

# KAPATI RAN M A G A Z I N E



March 2008

**We call on all citizens and  
leaders of our country**

# **BE HONEST**

**Even if others are not,  
Even if others will not,  
Even if others cannot**

**Heed the clamor  
of our whole nation...**

**The time is now.**



**Brotherhood  
of Christian Businessmen  
& Professionals**

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**T**his issue focuses on various facets of BCBP's BE HONEST advocacy. Our President Bobby Laviña challenges us not to be contented with Success, but to strive for SIGNIFICANCE. Articles on Truth and Morality, the burning issues of the times, throw out the gauntlet for us to be heroes in all that we do. To lay the foundation for action, we feature two Pastoral Statements from our bishops that clearly define and discuss these critical issues that will, in a way, determine our Christianity as a nation. Then we give you the Group Response Method for use in your action group meetings to discern how the BCBP, and each of us as members, can actively participate in our BE HONEST advocacy.

Formation is an important part of the BCBP Culture. Larry Veloso, BOT Chairman and NSC for Formation, outlines the New Basic Formation Program for incoming members that calls for an intensive one-year formation before Commitment Ceremonies take place. There are also many activities in the different regions that contribute to our overall formation; we share a few such activities with you.

We wish you all the joys of Easter, may you experience the overcoming and transforming power of the Risen Christ in your life throughout the coming year.

See you in Bohol!

Nancy R. Catan

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The KAPATIRAN Magazine is the official publication of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. It is published every quarter in the Philippines. Our NEW Editorial and Business offices: Unit 216 Comfoods Bldg, Sen. Gil J. Puyat cor Chino Roces Aves., Makati City 1200. Tel Nos. 819-0052.

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28th BCBP National Anniversary

# Bohol Beckons BCBP

by Peter Dejaresco, BCBP Bohol

**B**ohol, one of the country's fast rising tourist destinations, will host our 28th National Anniversary on April 4-6, 2008. This year's big event is bannering the theme "***In Gratitude, Let Us Humble Ourselves and Follow Him.***"


Our National President Roberto "Bobby" Laviña will lead the attendees which will gather some 2,000 brothers and sisters from the different Chapters and Outreaches all over the country. Registration begins at 7:30am on Friday April 4 at the Bohol Cultural Center. The formal anniversary activities will open with a general prayer assembly on April 4, 2008, at 5:00 in the afternoon at the Bohol Tropics Resort Club. The national breakfast fellowship will be held at the Bohol Tropics Resort Club on April 5 at 7:00 am with life testimonies to glorify Christ in "victory stories" in the business world.

Rev. Fr. Herb Schneider, BCBP Spiritual



Director will be the main celebrant during the Eucharistic Celebration at the Bohol Beach Club which will precede the dinner fellowship on the evening of April 5. As hosts, BCBP North & South Tagbilaran Chapters will showcase the best Bohol can offer with the presentation of the Loboc Children's Choir and the Dimiao Children's Rondalla.

A countryside tour can be arranged for delegates to the world famous Chocolate Hills, a river cruise with lunch along the scenic Loboc River, a view of the tarsius, a drive-through the man-made forest plus a visit at the centuries old Baclayon Church and at the historic Blood Compact site.

Details of the 28th anniversary fete are available at the anniversary website at [www.bcbptagbilaran.org](http://www.bcbptagbilaran.org). Kindly visit our website for regular advisories. 

## HOTLINES:

Al & Joy Uy - Regional Council Director/NAC Chairman	-0917-6223052
Jojo & Janet Maniwan - (Secretariat/ Accommodation)	-0928-2689369
Peter & Zarah Dejaresco - (Transportation/Tours)	-0917-3042138 -0917-3042138
Ed & Gaya Escalona - (Finance/Souvenir Program)	-0920-4954911
Bino & Neco Lim - (Food)	-0917-3204707
Marjoe & Inday Magallano - (Liturgy/Praise & Worship/ Programs)	-0917-3041640
JB & Tata Bullecer (Registration, Secretariat)	-0920-9109638

*The cover of this issue is an advertisement that the BCBP came out with on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, in the Philippine Daily Inquirer as part of its continuing BE HONEST Advocacy that was begun in 2003. The advertisement has generated a lot of responses from members as well as non-members alike. Parish priests have in fact asked for BCBP's banner on the Be Honest Campaign to hang in their parishes as they agree that this is the call of the times.*

*The BCBP is NOT calling for anyone's resignation. Our advocacy does not target anyone in particular. We are calling for everyone to say and live the truth all the time – to BE HONEST. If the truth results in the need for anyone to resign, so be it.*



## The BCBP Challenge

By Bobby Laviña,  
BCBP President

# SUCCESS *or* SIGNIFICANCE?

**W**e are businessmen and professionals. We have also declared ourselves to be CHRISTIAN businessmen and professionals. We signed a commitment card where we promised the Lord that we would be shining examples for everyone else. We read about and hear about and we see what is going on around us.

On March 06, 2008, the latest poverty data of our country came out and it was both surprising and depressing:

During the 3 years between 2003 and 2006, the percentage as well as the number of Filipinos living on less than P 42/ day had increased.

During that period when our economy is supposed to have improved by 5.6% per year, 3.8M more Filipinos got to be called destitute. Now, one in three Filipinos is officially in poverty. A total of 28M hungry Filipinos.

What has happened and what has to be done to improve the life of those in stagnation?

There are a number of theories about the reason for the disconnect between an apparently improving economy and increasing poverty incidence: from wrong data

to manipulated analysis to inequitable distribution of wealth, and others. I will not dwell on these but rather, I wish to get us all moving as Christians to correct this situation.

*Huwag na nating pagisipan pa kung bakit!* We all know that the problem exists. Let's get going...or rather...let's get doing!

Because we are businessmen and professionals with important positions in our communities, we have the resources and the influence to reduce the inequity:

- for the doctors and other medical practitioners to help improve access to health as well as access to health



information in a sustained manner (medical missions that follow through, teach the poor how to keep sanitary conditions in their households, teach first aid and help maintain health workers, etc);

- for businessmen and entrepreneurs to invest in projects whose principal objectives emphasize the creation of honorable employment, the payment of just and fair wages, and the design of humane working conditions;
- for architects and engineers and teachers and accountants and other professionals to mentor students and those already employed so that they can improve their skills and thus more easily get hold of opportunities;
- for all of us to create access to education as well as to credit and to livelihood (foremost in this is through our Ecoreach Alay Kay Nanay microlending program);
- for all members of the BCBP to influence our circles into working to lift our countrymen out of the mire;

This is just a short list of examples. I am sure we can find other ways if we only open our eyes, ears and hearts.

Yes, 1/3 of all Filipino families are poor, but 2 out of 3 are not. If these 2 families who have the means just adopted one poor family in a creative, sustained, participatory way that is led by the Lord, then I don't see why we cannot lick this problem.

But this will not be enough if the society is not attuned to our Lord.

The current headlines indicate an area of definite critical importance—good governance and honesty in all areas of society. The dishonesty and corruption take valuable scarce resources away from those who really need them as these resources line the pockets of the corrupt. We have the BE HONEST advocacy. More than ever before, we NOW have the opportunity to push this campaign as it is the call of the times. Wear your Be Honest shirts as often as possible in public. Print and post more Be Honest stickers and posters. Talk to your friends and relatives about the virtue of honesty and what you can all do individually and



collectively. Invest time and effort at bringing Christ's values to your marketplace.

More than this, WE MUST ALL LIVE GOOD AND HONEST LIVES. Be the change we wish to happen. Be honest at all times and in all circumstances.

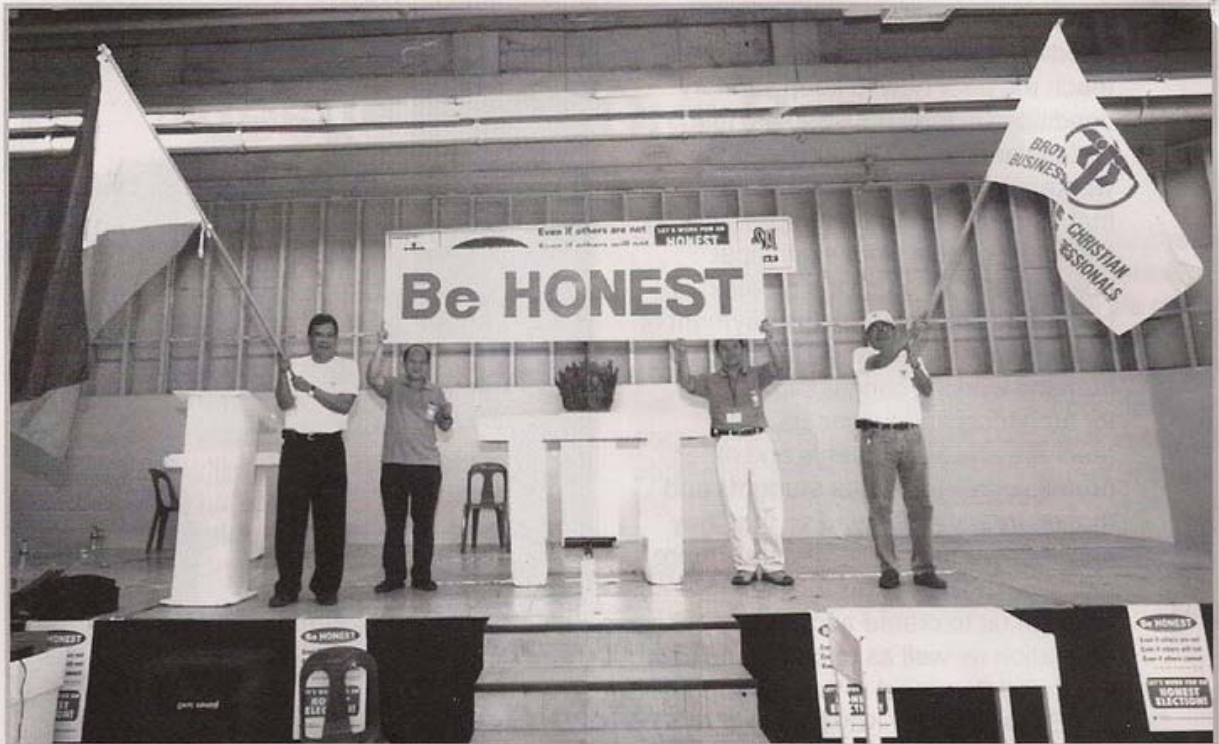
**BE HONEST,**  
even if others are not,  
even if others will not,  
even if others cannot.

Our goal is to touch one life, and in so doing, improve society by even the smallest, most imperceptible fraction. If we are able to change just one person's mind and plant the seed of change towards honesty and hard work and God's love, then all of our efforts would have been well worth it.

I just finished reading a book entitled "Finishing Well" by Bob Buford. In a section of that book, Mr. Buford makes a distinction between SUCCESS and SIGNIFICANCE:

SUCCESS and SIGNIFICANCE are similar in terms of what you do day-to-day but different in motivation.

*continued on next page*



**SUCCESS** is using your knowledge and experience to satisfy yourself with fame and fortune while

**SIGNIFICANCE** is using your experience and knowledge to serve others—that is, to make lives better.

The targeted outcome makes the difference and it changes your attitude towards what you do.

As businessmen and professionals, we talk about, we discuss and we live budgets and KPI's and strategic plans and profit targets and we must if we are to remain businessmen and professionals. We have to constantly remind ourselves, though, that we are **CHRISTIAN** businessmen and professionals. The word "Christian" defines who we are. As Christians, we have to have an equal dose of service to God through others ingrained into what we hope to achieve for our businesses and other undertakings.

There is a bigger change suggested here though than just incorporating significance into our success oriented world. As members of the BCBP, as Christian businessmen and professionals, we have realized that there is more to life than constantly seeking happiness in worldly measures.


Many of us are over 40 years old or getting there. That means you are now in the second half of your lives. How do you wish to finish? Still chasing success or already building up significance? Still working for toys or already helping others into a better life?

At some point, we have to realize that the search for success is finished—is over and done with—and we now have to seek significance.

For those who are a little younger, you don't have to wait. If you truly wish to make a difference in this world in the Lord's name, let us begin doing this **NOW**. Begin by putting that balance in your lives and work towards more and more **SIGNIFICANCE** in everything you do.

As BCBP members and as leaders in our communities, we have that chance to refocus our personal priorities and to help others find theirs in Christ and through service to others as well.

Let us not lose sight of our purpose. Let us keep our vision and mission in front of us. Let us always seek to bring Christ into the marketplace and in so doing, come closer to our dream of a full life in Christ for all businessmen and professionals.

God bless us all. 

## Back to Basics

By Nancy R. Catan, BCBP Manila

# Where is the truth?

**T**he headlines are full of pointing fingers, of name-calling, and of casting aspersions on the character and integrity of others. It seems to me that the practice of hurling accusations at each other has taken the place of getting to the root of things and finding out the real truth, not just the perceived truth according to this senator or that politician.

Truth has an intrinsic social dimension that flows from our very nature as human persons who need truth simply to exist and grow as members of the human community. Without truthful personal, interpersonal, and societal relationships, we would wither and die. In this age of "credibility gaps," we realize that this truth and honesty of life is necessary for us to simply live and work together in family and community, and to grow into the integrity we are called to as Christians.

What is truth? Truthfulness is an attitude of the mind and a disposition by which we remain as open as possible to what is real, just and true, according to God, not just according to anyone, the media, or the crazy world around us. This attitude includes having the courage to face up to the truth within and about ourselves, being willing to acknowledge and accept our limitations, admit our faults,

and make amends for them.

Thereafter, our actions must agree with the principles we uphold and with the Christian faith that we profess. As we live in conformity with our thoughts and our words, we walk our talk. Being truthful in words demands that we speak in justice, with an attitude of respect and love. Our words should likewise be in harmony with our inner thoughts and values.

Closely related to truthfulness are honesty and fidelity, by which we need to remain true to our convictions, words, and promise. We not only need to be truthful to ourselves, but we must also be honest with ourselves, and honest in our dealings and relationships with others, keeping our promises and honoring our word.

We need to remember that when we point a finger at someone else, three fingers are pointing back at us. These three fingers ask us three questions: Am I truthful, do I speak in justice with respect and love? Am I honest in my thoughts, actions and relationships? Am I faithful to my convictions, promises, and word; do I walk my talk?

Only when we can answer these three questions affirmatively, only then may we question the credibility of others. ❧

**FYI:** Nancy Catan co-hosts *Pinagpalang Bayan ng Diyos*, a radio program on DWAD 109.8AM on scripture-based living T-Th 9-10am. She also writes a weekly column, *Footsteps and Fingerprints*, for the Sunday edition of the *Negros Chronicle*, published in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental. You may read her column by going to [www.negroschronicle.com](http://www.negroschronicle.com) and clicking on Opinion, then on Footsteps and Fingerprints.

**Morality:**

# A Challenge to Be Heroes

**T**he foundation of a moral life and work style is not so much following the rules of ethical behavior as it is imitating the Way of Jesus Christ. It must be understood that there can be no “moral life” without a companion “spiritual life” and vice versa. One nurtures the other. Authentic spiritual development must occur at the same time as one’s moral development. The prophet Micah (6:8) provides a basis for the balanced life:

*“You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you:*

*Only to do right and to love goodness, And to walk humbly with your God.”*

These instructions are quite clear: it is not enough to love goodness and do what is right, to be spiritual. We must act out our faith in our daily life in active service of one another following the example of Jesus.

Living honestly with integrity of character, living the moral life demands living and growing in prayer, being strong and courageous enough to directly confront the sin in our life and overcome it. Christian moral life through prayer is empowered by grace, the gift of God Himself to us. In this sense, Christian morality is a call, a vocation, rather than a law, a vocation to be

concerned with life as part of Divine Nature, a calling to be responsive in making this world a friendlier and more caring place in which to live.

Honesty, integrity and morality – moral living is not simply following a set of “do’s” and “don’ts”. It is a way of life, living out our faith and walking with Jesus Christ throughout our journey of life. It is allowing ourselves to grow in love and holiness, to throw away our masks, little hypocrisies, and pretenses, and become authentic Christians through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Living a moral life commits us to the ongoing process of liberating and transforming men and women into disciples of Christ.

How do we respond to the challenges of morality and its distortions in today’s society and marketplace? This is where moral courage comes in. Moral courage is the capacity to have the moral will – power to withstand the temptation to succumb to wrongdoing, and to uphold one’s



well-formed and informed value system with a clear conscience. Such courage requires confidence in oneself to do the right thing, patience in pursuing the path of justice in love, and the perseverance and vision to follow one’s chosen path.

We live in society together with other



people; we live surrounded by family, by neighbors, by community. Thus politics and political life are integral to our life and work. Is it possible for the Christian to live the moral life when on every side we are surrounded by immoral acts, by dishonesty, by hypocrisy?

Political authority in its purest form directs an ordered and upright community life in such a way as to assure citizens of their basic freedoms and rights as well as define their social and civil responsibilities, for the attainment of the common good. Such authority should be moral in nature and promote justice, peace, and healthy relationships between the political authority (those in leadership positions) and the people (those not holding positions of authority).

The Church clearly tells us that moral values and morality are the foundation for a progressive and democratic society, and for its political leaders and institutions. More than economic formulas or dependence on electing a better group of leaders or change in system of government, if we are to realize a better national community, we must go back to basics – to fundamental Christian moral values. Political parties should not only enumerate their positions on national issues in their party platforms but should also reveal their respective value and morality standards, with each of their candidates aspiring for office living out these values in their personal and political lives.

We cannot change others by shouting in street rallies, or by angry criticisms

leveled at our perceived opponents over radio or TV. We must begin with ourselves.

What comprises my value system?

Am I honest?

Am I just in my relationships?

Does my everyday life reflect Christ in me?


Are my business dealings righteous and ethical?

Do I encourage honesty, morality, and goodness in my leaders?

Am I willing and courageous enough to stand up for my beliefs and Christian values?

Am I living out the Vision and Mission of the BCBP in my life and in my marketplace?

We need to acknowledge that politics, political exercises, and political leaders are a reflection of the people they serve. If we sell our votes to the highest bidder, then we should not be surprised when those we voted for look for nefarious ways to recover their “investment”. It is said that there are no great leaders where there are no great followers. We could paraphrase this and say: there are no great moral leaders where there are no morally honest followers.

As committed members of the BCBP and as followers of Jesus Christ, we are challenged and called to be heroically honest, heroically moral, heroically unselfish, and heroically responsible followers and set the example for our leaders. Where the situation warrants, we must also be heroically moral and responsible steward leaders who are, in turn, models for our followers. 

*Issues of honesty, morality and political responsibility have grabbed the media headlines since the beginning of 2008, even more than usual. In order to address these issues and participate positively in responding to them as practicing Christians, we need to go back to the basics and principles of morality and business ethics, and review them so we can better understand what Christ wants us to do. We share with you excerpts from BCBP's latest book, **Evangelizing Presence: Living the Moral Life Today**, authored by Fr. Pat Giordano, S.J., and Nancy R. Catan, BCBP Manila, and encourage you to get your own copy to fully appreciate our mission as BCBP Christians in the marketplace.*

EVANGELIZING  
PRESENCE

Living  
the  
Moral  
Life  
Today

Fr. Pat Giordano, S.J. • Nancy R. Catan

## **CBCP Pastoral Statement**

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Excerpts from Feb. 26, 2008, CBCP Statement:

### ***Seeking the Truth, Restoring Integrity***

Beloved People of God: Greetings in the peace of the Lord!

Today in the midst of restlessness and confusion, we come to you as pastors, for that is our precise role. We do not come as politicians whose vocation it is to order society towards the common good. Our message contributes to the flourishing of a democracy which must not be built only on political formulae.

We face today a crisis of truth and pervading cancer of corruption. We must seek the truth and we must restore integrity. These are moral values needing spiritual and moral insights.

Therefore, we address this pastoral statement to everyone particularly you our beloved people and in a special way to our political rulers and officials.

We are convinced that the search for truth in the midst of charges and allegations must be determined and relentless, and that the way to truth and integrity must be untrammelled, especially at the present time when questions about the moral ascendancy of the present government are being raised.

For this reason we strongly: 1. Condemn the continuing culture of corruption from the top to the bottom of our social and political ladder; 2. Urge the President and all the branches of government to take the lead in combating corruption wherever it is found. ...

For the long term we reiterate our call for "circles of discernment" at the grassroots level, in our parishes, Basic Ecclesial Communities, recognized lay organizations and movements, religious institutions, schools, seminaries and universities. It is through internal conversion into the maturity of Christ through communal and prayerful discernment and action that the roots of corruption are discovered and destroyed. We believe that such communal action will perpetuate at the grassroots level the spirit of People Power so brilliantly demonstrated to the world at EDSA I. It is People Power with a difference. From the grassroots will come out a culture of truth and integrity we so deeply seek and build. ...

May the Lord bless us in this sacred undertaking to build a new kind of Philippines and may our Blessed Mother be our companion and guide in this journey to truth and integrity.

For and on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines:

+Angel Lagdameo, D.D.  
Archbishop of Jaro  
President, CBCP  
February 26, 2008

**Pastoral Statement**

*Excerpts from the March 16, 2008 Pastoral Statement of Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales and Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Manila, the Apostolic Vicariates of Puerto Princesa and Taytay, and the Military Ordinariate.*

**Towards a Morally Rebuilt Nation**

**T**oday we are experiencing a social and political mess. This however goes beyond the question of truth to the search for probity. Probity is about the integrity of all, the accuser and the accused. We are unhappy and we feel betrayed. And yet as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us "in spite of our great disappointment our great hope can only be God who has loved us and continues to love us to the end, until all is accomplished", (*Spe Salvi*, 27). We also know that together we have the capacity to correct and purify the nation by starting with ourselves. ...

**The Model for Change is the Desert.**

The history of salvation teaches us that the long road to freedom inevitably passes through the desert of purification and conversion. ... The desert which the Israelites feared to enter became for them a place of purification, discipline and conversion, before they could enter the promised land of freedom, forty years later. There are yet no proven easy short cuts to conversion and renewal. ...

**Corruption as the cancer of the nation.**

Shamefully, we have been known to be a nation whose prime industry has been identified as politics simply because politics is the main route to power, which in turn, is the main route to wealth. In this country people use politics to get money, and more politics to protect more money. "Corruption radically distorts the role of representative institutions, because they become an arena for political bartering between clients' requests and governmental services. In

this way political choices favor the narrow objectives of those who possess the means to influence these choices and are an obstacle to bringing the common good of all citizens." (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 411).

The subordination of the public good to individual or group interests is what corruption is all about. In whatever form it takes, the practice of corruption is both immoral and unjust. Corruption is worse than lies, because lies are employed only to cover it. Whenever Government money is stolen or whenever supplier or contractors' money is offered as bribe to secure projects, to the disadvantage of the Government graft or corruption is committed. Graft is the acquisition of gain by dishonest, unfair and sordid means through the abuse of one's position in politics, business, etc., while corruption is the improper enrichment of politicians or civil servants or those close to them by misuse of public power entrusted to them. [*BIR, Revenue Memo Circular 12-2005*]. As an injustice to the Government and people, graft and corruption are

against the Seventh Commandment and have the added element of betraying one's country.

**The Universal and All-time Application of the Seventh Commandment.**

The Seventh Commandment, "Thou shall not steal", applies to all, as individuals or as groups. Thus, if one holds on to money or its equivalent that is not his or hers (or theirs), justice demands **restitution** of the stolen or

**We call on all citizens and leaders of our country**

**BE HONEST**

**Even if others are not,  
Even if others will not,  
Even if others cannot**

**Heed the clamor of our whole nation...**

**The time is now.**



Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen & Professionals

*continued on next page*

bribe money to the owner. (CCC, 1459). If the owner can no longer be located, then the money should be given to the poor, or to a credible institution that will give the money for the poor or give true services for the poor.

**Restitution** was the constant teaching in relation to the violation of the Seventh Commandment in the Bible. (*Exodus 21:37. ... Luke 19:8-10*). The teaching of the Church on stealing is this: **No Restitution, no Absolution. In the words of Jesus: with Restitution, there is Salvation (Luke 19:19). An authentic conversion demands willingness to restore what has been stolen and the resolve not to steal again.**

The penitent should not be so complacent about one's faith as to consider oneself truly absolved before God on account of faith alone, even if one has no contrition ... For faith without penance would effect no remission of sins. (*Council of Trent*).

The mandate of the Seventh Commandment is also addressed to traders and ordinary citizens in all practices of business, commerce and trading. Fraud in business, over pricing, bribery in contracts, cheating in scales, cheating in legitimate taxes and the smuggling of taxable goods, including also the smuggling and trafficking of substances for abuse to damn the innocent and the weak members of society, etc. — all these are among the many forms of violating the Seventh Commandment.

### **Our Response: Our Desert Experience.**

The old and the young, from kindergarten through high school on to the tertiary level of education till up to the licensure exams, are all to be formed and guided towards integrity,

trained never to cheat in studies and exams. The "**discipline of the desert**" is to be taught and applied, if anyone is to succeed at any level towards "the fullness of life."


The Seventh Commandment covers not only the present corruption deals that have been recently exposed, but also all deals, at all levels of government service, of all administrations and governance, no matter what came out of the past or will come out of the present or future inquiries. "Thou shalt not steal" covers also all trading of even ordinary citizens. ...

True liberation would mean that we enter our desert of repentance and conversion. Change lies only at the heart of every person. Let us begin there. ...

### **God's Help is always needed.**

We need God's grace, if we are to encourage one another, forgive each other, pay our debts to the justice that we all violated, and start again ... Believers and lovers of God, like true Christians do not have to hate, destroy each other even if they want to correct the mistakes of the past or the present and of each other. ...

We need the leaders from the highest to the lowest and their families not only to lead us, but also to give us examples of repentance and true humble conversion. We also need people with other ideas but with positive emotions in nation building. Given the example and encouragement, the citizens will be inspired to follow where in the past they hesitated to proceed — to their "desert" transformation. ...

In prayer let us beg Mary and Joseph to lead us back to the Christ that we had lost in the past! God bless us all! 

## **Using the Group Response Method**

Generally, this method is used by selecting a Scriptural passage to reflect on. However, as the situation in society may warrant, one of the CBCP's Pastoral Statements or a papal encyclical like *Deus Caritas Est* may be used.

We recommend that you use the Group Response Method with the following articles in this KAPATIRAN issue:

- CBCP Pastoral Statement: Seeking the Truth, Restoring Integrity
- Pastoral Statement: Towards a Morally Rebuilt Nation
- Feature: Morality: A Challenge to be Heroes
- Back to Basics: Where is the truth?
- The CBCP Challenge: Success or Significance?



## Group Response Method:

### **What does God want to tell us as a Christian community?**

**B**CBP Action Group 7-Steps Bible sharing begins with the reading of Scripture followed by reflection and sharing of personal insights. The Group Response Method also begins with reading of Scripture but it does not use personal sharing. Rather, it holds up the Scripture text as a kind of mirror in which the participants of the group can recognize their own problems and situations of daily life.

We look at the problems and situations we face in our families, society, our BCBP Community, and especially in the world of business and the professions in the light of the gospel. We ask: Which problem or situation in the BCBP or in our business is mentioned in the text? What does God tell us about this problem? What is God's will for us as a group?

The aims of the Group Response Method are to see how daily situations and problems are reflected in the biblical text, to help the group look beyond their immediate personal spiritual needs, and to make the gospel a driving force for "self-help" in tackling life issues. This method offers variety to groups which normally follow the 7-Steps method. If they use it from time to time (the GR method should not be used for every AGM), it will help the group members widen their spiritual horizon by looking beyond their own personal lives. It can also sharpen their prophetic insight and enable them to detect God's will in daily events.

#### **The Group Response Method**


The AGL announces the Scripture reading to be read, and asks someone to invite the Lord in prayer. The text is then read aloud from several different versions of the Bible. Each group member picks out words or phrases, reads them out prayerfully three times. These steps are similar to the 7-Steps Method.

The AGL or designated facilitator then asks: Which problems of our BCBP community, family, or business are mentioned in the text? At this point, the group breaks up into buzz groups of two or three members to discuss the questions. After about five or ten minutes every group reports back, and in plenary the group selects one problem for further discussion.

The leader poses the question: What does God tell us about our problem? Everyone keeps silence for three minutes to listen to God speak to us in our hearts about the problem. Then each participant shares what he has heard from God. The sharings should not be about a word or message which has touched us personally, but rather how we think God looks at our situation and what he is advising us. We look at the situation from God's point of view!

The group then focuses on the action part of the method by discussing what the group believes that God wants them to do. Particular emphasis is given to WHO will do WHAT and WHEN. In this step the group chooses an objective, a concrete action small enough to be tackled by the group and that will allow all members to participate in the action. The action should be doable, should be a positive response to the selected objective, with action and/or results to be reported back to the group during their next meeting.

The session concludes with spontaneous prayer among the participants.

The Group Response Method allows action group members to open themselves to the Word behind the many words of Scripture. The biblical text thus becomes a "quasi-sacramental sign" which helps us to experience the presence of the Risen Lord. 

**Interview***By Ronnie Caballero, BCBP Makati***Rey Feria:  
Setting the Stage for 2008**

*In the December 2007 issue of the Kapatiran we gave you Part I of the interview with Rey Feria, Executive Director of the BCBP Eco-Reach Program. Rey shared with us his passion for these micro-finance and evangelization activities as well as some of the Foundation's plans for 2008. We continue his interview in this issue.*

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**KAP:** *Kindly share with us why, when, and how the Eco-Reach became the flagship project of the BCBP?*

**REY:** Eco-Reach began at the time when BCBP decided to go global, our theme or vision during our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Global, not only in the geographical sense, but more importantly in being truly Catholic and universal, embracing all sectors of society. It began when BCBP decided not just to be an elitist community (as perceived

by some), but to address the people closest to the heart of Christ, the marginalized.

And so in late 2002 we decided to take a big leap in faith and venture into areas where the BCBP had never dared to tread before. Relying only on God's providence and wisdom, and fueled by the enthusiasm and passion of Bro. Louie Morales and other knowledgeable professionals in our ranks, we began to lay the groundwork for this program, with a soft launching in Alabang and Las Pinas.

We have come a long way since then, learning many lessons as we went along. Now we are ready to set the stage for a new and more vigorous foundation beginning this year 2008.

**KAP:** *How big is microfinance in our country? In what ways does the Eco-Reach program differ from other microfinance programs?*

**REY:** If my memory serves me right, there are no less than 5 million households in our country that fall below the poverty line. These are primarily our market. Undeniable, there are a lot of NGOs involved in microfinance. But most of them are basically in it for business reasons. The BCBP's reasons extend far beyond the business dimensions; in fact, the business sustainability is the lesser part of our vision, although it is no less important.

Our primary mission is the evangelization and value formation



programs at the grassroots levels, targeting the nanays – to enable them to become capable and honest entrepreneurs with a business of their own. In this way, they will be able to improve the economic standing of their respective families, and little by little make a difference in their community. As I previously stated (Dec 2008 issue of the KAPATIRAN) the effects may not be that immediate, but surely, the seeds of evangelization and entrepreneurship that we are planting among the nanays, and which they are passing on to their children, will eventually find their way into future generations, thus improving the living conditions and value systems of tomorrow.



**KAP:** *Do you think that personal financial responsibility is the crux of the matter here? What exactly is Eco-Reach trying to teach?*

**REY:** Personal financial responsibility among the nanays is but a small part of what we aim to teach. There are a lot of greater values. We have a 10-point formation agenda: 1) love for God, 2) living out the principles of proper discipline, unity, industry and love for others, 3) protection of the family from the vices of gambling, drugs, violence and drunkenness, 4) active involvement in community work, 5) pursuing the education of the children, 6) practice of honesty and perseverance in the conduct of their business affairs, 7) proper credit discipline, 8) cleanliness in and out of their homes, 9) cooperative undertaking with others, and 10) constant communication with the Lord through prayer.

These ten points are embodied in the participant's promises, *Pangako Ng Kaanib*, that our participants recite every week at the start of each meeting and that form the basic foundation of our teaching programs. We are focusing on the nanays, believing that helping the nanays become better

nanays will have a more immediate impact on their children, on whom rests our hope for a better future. Besides, it has been proven that women are more cautious borrowers and are better credit risks, especially at the microfinance level.

**KAP:** *When do you believe that the Eco-Reach will reach its objectives?*

**REY:** My vision is that we may be able to grow the number of our beneficiaries to 40,000 nanays by the time BCBP celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. This means that we need to increase our earning portfolio from the present level of Php 1.7 million to about Php 10 million without necessarily increasing our operating costs.

I believe this vision can be realized if every commitment card-carrying member of the BCBP will support at least one family and help that family cross the poverty line. I pray that there are enough members in the BCBP community who could share this vision and work toward its fulfillment. I pray that even the skeptics among our members will realize the beauty of such a vision.

Ken Blanchard, a management guru, once said: Nobody is smarter than all of us working together. And I dare add: Nothing is impossible as we continue to hold hands

*continued on next page*



and work together under the headship of our Lord Jesus.

**KAP:** *Is the Eco-Reach program really necessary for the spreading of the Gospel?*

**REY:** I am sure you would of course agree that it is very difficult to deliver God's Word to people who have empty stomachs and who are always burdened by their livelihood concerns, where to get the next meal, etc. These would be the very first people to question whether there really is a God.

When we deliver to them God's love in a very concrete way, then they will begin to see that there really is a God who cares for them. Little by little they will become more and more interested to know who is this God and what kind of a god He is.

It is interesting to note that we do have a lot of Moslem nanay-participants in our Mindanao operations in Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and Pagadian. I have learned that the best way to evangelize these people is to let them see how much we love them as brothers and sisters. We love them enough until they begin to ask why we are loving them. Then they themselves will open the door of

opportunity for us to speak to them about Christ who loved us first, who gave us the reason to love others in turn.


**KAP:** *Do you have any final message for our readers?*

**REY:** To our readers and all BCBP members, I offer a prayer that you will find enough reasons in your hearts to extend your hands to our less fortunate brethren through our BCBP Eco-Reach program. Let us all allow the Lord to disturb us enough, to give us the courage to venture farther

from the comforts of our shores out into the deep, so that losing sight of the sand, we may begin to see the stars in the middle of even the darkest nights.

In a very real sense we are all fighting a battle which impacts directly on our very own security for there exists a very direct correlation between poverty and corruption and crime. How can we fault the poor from doing whatever they can just so they can put a meal on their children's table each day? Can we close our eyes to this reality that we face on a daily basis?

Let us all join hands in singing ... and living out ... our song that says, "Lift high the banners of love, bring the captives to freedom, break down the walls of Jericho ... the walls of poverty among our people." Let us not be afraid for "Christ has gotten us the victory" already, even before we plunge ourselves into this battle to overcome grassroots poverty and uplift the nanays and their families into the mainstream of society.

This sounds like a daunting task, but I always believe that we can dream big dreams and have great visions ... and if the Lord is in the dream and the vision, it will be realized. Together with the Lord nothing is impossible! 



## Sharing

By Noling Cordeta  
BCBP Tacloban

# Moments of Grace

**B**E HONEST, even if others are not, even if others will not, even if others cannot. This sharing is about one of my agonizing struggles and resulting decision to be honest.

In October 1986 then assigned in Camp Crame as Chief Fire Marshal, I was directed to attend a Value Formation seminar conducted by BCBP Makati called the Christian Life Program. This seminar started my personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and my weekly breakfast attendance of the BCBP in Makati. Daily in accordance with the BCBP culture I did my prayers and read the Bible. I added Wednesdays and Fridays to my Mass attendance on Sundays and days of obligation. Confessions were more often, previously only during Holy Week.

One day in 1987 I received a call from my American lawyer in Los Angeles informing me that I can take my oath as an American citizen due to a court settlement with the U.S. Immigration Naturalization Service (INS). In 1984-85 four of my eight children had gone to the U.S. under tourist visas; they are now all U.S. citizens. Since they found out that there are better opportunities for employment there, they suggested that I apply for U.S. citizenship,

invoking the law granting World War II veterans U.S. citizenship. After which, I would be able to petition them for their green card.

I did apply and hired a lawyer in 1987 with the thought that I can take my oath after my compulsory retirement in January of 1989. Apart

from my duties as Chief Fire Marshal, I was then a member of a committee drafting a law for the future of the PC/INP. I was strongly advocating in the committee the separation of the Fire Service from the Police Service. Congress, upon hearing my view, enacted a law creating the PNP, Philippine National Police, and the BFP, Bureau of Fire Protection.

I was in the thick of this undertaking when I received the phone call of my U.S. lawyer advising me to take my oath as an American citizen within fifteen days. Since my presence in Camp Crame at that time was urgently needed in the aforementioned involvement in the enactment of the law

for the future of the PC/INP, I requested my lawyer to request postponement of my oath-taking. He told me that the court would allow only one postponement good for two weeks.

I was faced with a serious problem. Some alternatives were: I could take my oath as a




General and Mrs. Noling Cordeta at BCMR Cebu, 1994

*continued on next page*

U.S. citizen and conceal it and continue my work in Camp Crame. A Commissioner of the National Police Commission suggested that I retire under the grounds of physical disability of which I will be granted one million pesos. This suggestion was very tempting but then I was running 4 miles daily and playing golf 3 times a week which showed my excellent physical fitness. I would have to lie with the connivance of a medical doctor to be able to retire disabled.

In my morning prayers and Scriptural readings I brought this dilemma to the Lord. Conscious of the BCBP culture to be guided by the scriptures at all times, I was enlightened that to hide the truth if I took my oath and to retire physically disabled was dishonest and a serious sin against God. To follow God's will I opted to decline my U.S. citizenship to the disappointment of my four children in the U.S. But I had heard the voice of my conscience and believed with certainty in the existence of God, the Cause and End of everything. Truly, He granted me a special moment of grace during that time of decision-making.

Meanwhile the year 1988 saw my increasing involvement in the BCBP. I helped Sadi Saguisag in the 1<sup>st</sup> breakfast of the BCBP in Cebu City at Club Filipino. I invited the officers of the Regional Command of PC/INP Region 7 based in Cebu City to attend the breakfast through an order from Camp Crame. Then I did likewise for the first breakfast in Bacolod City. In 1992 I initiated organizing the BCBP outreach in Tacloban City and with the help of BCBP Cebu and BCBP Maasin the first BCBP breakfast in Tacloban City was held in March 1994, with sharers Larry and Dedit Veloso. Catbalogan outreach soon followed.

In hindsight I now realize that God wanted me here in the Philippines, not in the U.S., to serve his people in the BCBP community. He wanted me to BE HONEST in my life and my choices. And I know now that God created me for Him; for only in God do I find truth and happiness. 

**Parenting**

# How Dads Can Help Raise Strong Daughters

*Dr. Meg Meeker recently authored "Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters: 10 Secrets Every Father Should Know" (Regency Publishing). We share with you some interesting thoughts from ZENIT's interview with Meeker. Source: <http://www.zenit.org/article-21394?l=english>.*

**T**he way a father treats his daughter is a strong indicator of how she will relate to men for the rest of her life. An enlightened father can be his daughter's best ally in finding her place in today's world.

Research shows that a father's influence builds up self-esteem, helps his daughter to avoid sex, drugs, alcohol, and stay in college. What it is that a father offers is that he carries an authority in his daughter's eyes. This authority is not ascribed to the mother, not that she is not important ... she is also important, but in a different way ... but a father's influence is different.

When a girl is little, her dad is her primary male love relationship. When he gives her something as a man, she learns lessons about men, setting a template in those early years on her heart about what to expect, to think, to feel, and know about men from there on out, affecting even her relationship to God, because Christ is a man.

It is intuitive in a dad's heart to protect and guard a daughter. It is, however, unfortunate that our culture has been training men not to do that so much because of the issue of gender neutrality. Especially in the area of sexuality, dad has an enormous protective role. Girls are under sexual siege, with aggressive marketing, from the age of 6 onwards. If a father, feeling protective, says, "I don't want my daughter going to the movies in mini shorts and string halter," and mom says, "No, this is the way girls dress," a father needs to trust his judgment. Sometimes his intuition is better on this one.

Another point: dads in general tend to be very pragmatic and solution-oriented, discovering first what the problem is, and then how to get to the solution. Sometimes women are insulted, because we think differently, but this difference is wonderful. A man says, "Now, what's the problem? What can we do?" Take the case of a teenager losing a boyfriend – she feels sad, thinks she is too fat, too stupid, all kinds of things get added to the situation in her mind. Mom sympathizes. Dad compartmentalizes, "What's the problem? Just because he broke up with you, doesn't mean all these other things are true."

However, the most important thing a father can do is live a life of integrity – living truthfully. A daughter, within 15 seconds, can tell if her father is in a bad mood, good mood, telling the truth or not, etc. Those fathers who don't live truthfully do a great disservice because a daughter doesn't believe in him, doesn't trust him. Dads think they need to earn heroism, but they really don't. The role of a hero is just given to him until proven otherwise.

It is essential to raise a daughter with humility, emphasizing that she should see the world like a pioneer, asking, "What can I do for others," instead of like a princess who lives with a sense of entitlement. Yes, we parents want our kids to be happy, but the children often perceive incorrectly that happiness comes from receiving pleasure,

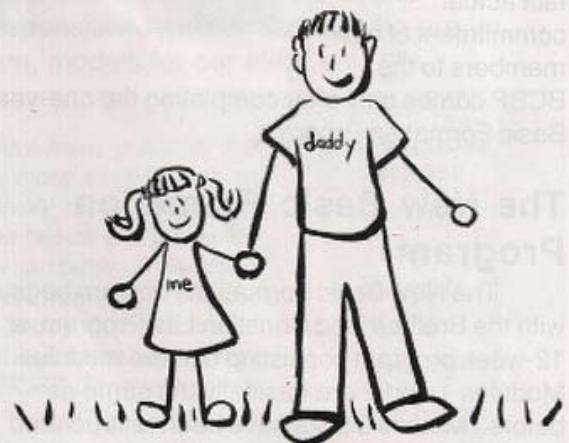
so when they receive, receive, receive, and happiness does not automatically come, the result is a lot of unhappy kids.

What works is when we teach kids to serve, to look beyond themselves. It is the dads who help instill this humility, sense of vision and purpose in their daughters. Real joy and happiness comes when kids understand that they have a purpose in life, and a mission to fulfill. This is the source of real transformation, and it needs humility to happen. When parents instill humility, a kid understands that he or she is important, and lovable, but not separate from others in their humanity. Humility brings people closer, whereas pride separates.

A daughter ... or son ... raised without humility will always strive to be better than others, smarter than others, but can only realize a frustrated "happiness" because no one can always be the best at everything. True happiness for young people, then, is to give them a purpose to fulfill through working, striving, giving to and for others.

The role of a father when seen in the light of these qualities – authority-figure, protectiveness, pragmatic and solution-oriented, living a life of integrity, with humility and a sense of lovable caring for mankind – becomes truly instrumental in raising strong daughters. And strong sons, too. **K**

## Daddy's Girl



## Formation

By Larry Veloso, NSC Formation,  
Chairman BOT

### *The New Basic Formation Program:*

# Strengthening the Introduction to the BCBP Way of Life

**A**fter a lot of prayers, discussions and meetings by the formation team, feedback from the pilot run in Alabang Chapter and Cebu North Chapter, a lot of exchange of ideas during our BOT/MANCOM meetings, and after fine tuning the results, we have developed the New Basic Formation Program (BFP) designed to strengthen the way of welcoming and shepherding new comers to the BCBP through their first year in the BCBP and producing firmly committed members.

As this Basic Formation Program gets underway we expect to see a renewed vigor among all members, regardless of length of membership, as they help nourish and upbuild stronger commitment to the BCBP Way of Life in their respective outreaches and chapters by bringing in and shepherding their BFP participants through their first year. In fact actual commitment of new members to the BCBP comes only after completing the one-year Basic Formation Program.



in Relationship with the Lord, Faith and Guidance, and Entering the BCBP Way of Life. The formal Commitment to the BCBP does not happen at this time.

Action groups are formed immediately after the BCLP with the AGMs focusing on regularity in prayer time and scripture time, participation in BCBP activities such as breakfasts and assemblies. Part 1 and relevant parts of Part 2 of the Commitment Card are discussed in the AGMs and in one-on-one meetings. This two months' module is capped by a "Free To Follow the Lord" Weekend retreat to deepen the BFP

participants' understanding of the BCBP's Way of Life. Topics taken up include Overcoming Obstacles to Living as A Disciple of Christ, Prayer for Deliverance, and Good Order in Our Life in the areas of Managing Our Time, and Managing Our Finances.

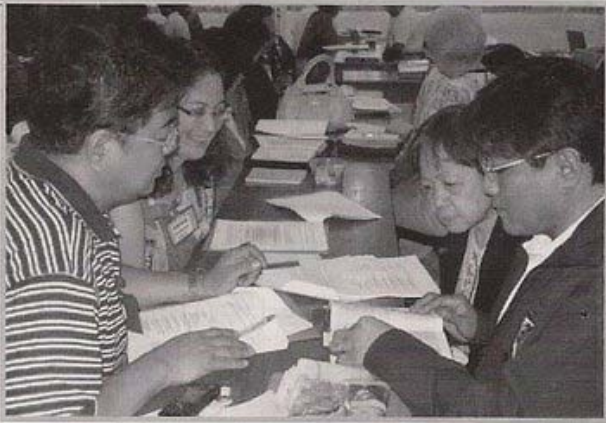
The next two months, months 6 and 7, see the AGMs regularly meeting to help the BFP participants

begin to live according to a planned schedule, according to budget, becoming regular in their tithing, and developing the Part 1 and 2 practices into Christian BCBP habits. During this period the participants attend the BCMR for couples or the BCSR (Singles Retreat) for the singles.

Months 8 and 9 continue the formation process with participants focusing on regularity in couple dialogue, dialogue with children, regular family prayer and family time. These practices of establishing good order in one's life

## The New Basic Formation Program

The New Basic Formation Program begins with the Brotherhood Christian Life Program, a 12-week program consisting of three modules. Modules 1 and 2 are basically the same as before. Module 3 talks have been restructured and include Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Growing



are further discussed in the AGMs and one-on-one meetings.

The next formation retreat in the BFP is the Brotherhood Christians in Business Retreat, the BCBR. This is followed in months 10 and 11 by the BFP participants concentrating on living out Part 3 of the Commitment Card, with emphasis on putting their business lives in good order.

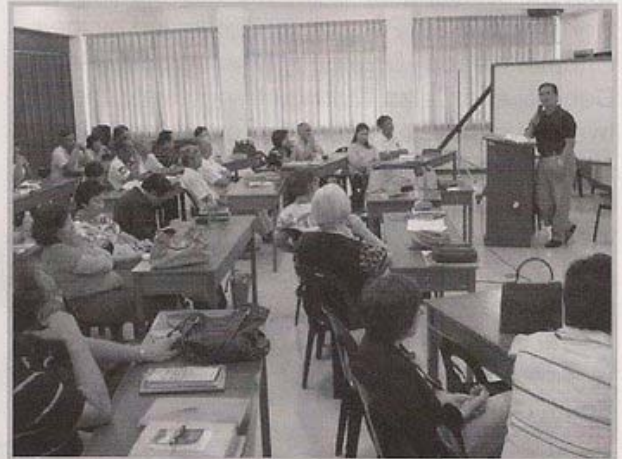
The Basic Formation Program culminates in month 12 with a "BCBP Way of Life Weekend" that includes talks on Honoring the Lord, Giving to the Lord and His Work, Brotherly and Sisterly Care, Commitments to Community, Family, and Church. The rest of month 12 is spent in discernment and evaluation: by the leaders to evaluate readiness of the BFP participants to commit based on good order considerations, and by the participant him/herself to discern his capacity and willingness to commit to the BCBP. This period will be used to spot and address any remaining potential problems/issues that may affect a participant's commitment decision and membership in the BCBP.



Only when a Basic Formation Program participant has satisfactorily completed the year-long program and signified his/her willingness to join the BCBP as a full member, will the formal Commitment Ceremonies be held. Commitment Ceremonies will be followed by a welcome Celebration for the new members given by the Chapter.


## The Challenge

The challenge now is how to implement the program well. This is where we need the help of all BCBP members, particularly the senior members. More than 100 senior members have recently attended two "Training of the Trainers" weekends held in Quezon City and in Cebu. They are tasked with conducting the



revised DGL/AGL trainings in preparation for full implementation of the New Basic Formation Program.

The AGL training weekends include orientation and hands-on training in the Bible Sharing methods: 7 Steps, Group Response, and Look-Listen-Love Method. Other topics include A Heart For God, Servant Leadership, Effective Communication, The One-on-One Meeting, Handling Conflicts, and Being a Worship Leader. A new topic has been added defining the Role of the Leader's Wife.

The New Basic Formation Program is but the first step in evaluating and redesigning the BCBP's formation activities as a whole. As the BFP gets underway, we look forward to more Spirit-directed moves to continually improve and strengthen BCBP's formation of its members, at all levels of membership. 

## BCBP in Action

By Beth Ginete, BCBP Makati

### The Palawan Medical/Dental Mission:

# With God, Mission: Possible!

In response to BCBP's President Bobby Laviña's call for a borderless BCBP, nine (9) medical doctors, 5 dentists, and 35 volunteers from the BCBP Makati and Camanava chapters joined members of the North and South Palawan chapters for a joint medical/dental mission in Iwahig Penal Colony and Narra town in Palawan on Jan. 18-19, 2008.

Our medical/dental mission was blessed with the participation of the members of the North and South Palawan chapters led by their Chapter Heads - Dr. Nonoy Divinagracia (also a Dentist) and Celso Quiling, respectively, the Iwahig Medical team, and our own Medical team - Dr. Delfin & Eileen Cuajunco, Dr. Carol Cruz, from Makati, and fellow doctors and friends - Dr. Melfred & Dr.

Arlene Hernandez, Dr. & Dra. Guzman (volunteers from South Dakota USA) and Dr. Eric and Ann Arcilla. Our

Dental team was composed of Dr. Jun Tripon (Mkt), Dr. Kat Galinato, Dr. Marissa Padua, Dr. Cecile Ignacio and hubby cum dental assistant Doy from the CAMANAVA chapters.

The sight of patients lining up to avail of the medical and dental services was both challenging and moving. We could definitely identify with the 4 men who brought the paralytic man to Jesus (Mark 2:1-12). And yes, Jesus was physically present with us, in the faces of our patients, guiding the minds and hands of our medical/dental teams, and in the untiring work done by our volunteers.

After a full's day work in Iwahig, we set out for the 2-hour drive to Narra, a town 91 kms away from the city of Puerto Princesa. We were welcomed by the Mayor of Narra, Mayor Clarito

Dimaala, Jr. and wife, Mrs. Lucy Diaz Dimaala, the Rotary Club of Narra, San Francisco Javier College Alumni Association, and Sr. Clot of Tagaste Retreat House.

On our second day, we opened the doors of the Gym to the Narra town folk at 9 am. They came in droves! We targeted to finish the Narra mission at 3pm but at 4 pm, the last patients were still being given their needed medical/dental attention and going home with the right amount of medicines. What should have been 100 inmates in Iwahig and 400 patients in Narra, turned out to be 250 and 750 respectively or a total of around 1,000 patients in those 2 days! And as if to replicate the miracle of the multiplication of loaves, we were able to repack


the last medicines into 3 more boxes of supplies left for the Iwahig infirmary, the Narra Health Office and the Rotary Club of



Narra Central!

At the end of the day all our weariness disappeared as we shared our personal experiences during the mission and were treated to a dinner feast cum lechon in the Arena Island courtesy of our brothers & sister, Fuji & Chit Rodriguez and Tatang Louie Morales.

*"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.... Come, you are blessed by my Father; I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."* (Matt.25: 40, 34)

What could best describe the Palawan Medical/Dental Mission? **With GOD, Mission: Possible!** 

## News Briefs

### BCBP Silay Builds Center

Three years ago BCBP Silay Outreach had a dream – to have a small place to keep their music equipment, song books and outreach materials. Now the dream has turned into a reality; God had better plans and the small place became a center that would host all activities of the BCBP Community.

Plans for the center were concretized in June 2007 when Brother Nonoy and Sister Bebing officially offered during a governance meeting to lease out the area at the back of their residence to BCBP Silay. A lease contract

was signed on July 13, 2007, with a term of 5 years rental for P1 a year. Community members donated cash and bamboo, nipa, sand and other materials for the construction of the Community Center.

The Center was blessed on August 5 with the first talk for the BCLP held there soon afterwards. Since then the Saturday breakfasts, assemblies, music ministry practices, BCLPs and Trainings have been held at the Center. Truly God is good! — *Bro Nicky Ledesma* ✠

### SOCAL Holds 1<sup>st</sup> BCMR

BCBP Southern California Outreach held its first ever Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat the weekend of November 9-11, 2007, at the Worldmark Resort in Indio, San Bernardino, California, USA, graduating four couples.

The first planning session on September 28, 2007, set everyone in motion so that the BCMR could be held before the end of the year, as mandated by Outreach Head Dito dela Cerna. The following weekend after the First Friday Mass, Bro Dito announced that the Course Leaders would be the Masayon couple, Chito and Libay. Heading the Servants Team were Bong and Elsa Ventura. Speakers, “home-

grown” from the SOCAL outreach, gave their personal best with inspiring talks and sharings eliciting both laughter and tears from the participants.

Overall, what was truly remarkable was the intimate bonding that developed between husbands and wives, between servants and participants, and among the service team who made such a sacrifice of their time, talent and resources to make the weekend possible. There was no doubt in anyone’s mind of the sweet, silent embrace of the Holy Spirit throughout the weekend. ✠

### Olongapo Celebrates 3 Milestones

September 21 and 22, 2007, was a momentous weekend for the whole Olongapo Outreach in Zambales, Central Luzon. It was the celebration of three important milestones in the life of the outreach.

The first milestone was the Sept 21, Friday night, Commitment Night of the BCLPs in both Olongapo and Balanga, Olongapo’s outreach. The second milestone was the sharing of Bro Nelson and Sis Annie Salvador, RCD for Northern Luzon, who despite the heavy rains that weekend came down from Baguio to share and add color to Saturday’s joint breakfast.

Saturday evening saw the third and most significant milestone – the elevation of Olongapo

Outreach to Chapter-in-Training status, capping seven fruitful years of evangelization in the area. Highlights of these years include: conducting 7 BCLPs in Olongapo plus 2 in Balanga, holding a Life in the Spirit Seminar with BCBP Las Piñas and San Fernando for 100 PNP recruits in the PNP Region 3 Training Center in Mabalacat, Pampanga (April 2006), plus conducting single-handedly two more LSS seminars for classes of PNP participants, totaling 87 in all; having a total membership exceeding 150 members, compliance with all BCBP activities, and being self-sufficient in funds from the members’ tithing. — *Ludy Pardo, BCBP Las Piñas* ✠

One Minute **Meditation**

By *Fernando De Larrazabal*

# Jesus Paid Our Ransom

*At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. Mk 15:33*

It was past the hour of noon. Jesus, hanging on the cross, cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." This was the cry mankind had long awaited. To understand this magnanimous act of love, we need to begin from the very beginning. God had created man and woman free from sin, to live a life of bliss. Our first parents disobeyed God by challenging his authority. Through them, mankind broke off its perfect relationship with God and lost its innocence.

But God's ever loving nature does not allow this situation to continue. God designs a plan to rescue and redeem mankind. This was a promise that was to be fulfilled by Jesus. In God's time his

beloved Son kept that promise. Reconciliation between God and humankind could only come about through a perfect, unblemished sacrifice. Jesus came to save us from the yoke of sin, to heal the contrite and to teach us a new way of life – a new beginning for man.

At the moment Jesus called on his Father

to forgive his persecutors, he made it possible for all of us to be forgiven. He paid our debts with his death and ransomed us from a life of darkness. But let us make one thing clear, this in no way frees us from the obligation to lead a just and sinless life. Jesus made it possible once more for us to obtain life everlasting. By cooperating with Jesus, we are assured of this life.

You have nothing to lose and everything to gain by cooperating with Jesus who proved his love for you. Now is your turn to prove your love for him.

**Prayer**

*Dear Jesus, your salvific mission is over and mine is just beginning. While your earthly mission is finished, I pray that from heaven you continue to look after me. I need your presence to protect me from temptations which the world offers. Give me the grace to walk in your shadow so that every thought, word and deed be in accordance with your will. Amen.*

*Source: "Quest for Answers" by Fernando De Larrazabal (St. Paul's Philippines, 2001). With permission of the author.*




**Forum with Fr. Herb**  
**Pastoral Authority?**

**Q:** *Do BCBP leaders have pastoral authority?*

**Fr. Herb:** There is pastoral authority in the BCBP. Every member commits himself to the items on the commitment card as well as to the vision and mission and way of life of the BCBP. The leadership has the authority to oversee what the members have committed themselves to. Thus the leaders can "demand" that the members live out the vision and mission, and keep what is on the card. The overall leadership does that

through delegation: chapter heads, unit leaders, action group leaders in different ways have the task to see not only that the members are well supported in living out the BCBP's way of life, but that they really live it out in their daily lives.

Please note that the leaders do not have unlimited authority. They have the responsibility and authority to guide the BCBP and its members in the living out of the call we received from the Lord and which the individual member has accepted. 



By Nancy R. Catan, BCBP Manila

# Why Forgive?

It has been a practice of mine during each Lenten season to reflect on my life: where am I now, where have I been, where do I want to go... a self reflection on the state of my life. And I select a book to read and study that will help me along my journey in self renewal.

This year I decided to immerse myself in one of the epistles, 2 Corinthians, that I had often read through but not really 'understood' its message. Several days before the beginning of the Lenten season, as I browsed the shelves of my favorite bookstore, my eyes fastened onto the title "*Lord, Give Me A Heart For You*", by Kay Arthur. It was a 40-day study of 2 Corinthians ... a 40-day study for the 40-day Lenten season – a coincidence? No, a divine appointment and a most appropriate text with which to enter the Easter season.

The 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of 2 Corinthians contains many intriguing illustrations and contrasts. Our earthly dwelling is compared to a tent, and is contrasted with our heavenly dwelling, built by God. Death is juxtaposed with life, old things with new creation, sin with the grace of reconciliation.

But its main message to me is that I am, as are we all, tasked with the ministry of reconciliation, of making friends. Before when I read this or heard it during the liturgy, I thought it referred to being on good terms with one another, being friendly, showing our care and concern for each other, or in other words, loving our neighbors, like we are encouraged to do in the BCBP. However, I learned that to be reconciled means to take two who are at enmity with one another – enemies – and reunite them.


As I read it yet again, the verses tell me that in order to be fully reconciled with one another, I must first be fully reconciled to God. I need to not only forgive others who have caused me hurt or anguish, I must not only forgive myself for hurting others, but I must also be reconciled to God by admitting the times that I

have hurt Him by what I have said or done or thought.

I remember some years ago during one of our BCBP household action group discussions, one of our members, a priest, shared with us these steps to true forgiveness. First, admit to yourself that you were wrong. Second, tell the other person you are sincerely sorry for the hurts you had caused them. Third, decide to love that person. Fourth, make amends for the wrong you had caused. And last, but perhaps most important – and this was a big jolt to us – do something to let the other person respect and love you back, despite the wrong or hurt done.

This last step carries the process of love and forgiveness a lot further than any of us had ever thought about. And yet, I believe this is what 2 Cor 5 is all about, when St. Paul talks about the ministry of reconciliation. He says that we are ambassadors for Christ, and therefore we should speak and act for and in behalf of Christ. This includes love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in all its forms. Plus He has shown us the way, loving and forgiving even unto the cross. What a truly awesome responsibility He has given us in this trouble-filled day and age!

Love and Forgiveness. Forgiveness and Love. Why forgive? So that I can truly love. Why love? So that I can wholeheartedly, sincerely, and honestly forgive. Why forgive? So that I can mend damaged relationships, begin again to build strong and Christ-filled relationships, and enjoy a peaceful, joy-filled life with many friends, and only few or no enemies.

This is also the Easter message – love and forgiveness and reconciliation. Let us be real Easter people living out our care and concern for both friends and enemies – not only during the Easter season but throughout the year. 

**BCBP BREAKFAST DIRECTORY 2008**

CHAPTER/OUTREACH	VENUES	DAY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	CONTACT PERSON	CELL PHONE
<b>METRO MANILA</b>								
CAMANAVA	Max's Restaurant, EDSA, Cal.	SAT	S	M	J	M	Rod Cobankiat	09178974546
GREENHILLS	Club Filipino	THU	S	J	M	M	Dick Palma	09163003737
QUEZON CITY	Max's Restaurant, Sct. Tuazon	SAT	S	M	J	M	JR Lioanag	09189037411
RIZAL	Max's Restaurant, Taytay	SAT	M	J	M	S	Marius Sienes	09175457341
MARIKINA	Max's Restaurant, Blue Wave Mall	SAT	J	J	J	S	Benjie Cruz	09178057689
ALABANG	Ayala Alabang City Club	SAT	M	S	M	J	Lito Pascual	09173287785
LAS PIÑAS	Max's Resto, Philam	SAT	J	M	S	M	Arnold Torres	09177944765
MAKATI (Wed)	Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 3	WED	J	S	M	M	Caloy Co	09189272243
MAKATI (Sat)	Chateau, Greenbelt, Legaspi St, Mkti	SAT	J	J	J	S	Ricky Gutierrez	09209711771
MANILA	Jade Vine, J. Bocoob cor UN Ave	FRI	J	S	M	M	Ernie Supan	09154035018
MANILA NORTH	Chowking Puregold Mall, Tayuman	SAT	J	J	J	J	Bong Rivera	09174236838
PARAÑAQUE	Jollibee, Santana Grove, Sukat	SAT	M	J	M	S	Jun Ignacio	09175272392
PASAY CITY	Chowking, Macapagal Ave cor EDSA	SAT	M	J	M	S	Evans Opina	09268494025
PALAWAN NORTH	Linda Hall, Skylight Apartelle	SAT	J	-	S	-	Ferdie Galang	09209021797
PALAWAN SOUTH	Ardent Hotel, San Miguel	SAT	-	S	-	J	Nelson Caabay	09178196768
<b>NORTHERN &amp; CENTRAL LUZON</b>								
BAGUIO	Pines View Hotel, Legarda Road	SAT	M	J	M	S	Ver Colcol	09064903928
CANDON, Ilocos	Ara Marey's Restaurant	SAT	J	-	J	-	Robert So	09214809372
DAGUPAN	J-Star Plaza, M-Pinkies, L-Jam S	SAT	J	-	S	-	Abing de Venecia	09064735953
URDANETA	Ciudad Ferdinandina	SAT	-	J	-	M	Ariel Noranda	09179676671
LAOAG	M-Michoice Resto, J-Palazzo dLaoag	SAT	-	M	-	J	Sydney Santiago	09175700100
SAN FERNANDO, L.U.	Sea & Sky	SAT	J	-	S	M	Vic Ancheta	09208943313
TUGUEGARAO	Delfino Hotel	SAT	M	M	S	J	Gary Hernandez	09173902413
SANTIAGO, ISABELA	Mc Donald's, Maharlika Road	SAT	M	J	J	J	Willy Simbul	09175487046
BAYOMBONG	Governor's Palace, Solano	SAT	-	J	-	J	Oscar Bacena	09187809316
APARRI	ST. Patrick Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	Angel Rabago	09279437744
ANGELES	KM 86 Food Rest. Sta. Maria	SAT	-	J	-	S	Meng Evaristo	09189401614
BALANGA Bataan	Crown Royale Hotel	SAT	J	J	J	J	Oca Banzon	09175760982
BULACAN	Max's Rest., Guiginto, Bulacan	SAT	J	M	J	S	Cris Constantino	09065035858
BULACAN North/Pulilan	Max's Rest., Pulilan, Bulacan	SUN	J	J	J	J	Eric Reyes	09209010930
CABANATUAN	Village Inn, Mabini Homes	SAT	J	J	M	S	Ed Mateo	09209538540
OLONGAPO	Max's Restaurant, Magsaysay Drive	SAT	J	J	J	J	Nestor Publico	09209519791
SAN FERNANDO, PAMP.	Villa Conchita Resort	SAT	J	J	J	J	Wesley Alonzo	09176091516
TARLAC	La Maja Rica Hotel	SAT	-	M	-	M	Ferdie Liwag	09175664726
<b>SOUTHERN LUZON</b>								
BACOR	K of C Bldg, Molino	SAT	-	M	-	M	Rene Medrocillo	09175394051
BATANGAS CITY	Alpha Hotel	SAT	M	J	S	M	Manny Rosales	09178443295
NASUGBU	Nasugbu Parish Hall	SAT	J	J	-	J	Dan Pasia	09209035490
BIÑAN-SAN PEDRO	Max's Restaurant	SAT	J	M	S	M	Alex Madrid	09178019808
CALAMBA	Riverview Resort	SAT	J	M	S	M	Henry Francisco	09282934395
CALAPAN	Chowking, Calapan	SAT	M	J	S	M	Rod Umali	09175040832
CAVITE-IMUS	Rojonet Restaurant, Imus	SAT	J	M	S	M	Bong Marcelino	09173295956
DAET	Golden Palace & Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	J	Buddy Madarang	09214811275
GEN TRIAS	Tempura Resto, Gov Drive, Manggahan	SAT	J	M	S	M	Boy Castro	09195714042
GUMACA	Chowking Restaurant	SAT	M	J	M	J	Hector Babista	09209028461
LIPA	Luntian Restaurant, Lipa City	SAT	M	J	M	S	Jun Latay	09178566345
LOS BANOS	Chowking, Vega Ctr, Grove LB	FRI	-	M	-	M	Mar Perilla	09283038341
LUCENA	Guisseppi Restaurant	SAT	M	J	S	M	Joji Aranilla	09209095545
SAN PABLO	Coco Palace, Nat'l Hi-way	SAT	M	J	M	J	Vic Longno	09175445315
STA. ROSA	Max's Restaurant, Balibago	SAT	M	S	M	J	Tony Eugenio	09155665470
STA ROSA WEST	Rose & Grace Rest., Sta Rosa Estates	SUN	M	J	M	M	Jun Miquiabas	09216109591
TAGAYTAY	Taalena Restaurant	SAT	M	M	M	M	Boyet Cabonco	09178016409
TANAUAN	Darasa Fiesta Resort	SAT	J	-	M	-	Pol Hernandez	0917 8872352
LEGAZPI	Quick & Hearty	SAT	-	J	M	S	Ric Quiambao	09182430637
NAGA	Champagne Garden	SAT	S	J	M	M	Tony Concepcion	09286354000
SORSOGON	Jollibee Sorsogon	SAT	M	-	J*	-	Gie Diaz	09178051687
PINAMALAYAN MINDO	Floras Resto	SAT	-	-	M	-	Bon Lim	09189364081
SAN JOSE MINDORO	Sikatuna Beach Hotel	SAT	-	M	-	L	Nachor Urbina	09062550868
<b>VISAYAS</b>								
BALAMBAN	Balamban Nat'l High School	SAT	-	J	-	M	Boy Beltran	09176209795
BANTAYAN	Jelas Restaurant	SUN	-	J	-	J	-	-
BOGO Cebu	Bogo Central School - Conf Hall	SAT	J	-	J	-	Rolly Caballes	09154007150
CEBU NORTH	City Sports Club, Ayala	SAT	J	M	S	M	Vic Lerias	09196801705
CEBU SOUTH	Sacred Heart Ctr., D. Jakosalem	SAT	J	S	S	M	Rod Ngo	09176200180
CEBU CENTRAL	Casino Espanol de Cebu	SAT	M	S	M	J	Rey Monteclaro	09179703075

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CONSOLACION	Orosia Restaurant, Consolacion	SAT	-	J	M	M	Archie Alivio	09173327522
MACTAN	Crown Regency Suites	SAT	M	J	S	J	William Cejas	09173216550
MANDAUE	Family Choice Country Mall	SAT	M	J	S	J	Marz Diez	09164037009
TALISAY Cebu	Chowking, Talisay	SUN	-	J	-	S	Henry Burgos	09173262219
BAIS	Bros Haven	SAT	-	M	-	J	Wardo Villanueva	09214899401
DUMAGUETE-NORTH	Bethel Guest House	SAT	J	M	S	-	Tony Tero	
DUMAGUETE-SOUTH	Plaza Ma. Luisa	SAT	M	-	J	-	Fiel Ornopia	09209098401
SIQUIJOR	Webs Legacy Inn	SAT	J	-	J	-	Tata Quilicot	09169638026
SAN CARLOS	Carmel's	SAT	-	J	-	M	Joy Tambis	09209142042
TAGBILARAN NORTH	JJ Seafood V* / Prawn Farm ICM**	SAT	-	J*	S**	M**	JV Bullecer	09209109638
TAGBILARAN SOUTH	La Roca Hotel	SAT	-	J	M	S	Gus Pascual	09173063388
TALIBON	Talibon Pension House	SUN	-	J	-	J	Cleto Garcia	09208016808
TUBIGON	JJ Rest., 2/F Pub Market	SUN	-	J	-	M	Boy Caga	09202321369
NAVAL BILIRAN	Naval Country Inn	SUN	J	J	-	-	Juan Pastor	09157754885
BORONGAN	Café Se Le Vee	SAT	-	J	-	J	Sonny Uy	09177222803
CALBAYOG	DPC Function Hall	SUN	J	-	J	-	Sonny de Veyra	09173381743
CATBALOGAN	Maqueda Bay Hotel Rest.	SAT	J	-	J	-	Jaime Barnales	30880
CATARMAN	DCC Annex	SUN	-	J	-	J	Jess Laoderio	09168763219
TACLOBAN	Agus Seafoods Resto	SAT	-	S	M	J	Ronnie Sanopo	09177825567
BAYBAY	Parish Center	SUN	-	J	-	S	Tom Londina	
MAASIN	Ampil Function Hall	SUN	J	-	S	-	Monching Gonzales	09264724717
ORMOC	Pongos Hotel	SAT	-	J	M	J	Perok Rodriguez	09173060904
SOGOD	Sogod Bay Lodge	SAT	J	-	J	-	Adrian Alquiza	09185702685
HILONGOS	Holy Name Society Social Hall	SAT	J	-	J	-	Maning Fulache	
PALOMPON	PACCI	SAT	J	-	M	-	Edwin Cortez	
BACOLOD NORTH	Quan / Casa Noble* / Quan & Jollibee**	SAT	M	M	S**	J*	Marlon Geriane	09279984906
BACOLOD SOUTH	Exed Inn / L'Fisher / JollibeeLS*	SAT	M	M	S*	J	Pepe Ledesma	09177070057
BACOLOD EAST	BCBP Activity Center	SAT	M	-	M	-	Ogie Ascalon	09209269851
BINALBAGAN	Sn Teodoro Hall	SAT	-	J	-	J	Liby Frias	09173008968
KABANGKALAN	Snackee Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	M	Albert Garcia	09228115476
SILAY	BCBP Center, Santan, Rizal St	SAT	M	M	S	M	Nonoy Catugas	09212406882
VICTORIAS	VMC Fastfood	SUN	-	-	M	J	Martin Osano	09275192490
	Marjuns	SAT	-	L	-	-		
ILOILO	Amigo Terraces Hotel	SAT	J	M	S	M	Ramie Salcedo	09189426362
MOLO	Jollibee UPV	SAT	J	M	S	M	Tom Cheng Chua	09193007978
KALIBO	Nazareth Home	SAT	S	J	M	M	Jack Acaling	09186978112
BORACAY	Tropical Guest House Stn 3	SAT	J	J	J	J	Rey Tagua	09194903590
ROXAS	Pizza Junction, Rizal St.	SAT	J	M	S	M	Jess Diaz	09209213448
<b>MINDANAO</b>								
BUTUAN	Luciana Convention Center	SAT	M	J	-	J	Lazer Lapa	09198840839
CDO EAST	Max Fried Chicken Toribio	SAT	M	M	J	S	Gerry Garcia	09209007495
CDO WEST	VIP Hotel	SAT	M	S	J	M	Cons Arce	09189083613
DAVAO	Royal Mandaya Hotel	SAT	M	S	M	J	Wally Tapia	09177081079
DIGOS	CAP Building	SAT	-	J	-	J		
GEN. SANTOS	East Asia Royale Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	Francis Carlos	09177267679
MALAYBALAY	House Malibu	SAT	J	-	S	-		
SURIGAO	Gateway Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	Jun Bayana	09208344407
TAGUM	CAP Bldg., Tagum City	SAT	-	J	M	J	Boy Galagala	09177197790
VALENCIA	Taipan Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	S	Nick Baliguig	09067714431
DIPOLOG	Top Plaza Hotel	SAT	-	J	M	S	Berto Uy	09176423432
ILIGAN	Madelicious Native Foods	SAT	M	J	-	J	Mike Magsalin	09198971597
KAPATAGAN	Alsons Palace	SAT	J	-	J	-	Femie Legaria	
OROQUIETA	Kamay sa Oro	SAT	J	-	J	-	Jun Sugue	09156692332
PAGADIAN	Pinchik Restaurant	SAT	-	J	-	J	Joe de Pedro	09178194168
ZAMBOANGA	Astoria Hotel	SAT	J	-	J	-	Boloy Mendoza	09179858475
IPIL	Sibugay Hotel	SAT	-	J	-	J	Mon Villafuerte	09166606880

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:**

DITO/TATA DE LA CERNA: Residence - 4886 Pacific Ave., Long Beach CA 90805;  
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## The Vision of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals

Life in Christ in all its fullness for businessmen and professionals. *John 10:10*

## The Mission of the BCBP

We provide a way of life and a Community 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 and to advocate the Good News in the marketplace.

## The Brotherhood Core Values

Love for God  
Love for Country  
Love for Community  
Commitment to the Lord's Work