
*DIGOS	CAP Building	SAT	-	J	-	J	DCA
*GINGOOG	New Lanes Rest. along National H-way	SAT	-	J	-	J	DCA
MALAYBALAY	House Malibu	SAT	J	-	S	-	
*SURIGAO	Gateway Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	DCA
*TAGUM	CAP Bldg. Tagum City	SAT	-	J	-	J	DCA
VALENCIA	Taipan Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	S	


MINDANAO WEST

*DIPOLOG	Top Plaza Hotel	SAT	-	S	J	M	DCA
ILIGAN	Al Fresco Resort & Restaurant	SAT	M	J	M	S	
*OROQUETA	Lumantas Garden	SAT	-	J	-	J	DCA
OZAMIZ	Royal Garden Hotel	SAT	M	-	J	-	
PAGADIAN	That's Diner Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	J	DCA
ZAMBOANGA	Alavar's Seafood Restaurant	SAT	J	-	J	-	DCA

Be **HONEST**

Even if others are not
Even if others will not
Even if others cannot

"He who walks honestly walks securely"
Proverbs 10:9

A message from
 **The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals**