

**BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN
BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS**

July - August 1995

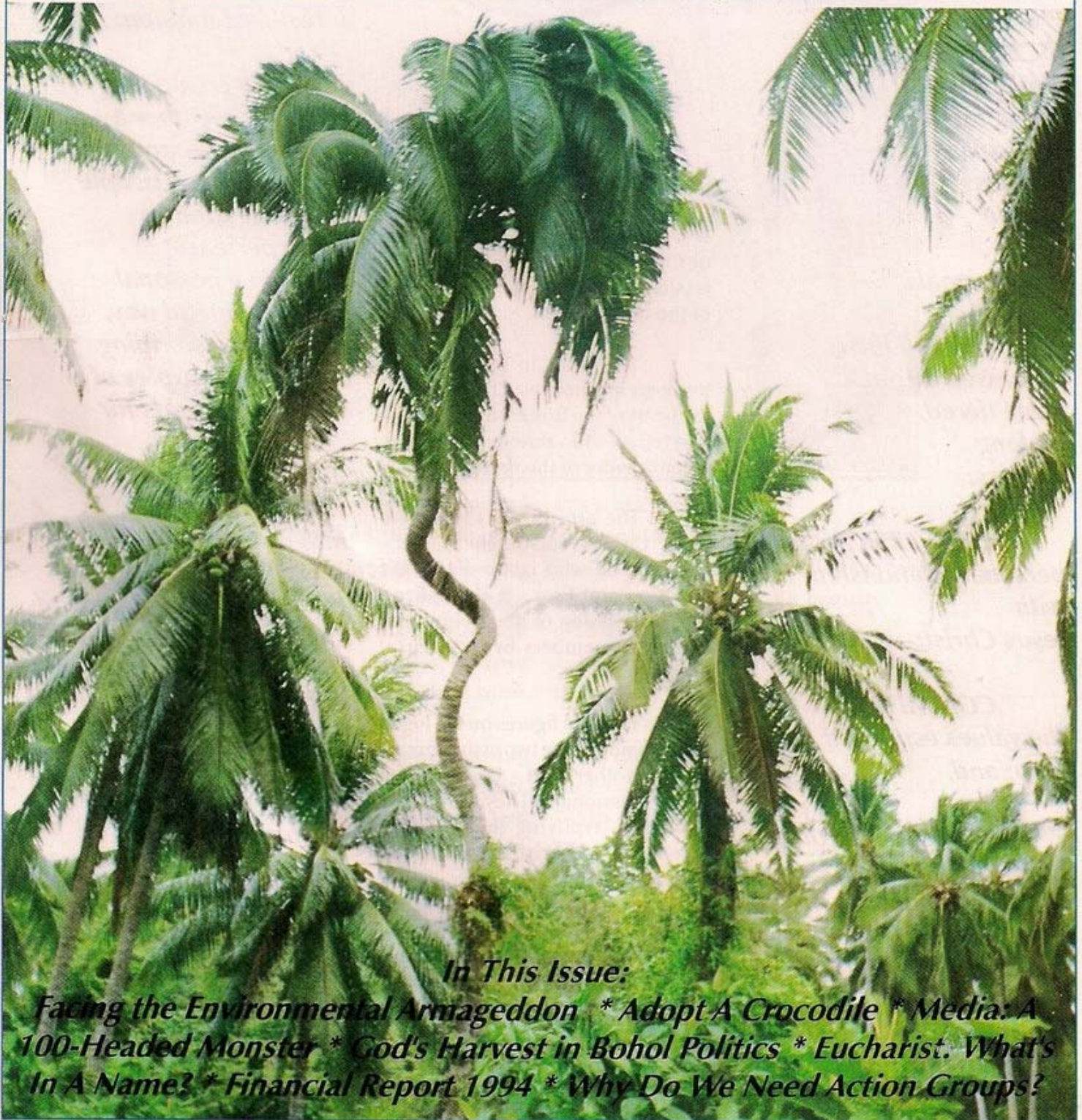


Kapatiran

MAGAZINE

Vol IX No. 4

PHILIPPINES



In This Issue:

*Facing the Environmental Armageddon * Adopt A Crocodile * Media: A
100-Headed Monster * God's Harvest in Bohol Politics * Eucharist. What's
In A Name? * Financial Report 1994 * Why Do We Need Action Groups?*



VISION

The vision of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals (BCBP) is that of a full life in Christ for all, particularly business people and professionals.

This full life is expressed through a three tiered, lifelong process:

***CONVERSION** to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ;*

***COMMITMENT** to the values espoused by Him; and,*

***COMMISSIONING** to spread these values to others, especially in the conduct of business and the professions.*



THE SYMBOL OF THE BCBP

The logo of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals captures the very essence of the organization.

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 endeavors of the organization.

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 brothers' 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.



MISSION

To attain its vision of a full life in Christ for all, the BCBP has established a two-fold mission:

- To create and promote together a support environment where business people and professionals can experience Christ in a personal and meaningful way, thereby transforming them into disciples of Christ and agents for justice, equity and sound development; and,

- To create a body of Christian business people and professionals who are so trained and structured for action that their individual as well as collective efforts result in a forward impact in business practices, and through this, enable the economy, and society in general, to be transformed by Gospel Values.



**BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN
BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS**
KAPATIRAN
Magazine

Vol. IX, No. 4 July - August 1995

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COVER STORY: The photo was taken in Palawan. An environmental rarity. Environment protection and preservation is this issue's theme. We, as Christians, are encouraged to do our part to advance this cause. God entrusted His creations to us and we must do our job as stewards of nature, for God created them just for us.

There is no right way to do a wrong thing.

EDITORIAL

In seconds, send Dad
a birthday card from home.



Use the telephone.

If only for little Jay, we have been doing our homework.

To provide phones that not only speak, but also write.

Even draw.

Presenting the all-digital fax service, by PLDT.

That First World wonder that

enables you to send out documents so clear, you'd think they were originals.

Now with fiber optics and digital technology, you can receive messages this clean even in select provinces.

Because at PLDT, we're continuously working to provide ingenious ways of bringing families together.

Enriching lives by keeping people in touch.

Keeping the Filipino at pace with the world.

We put the world within your reach.



PLDT

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH

Where's the Silver Lining?

It's that time of year again - sauna-degree heat, drenching rain, traffic, street diggings, school opening, traffic jams, estero dredging, flooded streets, road repairs, longer traffic jams, typhoons, humongous traffic jams.

This year we also had the added irritation of an LRT strike during the first week of the opening of classes.

These questions recur and bother me again this year - as they do every year about this time.

Why does the Department of Public Works and Highways always seem to wait to begin road repair and estero dredging until after the first rains fall?

Why do the waterworks authorities start fixing drainage canals, digging up all the streets in an area at the same time then transfer their action (or inaction as the case may be) to another district, forgetting to finish the first area where they started?

Why can't the different government agencies and PLDT and Meralco get their act together and dig up the streets only once instead of each doing their own thing in their own time, usually one after the other? Whatever happened to coordination and cooperation?

Why are there so many vehicles on our city streets? Whatever happened to bicycles for short distances and car-pooling for longer distances?

The air pollution in Metro Manila is mostly (70 to 80 percent) caused by vehicle emissions - smoke and fume belching vehicles idling their gasoline away in the traffic pile ups.

Time and again, all these are blamed on the onset of the rainy season. We may gripe about the

hot sun, but we seem to wax more virulent when the rains exacerbate the problems of daily commuting and city living. It is always easier to blame the change in weather for your failure to bring along an umbrella than to blame yourself for forgetting to carry it with you.

But there is at least one or two reasons why I welcome the rains. Firstly, the typhoons blow away all the air pollution so we can breathe fresh, clean air for at least a day or so.

Secondly, the rains signal a relief for dry, parched land and dusty farmlands. The watershed dams begin to fill up, crops can be planted and rivers spring back to life.

The rains clean the grime off the streets and buildings, shine up the leaves and green the grass. New growth begins again.

One news columnist aptly wrote several years ago: "Much like in real life, there's nothing like a little shower now and then to disturb an otherwise complacent sunshine. For after being shadowed by overcast skies, one can again look forward and savor with renewed fervor the cloudless days ahead."

In the meantime, can't somebody do something NOW about the excessive continuous and untimely street diggings?

And what about the traffic solution that can be likened to a heart with a severe, advanced case of hardening of the arteries and clogging of the arterial valves. Who's going to perform the needed surgery to revive the dying patient?

Where's the silver lining? Look in the mirror. What solution do you see there? - **Nancy R. Catan.**

Views At Large

On The Tip Of The Volcano



Ernesto R. Mondoneda, Cagayan de Oro Chapter

To observant readers and viewers, today's newspapers, news magazines and telenews leave with them the harrowing impression that Earth is fast becoming a planet of endangered species. We see gruesome pictures splashed in living color and descriptions of man's ruthless abuse of his physical environment and of his fellowmen. And often, we learn of whole racial groups dismembering their minority brothers and slaughtering whole sections of them.

Newsweek captioned 1992 as the year of fratricide. Following the collapse of Russian hegemony, several sub-ethnic groups within larger ethnic groups and nations that constituted the former Soviet Empire seized the opportunity to assert and reestablish their own separate identities. The Caucasus erupted with traditional Muslim intransigence. So did the Ukraine, with nationalist confrontation against her 21 percent Russian immigrants. Bosnia in the Balkans also blew up with bloody reprisals between the Serbs and the Croats of Yugoslavia. Similar events occurred as far east as Afghanistan.

A year later Asia Week saw 1993 as the year of peace-keeping deals. It bannered the picture of Rabin and Arafat as they clasped hands in Washington, D.C. following an agreement to end territorial

conflicts between Israel and Palestine. The English and the Irish came into agreement over control of Northern Ireland as did the Blacks and Whites of South Africa over Apartheid.

The year 1993 also saw the lowering of trade barriers between the industrialized and the less developed but resource-rich countries. This gave the impression of an improving world situation in at least the area of global brotherhood.

The year 1994 however continued to reel under the Bosnian, Afghanistan, and other ethnic conflicts. The United States and the United Nations were drawn in to try to sort out the bloody local upheavals in Somalia at the Horn of Africa and Haiti in the West Indies. And the Indian conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir smoldered on.

These are only the tips of several super active volcanoes of world problems. The massive deforestation of vital forest cover and the almost irreversible pollution of our environment are perhaps the most serious because their lethal effects are slow in coming and cover an incredibly large part of the Earth's surface, our only terrestrial habitat.

Even the children and the youth have not escaped the terrifying scourge of greed that has ruined over a million lives

Readers Forum

We are vessels

All of us are vessels of some sort. Some are made of gold or silver, others of wood and clay.

No matter what, we were all consecrated for greatness, designed by God to become distinguished vessels, dedicated to become useful to Him.

The first step to this life of usefulness and meaning lies in the wisdom of seeing the world inside-out, for us "to live outside of our minds."

To live outside of our minds is a grace in that we learn to look beyond life's aches and pains. Instead, we develop the wisdom and strength to be ourselves and become men for others. It is a grace that allows us to approach life with maturity, compassion and faith.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 states: God gives. God loves us. And He has consecrated us to greatness — to become vessels of great distinction.

Boy Javier
Parañaque Chapter

BCBP: Source of strength

My involvement in the BCBP has most influenced my life. The BCLP was a turning point for it gave me a renewed outlook towards my faith and my relationship with Jesus Christ.

It has encouraged me to pray and read the Scriptures daily. Service in the Brotherhood is also a source of spiritual strength and an opportunity to fulfill my Christian obligation, especially to evangelize others.

Rowena G. Odina
Quezon City Chapter



There is no pillow as soft as a clear conscience.

Readers Forum

In The Service Of God

*Long ago, I have known you, Lord,
But lived a life so differently
With worldly things in mind,
A life not so good anyway.*

*But you're a kind and loving
Master*

*Who didn't think twice to come
again,*

*Entered my life, forgive the wrongs
I've done.*

*Life changed so fast that I can't
comprehend.*

*And again, BCBP you did come
and bring*

*A call you made I can't forsake or
repudiate,*

*In the service of God, I am bound
to accept.*

*Thank you, Lord, for commission-
ing me in your crusade.*

*I know we're all closer than ever to
you now.*

*Thank you for bringing the
miracles manifested by our broth-
ers,*

*Our lives did become lighter,
clearer as days passed by,*

*We'll regret everything if you,
Lord, did not come.*

Don Banares
Legaspi Outreach

In The Marketplace



E.A. Mendoza
Greenhills Chapter

In Luke 4:18, Jesus proclaims freedom for the prisoners and release of the oppressed. Usually, when we think of Jesus setting us free, we think about how He is able to extricate us from our sinful ways, our sexual exploits, infidelities, drug abuse, hatefulness and deceit.

As businessmen, we too need Jesus to set us free — free from the oppressive bondage that has kept us trapped in our pursuit of livelihood and career, free from the slavery of our jobs.

Business bondage involves anything related to your business or career that interferes with your relationship with God or your family and is out of balance according to God's Word.

How can you recognize business bondage? Let me share some symptoms of this spiritual illness (adapted from Larry Burkett's book Business by the Book).

Symptom #1: This is the air of superiority, the feeling that you are self-made, that you did it all yourself, that your success was of your own doing. No one is self-made. Only the combined efforts of a great many people make anyone a success. And certainly it is the direct result of God's blessings.

Symptom #2: Overwork. Balance is key to freedom. Sometimes because of indulgences in luxuries, or because of a high lifestyle, we over-extend ourselves, and we have to work extra hard just to keep up with such expensive lifestyles. But the Lord commands us always to review our priorities and the amount of time we spend at work to see

Hostage Situation

if this is consistent with the balance that He desires.

Symptom #3: Excessive use of credit. Those of us who have carried the great burden of having to meet installment payments, or interest payments, know how this situation can haunt you, can steal your peace of mind, and can rob you of that simple joy of being thankful to God every day.

Symptom #4: Disorganization. This takes the form of laziness — laziness to establish and observe proper procedures of quality management, of time management, of maintenance, of training, and so on. The business literature abounds with so many noble ideas about improving productivity, efficiency, etc., yet people remain tied down to the easy, lazy way out.

Symptom 5: Get-rich=quick Mentality. First, you get involved in things you don't understand; then you risk funds (oftentimes borrowed) which you cannot afford to lose; finally you make hasty decisions. At the end of the day, all that lust for riches, spawned by the sin of greed, leaves a trail of broken homes, disgruntled creditors, and abandoned employees. Obviously this is not God's plan.

Jesus wants to set us free so that we will be able to love and serve God with all our hearts, minds, and strength. The moment you surrender yourself completely to Jesus, then you will be hostages no longer, and "God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Jesus Christ."

Eddie Mendoza sees the BCBP Greenhills Men's Breakfast (Thursday mornings at Club Filipino) as a forum for sharing the Christian business ethics he practices in his position as vice president and head of Corporate Planning of Phinma, one of the country's prestige corporations.



Rest in Peace

The late "Doc" Rod Boquiren, BCBP Las Piñas member, on a medical mission to the Aetas at Gala resettlement area, Zambales, March 12, 1995, only a week before he was hospitalized. "Doc" was called to our Lord's Kingdom April 4, 1995.

This is the letter of a daughter for her parents, given to them during Alabang chapter's 1994 BCMR.

November 8, 1994

Dearest Papi and Mommy-Ton,

A certain time comes when a crisis brings a person to the crossroad. You try and reach out but people look the other way, friends don't seem to be like they were before, and God seems somewhere else. It's the turning point in one's life where roads seem empty, making the journey longer and lonelier. But it's moments like these that make families stronger, true friendships foster, and without really looking, you find GOD... just look inside your heart. I'm so happy that you decided to take this retreat because it gives me this opportunity to share with you how I really feel about you.

Papi, please don't harden your heart, being bitter won't change anything or anyone but yourself.

They say Faith can move mountains, if you believe this, then you've taken the first step. Steps 2, 3 and so on will come easy. I guess it's easier said than done. I've done it, I too tackled my share of crises and you know who changed my heart? JESUS! He alone can get you out of this "mess", just don't stop reaching out and have faith because if God is with you, who can be against you?

Mommy-Ton, what can I say to the woman that loves my father unconditionally?...but, Thank You! No other person could have done a better job, you are Papi's strength and inspiration. I admire your patience, you are truly blessed with it. I pray that this retreat be like a "well" to you...a bottomless pit of love, patience, understanding and faith in Jesus.

And to the both of you, not only are you my parents, you are my friends. This retreat I lift you up to Jesus, my thoughts and prayers will be with you all through out each day and night. God bless you and Peace be with you always.

I Love You,
Lyn

My action group is my inspiration

When I was first assigned to an action group, I felt awkward initially. But as I got to learn more about the others, I became comfortable with them and soon began to love them. They are my inspiration — to stop smoking, to learn to play the guitar, to start that weight training program.

We share each other's strengths, honesty and warmth as well as our sad and happy experiences. My groupmates have become my source of wisdom and guidance. Because they have no ulterior motives or selfish designs, when they give me advice, I can take it to heart because it, too, comes from the heart.

Charisse Fortich
Cagayan de Oro Chapter

ON THE TIP ... from p. 4

in child prostitution in Asia alone and unknown millions of youth in drug addiction.

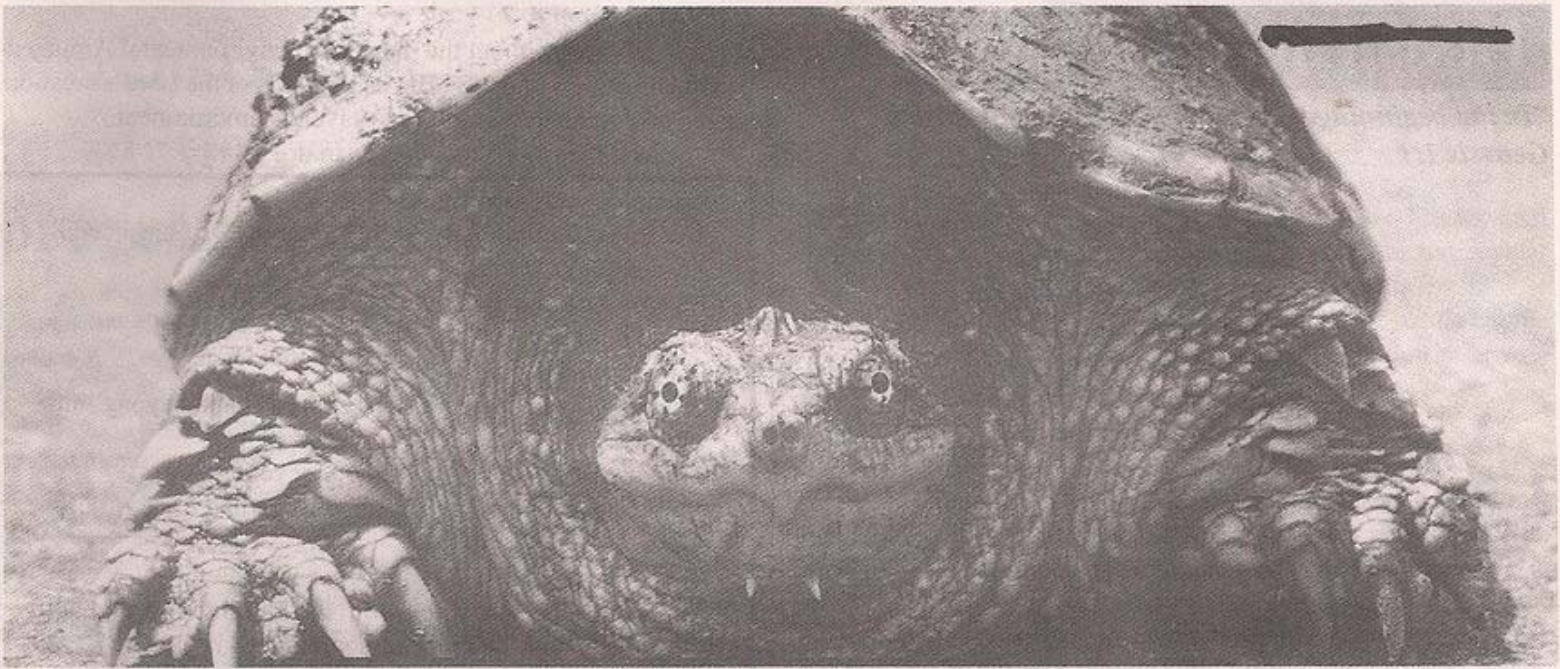
Our global society is sick.

Oddly the more "progressive" our ways, the less human we become. Every person and nation, from natural families to the family of nations so hog opportunities and gain that the rich become richer and the poor, poorer, and all less secure.

Now it appears from this global breakdown of neighborly concern and respect for one another's person, property and country that we still do not have the knowhow, the gumption (read that as "guts") and the will to engineer justice, peace and prosperity into our troubled world.

What is most distressing is that many of those of us who profess to be Christians — and there are over two billions of Christians in name — still have to benefit from the two millennia of backstopping volunteered to us by Christ so that we could gather to build for ourselves and our children a truly peaceful and provident world in His Name.

This is reality. The second reality is the answer to the nagging question: What are we doing about it?#



Facing the

Environmental Armageddon

Ver Sagun, Quezon City Chapter

Daily we hear about pollution, environmental concerns and global-warming. But how much do we really know about the Lord's creation, ecology, the ozone layer and the greenhouse effect?

Are you aware that biodegradable materials like food and leaves, when exposed to air, moisture, and bacteria or other organisms, break down decomposing into beneficial elements found in nature?

Do you know that many other materials do not decompose? That plastic containers, like those of bottled mineral waters that are widely retailed, when burned, add to air pollution and destruction of the ozone layer? This ozone layer is the invisible layer of gases that serves as the earth's natural sunscreen, filtering out up to ninety percent of harmful ultraviolet and cancer-causing rays from the sun.

Do you know that increased emission of gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, expand the density of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere thereby causing global temperature to rise? Based on the "Climate Change in Asia" study made by the Asian Development Bank, the unabated rise in global temperature accelerates the rise of the level of sea waters due to the melting of glaciers caused by thermal swelling of the upper layers of the ocean.

The ADB-initiated study further states that "a 90-centimeter upsurge of the sea level in the Philippines would lead to

inundation of small islands, some portions of the reclaimed areas in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, some districts of Manila and Manila Bay shoreline areas, and the Laguna de Bay lakeshore areas.

This matter was addressed during the Asia Pacific Leaders Conference on Climate Change in February this year in Manila. Earlier, President Fidel V. Ramos had issued Proclamation No. 522 declaring January 1, 1995 to December 31, 2005 as "Philippine Environment Decade" in order to make the Filipino people more environment-conscious.

Sen. Heherson Alvarez, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Convening Chairman of said conference, when asked to comment

on the rising global sea level and its potential effect on the country's 7,000 islands, averred:

"Must history repeat itself? The Bible is also history, and maybe Noah was an environmentalist who prodded the people to build an ark to save the world. But nobody listened. As we all know, the Great Flood came and only Noah and his family survived, together with the animals that they had rounded up."

Alvarez warned that "if we don't do anything, the Great Flood might come again." He concluded: "Unless the collective determination of peoples and nations are harnessed to avert climate change, an irreversible threshold may be reached that could bring about slow, man-made destruction of life on earth."

Did you know that we are living in the Philippine Environment Decade? With the dangers of an environmental Armageddon facing us, Ver Sagun calls upon us to do what we can to protect and be responsible stewards of the Lord's creation.

Take The First Step

*"In the beginning, God created heaven and earth."
Genesis 1:1*

Before God created man
on the sixth day,
He created Mother Earth first —
the vast open sky, the deep blue sea,
the bountiful soil,
lush forests and greenery,
and the countless varieties of
marine and wild life species.

By saving that which God has given man,
we can ensure life and legacy
for the generations to come.

Through our own first steps,
we can honor God's supreme first step.
Our own first steps, however humble,
can go a long way...
in saving nature...in saving lives.

First Steps You Can Take

- The seeds you plant now will sustain and nourish lives later.
- Keep beaches and water bodies garbage-free to ensure the life of our marine resources.
- Use both sides of a sheet of paper. When you can, use recycled paper. Simple steps...but they help preserve trees.
- Reduce air pollution. It is good for the earth and for your lungs, too.
- Help your children appreciate nature's greatness so they will desire to protect Nature for their future.
- The water you save now can quench life's thirst in the future.

*Taken from a 1995 desk calendar of Glaxo Philippines.
Contributed by BCBP Cebu.*

Did you know that ...

- A 5-minute shower uses about 100 liters of water or 1/5 of the water you use when taking a complete bath? So take showers instead of baths. Better yet, use a dipper and pail to save even more precious water.
- A dripping faucet wastes about 75 liters of water in one day?
- 19 out of 57 major watershed areas in the Philippines are in a critical state of denudation? Denudation of remaining forests occurs at 210,000 ha. annually?
- 13 provinces are already severely eroded? Damage to farmlands due to soil erosion is \$300 Million per year?
- Ideally, the forest cover for the country should be 54% of its land area? The Philippine forest cover is now only about 20%? Only the island of Palawan still has adequate forest cover?

FACING ... from p. 7

With or without the dangers of environmental Armageddon, the members of the BCBP, as stewards of the Lord's creation, should take it upon themselves to save the environment.

Here are some things we can do:

- Compost your food scraps.
- Use things until they are really worn out. No conspicuous consumption, please!
- Buy milk and juice in returnable glass bottles.
- Avoid plastics.
- Use recycled paper.
- Reuse bags and containers. Become a "balik bayong" enthusiast.
- Organize or join a neighborhood recycling group.
- Always take a litter bag if you are spending the day outdoors.
- Never throw rubbish out of the car windows.
- Approach a person when you see him littering and tell him politely that he dropped something. If he refuses to pick it up and dispose of it properly, why don't you show him how?
- Pick up litter even if it isn't yours.
- Minimize the use of styrofoam, airconditioning units, aerosols and other aerosol products like spray net.

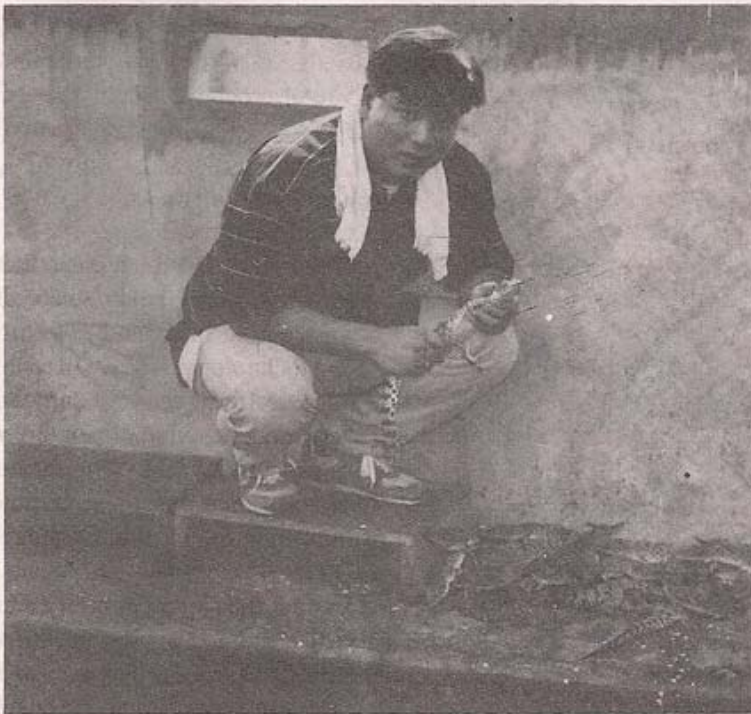
Each year more than 450,000 tons of lead are released into the air. More than half of this is from cars. Here are some reminders for motorists:

- Slow down and save gas. Consumption increases with speed. A speed reduction from 100 kph to 80 kph can result in a 25 percent reduction in fuel.
- Inflate your tires to the correct pressure to reduce both petrol consumption and wear on tires.
- Check that you are not carrying unnecessary loads. The more weight in the car, the more fuel you use.
- Don't drive with your foot on the brake because you use more fuel and create unnecessary stress on your vehicle.
- Don't overfill your gas tank; it will only be lost through the overflow pipe.

President Ramos' declaration of a Philippine Environment Decade is very timely as it coincides with the country's gearing up for Philippines 2000. This development program envisions industrial estates and export processing zones mushrooming nationwide. History buffs will remember that the pollution of the environment in Europe began during its Industrial Revolution. This was the time when tremendous volumes of smoke and carbon dioxide started spreading into the air.

Let us make the thanksgiving prayer in the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help our heartfelt prayer even as we actively exercise our stewardship of God's creation:

Through you, Jesus, we thank the Eternal Father for the gift of life. He has created all the wonderful things of this world for us. May we learn to use them well so that through them, we may grow in love for Him.#



CFI Director Dr. Gerardo V. Ortega with some of the farm-bred saltwater crocodiles.

It is not true that crocodilians are greedy, selfish and opportunistic animals as they are so often referred to in comparison with corrupt politicians, greedy businessmen and selfish athletes! In fact, it is an insult to the crocs when they are compared to such unscrupulous people.

It is also not true that crocodiles seek out and eat humans. Humans are not part of the crocodilian diet. They cannot distinguish humans from other animals. The reptiles, similar to most other reptiles and animals, only attack when they are hungry, for self-defense, to protect their nest, eggs or hatchlings or to protect their territory.

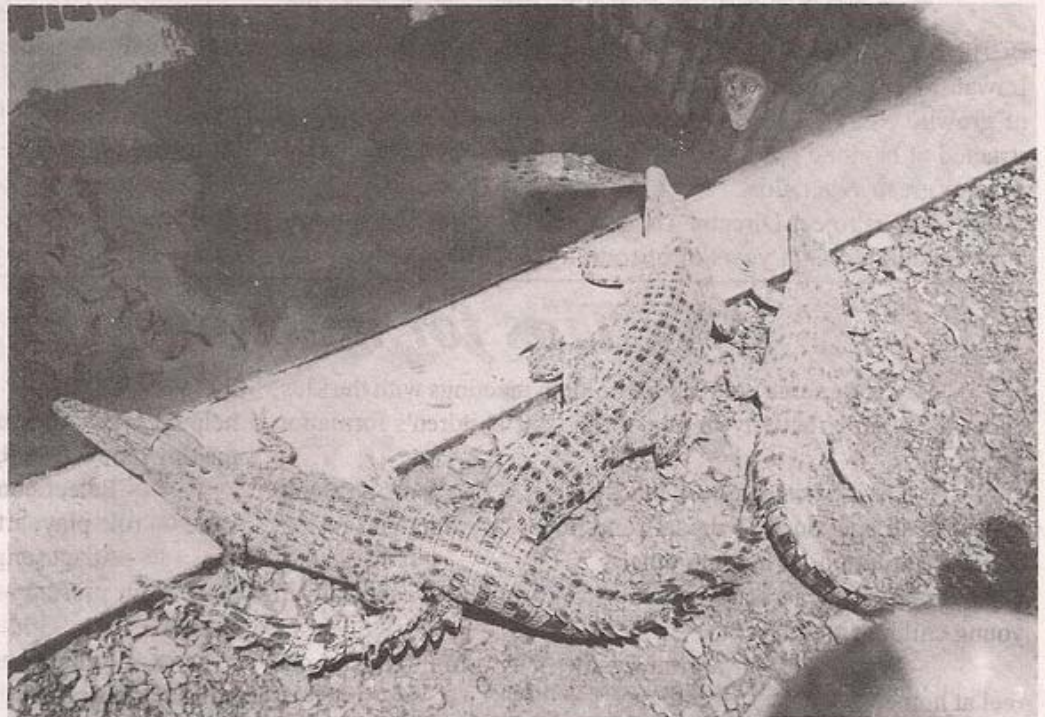
It is also not true that crocodiles kill and eat everything in sight. They usually subsist on fish, frogs, birds and small mammals, eating a little once or twice weekly. Contrary to popular belief, they are not voracious eaters. Due to a most efficient metabolism and remarkable digestive system, a young crocodile can survive for as long as four months without eating while a large crocodilian weighing close to one ton can last up to two years between meals!

Crocodile. The mere mention of the word evokes fear and malice in most people's hearts and minds. In addition to the above misconceptions, superstitious

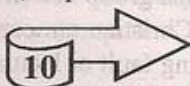
Adopt A Crocodile



No, we're not kidding! This is one way all you ecology-conscious people can help, even in a small way, conserve the environment. Nancy R. Catan, who visited the Crocodile Farming Institute in Irawan, Puerto Princesa City several months ago, dispels common misconceptions and encourages us to take a closer look at the world's only living remnant of the Dinosaur Age. Read on ...



Contented crocodiles sun themselves at the Crocodile Farming Institute.



Men often make up in wrath what they want in reason. - W. R. Alger.

ADOPT A CROC... from p. 9

rural folk perceive them as witches and bearers of bad omens.

And yet these reptiles are the only remnants of the Dinosaur Age having lived largely unchanged for over 200 million years now. They are windows to the past. Our children avidly study dinosaurs. Why not introduce them to a living dinosaur — the crocodile?

The crocodile plays a vital role in the ecosystem of their natural habitat and in the food chain. They are also important economically as their hide is the most durable in the world for excellent bags, wallets, shoes and leather products.

Recent studies have proven the medicinal qualities of crocodile oil as an antidote for asthma, skin ulcers, burns and even baldness. And — all you gourmets take note — their meat is a delicacy and commands a high price in specialty restaurants abroad!

It is therefore sad to find out that the Philippine crocodile population has been classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as in immediate danger of extinction.

To prevent the further decline of our local crocodile population, the Crocodile Farming Institute (CFI) was created on August 20, 1987 as a special project of the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources.

When my husband and I, together with Fuji Rodriguez of BCBP Puerto Princesa, visited the ten-hectare land in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa, Palawan, we saw crocodiles in all stages of growth. Surprisingly the actual raising pens are simply constructed of bamboo poles surrounding shallow concrete pools and plots of green vegetation.

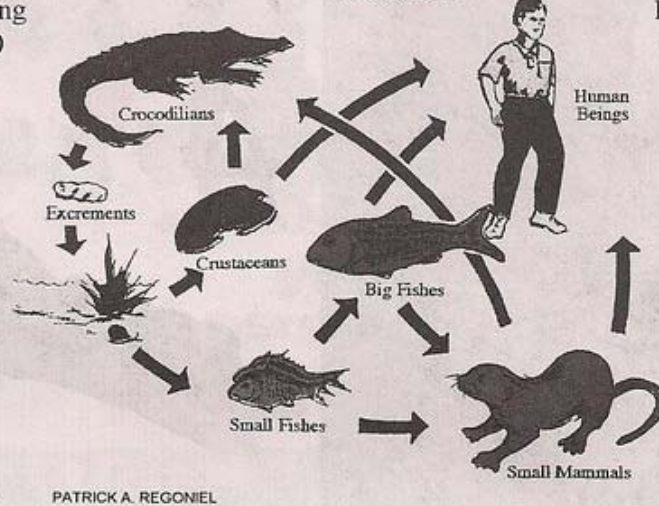
CFI Project Director Dr. Gerardo V. Ortega happily reported that after eight years of operation the CFI has successfully

bred and farm-raised 83% of its croc population.

In fact of its total crocodile population of 2,547 (727 *Crocodylus mindorensis* and 1,820 *Crocodylus porosus*), only 17% were acquired from the wild, the others are all farm-bred.

Five qualified pilot crocodile farmers are now being selected for training in crocodile farming technology. They will each receive 100 1-year old Saltwater crocodiles annually for three consecutive years. The farmers will then rear these crocodiles up to the ideal harvest age of 3 1/2 - 4 years or about 2 meters long under the supervision of CFI. CFI will buy back all the produce under a profit-sharing scheme.

FOOD CHAIN



PATRICK A. REGONIEL

“If you have a poultry business, this is a good way to dispose of your culls and dead birds,” remarked Fuji who has applied to be a crocodile farmer. “And the profit picture looks very good, too,” he said as he pointed out that the sustainable utilization of farm-bred crocodiles is now a multi-million dollar industry in Australia, Thailand, and Zimbabwe.

About to be launched this year is the Adopt A Crocodile Program wherein people will be given a chance to rear a one-year old Saltwater crocodile at home. Ortega is especially encouraging businessmen to adopt one of these original dinosaurs.

“This can be an ideal learning experience for you and your children. This is one way you can participate in the conservation and sustainable utilization of a renewable natural resource,” he says.

You may contact Director Ortega at the Crocodile Farming Institute for more information on how to adopt a crocodile or become a crocodile farmer. If you are in Palawan, stop by the Institute and join a tour of the facility. You will find it very interesting, educational and a source of business ideas. I did. -Nancy R. Catan

Tips for meeting with kids

Here are some pointers for holding meetings with the kids, either as a family activity or as part of your children's formation activities.

- Design activities around a theme. Consider topics with appeal to all ages such as dreams and hopes, winning and losing, conflict resolution, or helping others.
- Change an activity every 15-20 minutes, especially if young children are present.
- Warm up with a group game or two to help everyone feel at home.
- Include a news time for sharing important happenings of

the week, especially from the children. This is a great chance to help them feel they belong and to get recognition for a lost tooth, making a new friend, and scoring a basketball goal.

- Select concrete over abstract activities whenever possible — role play, art projects, etc.
- Adapt songs, games, and questions to include the youngest person present — include crazy songs along with Christian songs.
- Remember this group activity is to promote fellowship and relationships in a Christian atmosphere. It is not a time for airing grievances, finding fault or lectures.

The underdeveloped bit of property with the greatest potential is still between the ears.

There is a 100-headed monster loose in the world today that is unlike any force the world has ever seen. This monster is the media!" So stated Fr. James Reuter in his talk before the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals during their 15th Anniversary celebration on May 13 in Cebu.

He observed that although media has made us one world in outlook, it has also distorted our values, especially the values of the young people. But he believes that media is now beginning to realize its faults and shows signs of turning back to the values of God and the Gospel.

Media today, particularly television, is equated with show business and entertainment to the point where young viewers may have a hard time distinguishing between the real and the reel world. It is recognized as the strongest educational force in the world, he said.

Fr. Reuter discussed the three formation forces of character as home, school and church. However, he cited evidence that the 4th force of media is now stronger than all the other three put together.

He likened the media audience to a frog that is immersed in a jar of water. Degree by degree the temperature of the water is increased over an extended period of time until the frog happily swims in scalding water. We have been immersed in media sex and violence, soap opera family life and distorted social values to the point of immunity and acceptance, he believes.

Whereas Catholic education stresses intellect and will in learning the truth, media teaches by appealing to one's emotions and feelings. "When you feel it, just do it!" The media's dictum that you can live on your emotions is a lie, Fr. Reuter said.

He demonstrated how media teaches non-verbally by images and vibrations by playing musical selections with the BCBP audience identifying the different scenes and characters of people from the "vibrations". He also showed several film clips taken from recent T.V. programs that clearly proved his thesis that media conditions us to accept sex and violence.

"Our only hope now is strong internal conviction," he said. "We cannot defend our eyes and ears from media as it is all around us." He encouraged everyone to strengthen their values based on the values of God in the Gospel for from God's values come JOY, from the world's values spring DESPAIR.

Fr. Reuter ended his talk by saying that he believes the media is slowly turning back to the values of God. He appealed to the BCBP brothers and sisters to be vigilant in analyzing media, in writing letters to media, in using what is good and rejecting what is bad, and in taking control of their children's value formation.

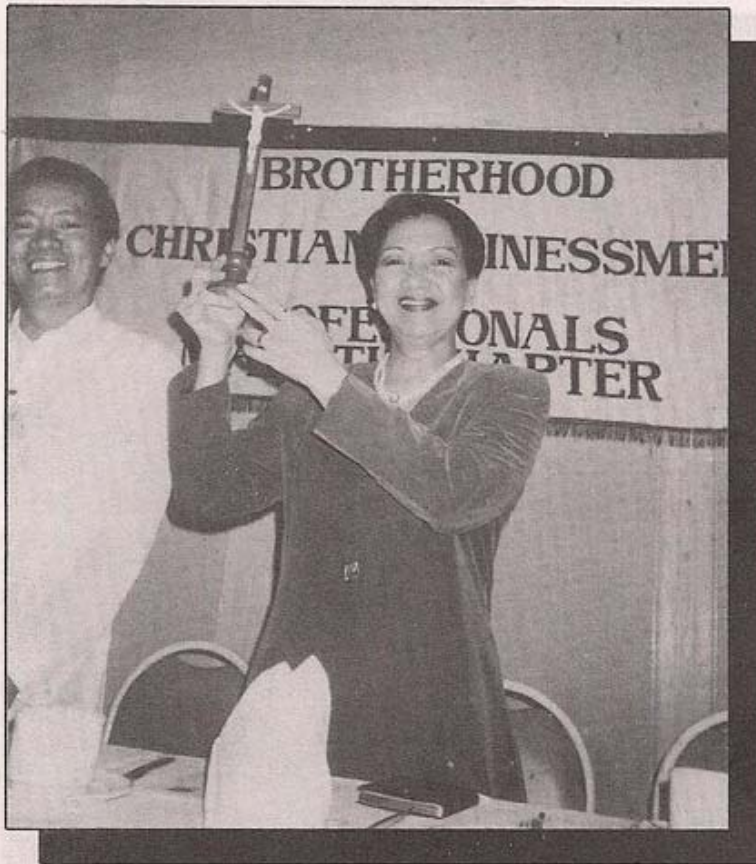
"We must teach values by what we are," he explained. "Media can be a channel of grace if we use it properly. But media will not change unless and until we, ourselves, get involved in the change." -Nancy R. Catan



Upper photo. Fr. James Reuter speaks about media as a 100-headed monster during the 15th Anniversary celebration of BCBP in Cebu. Lower photo shows a portion of the audience during his talk.

Media: A 100-Headed Monster

In his talk during the BCBP's 15th Anniversary Celebration on May 13 in Cebu City, Fr. James Reuter, well-known educator, discussed the media monster, its effect on character and value systems and its repercussions on society. Nancy R. Catan summarizes his provoking discourse in this article.



The Lord's Cross Is Her Sword

On March 22 Liwayway Chato, Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, shared during the BCBP's Grand Breakfast at the Makati Sports Club. An active member of Couples for Christ, she told of her renewal experience and her joys and griefs as BIR Commissioner. The reflections that follow have been gleaned from her sharing with the prayer that they will serve as inspiration to BCBP members to actively proclaim God's Word in their respective marketplace.

In the 80's when Liwayway Chato, in her 30's with a husband and four children, discovered lumps under her jawbone, in her neck and armpit, she decided not to have a biopsy but to look for spiritual healing. She began to pray and go to mass daily.

She remembers it as a reminder from the Lord. "When I realized I could lose my life any time, I put the Lord in the center of my life." The lumps later turned out to be non-malignant and she continued her journey with the Lord with the support of the charismatic organization Couples for Christ.

* * * * *

Her appointment to the Bureau of Internal Revenue came during the time when she and her husband were handling a Christian Life Program. As circumstances turned out, she only assumed office once the Christian Life Program was finished.

* * * * *

Encountering the myriads of problems and difficulties in undertaking reforms in the BIR, Liwayway Chato continually sought refuge and counsel in the Lord. The Lord's assurances came to her through her scripture readings and the daily readings in the Holy Mass.

The Lord comforted her with "your sorrow will turn into joy" and assured her of His guidance with "I am sending you like a lamb among the wolves..."

During another difficult time, the Lord strengthened her with his promise in Joshua 1:9. "I command you: be firm and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go."

* * * * *

She believes "when you are open to proclaiming the Lord, He will give you the opportunities to do so" and she cited several examples. "A part of God's blessings to us is giving us the opportunity to share His Word," she said.

* * * * *

She related how the Lord gave her His cross as her sword during a prophecy workshop. As she was praying what she termed "the most powerful prayer — Lord, I love you!", she felt a soft breeze and these words were impressed upon her heart. "No evil shall touch you for I am with you." And yet again, "I am giving you my cross as your sword."

Shortly after the prayers, she saw the cross of St. Francis hanging on the wall. This cross followed her to London; it was the first thing she saw as she entered Westminster Abbey for mass.

During the first values integration program at the BIR, Liwayway Chato entered the seminar room to give the keynote talk. The first thing she saw hanging on the wall of the room was the cross of St. Francis. Her keynote talk became a sharing and proclamation of the Word.

The message? To rebuild His church, to renew the BIR for the Lord. Why? If the BIR that is infamous for its tax collection techniques can turn back to Christ, then other government agencies and the government as a whole can really be Christianized!

How can this be done? By being bold in proclaiming the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ in every marketplace, on every occasion, and with joy and confidence in His mighty power! - N.R.C.

God's harvest in Bohol politics

Governor and Vice Governor

The province of Bohol, Central Visayas, is now governed by two young public servants who are members of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. The newly elected governor of Bohol is Rene Relampagos while his running mate Edgar Chatto is the vice-governor. They are both graduates of Tagbilaran's BCLP 3. They ran under the Laban coalition.

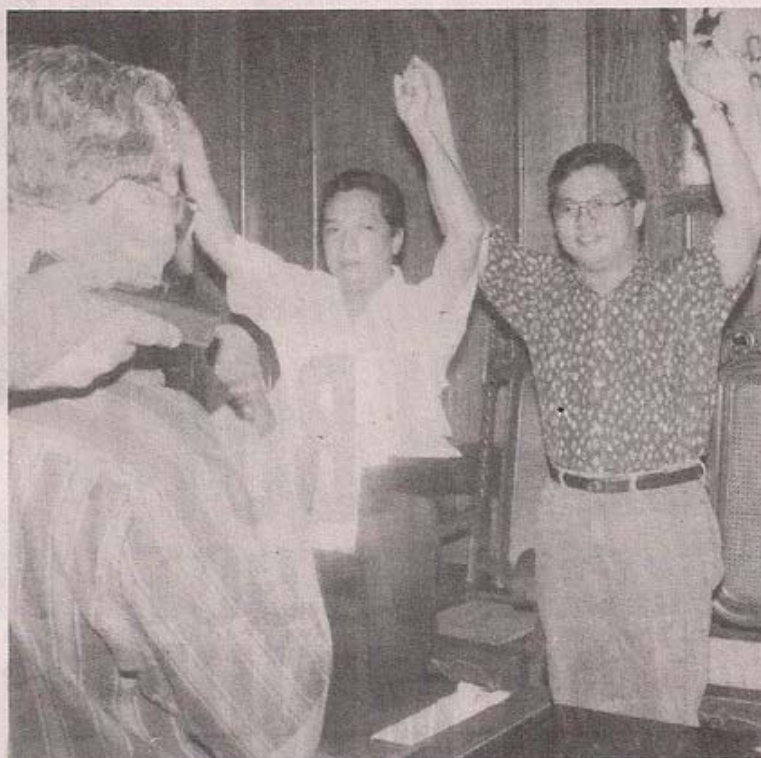
They had a sweeping victory during the last May 8 polls. Relampagos, 31, deposed a 61-year old politician, the incumbent Gov. David Tirol with an unprecedented margin of 57,158 votes. Chatto, 34, reaped an even bigger margin of 142,424 votes against his opponent, businessman Gary Casal.

The new Bohol governor confided that he later knew that an intercessory group was keeping a nightly prayer vigil in his parents' residence, and that three days before election day, they went on a 24-hour prayer vigil.

BCBP Tagbilaran chapter head Peter Dejaresco says that with the election of the two top Bohol officials, it seems the Lord is directing the mission team of the chapter to conduct a Brotherhood Evangelization Program (BEP) at the provincial capitol where some 1,300 employees work.

Mayors and Councilors, too

Aside from Relampagos and Chatto, the newly elected



Governor-elect Rene Relampagos (right) and Vice Governor-elect Edgar Chatto (left), both BCBP Tagbilaran member, during their proclamation at the Bohol Provincial Capitol by Comelec Supervisor Max Cempron.

Tagbilaran City Vice Mayor George Cabalit is also an active BCBP member.

In his testimony two days after the election during a BCBP prayer assembly, he said that before every political rally, he sought God's guidance on what to say. In every speech he included God's powerful words.

Cabalit won a surprising victory over the incumbent vice mayor, a wealthy businesswoman. While other campaigners in the city used convoys of cars, Cabalit rode his Yamaha motorcycle. He even sometimes hitched rides in other candidates' cars.

Other BCBP members elected in the political arena in Bohol include: Olegario "Ondoy" Clarin, Jr. — mayor of Loay town; Ondoy Tugonon — Vice Mayor of Corella.

BCBP members Edi Borja and George Lao were reelected to the Tagbilaran City council. Councilors Tony Sabugaa and Jun Tan were also reelected Loay town "kagawads".#

The "Ethics Check" Questions

1. Is it legal?

Will I be violating either civil or company policy, company mission and vision, or company code of ethics?

2. Is it balanced?

Is it fair to all concerned in the short term as well as the long term? Does it promote win-win relationships?

3. How will it make me feel about myself?

Will it make me proud? Would I feel good if my decision was published in the newspaper? Would I feel good if my family knew about it? Would I feel good if my parish priest or pastor knew about it?

*Excerpt from the book **The Power of Ethical Management** by Norman Vincent Peale and Kenneth Blanchard, Fawcett Crest, N.Y., 1988.*

OH BOY! I'VE GOT 30-MINUTES FREE IN MY CELLPHONE!



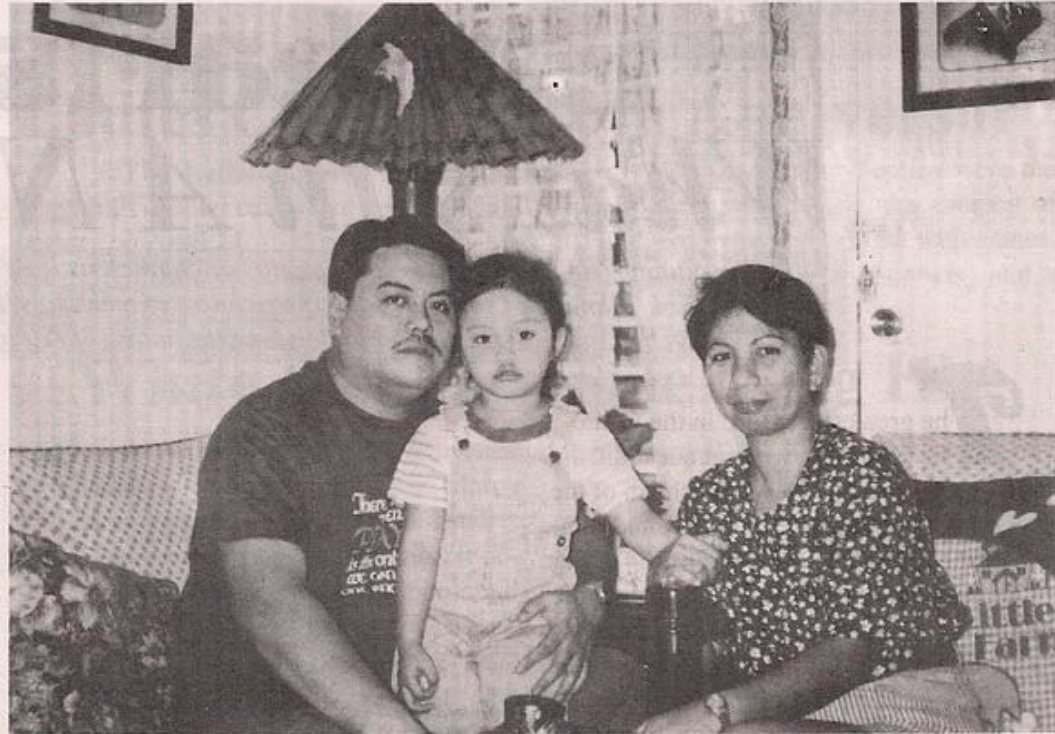
It's for real! The bill's on us! If you're a Plan 1 or Plan 2 subscriber and you own your phone, you're rewarded with the first-30-minutes of FREE calls (Local and NDD anytime, anyday). Enjoy it every month! It's our way of saying "Ihaaaaaank you" for staying with us all these years!



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*Noli and Bong Tiongson,
Quezon City Chapter*

We are often told that God has prepared a plan for us, that we must accept His will for us and obey Him. But this is not always easy to do. Noli and Bong Tiongson share with us how they reacted to the Lord's call for them to serve Him through the BCBP. Presently they lead a Quezon City chapter unit.



We Learned To Accept His Will And Serve Him

Noli: After being unemployed for some time and doing different jobs (selling slippers and blankets as sidewalk vendor in a Batangas market, for instance) I was hired as a clerk in a local recruitment agency in July of 1985. One month later we were invited to attend a meeting of businessmen in Kalookan City. Thinking of a possible business opportunity, I accepted and went. It was the start of a 12-week Brotherhood Christian Life Program (BCLP).

I thought I would not be able to continue because I have to work on Saturdays. But two days after the first session, I was terminated from my job without any valid reason. It was hard at first to accept His will — the BCLP in exchange for my livelihood. But when we did, a week before our baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Lord blessed me with a new job with even better pay.

Bong: As a young girl I aspired for the good things in life, probably because of the poor financial condition of our family. I had many plans — a good job, a husband and children. But after an unhappy love affair that hurt me very much, I deleted marriage from my vocabulary but swore to myself that I would have a child by any means. So I programmed it and set my plan.

Noli and I worked in the same office, we became good friends, and I looked at him to fulfill my plan. We entered into a “no commitment” relationship but after a year, I still was not pregnant. Then I lost my job and we were both jobless.

Upon reflection we realized that maybe we should get married as we felt that it was the only sure way we could seek forgiveness from the Lord. So we had a very simple church wedding, no gown, no barong, no entourage ... very simple. And then God began to work in our lives and introduced us to the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals.

Noli: Our lives gradually changed as we became aware of the need of constantly converting our lives to a life of service that gives glory to His name. Before my renewal I had experienced how to have lots of money and then to suddenly have nothing at all. I had experienced how to wrongfully rely on drugs; now I became totally dependent on God. Before I was so proud of myself, now I had to learn how to be gentle and humble in spirit. Little by little Bong and I learned to love each other and to forgive our families and friends for the hurts they had caused us.

Bong: Then in March 1986 God answered our prayers; I became pregnant. At that time I was anemic, had low blood pressure and only weighed 77 lbs. Our action group sisters who, incidentally, were also all pregnant, prayed every time we met for a safe, normal delivery ... preferably a baby girl, please, Lord.

The baby was a girl but she was still born. This was a big blow to me. God knew my desire, my longing to have a child, why did this happen?

Eucharist: What's In A Name?

A name usually expresses some quality or characteristic of the person, place or thing that is named. Nancy R. Catan says that the richness of meanings in the various names given the Holy Eucharist can help us better understand the nature of this most important Sacrament.

The greatest treasure in the Catholic Church is, without question, the Holy Eucharist. The New Catechism of the Catholic Church calls it "the source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324). For in this sacrament is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, the person of Jesus Christ Himself, present in our midst yesterday, today and tomorrow.

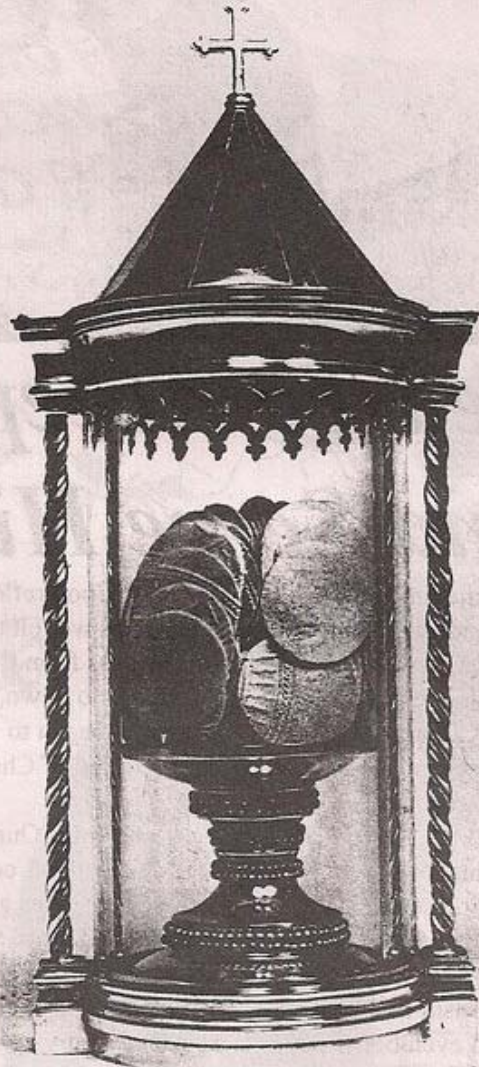
We meet Jesus in the Eucharist during the Holy Mass. We are intimately united with His Real Presence during Holy Communion. He remains ever present in the Tabernacle and in Perpetual Adoration Chapels where we can visit Him and spend time at His feet.

This does not mean to say, however, that Jesus can only be found in the churches and adoration chapels. We ourselves are the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16) and He is present in us at all times. But we know Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist in a very special and intimate manner, in a physical way in the Host. This physical Presence we can more clearly comprehend than we can the concept of an unseen Divinity.

We can better understand the richness of this Sacrament by reflecting on some of the different names it is given.

EUCCHARIST.

The Greek words *eucharistein* and *eulogein* come from the Jewish ceremony of blessing during meals where the blessings both praise and thank God for the good which He has given all men. This act of thanksgiving to God proclaims the wholeness of God's works — creation, redemption and sanctification. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is then a ceremony of thanksgiving.



Consecrated Hosts stolen from the Basilica of St. Francis in Sienna in the year 1730, then found, and now venerated in the same church. The Hosts have remained fresh and incorrupt for over 250 years, in contrast to the deterioration of unconsecrated hosts kept in the same conditions. The Hosts have been recognized by many popes and adored by many distinguished pilgrims, including St. John Bosco and Pope John XXIII.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Jesus instituted this sacrament during the supper on the eve of his Passion. By this decisive act in which He entrusts to food the eternal value of His redemptive death, Jesus consummated and established for all ages this homage of Himself and of everything to God as an essential part of His work of salvation (Dictionary of Biblical Theology). The name "Lord's Supper" also anticipates the wedding feast of the Lamb in the heavenly Jerusalem.

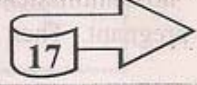
THE HOLY SACRIFICE.

There are several terms involving "sacrifice" associated with the Eucharist. It is called "holy" as the ceremony was instituted by Jesus Himself. The terms "holy sacrifice", "sacrifice of praise", "spiritual sacrifice" recall all the sacrifices of the Old Covenant that are completed and united into this one act of New Covenant sacrifice. As St. Paul tells us in Hebrews, chapters 9 and 10, "but now once for all he has appeared ... to take away sin by his sacrifice."

HOLY COMMUNION.

Close your eyes. Imagine that you are reclining at the table of the Last Supper. Jesus talks with you, He gazes into your eyes, He listens to you. He reaches over and touches your arm to emphasize the point He is talking about. He understands because He loves you; you try to understand Him because you love Him.

This is what we mean by "communion" — a sharing of love, intimate conversation, a participation in each other's life. And it is this intimate coming together between us and Jesus that happens as we receive Him in the moment of Holy Communion during the Mass.



The term "Holy Communion" takes on an even larger aspect when we consider the universal Church. It is through this sacrament we become one with the entire Body of Christ, His Church. Our prayers, our love and our faith are united with other Catholics throughout the world in the Eucharistic celebration. From this we have the first meaning of the phrase "communion of saints" — a gathering and sharing in love of all of God's people.

MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT.

We speak of the Eucharist as the Most Blessed Sacrament because we acknowledge that it is the Sacrament of sacraments. All the other sacraments, although important parts of our Christian pilgrimage, plus all the various works of the religious and lay apostolates are oriented toward and bound up in the Eucharist.

As Christians we are followers of Christ. To follow Him, we must know Him. It is with the graces received in the intimate union with Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist that we can increase in faith and wisdom, love and commitment to Him. These graces then strengthen us for our work in His service.

BREAD OF LIFE, BREAKING OF BREAD.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus spoke about the importance of food. We read of the multiplication of loaves and fish, of meals eaten with the Pharisees, with the disciples, with Martha and Mary. We ponder on the richness of His "Bread of Life" message in John, chapter 6, and His discourse during the Last Supper.

Even Jesus' resurrection appearance in Galilee (John 21) was centered on fishing, having breakfast, and His instructions to Peter to "feed my lambs...feed my sheep."

Today Jesus remains concerned about our need for food in order to survive — earthly food to nourish our bodies and, particularly, spiritual food to nourish our souls. Jesus continues to personally feed us each time we participate in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

HOLY MASS.

The term "Mass" stems from the word "Missa" or "Missio" which refers to "a sending out, or going forth". The Liturgy of the Eucharist concludes with the sending forth of the faithful so that they may fulfill God's will in their daily lives.

It is not enough that we are intimate with Jesus, that we grow in wisdom and love. The mystery of salvation is not meant to be kept to oneself. We must go forth and proclaim Christ to others as He has commanded us (Matthew 28:19-20).

SACRED MYSTERIES.

Whatever name we refer to this Sacrament by, the fact



Miracle of the crucifix and chalice at Regensburg. A priest offering Mass wondered about the Real Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist when suddenly one of the hands of Christ detached itself from the crucifix and removed the chalice from his hands.

remains that its depth of meaning is inexhaustible. It is even referred to as the **Sacred Mysteries**.

When I was a new convert to Catholicism, I tried and tried to understand, by intellect, reason and logic, just what was meant by this phrase "Sacred Mysteries". The more I studied, it seemed the less I understood.

Finally, I realized that in the word "mystery" is revealed the secret of faith. I was not meant to understand — that is why it is a mystery. I just need to accept the mystery in faith, in the faith that God will reveal it to me bit by bit as I become ready to receive such enlightenment.

And so I receive in faith the gift of Jesus' Presence in the Eucharist with the prayer for Him to increase and strengthen my faith. **-Nancy R. Catan**

VENUES

FREE PALAWAN

MEN'S BREAKFASTS (7:30 a.m.)

Wednesdays

MAKATI: Makati Sports Club, Makati, MM

Thursdays

GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills

Fridays

MANILA: Chateau 1771, Adriatico St., Malate, Mla.

Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club

BACOLOD: La Salle, Bacolod City

BAGUIO: Palace Hotel, Legarda Road, Baguio

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Paolo's Ristorante, Cagayan de Oro City

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

DAVAO: Sunburst Restaurant (1st/3rd Sats.)

DUMAGUETE: OK Pensione House (1st/3rd Sats.)

ILIGAN: Pinausukan (2nd, 4th Sats.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel

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

LAPULAPU: Cesar's Mansion, Lapulapu Cebu, (2nd/4th Sats.)

*LEGASPI: Bistro Albay - Legaspi City (2nd Sat.)

MAASIN: Tomas Oppus Elem. Sch., Leyte (1st Sat.)

*NAGA: Grand Imperial Hotel (2nd/4th Sats.)

PARAÑAQUE: Kamlung Rest. - Pres. Ave. BF Parañaque

PUERTO PRINCESA: Kamayan Restaurant

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill, 119 Roces Ave. near cor. Morato

*SAN FERNANDO: Celebrity Rest. San Fernando Pampanga (1st/3rd) Sat.

RIZAL: (Cainta Outreach) Cafe Vicente, Imelda Ave, Cainta.

TACLOBAN: Payag Kawayan Restaurant (2nd/4th Sats.)

TAGBILARAN: Mel's Kainan (2nd/4th Sats.)

* *Newly Opened*

Upper photo: Alex Espiritu shares at Manila Breakfast. Right: The Palawan Music Ministry renders praise songs at a joint breakfast.



MEN'S LUNCHEON (12:00 noon)

Saturdays

DAGUPAN: Pinkee's Restaurant



"Come and break bread with me."



Knowledge is power, but enthusiasm pulls the switch.



Left photo: Teks and Nena Espiritu share at Alabang joint breakfast. Below: Jun and Nancy Catan sharing at Dumaguete joint breakfast.

MEN'S MERIENDA (4:00 p.m.)

Saturdays

TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn's Restaurant (2nd, 4th Sats.)

LADIES' BREAKFASTS (7:30 a.m.)

Wednesdays

MAKATI: Makati Sports Club (2nd Wed.)

Saturdays

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

BACOLOD: Cozy Nook Restaurant (2nd Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Paolo's Ristorante (2nd/3rd Sats.)

CEBU: Nang Masa Rest. (1st/3rd Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: Shakey's Rest. Pres. Ave., BF Parañaque

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (2nd Sat.)

LADIES' LUNCHEON (12:00 noon)

Mondays

GREENHILLS: Makati Skyline, Greenhills (3rd Mon.)

JOINT BREAKFASTS (7:30 a.m.)

Wednesdays

MAKATI: Makati Sports Club. (1st Wed.)

Thursdays

GREENHILLS: Club Filipino (1st Thurs.)

Saturdays

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

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court (3rd Sat.)

CAINTA: Brian's Restaurant, Marcos H'way (3rd Sat)

DAGUPAN: Pinkee's Restaurant (3rd Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (1st Sat.)

LEGASPI: Bistro Albay (4th Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: Kamlung Rest. Pres. Ave. BF (2nd. Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill. (4th Sat)

JOINT MERIENDA

Saturdays

CAVITE/LA NAVAL: NAVSHIP Managers Club, Ft. San Felipe, Cavite City

**"Fear not
for I am
with you."**



VENUES

If peace can not be maintained with honor, it is no longer peace. - Lord Russell

Manny Banigan, BCBP National President, cited seven significant milestones attained during the past year by the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals.

The first National Men's Breakfast was held in September 1994 at the Intercontinental Hotel Manila with President Fidel V. Ramos as the sharer. The affair was well attended by captains of industry.

Two national planning and evaluation workshops for chapter and outreach leaders were successfully conducted, the first being held after the 14th anniversary celebration in DAP, Pasig, the second took place in Cagayan de Oro last November.

The KAPATIRAN has graduated from a newsletter to a news magazine with a full-time staff to be better able to serve the BCBP brothers and sisters throughout the archipelago.

The national BCBP office moved to new quarters in Legaspi village.



BCBP president Manny Banigan (third from left) sings along with the rest of the bunch during the anniversary celebration in Cebu City. In his speech, Manny cited seven significant milestones attained in the past years by BCBP.

A Year Full Of Milestones

Two new chapters, Parañaque and Cagayan de Oro, were established and four more outreaches progressed to chapters-in-training and are expected to become full chapters within this year. They are Tagbilaran, Cainta, Puerto Princesa and Iloilo.

70 youth from Las Piñas chapter and Bacolod's ACTS II actively participated in World Youth Day in Manila in January during the visit of the Pope.

43 BCLPs added 1,300 new members to the Brotherhood. Corporate-wise, 13 LSS's spread God's Word to the work environment graduating over 300 men and women. Additionally, overseas workers joined the Lord with Greenhills chapter's mission to Saipan.

Banigan emphasized that God is the Worker, we are merely His agents in the marketplace. Throughout the BCBP's

A summary of the address of Manny Banigan, BCBP President, given during the BCBP's 15th Anniversary, May 13, 1995 in Cebu City.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Present Chapter Head</u>	<u>New Chapter Head</u>
Makati	Jess Manalo	Ronnie Caballero
Greenhills	Rolly Aberion	Manolet Siojo
Rizal		Romy Tocjayao
Bacolod	Ray Garcia	Art Legarde
Tagbilaran		Peter Dejaresco
Cagayan de Oro	Ed Canlas	Joe Coruña
Puerto Princesa		Fuji Rodriguez
Iloilo (chapter-in-training)		Gau Arancillo

Former Cagayan de Oro chapter head Ed Canlas has been designated by the National Council as Mindanao New Outreaches Director.

In 1994 Banigan reported the setting up of new outreaches in Legaspi, Naga, Lipa, Saipan, San Fernando Pampanga, San Jose Antique, Tacloban and Dumaguete.

New outreaches already in the planning stage for

15 years of existence we can see the evidence of His work in the growth from the original 24 men to the more than 6,000 members in 23 dioceses, 23 provinces, 24 cities, 7 municipalities throughout the country. He cited the 27 breakfast and luncheon venues nationwide as important evangelization opportunities.

Banigan announced the following changes in chapter heads during the year (refer to table).

1995 are Butuan and Valencia by Cagayan de Oro, Ozamis by Iligan and Bayombong, NuevaViscaya by Parañaque.

"Even as we rejoice over these accomplishments, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels," Banigan cautioned BCBP members. "We need to be a more active transforming force in the work environment. We must put our BCBP Mission and Vision into concrete action in the coming years."

Love is the bumper sticker of our faith.

The light opens up the skies to begin a new day...



The "boat people" from Metro Manila chapters begin the day with praise and worship led by BCBP president Manny Banigan.



Then in the evening they relaxed at the bar. It was, after all a very pleasant and smooth boat ride... Praise God!

All generalizations are dangerous, including this one.

Then they start work. Roy Calleja, wrote, directed and produced the "presentation" the 'boat people' would perform in Cebu City.



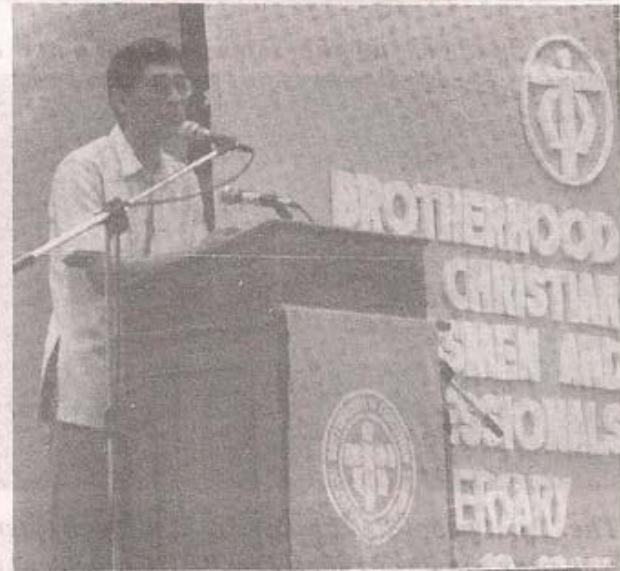
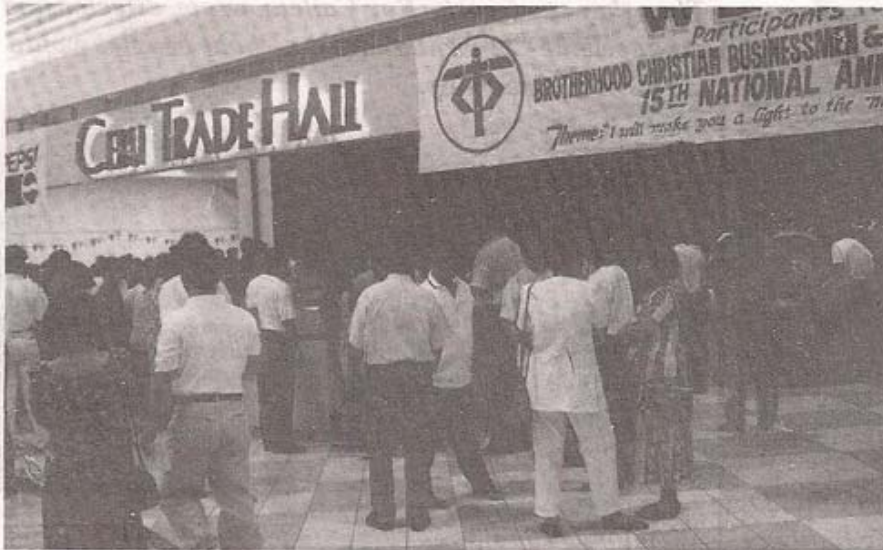
Then they practiced.... and practiced.... and practiced.



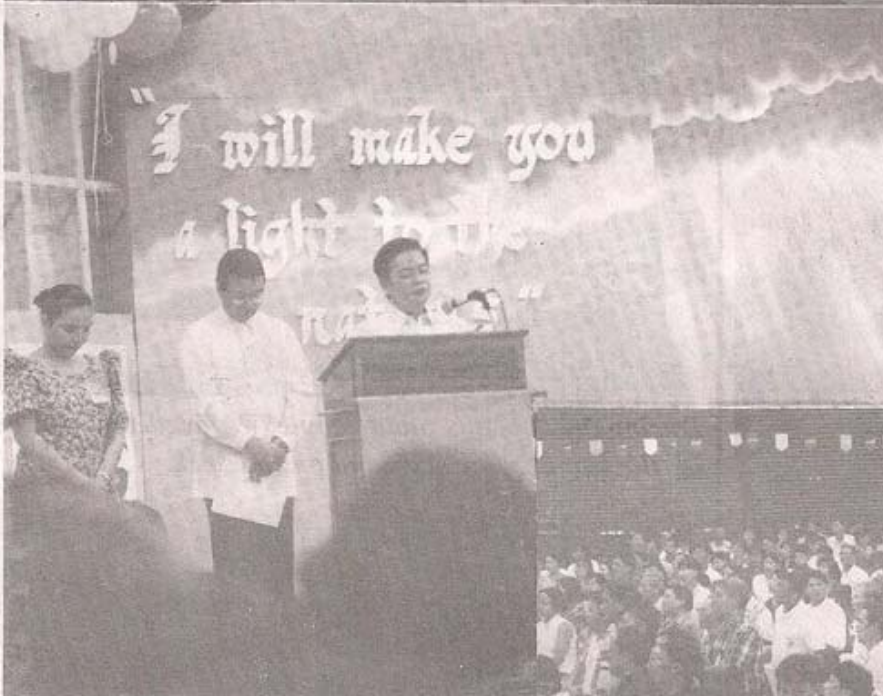
During the day, the "boat people" enjoyed themselves in the sun and the sea wind on the deck.



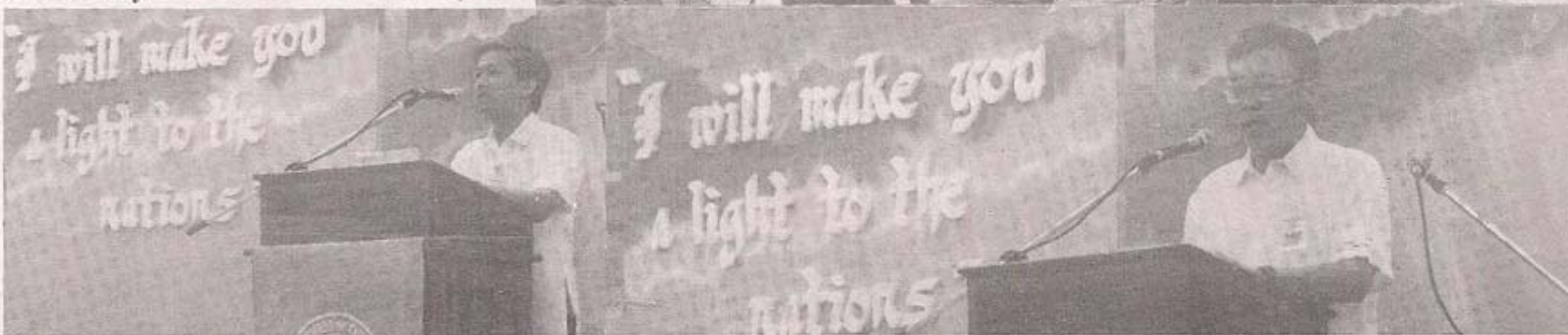
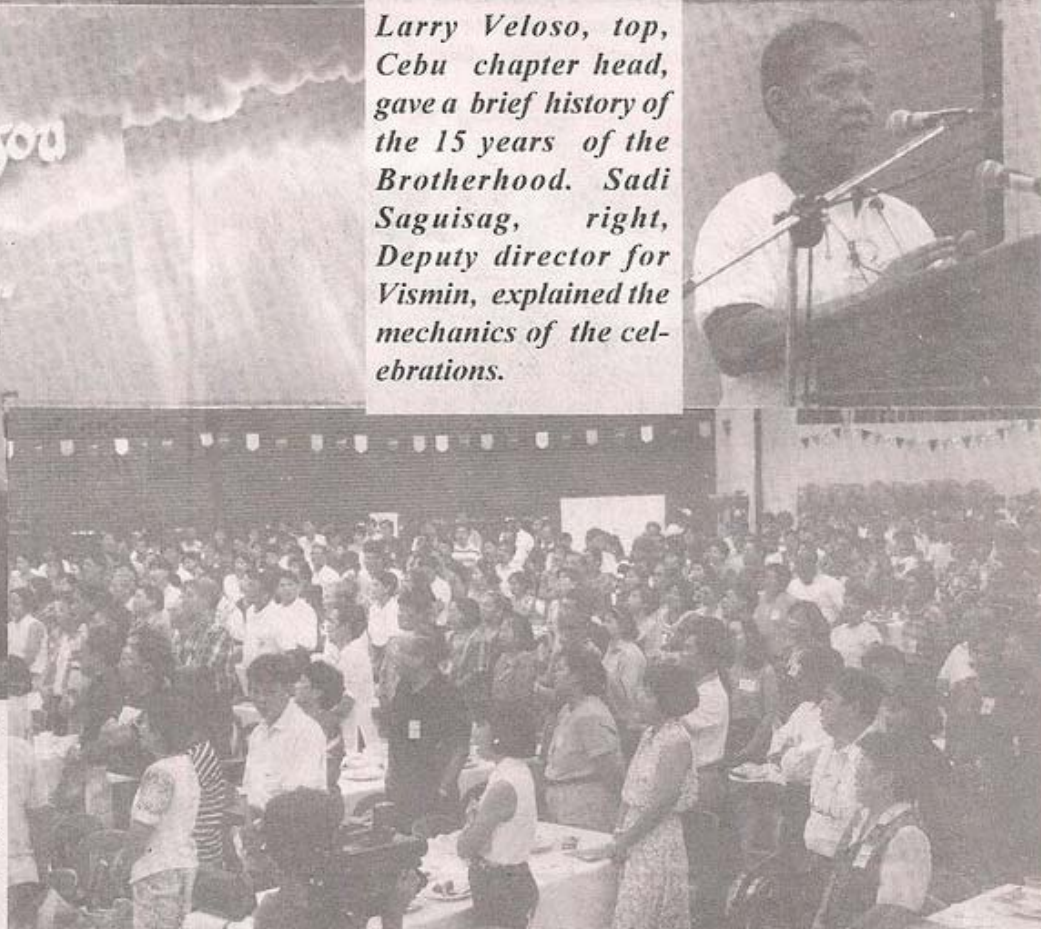
It all happened here - at the SM Cebu Trade Hall.



Larry Veloso, top, Cebu chapter head, gave a brief history of the 15 years of the Brotherhood. Sadi Saguisag, right, Deputy director for Vismin, explained the mechanics of the celebrations.



Before anything else, they gave praise and thanks to the Almighty. The prayer was led by Rolly Ona, Director for Vismin. Above, Right. A portion of the big turn out of attendees from all over the country.

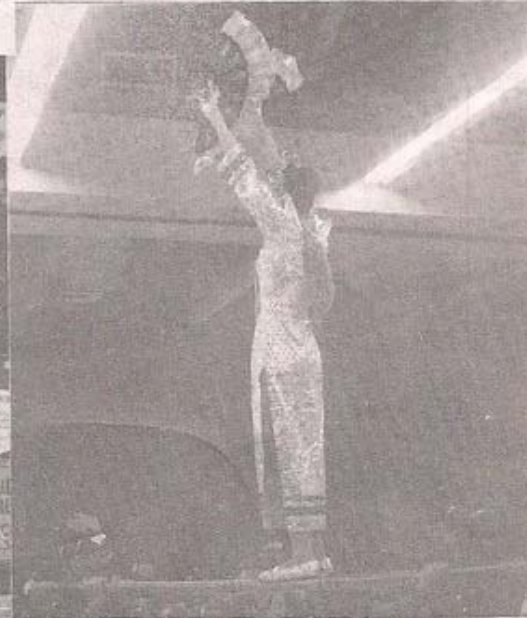


Tagbilaran chapter head, Pete Dejaresco, left, and former Bacolod chapter head, Ray Garcia, right, gave their testimonies of God's love. After all is said and done, there's usually a sequel.

The bands began to play... BCBPers from all over joined the singers...



They danced with gusto. On the stage... and on the floor... And in the air?



An sang some more...



They dramatized their reverence, respect and love for the Lord. Then, everybody sang and danced. Happiness was totally up in the air.

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STOCKBROKER

Age : 34
Status : Single
Reason for Loan : Buy a condo.
Specs : "It should be in the heart of the city, near the tennis courts. I might sell it in a few years, so I'm looking at something with high resale value."
Desired Terms : "I don't want to amortize the full amount of the loan. I want to pay the bulk towards the end. That way, I can cut my monthly payments and still get the car I've always wanted."

DENTAL SURGEON

Age : 39
Status : Married, with 2 kids
Reason for Loan : To finance home improvement.
Specs : "I want space. Room for the kids to run around. I'm thinking of renovating the old 3-bedroom townhouse. Add a big playroom for the kids, and a family room for us."
Desired Terms : "I don't want to lock up my money on amortizations. Small monthly payments over, say, a 12-year payment period will be ideal for my situation."

GARMENT EXPORTER AND GOLF ENTHUSIAST

Age : 37
Status : Married, 1 kid
Reason for Loan : Acquire golf-front property south of Manila.
Specs : "It should be close enough to the factory, but far from the noise and grime of the city. I want to be able to do a few rounds at the green between meetings."
Desired Terms : "Depends on how good my business is. I don't want to commit to a specific amount. I want flexible terms."

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Recent Events

ALABANG

Focusing On Family Life

Johnny Borja, Alabang Chapter

Family Mass. The first family mass of the BCBP Alabang was held on March 19, 1995, at the Mary Immaculate Convent with Fr. Sal Pico celebrating the mass and holding the healing ceremonies. The family mass in April was held on April 23.

Recollection. Fr. Francis Gustillo gave the Alabang chapter's Lenten recollection during the April 1 joint breakfast.

Youth Retreat. The chapter's high school and college student youth attended a retreat on April 1 and 2 in Lipa, Batangas. Fr. Basil conducted the youth retreat at St. Francis de Sales Major Seminary.

BCLP 25. 50 participants graduated from BCLP 25 on April 9 and joined the Alabang chapter. Course leader was Joe Ferreria assisted by Danny Perez and Boy Sering. Head servant was Benru Macairap, intercessory head was Ernie Cardema. Ted Diaz headed the music ministry for the BCLP.

Alabang Anniversary. The chapter held its anniversary celebration on April 22, 1995 with a mass and program featuring presentations by the various units. The theme for this year's anniversary was "The Family".#

Before the baptism of BCLP 25 Fr. Bernie Taylor celebrated Mass.

To give strength to our chapter's anniversary theme for this year — "The Family" — the Family Life Ministry was formed to address the concerns of the chapter's youth and their families.

When we, as businessmen and professionals, join the BCBP, we and our spouses plunge deeply into the various Brotherhood activities in a desire to affirm our faith by active participation in worship and outreach activities. This in addition to the strenuous demands of our professional lives sometimes leaves us very little time for our children and families. What about their spiritual growth?

The Family Life Ministry has three objectives. First we want to provide opportunities to bring the family together in loving worship of the Lord with the aim to build a truly Christian center in the heart of the family.

Johnny Borja, head of Family Life Programs for the Alabang Chapter, gives us a preview of the chapter's family life activities and 1995 program.

Secondly, we want to sponsor activities that will improve relationships within the family, particularly between parents and children.

And, thirdly, we will introduce our children to the Brotherhood culture and the idea of loving service to the Lord through community worship.

Three activities have begun this program: A family mass is held once every month. The first one took place on March 19, the second one on

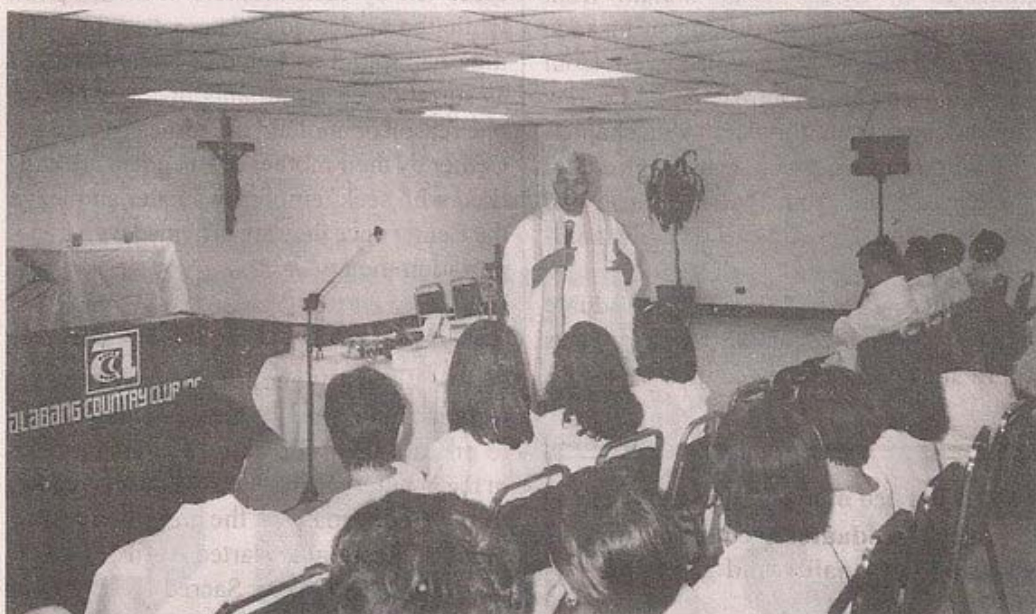
April 23. A family recollection was conducted by Fr. Francis Gustillo on April 1 during the joint/family breakfast at the Alabang Country Club. A weekend retreat for high school and college youth was held last April 1 and 2.

To more specifically address the issues, problems and needs of the different age groups among the youth in the chapter, we are organizing a Youth Formation Program, initially for two age groups, 13-17 and 18-21.

To follow this, a Young Professionals Group for those above 21 years, still single, studying or working, and living with their parents, will be formed.

These youth and young professionals groups will augment the efforts of Bert and Nini Bugayong in the Children's Formation which tackles those children ages 5 to 12. Their outstanding work has helped a lot of little kids grow up with their gaze fixed firmly on God.

We in the Family Life Ministry want to help our youth keep their eyes on Jesus and their steps in the direction of His Kingdom.#



Nice guys may appear to finish last, but usually they're running in a different race. -Kenneth Blanchard

MAKATI

Changing of the Guards

Makati chapter has a new chapter head. After serving the Brotherhood as Makati chapter head since January 1993, Jess Manalo turned over the mantle of leadership to Ramon "Ronnie" Caballero in March 1995. Ronnie, a graduate of CLP 11, has served the Brotherhood in various capacities leading up to his last position as the chapter's mission director where he took an active part in establishing the Legaspi outreach.

Babes Javellana replaces Ronnie as mission director. Jun Ginete takes over from Art Olate as chapter life director.

AGLs Take BETP

Last March 18 at the Magallanes Parish Center, a new training program focusing on actual-real world evangelization was initiated. The program, put together by Tony Borbon and Rex Resurrecion, was actually an "echoing" of the CETP staged last year in Antipolo that they had attended. Tony and Rex were ably assisted by Lino Mejorada and Rudy Flores, a veteran CLAYE (Christian Lay Evangelization) practitioner.

The program was redesigned to focus on the Brotherhood's Mission and Vision in the evangelization process. It targeted new and prospective action group leaders to prepare them in convincing people to become renewed Christians through the BCBP.

Jun Ginete was the unit head in service. Also present during the day's training were Ronnie Caballero and Babes Javellana. #

Andy Nañagas is now the chapter's secretary. Nelson Salvador continues to serve as head of the Men's Breakfast even as he takes over the leadership of the unit formerly led by Jun Ginete.

The following incumbents have been tasked to continue their service: Beth Ginete as Ladies' Breakfast service head; Manny Bade as chapter treasurer; Cheng Legaspi as music ministry head; Johnny Calixto as intercessory prayer ministry head, Andy Fornier as Manila outreach head, Dr. Manny Lorenzo as Legaspi outreach head, and Jun Catan as La Naval outreach coordinator. #

18 Couples Take BCMR

Eighteen couples completed the Makati chapter's March 1995 BCMR held at the Mary Hill Seminary in Taytay, Rizal. Course leader and head couple were Rico and Elsa Santos, assisted by Danny and Tess Silbor with Alex and Ester Uychoco as service team head couple.

The participants were mostly graduates of BCLP 22 of Makati from the action groups of Litong Limcaoco and Jun Tripon. Six couples were from the La Naval Outreach and a few couples came from the Parañaque chapter. One outstanding couple was Tito and Choleng Robles from BCLP 13 who had just celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary.

Fr. Virgil, a BCLP 22 graduate himself, officiated at the Sunday Mass where the couples renewed their vows. #

QUEZON CITY

Chapter brings cheers to wards of RSCC

Better late than never. This could be said of the belated Valentine's cheers that the Quezon City chapter brought to the kids at the Reception and Study Center for Children (RSCC) in Bago Bantay, Quezon City last March 11, 1995.

And the delay was worth the joy expressed by the more than 150 wards of the Center who played, sang and ate with the members of the chapter the whole morning of that sunny Saturday of March.

As a way of celebrating the heart month, the chapter visited the children of the RSCC and brought them cheers, food, clothes, songs and games. The children responded with the song "For God so loved the world, He gave us his only Son..." the song popularized during the World Youth Day celebration.

The Center was established on July 27, 1964 through the assistance of the UNICEF. Ms. Amor Macapanpan, a social worker in the Center, said their wards are classified into abandoned, neglected, surrendered and dependent children. All kids are seven years old and below.

Abandoned kids, she explained, are those left by their mothers in the hospital, while the neglected ones are: "eto ho yong mga napupulot sa kalye." Kids classified as surrendered are infants or tots who, for one reason or another, are turned over to the Center by their mother. Dependent are children who seek temporary shelter and leave the Center once they are provided with transportation money. #

Leadership Formation

Twenty-one couples have been selected to undergo an 8-week training course to prepare them for future leadership roles in the chapter. Scheduled every second and third Wednesday of the month for four months, the training started April 5, 1995 at the Jansen Hall of the Sacred Heart Parish in Kamuning, Quezon City. #

HELP WANTED: The BCBP Secretariat is in need of a **BOOKKEEPER/SECRETARY**. Minimum requirements: College graduate, accounting and records management, computer literate, pleasing personality and good communications skills. For details call 892-4274/75.

5th Breakfast Anniversary Celebrated

The Las Piñas chapter celebrated its 5th breakfast anniversary last April 22, 1995, at the Gran Teatro of the Italia 500 Clubhouse in BF Resort, Las Piñas. The high point of the affair was the powerful sharing given by BCBP national president Manny Banigan and his wife Haydz.

Emceed by Fides Francisco and Jimmy Agbayani, the event was remarkable in that it was the first time ever that the breakfast goers came in Filipiniana dress. The men sported colorful local shirts, the ladies graced the occasion in full Maria Clara inspired dresses. Beth Ho won the best dress category while Leo Nabor Sr. took the award for most authentic costume. #

BCLP 24 Underway

The 24th BCLP of the Las Piñas chapter began on April 22 with Raul Francisco and his wife Fides as course leader. The chapter's first BCLP this 1995 is being held at the Franciscan Sisters Handmaid of the Lord Formation House at the corner of Aventine Hill and Romulus Sts., BF Resort Village, Las Pinas.

Raul Francisco, better known as "Pochollo" is a graduate of BCLP 17 conducted at the Ayala Alabang Clubhouse in 1990. He and his wife Fides have been active in BCLR, leadership series seminars and have served as action group leaders prior to being tasked to handle BCLP 24. #



Raul and Fides Francisco, Las Piñas BCLP 24 course leaders.

Crossroads retreat held for youth

The youth formation of the Las Piñas PALS conducted two seminars for BCBP youth. The first Crossroads Retreat held in Quezon City last March 18, 1995 saw BCBP youth from Las Piñas, Parañaque and Quezon City come together. The second retreat was directed for the BCBP youth in the southern sector and was held in Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque, on May 27 and 28.

Various chapters combined their respective youths to make the meetings full and lively, reports Randy Feria, the PALS leader. #

Lulu Bertis, far left, referees game scores during the chapter's Family Day.



Spiritual audit for chapter members held

The nine-month old Parañaque chapter held its first Lenten Retreat from March 31 to April 2 at the Sacro Costato Retreat House in Quezon City. Twenty-four chapter members attended.

Fr. Dave Clay of the Columban Fathers did not mince words as he reminded

LAS PIÑAS Family Day Fun

Las Piñas chapter families gathered for a day of fun and games on Sunday, May 21, at the Hampton Court in Muntinlupa. Fr. Bernie Taylor officiated at the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass that began the morning.

Fun and games followed emceed by Myrna Calpo and Lulu Bertis. The Las Piñas PALS also came up with games for the young and young at heart led by Randy Feria.

Lunch was served with a full-sized lechon courtesy of the chapter. The usual raffle capped the affair with Gina Morales blessed with the grand prize. #

PARAÑAQUE

the participants that charismatic activities are meaningless unless the members are strengthened by and centered on the Eucharistic Celebration which was Jesus' legacy to us. He also spoke of the role of the Blessed Mother in the Incarnation of Christ and in our own Christian lives.

The Holy Mass and the recitation of the Rosary figured predominantly in the weekend's "spiritual audit" activities. #

You can change the world, one person at a time.

TUGUEGARAO

Tuguegarao Outreach members and some Metro Manila guests gather to celebrate the completion of BCLP 3 for the outreach.



PAMPANGA

Pampanga Breakfast Opens

The first Men's Breakfast opened in San Fernando, Pampanga on Saturday, March 18 at the Celebrations Restaurant, along the Olongapo-Gapan Road. The occasion was graced by the presence of Monsignor Paciano B. Aniceto, the Archbishop of San Fernando, who came with four of his friends. 27 men attended with 14 first timers from San Fernando and environs.

The service team from Greenhills and Quezon City chapters was headed by Johnny Filart, who has been designated as the breakfast head. Bong Cendana was the emcee, Cocoy V. Perez served as treasurer, Punch Mamonluk handled the registration and Jun Esposo led the music ministry.

Also attending from Greenhills were Sonny Marquez, Roy Puno, Lito Pelobello and Danny Lazo. The Quezon City chapter was represented by Butch Bautista, Art Layug and Ted Velasco.

Sonny Marquez has accepted service as the eventual outreach head for San Fernando. Together with Roy Puno, the Greenhills chapter BCLP coordinator, he is making preparations for their first BCLP in June this year.

Archbishop Aniceto was enthusiastic for the breakfast after hearing the shar-



Manolet and Carla Siojo, Greenhills chapter head share at Pampanga breakfast

ing of Jess Zapata of the Quezon City chapter. He pledged to attend the next breakfast and to invite more of his friends.

RIZAL

New Chapter Announces Schedules, New Breakfast Venue

Joint Breakfast. Rizal (formerly Cainta Outreach) chapter's joint breakfasts will be held every third Saturday at 8:00 a.m. April's couple sharers were Max and Mimay Joaquin.

Men's Breakfast. The regular Men's Breakfast of the Rizal chapter is held every Saturday morning. New venue is Cafe Vicente, Imelda Ave., Cainta, in front of Sta. Lucia complex, beside Mercury Drug. Sharers for April included Dante Magdangal and Bernard de Mesa of Greenhills, and Boy Javier of Parañaque.

BCLP 3. This course began March 11 and is expected to end on June 3. Sessions are held on Saturdays at 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the evenings. Venue is TCEV (Town & Country Exec. Village) Chapel, Marcos Highway, Antipolo, Rizal.

Breakfasts will be held every other Saturday, with the first joint breakfast planned for sometime in May.

Happenings

BCLP 23. The Greenhills BCLP 23 is ongoing from March 9 to June 1, every Thursday 7:30-10:00 p.m. at the Mary the Queen Parish Church, Greenhills, San Juan.

Workers of Christ. The Workers of Christ meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. On the first Wednesday of the month, the WoC general assembly is held at La Salle Greenhills, other weeks they meet at the Center For Peace for action group meetings, teachings and life sharings.

Intercessory Mass & Healing. The mass was held on April 25, 7:30 p.m., at the Disalced Carmelites Tertiary House in New Manila, Quezon City.

Ladies Celebrate 10th Anniversary

The Ladies' Luncheon of the Greenhills chapter celebrated its tenth anniversary on April 24, 1995 in an evening affair at Tenejeras Hall, AFP Commissioned Officers Club, Camp Aguinaldo.

Eric and Cathy Teotico were the sharers during the dinner. An evening of fun and enjoyment followed with games, surprise entertainment numbers and a raffle.

White Elephant Sale a Big Hit!

A White Elephant Sale enlivened the Greenhills' chapter assembly on March 17. As early as 6 p.m. brothers and sisters began congregating and looking for instant bargains. Nobody was disappointed! Who could resist a miniature grandfather's clock at P75.00, or a kiddie blouse and jumper set at P25.00, or assorted crystal

wares from P15-P30.00! All items were soon sold out.

The sale, a fund-raising project of the Ladies' Luncheon service team to raise funds for its anniversary and to help subsidize the meals of its first timers and guests, netted P2,778.00 for the ladies. Many are now asking "When is Part II?"

Rizal Chapter Installed, New Chapter Heads Announced

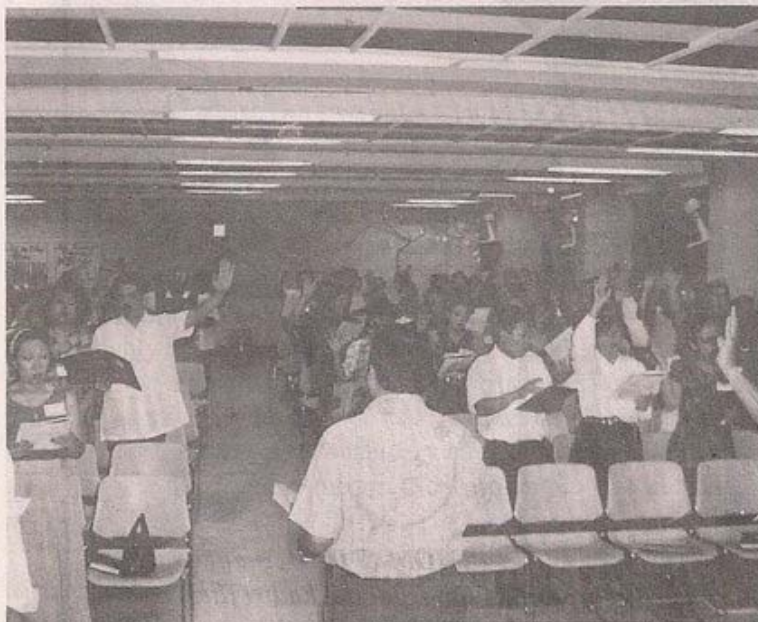
Two momentous events occurred in the life of the Greenhills chapter on April 21, Friday, at 7 p.m. at Xavier School, Greenhills. The Cainta Outreach was formally installed as Rizal Chapter with Romy Tocjayao as new chapter head, and the

Greenhills chapter met its new chapter head Manolet Siojo at formal turnover ceremonies.

The occasion was graced by the presence of BCBP president, Manny Banigan, who officially made the formal

announcement of the installation and appointment, respectively.

Also present were Fernando de Larrazabal, BCBP Director for Luzon and Willi Guzman, BCBP secretary general. The affair was emceed by Sammy Ulanday.



Members of the Rizal chapter in one of their assemblies.

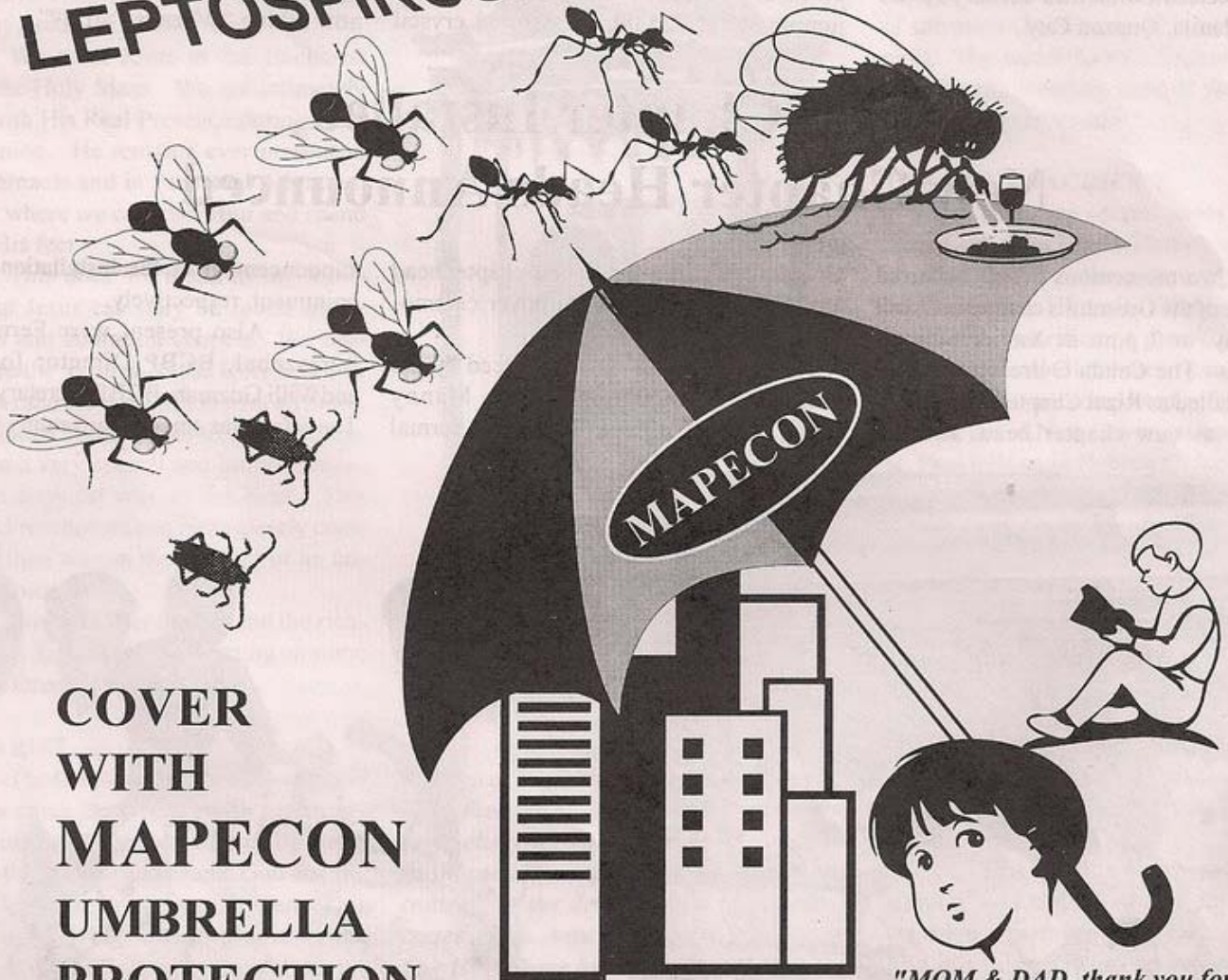


Rizal chapter members enjoy a meal in a recent fellowship.

A bachelor is a souvenir of some woman who found a better one at the last minute. - Anon

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 CHOLERA
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“I will be righteous and just in all my business dealings.”

Committing to this 3rd part of the BCBP covenant made me realize that I have been at best a part-time Christian all along.

Before my BCLP (Brotherhood Christian Life Program), I regarded myself as an above-average Catholic, living the Gospel values at home and actively serving in our parish. But the problem was that on Monday mornings, God was suddenly dismissed from the workplace, and Christian teachings were conveniently ignored in order to survive and more so, to succeed.

After my BCLP, I realized that I must take a stand: to serve God or money, to be for Him or against Him. I must admit that my appointment as Outreach Head within the year gave me the push to make the right decision. For how could I encourage others to be righteous businessmen if I was not one myself?

The greatest obstacle I had to face was fear. If I said “No” to certain unrighteous practices, I might become isolated from the opportunities for advancement in my job. If I applied Christian principles in my personal business, I might lose part of the earnings that I have been used to receive. Yet, I knew I had to make the step. This was why I was in the BCBP.

During our next managers’ meeting in Manila, I made my first move for the Lord. With the prospect of being isolated from the inner circle of our CEO, I no longer joined them for the usual “boys’ night-out”. My apprehensions were unfounded. I gained the respect of my boss, my fellow managers, and even our Japanese partners. Most important of all, God demonstrated to me that I could bring Christ to my workplace and not be isolated or ostracized from my peers.

But my bigger marketplace was back in Bacolod. I help manage a prawn-processing plant with about 200 workers. I admit that I had been overzealous in overhauling operations and reinstilling discipline and quality work, which was why I had been hired in the first place.

Soon after the BCLP I awakened to the reality that our employees were my brothers and sisters in Christ, and that I had to relate to them as such. Without compromising order and discipline, I tried to be more patient in dealing with them. I tried to be more understanding of their limitations and to have more compassion in imposing disciplinary measures.

But I felt that this was not enough. I really wanted to bring the Word of God to them. Two attempts were made to sustain a weekly Bible study in the plant but they failed due to work and time constraints.

This was a big frustration for me. There I was, leading



Ray Garcia (far left) enjoys a light moment during a leaders training seminar.

BRINGING CHRIST TO MY BUSINESS

Ray Garcia, Bacolod Chapter

Formerly chapter head of BCBP Bacolod, Ray Garcia gave this mini-sharing during the 15th Anniversary Breakfast, May 13, 1995 in Cebu City, about his experiences in applying Christian principles to his job in the prawn industry — and to his own personal business. He proclaims, “It is feasible to bring Christ into your business. You will not only survive but you will also succeed.”

our chapter in starting an evangelization outreach in the country’s biggest sugar industrial complex and I couldn’t even sustain a group in my own backyard.

Recently however the Lord impressed upon me to consider another route — to link up individual workers with other renewal groups active in their respective parishes. I now have a small core group of renewed workers within the plant to do the recruiting and linking.

BRINGING CHRIST... from p. 31

The other part of my work revolves around our clients and our competitors. Because of the tight supply situation, unrighteous practices have enabled some buyers and traders to corner the volume of cultured prawns. These practices include bidding higher prices and recovering this by cheating in the weighing of the harvest. Although a tempting alternative considering that we have been in crisis for some years now, this is one area that has been non-negotiable for me, even at the price of losing out in many purchase bids.

I can just thank God that in the midst of these difficult times, He has placed renewed Christians in the key sectors of our industry. You see, those managing 3 of the 5 major exporters in the city are all BCBP members. Furthermore, 5 key persons in the prawn growers cooperative are also BCBP members. God has made a way by which we can receive support in our desire to follow the teachings of Christ in the conduct of our business.

The more difficult thing I had to do, however, was to bring Christ to my own personal business. We bought out one of the branches of our family's restaurant business. It had suffered tremendous losses during the early 80's and had only been able to survive by resorting to certain measures, notably the under-declaration of sales.

When my wife Ludy and I took over, it slowly became profitable but this unrighteous practice was continued, with the usual excuse that everybody else is doing it, and that if you go straight, they will still go after you anyway. Also we had gotten used to the extra money that it provided.

WE LEARNED ... from p. 15

Whenever I turned to the Bible for answers, I would be led to 1 Peter 1:6-9, Phil. 2:12-13, Phil. 1:18, and Phil. 4:8-9. It took me almost two years to really accept what the Lord was trying to tell me. For Noli, too, it was a most painful experience. But later on we realized that the Lord had been preparing us for a life to be in service to Him.

Noli: We continued to serve the Lord faithfully responding to whatever service He wanted us to do for Him — in the music ministry, in the breakfast, the BCMR, as action group leaders. Even though we did not have our own means of transportation, this did not stop us. We just wanted to give glory to Him.

In return God blessed us abundantly and unconditionally. I passed the accountancy board exams in 1988, eight years after graduation. He also gave my wife a good job. Both of us were always in good health. God even helped us extend some financial and spiritual support to members of our families. It never occurred to me then that whenever I accepted a service for the Lord through the BCBP, Bong and I were always together, and this togetherness made us closer to each other, more intimate with each other, adding spice to our developing relationship.

Because of the major paradigm shift we underwent after our BCLP, Ludy and I decided to bring Christ into our own marketplace. Firstly, we increased the salaries of our employees beyond the minimum wage and granted other benefits over and above the mandate of the law.

The more difficult decision we had to make was to pay the right taxes. But the covenant is very clear: "I will take Christian responsibility for my financial obligations to the government." I had to "give to Caesar what is due to Caesar" regardless of how the decrease in earnings would affect our lifestyle.

Our take-home earnings dropped initially. But this Lord of ours can never be outdone in generosity, for shortly after we decided to be obedient to Him in this matter, our sales went up, our costs went down and, of course, our income actually increased!

This was the last thorn in my being a Christian businessman and we were able to remove it PURELY BY GOD'S GRACE. Only after this was I able to fully witness to the Gospel values in the marketplace. Now I am able to reassure other businessmen that it is "feasible" after all to do business the Christian way and at the same time be able to not only survive but also to succeed.

Truly the Word of God in Romans 8:28 has become a reality for me: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Praise God! -Ray Garcia

Bong: I still wanted a baby. So Noli and I decided to adopt a baby through the Department of Social Welfare. We prayed about it, we had our papers processed and approved for adoption. After many tense followups and prayer sessions, still no baby for us. Noli and I then settled ourselves that if God would grant our request then the child that He will give us will bring us joy, love and peace ... not the tension that we had been experiencing. We left it up to God and continued serving him as servant couple of BCLP 18.

A month after BCLP 18, the social worker called me, "Bong, may baby na!" A baby girl, fair complexion, 4 months old — just what we had hoped for. In three days we brought her home, in two weeks we baptized her Rosario Carmela, Charmee for short.

Charmee is truly a gift from the Lord. She was born June 1991, the same month that Noli and I responded "yes" to serve in BCLP 18. And she was baptized on November 10, the same date that my first baby died.

Noli: I praise and thank the Lord for Charmee. Isn't it amazing how perfect the timing of the Lord is?

When we accepted His will and did what we were

Tagbilaran outreach installed as 10th BCBP chapter

A young outreach not quite three years old was installed as a full chapter last April 2, 1995 during solemn rites officiated by Bohol Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak of the Diocese of Tagbilaran. During the ceremonies held at the Bohol Tropics Resort Club in Tagbilaran City Bishop Tumulak also installed Peter and Zarah Dejaresco as the new chapter's head couple.

BCBP national president Manny Banigan, who flew in from Manila for the rites, accepted the new chapter which was recommended for chapterhood by its mother chapter Cebu by its head Larry Veloso.

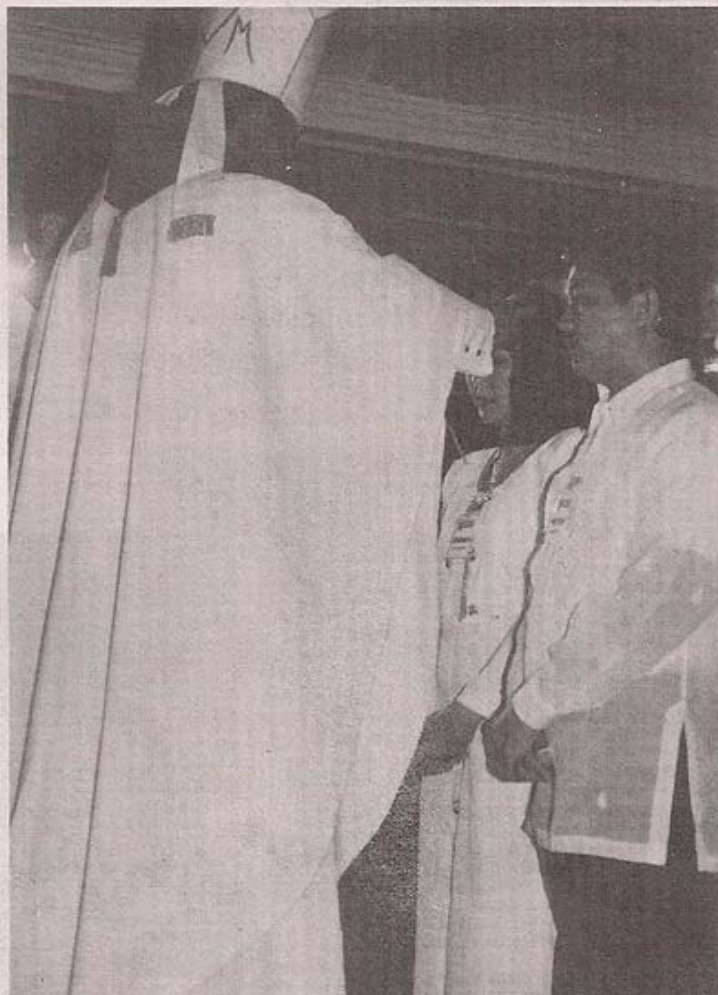
Sadi Saguigag, BCBP's deputy director for the Visayas and Mindanao, led some 75 guests from other chapters and outreaches in gracing the affair.

Cebu's mission director Ed Lising, who brought the original mission team from Cebu to Tagbilaran on August 28, 1992, said that he "witnessed God's perfect plan for Tagbilaran BCBP."

Bishop Tumulak called for the Brotherhood to "know well Christ" as the installation rites bannered the theme "Go Tell The World of the Good News." The Mass was concelebrated by brother-priests who are also members of the BCBP, namely, Fr. Joe Sumampong, Fr. Gil Espuelas, Fr. Peter Balili and Fr. Bing Husain.

A prayer assembly held the evening before the formal installation was capped by a literary program presented by the new chapter's six units.

Members of the governance team for the Tagbilaran chapter include chapter life director Al Uy, mission director Steven Lim, breakfast heads Albert and Gaya Escalona, and music ministry team couple Ariel and Emma Dominguez. The chapter's secretariat is headed by Vieto and Melmel Racho, with William Lapura as treasurer and Dane Ybanez as secretary.



Bishop Tumulak blesses Tagbilaran chapter's new head couple Peter and Zarah Dejaresco during the formal installation rites.

Unit heads are Albert/Lilay Sanvictores, George/Gie Lao, Ebbs/Dory Quiwag, Porting/Paz Lim, Jojo/Janet Maniwan and Edi/Joey Borja. #

The BCMR:

Some of the participants of Puerto Princesa's BCMR last February share their reaction to the retreat in short interviews with Edwin Rondina.

A Never-too-early, Never-too-late Experience

"During the renewal of our marriage vows we had mixed emotions — sad because our children were unable to witness this memorable occasion with us, happy because we really felt the presence of God through the Holy Spirit. We know He is with us now in our marriage." **Tura and Citang Robles.**

"I was floating in the air for a week. The BCMR opened our eyes about our roles as husband and wife and as parents. We are now closer to each other. We have to form a team of discipleship to hand down our faith to our children in the building of a Christian home." **Gay Zabalo.**

"I realized I am not (yet) the perfect father and hus-

band I thought I was. There simply is much more I could have done that I didn't, more of what I could be that I'm not." **Dr. Oscar Bayna.**

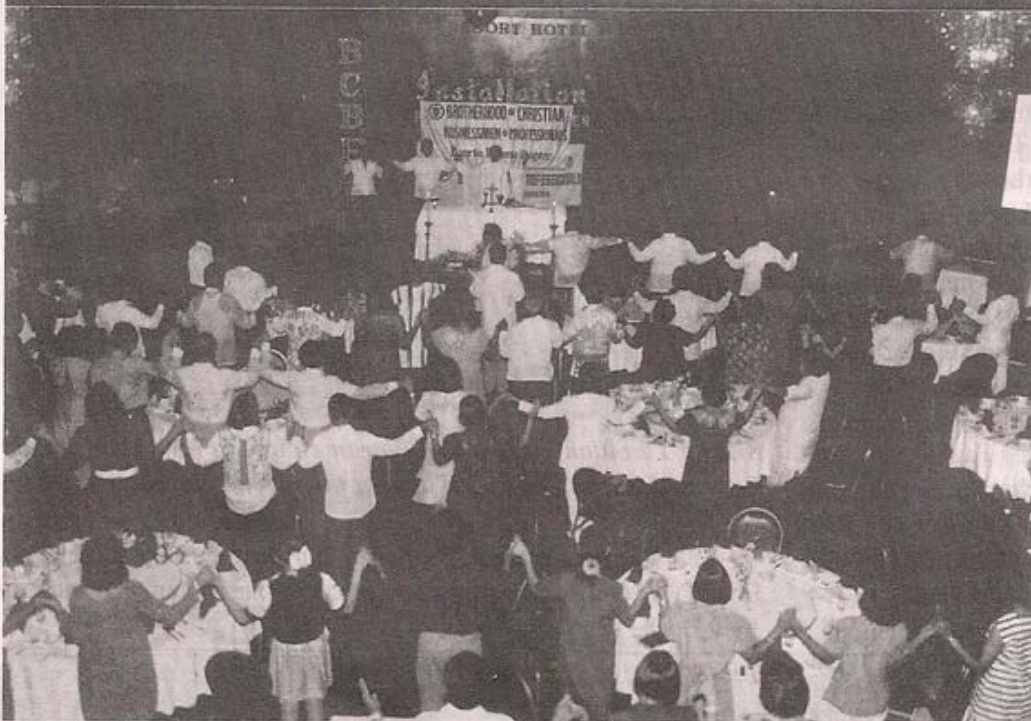
"We are now working as a pastoral team in discharging our responsibilities to our children." **Pol and Vangie Flores.**

"The past 22 years' formula of 'sorry, ha' said occasionally has now become a very sincere 'I'm very sorry...please forgive me' said whenever necessary. So many things we learned about responsibilities, relationships and communication. Why did it take so long — I mean, the BCMR ... to overtake me?" **Rudy Sabenacio. #**

PALAWAN

Begin to be now what you will be hereafter. -St. Jerome

PALAWAN



Upper photo. Rev. Fr. Chito de Maranan leads the prayers for the newly installed Puerto Princesa chapter and chapter head Fuji Rodriguez. Above. The Puerto Princesa chapter members and guests join hands in prayer.

Gina shares with us her euphoric feelings in this account of the installation ceremonies of the Puerto Princesa Chapter of the BCBP.

and Las Piñas chapter heads for mentors, the Palawan eagle finally shed its outreach status and flew as a brand new BCBP chapter.

Fittingly, the installation ceremonies were held where the first Breakfast was born in May 1988 — at the Asia World Hotel. Only this time, 27 May 1995, we occupied the Grand Ballroom. Our day began with a joint breakfast emceed by life director Edwin Tan with guest sharers Rey and Lyn Feria, Las Piñas' chapter head couple. At 5:00 p.m. the installation began with a mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Chito de Maranan who christened Puerto Princesa the "No Fear" chapter, admonishing us to bravely face the burden of chapterhood.

During the ceremonies that followed, BCBP Secretary General Willi Guzman read the National Council's formal ratification, and named Fuji and Chit Rodriguez as chapter head couple. Witnessing the joyous solemnities were Louie Morales, Rem and Rose Gopez, Joey and Tess Estagle, Larry de Larrazabal, Bobby and Marife Lavinia, Rey and Janet Calleja, and Jun and Linda Kamatoy.

The lighter side of the evening began with a musical presentation by the Sinica singing Cuyuno and Pilipino environmental songs led by founder/composer/director Nonoy Lansanas. Each unit presented either a rendition of songs, psalms, musical skit or dance number. And finally — surprise! — a beautiful "Love Me Tender" offering from Joey Estagle.

Nothing can be as treasured as a hard-earned prize. Nothing can be as sweet as the giddy moment of unfastening the fetters of dependence, spreading one's wings, and flying — at last, at long, long last! This day will always be a red-letter day for us members of the Puerto Princesa chapter. #

THE EAGLE HAS FLOWN

Gina Gamboa-Tan, Puerto Princesa Chapter

So sweet. Terribly satisfying. And very emotional. But as newly-installed chapter head Fuji Rodriguez also exclaimed, "This is awesome!"

After seven long, bittersweet years, a rollercoaster ride of ups and downs, and five ("I repeat, five!" Louie Morales ruefully but triumphantly proclaimed) Alabang

When an old person dies, a library is lost.

Gina Gamboa-Tan gives us a glimpse of the Puerto Princesa stalwart, Fuji Rodriguez, the chapter's head, in this interview. We also learn about how the BCBP outreach started in this far-flung island paradise.

We call him Fuji as in Japan's snow-capped mount because he says he was the lone chinky-eyed oriental in the Rodriguez family of mestizo and mestiza siblings. He was a bright-eyed, outgoing boy who won countless dancing awards for the Pilot Elementary School while maintaining academic honors.

At the Palawan National High School, he worked hard at eliminating the pronounced Cuyunon accent and succeeded so well that he eventually found parttime work as a news broadcaster at Puerto Princesa's sole radio station DYPR. Fuji grew up into a suave, smooth-talking mining engineer graduating from UP Dilliman.

By his own admission, he was a hardworking, totally materialistic man of the world. Certainly he seemed the most improbable candidate to head a BCBP outreach in Palawan. But brother Jun Cortes of the Alabang chapter thought otherwise. He asked Fuji to help him find a core group of friends and associates for a first breakfast in Puerto Princesa in May 1988.

"Who, me?" Fuji responded, half in jest and half in dread. At that time he was executive director of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and spent most of his days crisscrossing the rough roads and rougher seas of the province when he was not in Manila facing congressional committees and European consultants. He spent so little time in Palawan that he wanted to reserve it for family and friends.

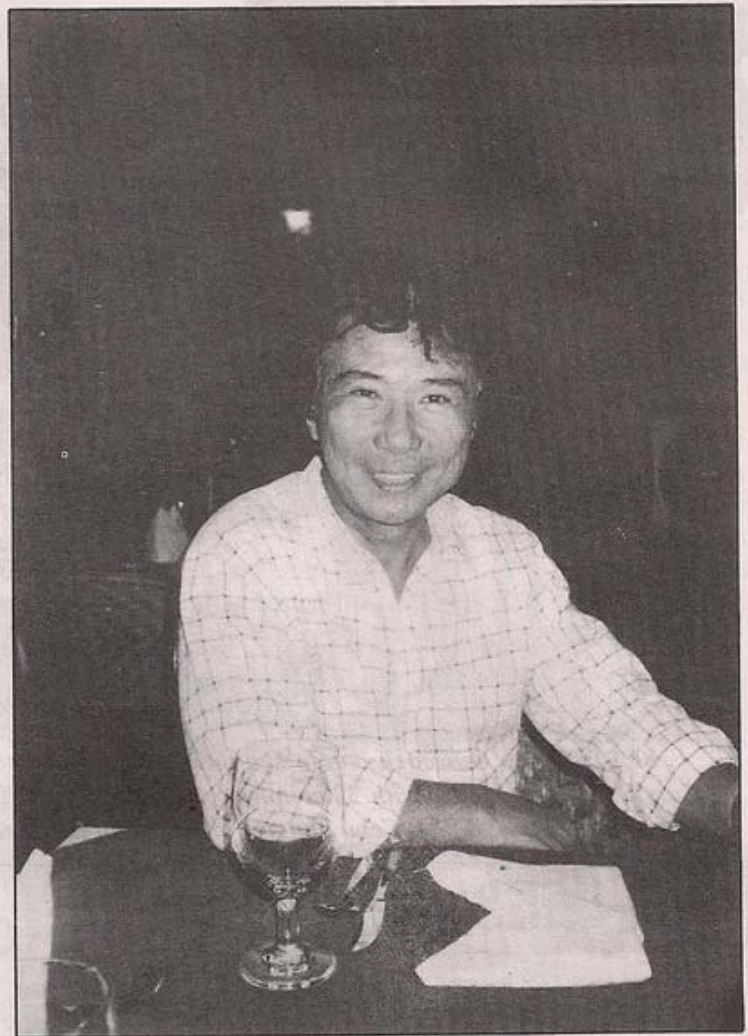
But Jun Cortes was determined and Fuji's wife Chit was willing to help. So Fuji graciously gave in to their "pakisama" system with his usual urbane charm.

And this changed his whole life. Roland Rodriguez of the Fuji fame may have started with the BCBP reluctantly but he has continued on this road from conviction. For six years, he has nurtured the Palawan outreach from its initial halting steps of breakfasts, CLPs, BCMRs and assemblies, to its present solid footing as a chapter-in-training and chapter.

"It has been a long and winding road, but it was well worth it," maintains Fuji.

"There are many things I have learned in the Brotherhood, and one of these is that leadership means service. To be a leader, you have to be a servant. In the context of the secular world this would be a joke, but in the BCBP, this is a matter of fact."

He continues, "For me, acquiring a servant's heart was a slow and agonizing process. How many times have I invited a friend to a breakfast and been turned down? How many times have I reminded a brother of an action group meeting or an assembly, only to find out that something always happened to prevent his attending? It really hurt at first, until I realized that a servant's heart requires humility. At this point of my life in the BCBP, it does not hurt so much anymore. The bottom line here is service to the Lord."



Fuji Rodriguez: Leading With A Servant's Heart

Gina Gamboa-Tan, Puerto Princesa Chapter

Our Fuji may have been named after a cold, remote mountain, but his warmth, accessibility, and readiness to be of service is uniquely his alone. #

DAVAO



BCBP Davao Outreach conducted their first Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat (BCMR) last March 3-5 at the Cursillo Retreat House with 22 couples graduating. Auxiliaries who served during the retreat were from Davao, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro. BCBP Cebu chapter provided all the speakers.

BACOLOD

PIM join in Easter celebration

The Partners-In-Mission, PIM, in Bacolod converged for a joyful Easter Sunday celebration. The event was coordinated by BCBP chapter head Ray Garcia, Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon (LNP) branch head Paul Henares and Christ's Youth In Action (CYA) coordinator Pepe Ledesma.

BCBP took care of the venue, refreshments and music for the mass; LNP, the liturgy, worship and Eastern Celebration Rite; CYA, the venue and physical arrangements; and ACTS 2 (BCBP Youth), registration.

Through the years, the PIM have maintained close contact. This is so be-

cause in Bacolod LNP started as the BCBP singles, and the CYA was initiated by the former.

Every second Sunday the PIM have a common community mass. Some LNP and CYA members actively serve in the ACTS 2, while BCBP Bacolod extends regular support to the CYA. #

BRO'



The true art of memory is the art of attention. -Samuel Johnson

Members formation program started

For the first time, the Bacolod chapter has adopted a New Members' Formation Program as a response to the need for a more structured follow-up for new members. The program began last January 1995 with the newest BCLP 9 graduates of Bacolod, and the CLSS graduates of the BEP outreaches in Silay and Victorias Milling Company.

The 5-month formation program emphasizes building one's spiritual foundation through the Christian growth principles of prayer, study, service and community.

To accomplish this, a series of basic growth talks are given every other week. Topics include Prayer, Scripture, Committed Relationships, Nature and Dynamics of Action Groups and Prayer Meetings. Workshops are conducted on Praise and Worship, the 7-Steps Bible Sharing Method and other Bible sharing methods.

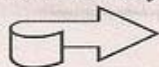
After this five to six month formation period, the new members would move on to take the Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat.

Retreat held for solo women

The Bacolod chapter has the unique characteristic of having a whole unit consisting of widows and single women, headed by Maia Ramos. After more than a year of planning, the chapter sponsored a retreat tailor-made to addressing their particular concerns.

The first Solo Women's Retreat was held on March 25-26 at the Balay Kalinungan Retreat House of La Salle. Invited to conduct this retreat were Women for Christ sisters Elvie Estrellado and Linda Seneres.

ACTS 2 youths celebrate 2nd Anniversary of Youth Breakfast.



Bacolod has new chapter head

The BCBP Bacolod chapter has a new chapter head in the person of Art Legarde. Art replaces Ray Garcia who served as chapter head since 1990.

Art is married to Lucille. They have four children — Katrina, Kerwin, Jako and Christopher. Both Katrina and Kerwin are CYA members. Kerwin also serves as head of the Service Council of ACTS 2, the BCBP's youth formation program in Bacolod. Jako is a member of ACTS 2, Christopher of the children's formation program.

Art and Lucille Legarde entered the Brotherhood in 1990 and have served as action group leader, BCLP course leader, unit leader and prior to his new

appointment, as chapter life director. Art has also been active in conducting regular Bible studies for various groups.

Art is a sugar farmer, while Lucille is into greeting cards distribution and cross-stitch supplies retailing.

Other appointments.

Replacing Art as chapter life director is unit leader Nene Gamboa. With these changes, the Bacolod chapter has an entirely new set of elders this year, since Digoy Montalvo was replaced by Tony and Mariet Garcia as mission director. Digoy Montalvo continues to be part of the chapter's governance team in his service as Diocesan Liaison.



The Victorias Milling Company B.E.P. Outreach Music Ministry (above) leads the singing during a regular Sunday Mass at their Parish Church within the company premises.



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SPECIAL RATES FOR BCBP MEMBERS



**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.
(A Non-stock, Non-profit Organization)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 1994 AND 1993**

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**The Board of Trustees
The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood
of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc.**

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets, liabilities and fund balance of The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc. as of December 31, 1994 and 1993, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in fund balance and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements, which were prepared from the accounts maintained by the Foundation, are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits, which were limited to the transactions recorded in such accounts.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 2 to the financial statements, the Foundation's policy is to prepare its financial statements on the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and fund balance of The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc. as of December 31, 1994 and 1993, and its revenues, expenses and changes in fund balance and its cash flows for the years then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Sycip, Gorres, Velayo & Co.

PTR No. 2494752

January 11, 1995

Makati, Metro Manila

SGV & CO.

SYCIP, GORRES, VELAYO & CO.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

March 30, 1995

STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

	December 31	
	1994	1993
ASSETS		
Cash (including short-term cash investments of P100,000 in 1994 and P477,477 in 1993)	987,352	1,317,556
Accounts Receivable from Members and Others	150,042	77,416
Musical Instruments and Office Equipment (net of accumulated depreciation of P462,888 in 1994 and P304,736 in 1993)	247,303	271,970
	P1,384,697	P1,666,942
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Accounts Payable	30,298	4,240
Advances from Affiliates	13,043	-
Fund Balance	1,341,356	1,662,702
	P1,384,697	P1,666,942

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

	Years Ended December 31	
	1994	1993
REVENUES		
Donations and tithes received	P5,345,244	P4,110,665
Interest	56,663	41,135
	P5,401,907	P4,151,800
EXPENSES		
Trainings, seminars and conferences	3,674,397	2,515,855
Salaries and employees' benefits	469,481	305,920
Donations	417,754	417,429
Kapatiran	211,586	167,229
Transportation	197,706	265,016
Depreciation	158,152	130,061
Rental	138,989	37,400
Professional fees	134,003	102,355
Office supplies	60,424	69,264
Printing	26,630	25,435
Miscellaneous	234,131	160,119
	5,723,253	4,196,083
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	(321,346)	(44,283)
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,662,702	1,706,985
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	P1,341,356	P1,662,702

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Years Ended December 31	
	1994	1993
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	(P321,346)	(P44,283)
Adjustments to reconcile deficiency of revenues over expenses to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	158,152	130,061
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable from members and others	(72,626)	228,123
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	39,101	(12,751)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(196,719)	301,150
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITY		
Acquisition of musical instruments and office equipment	(133,485)	(211,536)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	(330,204)	89,614
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,317,556	1,227,942
CASH AT END OF YEAR	P987,352	P1,317,556

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Organization

The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc., which was incorporated on August 14, 1984, operates with the principal objectives of promoting, supporting and encouraging the: (a) human development and value formation of businessmen and professionals; (b) improvement of Filipino marital and family life and community consciousness; (c) total human development and value formation of the youth and students and all others who may be so interested therein; and (d) to foster and maintain fellowship and goodwill and unity among its members and all those with whom the Foundation and its members may interact.

As a nonstock, nonprofit organization, the Foundation's revenues are exempt from payment of income tax as set forth in Section 26(e) of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC). The Foundation, however, is subject to the corresponding internal revenue taxes under the NIRC on income derived from any of its properties, real or personal or any activity conducted for profit regardless of the disposition thereof.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Method of Accounting

The Foundation follows the modified cash basis of accounting for its transactions, except for the inclusion of depreciation of musical instruments and office equipment and accrual of certain liabilities. Consequently, certain revenues and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when obligation is incurred.

Musical Instruments and Office Equipment

Musical instruments and office equipment are carried at cost or at fair market value at the time of donation (in the case of donated assets) less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the instruments and office equipment.

Donations and Tithes

Donations and tithes are recognized as revenues when received.

Every soul is a melody which needs renewing. -Mallarme

Mommy, why ...?

Kids, especially those in the Curiosity Age, delight in asking innumerable questions on an endless array of subjects. Not only does this get them the attention they want from their mommy, or older brothers and sisters, their dad and whoever else they can corner, it also enables them to learn new things.

But as the questions go on and on, many times repeating themselves, patience wears thin and irritation sets in. There is, however, a remedy for you besieged parents other than the T.V. — ask your kids the questions before they have a chance to ask you. And provide them ways to find out the answers. This will teach them how to think, which is better than what to think. You could even call it a game named **Headwork** with a prize to the one who thinks up the better answers first.

Here are some sample questions that can start your youngsters' minds working.

 Why are your elbows on your arms instead of on your legs?

 We use our eyes to see a potato. Can a potato use its eyes to see us? What is the purpose of the eyes of the potato?

 Why is a bigger bowl needed for popcorn after it is popped? What happens to the unpopped corn when it is heated?

 Cars have motors to make them go. What part of the human body acts most like a car motor?

 A few years after a volcano erupted killing all forms of vegetation on an island, plants begin to grow. How could that happen?

This is the season of graduations: tots graduate from nursery school, children from elementary, youth from high school and young men and women from college. We share with you excerpts from a letter written by a BCBP mother from Alabang chapter — written as a gift to her daughter who is about to graduate from U.P. Dilliman with a B.S. in Mass Communications.



Dearest Tweet,

How time flies! A few days from now, you will receive your college diploma — the prize you get for four years of diligent studying. That was fast! I could still remember the time when we had to plead with the Dorm Manager for you to be accepted in your freshman year.

Oh, how you love U.P., the dorm and your friends. ... And then you joined the U.P. Mountaineering Club. When you climbed Mt. Banahaw, I sought the help of my friends in the community to pray for your safety and protection. My faith in the Lord kept me going during the nights that you were on that trip.

I just couldn't forget the summer of 1993. You took a part-time job at a five-star hotel and earned your first salary which you readily shared with me. Thank you again for that kind gesture.

And now your graduation day is just a few days away. You will soon face the real world. I try not to be anxious because I know the good Lord will always be there to guide and protect you.

I just want to let you know that whatever path you take, and if ever you need my help, you can always call on your Mommy. I am confident that your Papa and I raised you well and so I need not worry when you choose the kind of life you have dreamed about.

Papa and I love you very much.

*Love always,
 Mommy*

 What does saliva come from? What does sweat or perspiration come from?

 Does a rubber ball look the same after it is bounced? Does a tomato? How are they different? How are they the same?

 Why do some plants have light green leaves and others have dark green leaves? Does the color of the plant affect its growth?

 How can you make a rainbow? How many colors are in a rainbow?

 Introduce your children to the delightful tales by Rudyard Kipling entitled the **Just So Stories**. These stories can help you answer the fun questions like "Mommy, how did the elephant get his trunk?" or "Why does the giraffe have a long neck?"
 -Nancy R. Catan

Bible Sharing



The Holy Spirit's Role in Our Salvation

This is the time of the liturgical year that we celebrate Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the faithful. The Holy Spirit is active today, too. He plays important roles in our lives, roles that can be divided into three main stages: preconversion, conversion, and postconversion.

1. In the preconversion stage, the Holy Spirit shows us our wrongdoing, He reproves us and He restrains us from further harm and danger. Read John 16:7-10 and 2 Thess. 2:7.

2. As we experience conversion, the Holy Spirit renews us then He indwells in us to help us make sure all our parts are responding righteously, and then He seals us, He imprints His power on us. Read Titus 3:5, 1 Cor. 6:19 and Eph. 4:30.

3. In His postconversion ministry, the Holy Spirit fills us, He makes us holy and sets us apart as one of God's people, and He helps us understand and apply the Word of God in our lives. And He helps us pray and communicate with God. Read Eph. 5:18, 2 Cor. 3:18, 1 Cor. 2:12, and Romans 8:26, 27.

4. Ask yourself these questions and share your answers with your prayer group:

- In what ways have I experienced the Holy Spirit working in my life?

- In what other ways do I want the Holy Spirit to be active in me?

- What can I do to receive the fullness of life that the Holy Spirit, and Jesus in John 10:10, promises me?

One Minute Meditations

Fernando de Larrazabal

The Clamor For CHANGE



"Train a boy in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not swerve from it." Proverbs 22:6

This scriptural passage is full of wisdom; unfortunately, it is the trainers who now depend on the youth to undo the many mistakes of the past committed by them. This brings me to the subject of the recent visit to the country by Pope John Paul II.

A columnist describes his visit as an excess of successes. The huge welcome and his four-day stay went beyond anyone's expectations. Some have asked how one man was able to bring about such response from the public. The only answer that explains this is - the clamor for change.

The past and present generations have failed miserably to make this world a better place for those who will inherit it. This dilemma was the force that brought together the youth to voice out the need for change. Their enthusiasm and zeal are the only weapons they

can count on for the present to make this change possible. They can no longer have faith in their seniors, but unless this generation extends a helping hand, they may fail.

Our generation is presented with a rare opportunity to heal the many wounds of the past and help the youth to create a better world for themselves. We owe our sons and daughters this debt. We can help prevent them from inheriting this corrupt and sinful society we have created. We need to exhibit a willingness to make these changes possible; otherwise, we won't leave them anything worthwhile saving.

We must turn to Jesus who makes all things possible. Trust him, have faith in ourselves, and with these two virtues, we can make this world a better place for our children.

Those of you who are interested to read more 1-minute meditations by Fernando de Larrazabal are encouraged to get a copy of his most recent book of short reflections entitled Where Are My Hands and Feet, available at Christian bookstores and the BCBP booktable.

"What Do You Say?"

"We are the greatest, the mightiest, the strongest nation on earth," say the politicians. "I am the greatest of all time," says the boxer. "I am the boss, and you do what I say," says the manager. "I am your superior officer and you must obey me in all things," says the military officer. "I am stronger than you," says the school boy.

"Anyone who wants to be first must make himself or herself the last and the servant of all," says Jesus. Jesus asks us, "What do you say?"

Why Do We Need Action Groups?

Action groups — small groups of five to seven couples — are one of the strengths of the BCBP. Why? Here are eight reasons. You may want to discuss them during your action group meeting and find out how your action group measures up to these qualities.

Strong action groups result in strong units result in strong chapters result in a strong, dynamic BCBP.

1. Action groups (AGs) teach us how to pray. We learn from each other's experiences in prayer even as we grow in prayer together. See Luke 11:1.

2. Strong fellowship bonds are developed in AGs. As in Ephesians 4:16 participation in AGs brings about not only our own growth but also that of the Brotherhood as a whole. We are built up in love as we regularly meet together and share our lives with each other.

3. Powerful blessings come to the group when everyone contributes their presence, their love, prayers and sharings. And these blessings build us up. Read 1 Cor. 14:26.

4. Meeting in small groups on a regular basis encourages discipleship and is the initial step to answering the command of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 to make disciples of all men. To be able to

reach out to others, we must first be able to make disciples of ourselves and our action group members.

5. In the action group meetings we receive encouragement even as we encourage each other to live out our lives as Christians, to be faithful to Him and to our BCBP commitment. We are able to rouse one another to love and good works. See Hebrews 10:24-25.

6. Action groups raise up leaders. The meetings provide practical, hands-on training for service and Christian leadership. Read 2 Timothy 2:2.

7. Action group meetings serve as a forum to encourage evangelism. We can learn from each other about how to evangelize our families, our neighbors and our respective marketplaces. By our mini-sharings in AG meetings, we are practicing for sharing in the breakfasts. With the support of our brothers and sisters in our action group, we can become more confident in fulfilling Jesus' command in Mark 16:15-16. We can also share in His promise in Mark 16:20.

8. Through the action group and the other BCBP activities we become active participants rather than just spectators in the great Christian renewal taking place in the Church today.



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supposed to do as obedient followers of Christ, He blessed us with Charmee. He provided us with a modest car and allowed me to put up my own accounting business. He gave me Bong as the most special gift I have ever received. Despite our diverse backgrounds, worldly ways and the very shaky relationship we had in the beginning, He touched us, tested us and molded us into what we are today — His obedient servants.

You may consider these as simple things and simple situations but for us these were God's perfect plan because He was always present to help us at the time we needed Him most. His timing may sometimes be delayed (according to our schedules) but He was never and will never be too late to help us.

—Excerpts from the couple sharing of Noli and Bong Tiongson, Makati Joint Breakfast, January 4, 1995

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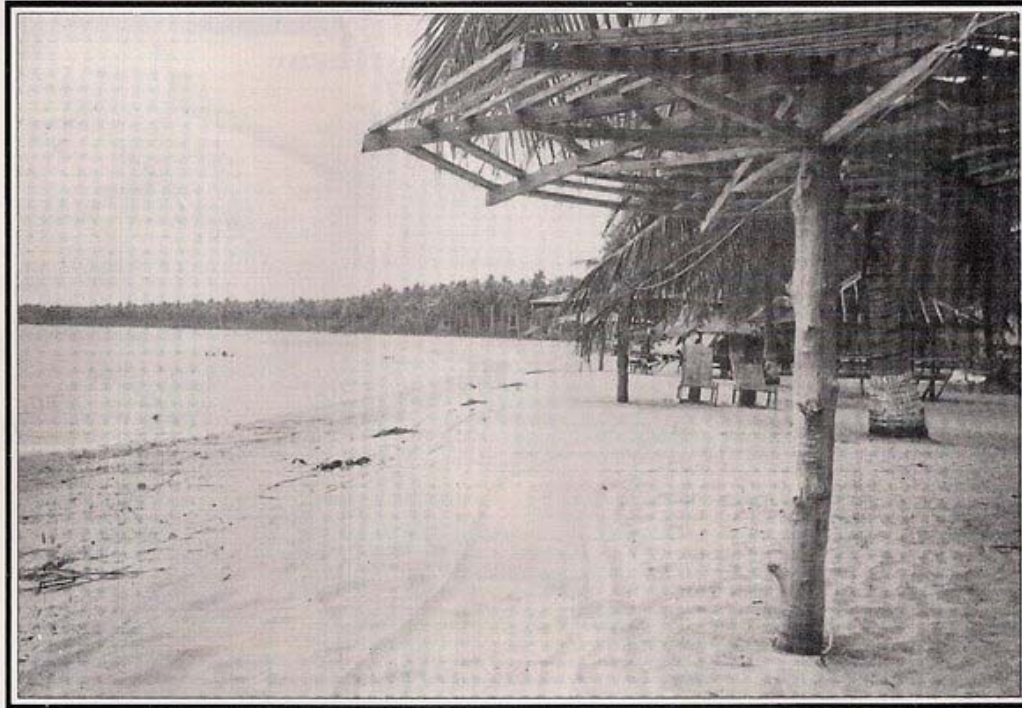
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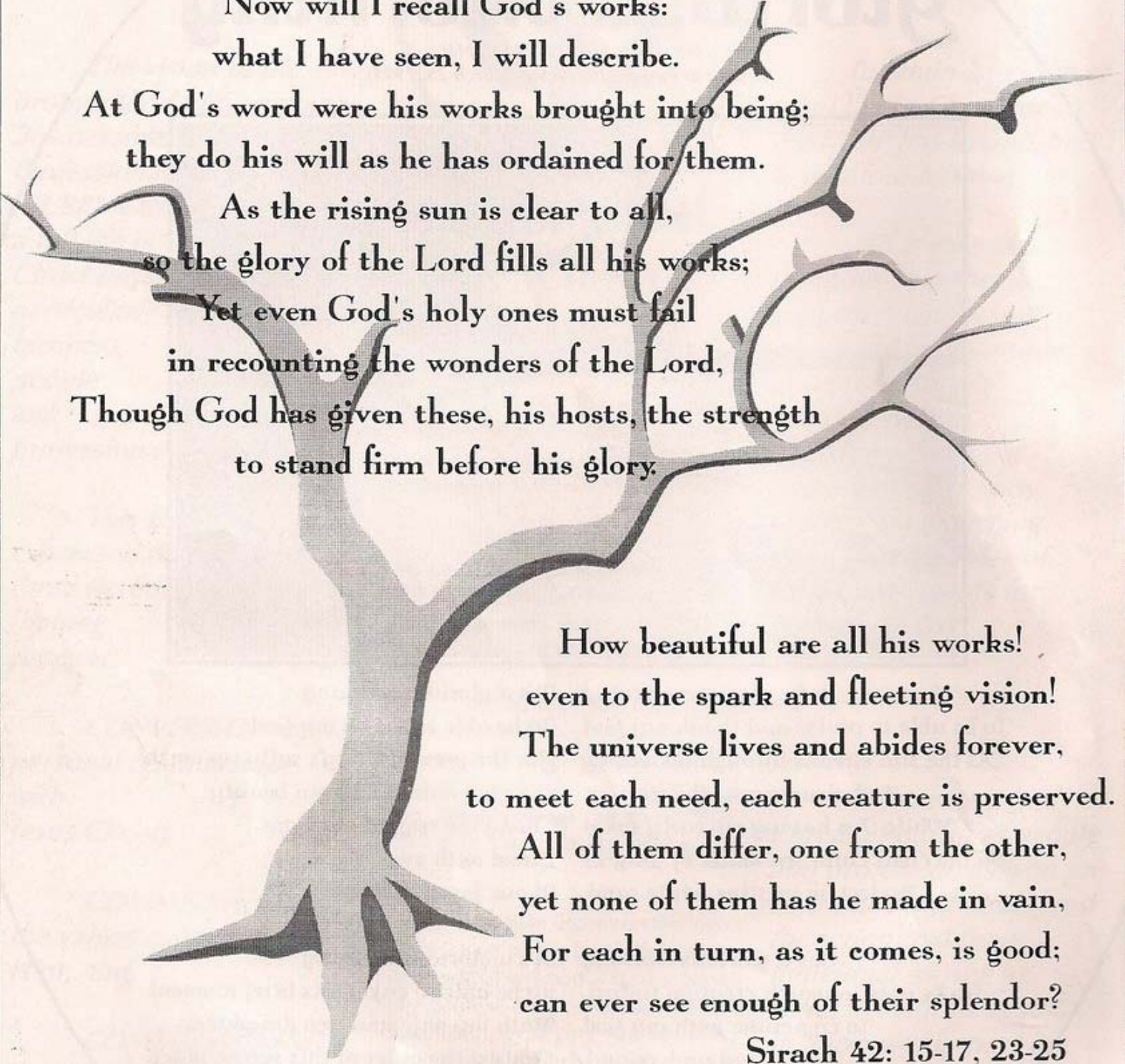
It's A Glorious Morning

*Gil Abejo, Greenhills Chapter
(written at Pug-os, Ilocos Sur March 25, 1995)*



It's a glorious morning To be able to praise and thank my God As the sun streaks through the valley And gleams over the treetops While I'm having my early swim In the clear calm sea water of Pug-os My feet on pristine white sand.	It's a glorious morning To be able to thank my God For the previous day's sally up north, Enjoying nature's virgin beauty Along the rugged seashore Lined with what remains Of our forest primeval.
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It's a glorious morning To be able to watch creation unfurl, To commune with my God And understand, While holding a baby starfish Against the glow of the rising sun, How my God values life.	It's a glorious morning To be able to enjoy this brief moment With my wife and two daughters Amidst the quiet of this serene place, Punctuated only by simple folk Welcoming fishermen with their night's catch For sharing with kin and all.
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Now will I recall God's works:
what I have seen, I will describe.

At God's word were his works brought into being;
they do his will as he has ordained for them.

As the rising sun is clear to all,
so the glory of the Lord fills all his works;

Yet even God's holy ones must fail
in recounting the wonders of the Lord,
Though God has given these, his hosts, the strength
to stand firm before his glory.

How beautiful are all his works!
even to the spark and fleeting vision!
The universe lives and abides forever,
to meet each need, each creature is preserved.
All of them differ, one from the other,
yet none of them has he made in vain,
For each in turn, as it comes, is good;
can ever see enough of their splendor?

Sirach 42: 15-17, 23-25