



# Kapatiran

MAGAZINE

VOL. IV NO. 6

PHILIPPINES

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# VENUES

## **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: Roli's, La Salle, Bacolod City

BAGUIO: Rito's Restaurant, Engineer's Hall,  
Baguio (2nd & 4th Sat)

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

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

DAVAO: Terraza Millesa (2nd/4th 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: Asiworld Resort Hotel  
QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill, 119 Roces Ave.  
near cor. Morato

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

RIZAL: Valley Golf and Country Club, Antipolo

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

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

## **MEN'S LUNCHEON (12:00 noon)**

### Saturdays

DAGUPAN: Pinkee's Restaurant



*Cagayan de Oro Joint Breakfast. Rene and Marides Almendras sharing.*

## **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: Quan, La Salle, Bacolod City (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: Valley Golf and Country Club,  
Antipolo (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

*BCBP Puerto Princesa Breakfast with  
Nancy and Jun Catan sharing.*





BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN  
BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

# KAPATIRAN Magazine

Vol. IX, No. 6 November - December 1995

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**ON THE COVER:** During the recently concluded National Strategic Planning Retreat, the participants - the National Council, Chapter Heads and Mission Directors - made a "pact" to fully support and uphold the results of the conference. Their commitment was manifested by affixing their signatures on one of the documents (enlarged) - the BCBP evangelization re-defined.

Nick Calpo, Las Piñas correspondent, applied some camera work, put in some spice of Christmas spirit, and came up with our cover composition.



# HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

---

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WHERE YOU CAN HELP PEOPLE  
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THERE ARE A FEW REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESS IN OUR LINE OF WORK. HARD WORK. DRIVE. ENERGY. RAPPORT WITH PEOPLE. A STRONG DESIRE TO SERVE OTHERS.

OUR SUCCESSFUL ASSOCIATES EARN VERY GOOD INCOME AND ACQUIRE THEIR OWN HOUSES AND CARS WITHIN A FEW YEARS. THEY SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO THE BEST SCHOOLS, TRAVEL ABROAD AND DO A LOT OF EXCITING THINGS BESIDES.

SO IF YOU ARE STILL SEARCHING FOR A LONG-TERM CAREER OR BUSINESS, JOIN THE BUSINESS THAT CAN GIVE YOU THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.

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*In anticipation of the holidays and the frenzied hassle of finding the "right" gifts for our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews plus dozens of cousins, I would like to share with you a poem that I clipped years ago from a 1976 McCall's Magazine and have treasured all these years. I wanted to write my editorial about gift-giving and children, but I feel that this anonymous poem says it much better than I could. I wish you a most joyous Christmas season this year! -Nancy R. Catan*

# What Shall We Give

In the long twilight of the year, the faces of the children grow luminous.  
Rosy with cold, arabesqued with snowflakes, leaning into the wind or drowsing before the fire, their eyes large, they look and listen, as if they glimpsed the peripheries of miracle or heard a soundless music in the air.  
From the innocent kingdom of implicit belief to that uncomfortable arena where the implacable mind battles the intractable heart, the faces of children at Christmas are lighted with visions of things to come.

## *What shall we give the children?*

It seems certain that they will travel roads we never thought of, navigate strange seas, cross unimagined boundaries and glimpse horizons beyond our power to visualize.

What can we give them to take along? For the wild shores of Beyond, no toy or

bauble will do. It must be something more, constructed of stouter fabric discovered among the cluttered aisles and tinsel bargain counters of experience, winnowed from what little we have learned. It must be devised out of responsibility and profound caring — a homemade present of selfless love.

Everything changes but the landscape of the heart.

## *What shall we give the children?*

Attention, for one day it will be too late.

# The Children?

A sense of value, the inalienable place of the individual in the scheme of things, with all that accrues to the individual — self-reliance, courage, conviction, self-respect and respect for others.

A sense of humor. Laughter leavens life. The meaning of discipline. If we falter at discipline, life will do it for us.

The will to work. Satisfying work is the lasting joy.

The talent for sharing, for it is not so much what we give as what we share.

The love of justice. Justice is the bulwark against violence and oppression and the repository of human dignity.

The passion for truth, founded on precept and example.

Truth is the beginning of every good thing.

The power of faith, engendered in mutual trust.

Life without faith is a dismal dead-end street.

The beacon of hope, which lights all darkness.

The knowledge of being loved beyond demand or reciprocity, praise or blame, for those so loved are never lost.

## *What shall we give the children?*

The open sky, the brown earth, the leafy tree, the golden sand, the blue water, the stars in their courses and the awareness of these.

Birdsong, butterflies, clouds and rainbows. Sunlight, moonlight, firelight.

A large hand reaching down for a small hand, impromptu praise, an unexpected kiss, a straight answer. The glisten of enthusiasm and a sense of wonder. Long days to be merry in and nights without fear.

The memory of a good home.





*Views At Large*

# Finding Our **Second Wind**

*Manolet Siojo, Greenhills Chapter*

**AM I TIRED OF BCBP?** Do I find myself looking for or fabricating excuses not to go to my action group meeting or the chapter assembly or the First Friday Mass?

Brothers and sisters, if you see yourself in this situation, you need to ask yourself these other questions — why did I join the BCBP in the first place? What motivated me to commit to be a member? But before anything else, let me assure you that feeling tired and weary is a normal human reaction that occurs in all areas of our life — our family, our marriage, our profession/career, and yes, even our spiritual life.

St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians 3:12-14 maturity is a process and we need to forget what lies behind and strain forward in pursuit of the goal “the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus.”

And maybe it’s in this passage that we can find the answer to our predicament of feeling tired and weary. We need to know where we are headed, our vision, our goal as Christians — that “perfect maturity” according to Paul. The BCBP, brothers and sisters, is one way (not the only way) to that “perfect maturity.” If you truly believe in your heart that the BCBP is the way, the road you want to take, then by all means take the BCBP seriously — that should be your motivation!

One of our brothers in the renewal could not have said it better when he shared that “our Christian life is not a 100-meter dash but rather a marathon race.”



We’re here for the long haul, the long distance run. We need to get that second, third, fourth even fifth wind to finish the race. I believe the BCBP provides the support environment for you to do just that. And I guess “perfect maturity” also means realizing and accepting that nothing in this world is perfect, not even the BCBP.

Our basic commitment is to “love and serve one another”. It is my prayer that we all find joy, peace and reassurance in this simple command of Jesus. Let this also be the source of our second wind to propel us further on up the road.

God bless us all!

# COMMITMENT

*Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality.*

*It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions, And the actions which speak louder than the words.*

*It is making the time when there is none. Coming through time after time, after time, Year after year after year.*

*Commitment is the stuff Character is made of; the power to change the face of things.*

*It is the daily triumphs Of Integrity over skepticism.*

*Contributed by Rolly Aberion, Greenhills Chapter*

# Do It!

*Juanito “Ani” Lagao  
Dagupan Chapter*

I think there are three ways in which I can perform a good deed.

If I say: “I shall do it soon,” the way is poor. If I say: “I am ready to do it,” the way is of average quality. If I say: “I am doing it now,” then the way is praiseworthy. Flavier says lets DOH it. He does it in the abstract sense. How do we do things?

*Anger punishes itself. -Thomas Fuller*



**Reader's Forum****Thank You**

Let us first of all thank you for sending us copies of KAPATIRAN which you surely know we enjoy reading. This extraordinary gesture of solicitude made us truly happy knowing that even tho' we are far away [in Maryland, U.S.A.], you care.

We now enjoy reading nice articles of good writers, news and editorials. They are very enlightening and enriching spiritually especially in these troublous times. We need them for upliftment and posterity to make us spiritually strong.

Philip and Elsa Anievas, Makati Chapter

**In The Marketplace**

Eddie Mendoza  
Greenhills Chapter

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

IN MATTHEW 6:33, we read one of the most famous sayings of Jesus: "Seek first [God's] kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."

First things first, he says. And this is Jesus' advice to all persons in all walks of life, businessmen and professionals included.

Putting first things first, of course, makes sense. Even Stephen Covey urges his management followers to make this a habit. We should ask ourselves, "What one thing could you do that if you did it on a regular basis would make a tremendous positive difference in your personal, (business and professional) life?" Once you answer that, he says, then just do it and it will make a positive difference in life. Don't waste your time on anything else but that.

Modern time management techniques say that you must be able to identify matters that are urgent and important. The effective manager is the one that is able to cut down on work that is neither urgent nor important, and concentrate on the really important matters even before these become urgent. An effective manager is the one that is able to say "no" to those activities that are neither urgent nor important to him. Jesus knew what is important. But do we?

How often have we failed to start the day with prayer and worship and listen-

ing to the Lord's guidance because we are engrossed in our business schedule, or we are rushing for that 5:30 a.m. tee-off at the golf course? How often have we greeted each morning with a newspaper in hand, reading the business and political news, instead of a bible in hand, reading the good news of salvation?

A simple test should prove where your heart is. If somebody announces that they are giving away a free, brand new Mercedes Benz to anyone who says he believes in flying saucers, which of you would go to that place immediately? What if the offer was repeated every day, each time with a larger prize? I am sure you would go there everyday, once you have proven to yourself that it is no hoax.

But what if they announce that somewhere in your neighborhood they are giving away each morning, for free, the bread of life, living water, the Lamb of God, eternal salvation, provided that all you have to do is say that you believe in this man called Jesus? Would you go out of your way to that place and receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist each morning?

Put first things first. Put God first. Christianity costs money, but God is good, God is generous, God will provide. Begin to say "no" to those activities that prevent you from seeking God first. Try it, say "yes" to Jesus, and live to spread the good news that this is no hoax.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## NATIONAL QUARTERLY BREAKFAST

November 21, 1995

Tuesday 7:30 A.M.

Makati Sports Club

Ballroom

Sharer:

Mr. Joey A.

Concepcion III

President & CEO

RFM Corporation

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

December 1, 1995,

Friday, 6:30 P.M.

Multi-Purpose Center

3/F Lay Force Center

Guadalupe, Makati City

For more details, please call

Ronnie Caballero,

Makati Chapter Head

Tel. No. 590-971 to 74



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View From WithinThe **SEASON** of

Pinky V. Lim  
Cagayan de Oro Chapter

**EXPECTATIONS**

**FOR HE SENT HIS ONLY SON**, the eternal word, who enlightens all men so that He might dwell among men and tell them of the innermost being of God (Jn. 1:1-8). The "word made flesh", Jesus Christ, was thus sent as "a man to man". In God's wisdom and goodness He chose to reveal himself and to make known to us the hidden purpose of His will (Eph. 1:9) by which through Christ, man might, in the Holy Spirit, have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature.

Christ's birth was an expression of God's omnipotence, a sacrament of piety for the redemption of man. The hand that assumed clay to make our flesh deigned to assume a body for our salvation ( St. Chrysologus).

Advent is an expectation and a preparation. Since it is a moment of expectation, it entails waiting. Waiting causes us to be anxious, to be excited, to be happy, to have hope! We wait as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus's birth.

How then do we wait for Jesus? How many times has God come to our lives unexpectedly even taking advantage of different situations and events to show us his love and call us to conversion? As Christians, we can announce Christ's coming by letting a greater set of values animate our actions, by changing our lives, by becoming living witness of His goodness and love, by exhorting people to turn from their sinful ways, by spreading the spirit of peace and sharing. We should prepare the way for Him.

We should be the John the Baptist of our times, who is the perfect example of a Christian evangelizer, who preaches hope and conversion. We should prepare the way for God's unique intervention for goodness and grace come from Him alone and we are only His instruments. We should be humble and full of hope like John. We, too, should live and exhort the values that John taught all of us to embrace: justice, fairness, sharing, honesty, integrity and love. As Christians, we can then make a very strong statement that we are waiting for Someone greater, as John puts it: "He comes after me but He is greater that I am, because He existed even before I was born. (Jn. 1:15)

The whole ambience of Christmas has to do with promises fulfilled. "Let us see this wonderful thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about" (Luke 2:15). Christmas is a "promised season", the time to realize that what has been promised to Abraham and his descendants can come to pass. For us, it is a good time to focus on the promises we have

made and this is a time to be certain that what we promise, we can bring about: our promises to conquer our selfishness, to love as He has loved and to be pure and holy for the Lord.

As we look forward in Advent to the coming of Christ, we should ask ourselves how we are going to interpret and live what we believe happens in Christmas so that we will be able to appreciate what the angel announced at the first Christmas: "I announce to you good news of great joy which will be for the whole people: to you this day there is born in the city of David a Savior who is Messiah and Lord." (Luke 2:10-11).#



*He that loses his conscience has nothing left that is worth keeping. -Izaak Walton*





St. Homobonus

# LITTLE KNOWN FACTS About Little Known Saints

*During the last two months of the year, we remember saints, souls, and holy men and women who have been recognized by the Catholic Church as model Christians. Kapatiran presents some of the lesser-known saints and offers us a chance to reflect on how we, too, can become saints.*

*WHENEVER I USED* to think of saints, I would picture holy people in unending prayer, or doing works of mercy, or being martyred for their unwavering faith. That is, until I came across a little book filled with fun facts about saints. Although written for children, **115 Sainly Fun Facts** by Bernadette McCarver Snyder opened my eyes to the fact that saints were people just like us, and they not only lived good lives but had a lot of fun and excitement doing it.

For instance, take the case of St. Gall, an Irishman who just loved fishing. He spent a lot of time preaching and converting people to Christianity, but in his spare time you could find him on the banks of a river or lake fishing. In his later life, he became a hermit — the place where he lived in solitude and prayer was near a river known for its good fishing!

And then there was the comedian Genesius who was a member of a dramatic troupe that put on funny plays during the time of the early Christians. One day they were asked to entertain the emperor so they decided to perform a play making fun of the Christians' baptismal rituals. Genesius played the lead role pretending he wanted to become a Christian.

But an even funnier thing happened! In the middle of the play, he was filled with a great love of God and really did want to become a Christian. When the play was over, he told everyone that God had touched him and then was really baptized a Christian. He tried to play a joke on God, instead God played a happy joke on Genesius!

Did you know that St. John Bosco was an acrobat, a juggler and a magician? When he first started working with young boys teaching them how to love God and have a happy life, they paid little attention to him. So he had to resort to stunts and magic tricks with lessons sandwiched in between so that they would laugh and learn at the same time.

Then there are saints whose lives are spicier than soap operas! One of them, St. Adelaide, is called the "good news-bad news" saint.

Good news! When she was 16 years old she married the king of Italy and became a queen. Bad news! Three years later the king died; his successor threw Adelaide into prison. Good news! Within a year, the German king invaded, won the kingdom, freed Adelaide from prison and married her! They had three sons and she took an active part in affairs of state. Bad news! The king died and his sons who ruled after him had Adelaide thrown out of the court in disgrace. Good news! When the rule went to her grandson, Adelaide returned as regent and was a prudent and understanding ruler of the kingdom. In spite of her "soap opera" life, Adelaide was a woman of prayer and charitable works among the poor. For being able to turn bad news into good news, she became a saint.

Alexander, the charcoal-burner, became a bishop as the result of a sarcastic joke the townspeople made to a visiting bishop. The town needed a bishop, but the townspeople wanted someone influential and wealthy while the visiting bishop Gregory didn't agree with any of their proposed choices.

*cont. on next page*

*When the body is most disciplined, the mental and the spiritual faculties are most alert. -William Barclay*



## To Those I Love, and Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.  
Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave you my love. You can only guess.  
How much you gave to me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love you each have shown.  
But now it's time I traveled on alone.

So grieve a while for me if grieve you must.  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only for a while that we must part.  
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on.  
So if you need me, call and I will come.  
Though you can't see me or touch me, I'll be near.  
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear  
All of my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone  
I'll greet you with a smile, and Welcome Home.

Anonymous

### Reader's Forum

## Who is My Favorite Saint?

St. Francis of Assisi. Because he gave up his wealth to follow Jesus. He also lived a life of poverty. **Linda Brillon Las Piñas**

"St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Aside from being the Patron Saint of my home province, Batangas, I have been receiving favors from her. Province folks have given testimonies of her continued protection." **Arlene Cantera, Greenhills**

"St. Peter. Even though he committed mistakes and doubted Jesus, he repented." **Linda Santos, Las Piñas.**

"San Antonio de Padua. Like St. Francis of Assisi, he somehow personified my being, that is, he lived a simple life." - **Charito Sagun, Quezon City**

"St. Augustine. For 20 years, he was pagan and lived a life of leisure. Through the prayers of his mother, he was converted. After his conversion, he lived a holy life, thus becoming a saint." - **Lor Rodriguez, Las Piñas**

### LITTLE KNOWN FACTS... from p. 8

When one of the townspeople said sarcastically, "Well, then, why don't you just pick Alexander, the Charcoal-Burner, the poorest of the lot!" Gregory sent for Alexander who arrived all dirty and ragged because of his work. It turned out that Alexander was well educated and a very wise man who had given away all his money and taken a lowly job to be like Jesus. So Alexander became the bishop of the town, a good leader — and a saint.

In Verona, Italy, there is a statue in the basilica there of St. Zeno, the smiling saint. And the statue is smiling! All other statues of saints portray them as serious and somber. Only Zeno has a happy smile illuminating his face! Why? Maybe because when he was a bishop and faced with heresies and pagan superstitions, he would still smile and tell people about the kindness and charity of Jesus.

Did you know that no one knows the real name of the woman who wiped Jesus' face with her veil and saw His image imprinted on the veil afterwards? So why is she known as Veronica? Well, that's the Latin for "true image" — and since

Jesus left the true image of his face on her veil, the unknown woman became known as Veronica.

St. Homobonus was a businessman, the son of a merchant. His father taught him that to be a good businessman he must be a good man — honest, fair, dutiful, just and kind. And so he lived his whole life doing business, treating his customers as he would like to be treated himself. His wife helped him in their business and they gave much of the money they earned to those who were less fortunate. He went to Mass every day including the day when he suddenly collapsed and died during the Mass — a good man to the end.

Anne and Joachim became saints because they were good people and the loving parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus. They might even be called Saints Grandma and Grandpa! They were good people so they certainly must have been good grandparents to Jesus!

I could go on and on but I think you get my point. If these people could become saints, why can't we become saints, too? - **Nancy R. Catan**



*Several years ago I read this letter in a newspaper and it touched me greatly. As we approach this Advent and Christmas season, we need to reflect on 'what is the meaning of all this hustle and fuss'. This letter touches on the basic reason why we celebrate Christmas — the birth of Jesus. And so I am reprinting this letter from Jesus in full for your reflection with the prayer that it will help you rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. -Nancy R. Catan*

# THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Dearest Loreta,

Hello, dear friend. Well, as you know, it's almost time for my birthday again. Last year they had a real big party for me and it seems that this year they will, too. After all, they have been shopping for it for months now and there have been announcements and advertisements almost every day about how soon it's coming! They really do go overboard about it, but it's nice to know that on at least one day out of the year they are thinking about me.

You know, it's been many years now since they first declared my birthday a national holiday. Back then they really appreciated how much I had done for this country. But most people nowadays barely even seem to know what they're really celebrating on my birthday.

Well, I enjoy seeing people getting together and having a happy time, and I'm especially happy about how much fun it is for the little children, but just the same, it seems that most people are missing the point of it all, don't you think?

Like last year, for example. When my birthday came around, they threw a big party, but — can you believe it? — I wasn't even invited! Imagine! The guest of honor and they forgot all about me! Here they had begun preparing for the festivities two months in advance, but when the big day came, I was left out in the cold! But it's happened to me for so many years now, that I wasn't even surprised any more. Well, even though I wasn't invited, I thought I'd just quietly slip in anyway. So I came in and stood off to the side. And you know, nobody even noticed me or realized that I was there!

Everyone was drinking and laughing it up and having a high old time, when all of a sudden, in came this fat old fellow in a bright red suit, wearing a fake white beard and shouting "Ho, Ho, Ho!" He looked like he'd had more than enough to drink, but he somehow managed to weave his way across the floor while everyone cheered. When he collapsed into a big armchair all of the little children went running over to him all excited, yelling "Santa! Santa!" I mean, you'd have thought he was the guest of honor and the whole holiday was in his honor!

Then he began telling them one of the most ridiculous stories you ever heard in your life! — That he lived at the North Pole with a bunch of dwarves, and that every year he rides on his sleigh pulled by a bunch of flying reindeer, that he climbs down the chimneys of their houses and sticks presents in their socks. I mean, there wasn't a word of truth in anything he said! Imagine telling poor little impressionable children such far-fetched fables!

Well, I sat through about as much of that "party" as I could stand, but finally I just had to leave. I got up and walked out the door, and it was hardly surprising that no one even noticed that I'd gone. As I walked down the street afterward, I felt almost as lonely and forlorn as a stray dog! I could hardly remember the last time I had felt that low. Maybe you don't think I cry, Loreta. But I did that night.

That's why I was so touched when I came by your house that evening, and you and your little family treated me so royally! I was really moved deep inside when you all sang "Happy Birthday" to me. It'd been such a long time that anyone had thought to do that!

I want to tell you, I really treasure friends like you. It's comforting to know that there are a few other folks around who remember me on my birthday, too! God bless them! Sweet folks like yourself who are close to me, who celebrate my birthday with a nice time of fellowship and a simple meal together. I never miss being with them on that day!

You know, that little manger scene you and your children had put up in the corner of your living room was really touching! It's sweet that people commemorate my birth like that. But did you know that these days, in some countries, the authorities won't even allow people to have manger scenes in the parks and streets or in public places anymore!! — Not to mention schools! And I'm not even talking about those Communist countries! I'm talking about the "good ol' USA"! Imagine! What could be more innocent than a manger scene to remind people of my birthday? — And yet they ban it! They've actually passed laws against it and made it illegal! What's this world coming to?

You know, the thing that really amazes me about how most people celebrate my birthday is how, instead of giving me presents, they give them to each other! — And on top of that, it's often all kinds of things that they don't even need! Let me ask you this: Wouldn't you find it odd, if, when your birthday came along, all your friends decided to celebrate it by giving each other presents and never give you a thing? Well, it happens to me every year!

Someone once told me, "Well, it's because you're not around like other people are, so how can we give you presents?" You know my answer to that one. I've always said, "Well, then give gifts of food and clothing to the poor and help to those who need it. Go visit the lonely," I said. "Listen, any gift you give to your needy fellow man, I'll count that as if you gave it to me personally!"

*Fear is the greatest of all inventions. -French Proverb*



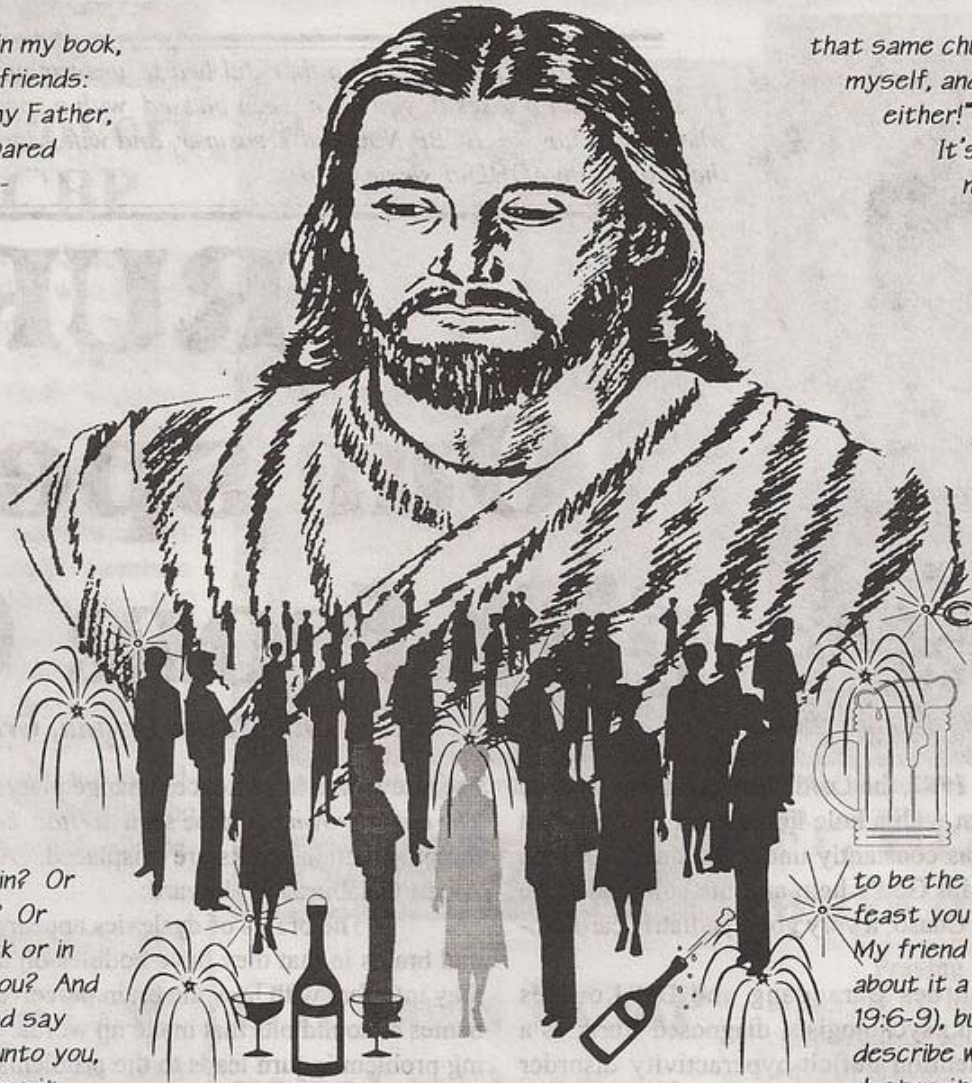
You've read it in my book, where I shall say to my friends: "Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the World. For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in, naked, and you clothed Me. I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry, and fed You? Or thirsty, and gave You drink? When did we see You a stranger, and took You in? Or naked, and clothed You? Or when did we see You sick or in prison, and came unto You? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, as often as you have done it unto one of the least of these, My brothers, you have done it unto Me!" (Matthew 25:35-40)

A few people give to the poor on my birthday — Bless their souls! — but for the most part people just seem to ignore my advice.

Well, sad to say, things are getting worse each year. You can just imagine my shock a few years ago when I began to see people taking my name out of My birthday greeting and replacing it with an "X"! What an insult!

Think of it! What if I wrote you a birthday card and said, Happy Birthday, "X"! You'd probably never talk to me again! And that's just about how it makes me feel! I mean, what more could they do to push me right out of the picture on my own birthday?

It reminds me of what happened to a friend of mine in the States, a dear sweet elderly black fellow named Sam who had been trying unsuccessfully for many months to join a church for "good, proper" folks, and they just didn't want old Sam as a member. I finally found him sitting on the church steps with his head in his hands, tears in his eyes, and I asked him what was wrong. When he told me about it, I put my arm around him and I said, "Sam, I know just how you feel. I've been trying to get into



that same church for twenty years myself, and they've never let me in either!"

It's really beginning to be too much the way so many folks seem to go crazy with presents and tinsel and glitter at Christmas time. Well, there's an end to even my patience.

So I'm going to let you in on a secret, Loreta. Now, this is something that I've been planning on doing for quite some time, but the way things are going, I think I'm going to have to put it into effect pretty soon.

I'm planning to hold my own party! How about that! It's going

to be the biggest, most fantastic feast you could possibly imagine! My friend John already leaked news about it a while ago (see Revelation 19:6-9), but he couldn't really fully describe what it's going to be like!

Just wait and see! It's going to be the best party you could possible imagine! I'm going to bring out the best vintage wine that you ever tasted in your life! (Matthew 26:29) And the food is going to be just Heavenly! (Revelation 2:7, 17)

I've actually been making preparations for it for quite sometime now, but it might be a little while before I can finish everything up, so it might not happen this year. — But I'm sending out the invitations now anyway, 'cause I know you'll want to come. (Rev. 22:17) — And bring your family and friends. There's going to be room for billions of people, everyone who wants to come! Some really famous oldtimers and celebrities are going to be there, and I'll reserve you a seat of honor right with them! (Matt. 8:11)

But you'd better hold on to your hat because when everything's ready, I'm going to spring it as a surprise and a lot of people are going to be left out in the cold because they didn't answer my invitations! Please let me know right away if you'd like to come, and I'll reserve you a place and write your name in large golden letters in my great big Guest Book!

Much love,

Jesus





*A strong faith in God, a thankful heart, unsurmountable patience and love. These are what it takes if you have been blessed with a special child. And these are what Bobby Laviña, BCBP National Treasurer, and wife Marite, have in dealing with their Rurik, an ADHD-dyslexic child.*

# RURIK: Our special gift from God

*Bobby and Marite Laviña, Greenhills Chapter*

ON AUGUST 23, 1982, the Lord blessed our family with a second son, who was born with a hole in his heart. For the first few years of his life, he was constantly under the threat of open heart surgery. However, with God's help and the solicitous care and concern of Dr. Charles Cuaso, a very good pediatric cardiologist, he was able to thrive.

In 1991, Dr. Lourdes Carandang and Dr. Lourdes Ledesma, two very eminent psychologists, diagnosed Rurik as a dyslexic child with an attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). ADHD children, we were told, chronically daydream. They are often very bright, but they have trouble attending to any one topic for very long. They are full of energy and have trouble staying put. They can be quite impulsive in saying or doing whatever comes to mind, and they find distractions impossible to resist. Dr. Edward M. Hallowell, who confesses to have ADHD, paints a clearer picture of ADHD people. He writes:

"ADHD people don't focus very well; they have to strain to see clearly. They have trouble attending to one task at a time. Hallmark symptoms of ADHD are easy distractibility, impulsivity and sometimes, but not always, hyperactivity or excess energy. They procrastinate a lot and they have trouble finishing things. Their moods can be quite unstable, going from high to low in the bat of an eye for no apparent reason. Their memories are porous. They daydream a lot.

"Many people who have ADHD are very smart. It's just that their smartness gets tangled up inside."

A child who has ADHD, therefore, is a child in a very difficult and trying situation. In Rurik's case, this condition is aggravated because on top of having ADHD, he also has dyslexia. A dyslexic child is one who has trouble spelling, reading and writing because the letters of words keep switching places. For example, he sees the word *cat* as either *act* or *tac*. This becomes even more complicated when words are strung together to make a sentence

because words in sentences change places. A simple sentence like *The cat is brown* could be seen as *tac borwn. is heT* where even the punctuation marks are misplaced. According to the work of Albert Galaburda at Harvard:

"The brains of dyslexics appear to be different from normal brains in that they have nodules on the cerebral cortex which may interfere with how the brain perceives and processes the phonemes or sound bits that make up words. The underlying processing problem in turn leads to the problems in reading, spelling and writing."

Because of these difficulties, dyslexic children have very short, erratic attentions spans, are restless, easily distracted and would prefer to direct their energies into doing other less stressful activities.

We were made to understand, however, that while the symptoms of ADHD can mimic dyslexia, the two are separate disorders and therefore the treatments for the two conditions are different. We also learned that there is no cure for ADHD or dyslexia; all that could be done is to teach the child how to live with it.

As an ADHD-dyslexic child, Rurik had a difficult time coping in Ateneo which is a very structured, traditional school. By the time he was in Grade 3, his self-image and self-esteem had been eroded by impatient teachers who unkindly labelled him as either lazy, slow or too distracted.

It was then that we asked the Lord to help us look for a suitable school which would help rebuild his self-esteem and teach him lovingly, patiently. The answer came in early June, very close to the opening of classes, after we had already enrolled Rurik in Ateneo and bought all his books; the school was Maria Montessori Children's School Foundation (MMCSFI) in Pasay City.

Before going, we prayed that the Lord would pave the way for us if this was the right school for Rurik. When we got there, everything just fell into place.

*next page pls.*

*All things come to him whose name is on a mailing list.*



# Juan's Christmas gift

Rurik B. Laviña

*God indeed works miracles in our lives, many times through people. Through the love, caring and concern of people, Rurik is overcoming his disabilities as evidenced in this unedited short story written by him.*

Among all the big angels and archangels in heaven, there was one little angel. His name was Pedrong.

Pedrong loved to fly and he was permitted to do so provided one of the older angels could go with him to make sure he was alright.

One day, very close to Christmas, when all the older angels were busy preparing for the holiday season, Pedrong had nothing to do. So he decided to go out flying to the edge of heaven to peep at what the people were doing on earth in preparation for Christmas Day.

He was lying down on a fluffy cloud, looking at a little town below when a tornado hit him.

Pedrong fell to the earth and lost consciousness.

When Pedrong woke up, he checked himself to see if he was hurt. He seemed okay, but he couldn't find his halo or his wings. No matter how hard he looked, he could not find them. He was very worried because without them he couldn't get back to heaven.

Pedrong decided to walk to the little town to ask for some help. On his way, he met Juan, a street kid selling bayong bags to the different shoppers. Pedrong asked Juan why he was selling bags and Juan said that he was doing it so that he could save enough to buy some food for noche buena. Pedrong offered to help him sell his bags.

When they finished selling all of the bags, Juan had enough money to buy some hot pandesal and Coke. He offered to share some of these to Pedrong.

While they were eating, Pedrong asked Juan about his life and his family. Juan told Pedrong that he had no family. He was an orphan and he was living all alone.

Then Juan asked Pedrong about his family. Pedrong decided to tell Juan his story, hoping Juan would believe him and help him look for his halo and wings so he could go back home.

Juan told Pedrong that the best to do was to talk to the parish priest who lived in the church in the town plaza, so they went there to ask for the priest's help. By this time, the Midnight Mass was over and everyone had already gone home so the streets were empty and dark.

By the time the two boys got to the church, the main doors were already closed. They walked to the parish priest's house behind the church but this was also locked. The only open place was the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the side of the church, so they went there because there was nowhere else to go.

When they entered, all the older angels were there, waiting for Pedrong. Pedrong was so happy to see them but he was also sad at the thought of leaving Juan, his new friend, behind.

He asked the other angels if Juan could come along so that he could have a friend in heaven who would be just the same age as he was. The angels asked Juan and Juan agreed to go with them because there was no one he was leaving behind on earth.

So early that Christmas Day, Juan met Jesus and he was very, very, very happy to be part of his friend Pedrong's family.

## RURIK... from p. 12

Rurik loved the school at once, and the Executive Directress offered to give Rurik the entrance exam that very same afternoon. Two days later, we were advised that he had passed and had been accepted!

The love and care of the entire MMCSFI community has gradually built up Rurik's self-esteem. He is now a happy teenager who is so securely sure of himself. But that is not all. In the early part of 1995, our Lord led us to Dr. Lourdes Cortez, someone who understood and empathized with us because she too is a mother of a dyslexic child. (We later found out that she was a Ligaya ng Panginoon member as well.) By patiently handling Rurik's therapy, she has helped Rurik improve not only his penmanship but also his

spelling and composition skills. She also referred to us Dr. Edwin Bien who pinpointed that Rurik's irritability, lack of concentration and forgetfulness is partially caused by hypoglycaemia, which meant that his blood sugar level was very low. By carefully following a strict diet, Dr. Bien assured us that Rurik will be able to improve his memory and have longer periods of concentration.

Rurik today is a mischievous, gregarious, charming 13-year-old who has brought joy to our family and to his multitude of friends. We know that there are more mountains for him to climb, more obstacles to hurdle, more challenges to meet. But our family is confident and Rurik is undaunted because we know that Jesus is there with him every step of the way. #

*The human heart is vast enough to contain all the world. -Joseph Conrad*





Frederic Mirren, 24  
Tourist. Free Spirit.  
Paris, France

### His Needs:

1.  
To never lose touch  
with home as he tours  
the Philippines

2.  
Be away so much and not  
miss the girl he left behind

3.  
A payphone that doesn't  
need coins

4.  
A direct line to the world  
while airborne or at sea

5.  
To be able to reach family  
and friends even at 2 AM

### His Choices:

1.  
Phones to call home from anywhere  
he may be in the country:

*Triphones*

2.  
Meetings with his girlfriend in  
San Francisco whom he misses so much:

*Videophone*

3.  
A coinless payphone that  
accepts pre-paid cards:

*Fonkard*

4.  
Telephones to keep him company during  
long hours of travel in between states:

*Air-to-Ground  
Ship-to-Shore*

5.  
A calling center open  
to serve him 24 hours a day:

*PLDT Call Mall*

*It's all here. Now.*



PLDT

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH



# 4 Ways to Write Up the Holidays



This holiday season is the perfect moment to polish up your family's writing skills and preserve memories for future years and generations. Here are four suggestions:

✎ Write your annual end-of-the-year letter as a family activity and make it fun. Instead of recounting the year's events, golf scores, scholastic medals won, business deals closed, try having each member of the family write a paragraph on one of these themes: "The most important lesson I learned this year..." or "If I ran the world, I would definitely ..." or "One of the reasons why I enjoy being a member of this family is ..." The kids who are too young to write can dictate their paragraphs to an older child. This epistle can then be sent to all relatives, near and far, and copies kept to chuckle and reminisce over in the coming years.

✎ If you have relatives that you don't see very often or who live far away, suggest to your children that they give them a year's membership in the Letter of the

Month Club. That means they have to guarantee 12 letters over the next year, one each month. Short or long, it doesn't matter — what is important is putting in the communication line and keeping it well maintained.

✎ Make a deal with your spouse to exchange love letters on Christmas Eve or on New Year's Eve. If you can't think of what to say, start yourself off with these lines from Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." Then each of you count at least 10 things you love about the other.

✎ Enhance the significance of the holiday by "freezing" it. Have your children write a letter to their future children explaining "What Christmas means to me this year." Why don't you write your own letter to your future grandchildren, too? Store their letters in a safe place so that in future years you will be able to pass them on to your grandchildren and their children. These letters, if written every year, will help you, in future years, relive Christmases past. **-Family Circle**

## Prepare for Christmas

*Practice random acts of kindness*



— If you know someone who is going through a bad day or a difficult time in life, make it better by doing something — anything — to let him or her know someone cares ... and don't let on who did it!



— When someone is trying to merge into your lane in traffic, let him — and smile and wave while doing it!



— The next time someone speaks to you, listen deeply without expecting anything.



— If you are the boss, bring your secretary a cup of coffee in the morning.



— Buy a big box of donuts or snack items for the kids who hang out on the street corner, or the postman, or newsboy who delivers your paper every morning.



— Laugh out loud often and share your smile generously.



— Let the person behind you in line at the grocery store go ahead of you.



— For one week, act on every single thought of generosity that arises spontaneously in your heart and notice what happens as a consequence. **—BCBP Cebu Newsletter**

*The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom. -Henry Ward Beecher*



# Stress Management Tips for Parents with Teeners

**ONE OF THE GREATEST TIMES** of stress for families is when those angelic little kids become teenagers and start to seek out their own destiny in life. This period becomes even more critical in today's complex society that tempts the young people with the tantalizing visions of sex, alcohol, drugs and independence camouflaging the realities of AIDS, violence, addictions and sin.

But the teeners are not alone in their turmoil. Parents of teeners are equally affected as they are faced with watching their

young ones transpose from being individuals for whom they've done everything for thirteen years to young men and women who suddenly want to do things by themselves in their own way.

Dr. Andrew Goliszek in his book **:60 Second Stress Management** (Bantam Books, Great Britain. c1993) advocates parents developing a greater tolerance toward their teeners. He proposes creating a more stress-free home environment by following some simple stress management control do's and don'ts which we are sharing with you.

## DO'S

1. Do try to set a good example.
2. Do give your undivided attention when your teenager wants to talk to you.
3. Do try to listen calmly. Listen to understand, not to respond. Don't start preaching.
4. Do develop a courteous tone of voice. Respect brings respect. Try not to overreact (read this as "lose your temper").
5. Do avoid making judgments. Take an interest in your children's activities.
6. Do keep the door open on any subject. Respect the adolescent's desire for individuality and independence.
7. Do permit expression of ideas and feelings.
8. Do encourage self-worth. Build your teenager's confidence; don't degrade it. You as a parent are NOT always right!



9. Do be aware of how you treat other children in the family. Try to be fair.

10. Do make an effort to say nice things.

11. Do hold family conferences. Talk about family values and expectations.

12. Do let your family members see you as parents praying for them. Involve them whenever possible in religious, BCBP and family activities.

## DON'TS

1. Don't expect your teenager to accept every rule and regulation you set forth.
2. Don't feel upset or rejected if your teenager tells you he or she hates you.
3. Don't try to be a perfect parent because none exist.
4. Don't blame your teenager's attitudes and behavior on your problems or your spouse.

*The trouble with illusions is that you don't realize you have them till they are shattered. -Preeti Sharma*



# Don't turn holiday cheer into

# holiday stress

**STRESS LEVELS SEEM** to reach an all-time high around holiday season. Pressure to spend, eat rich foods, skip exercise, travel far and please everyone (except yourself!) have a way of turning holiday cheer into holiday tension. But you can keep your cool. Here are some recommended by Woman's Day.

## Put a cap on holiday spending

Unmanageable bills will produce sleepless nights once the season is over.

- Decide what you can spend and diligently stick to your budget.
- Don't last minute shop. You'll cave in to time constraints or get carried away by the spirit of the season. And remember, a great gift doesn't have to break the bank.

## Plan a sensible feast

Most of us are watching some aspect of our diet. Whether it's calorie control, limiting fat or avoiding extra salt, keep food appropriate for you and your guests.

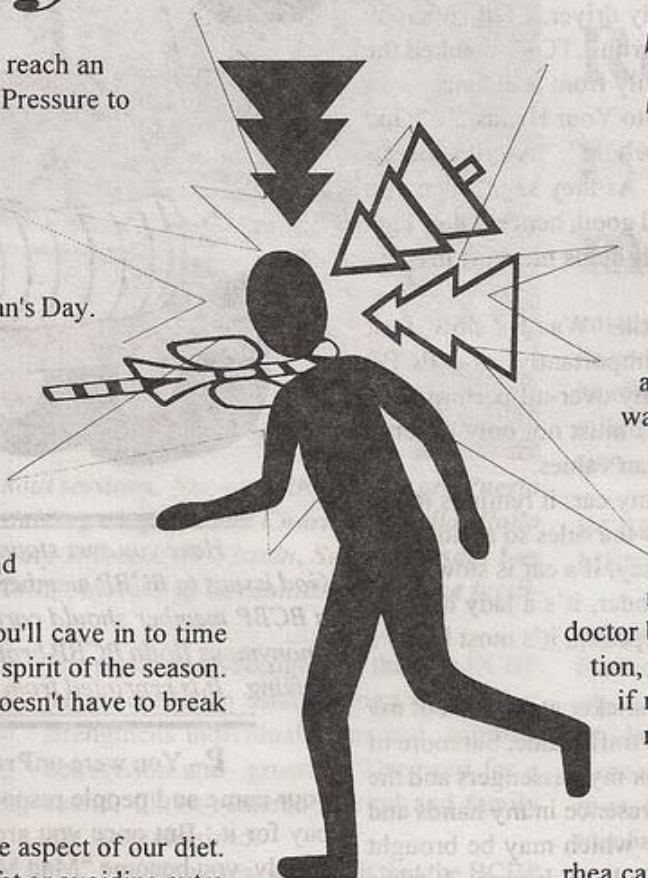
Don't push food or alcohol on anyone; he or she may have an important reason for turning down a dessert or wine with dinner.

If you do eat more than you'd planned, compensate with exercise: Walking a kilometer or two helps minimize the calories that stay behind as added poundage.

## Begin or stick to your exercise program

There's simply no better tranquilizer than exercise. It improves cardiovascular fitness (walking just 3 kms. three times a week significantly reduces your risk for heart disease), raises the level of chemicals (endorphins) in the brain that guarantee a sense of well-being, and improves strength, flexibility and endurance. A few caveats:

- Avoid even mild exercise in very cold weather if you suffer from coronary artery disease.
- Some asthma is cold-induced, so wear a scarf over your nose and mouth when temperature plummet.
- Don't start exercising until you've had a physical exam



and, if over 40, a stress test. Simple brisk walking is a typically safe start, and quite enough to defuse tension.

## Travel healthy

Colds and stuffy nose can make airplane flights a disaster; see your doctor before flying. Depending on your condition, a combination of nasal decongestant and, if needed, an antibiotic and even some steroids can help you avoid a painful earache and perhaps even perforated eardrum.

Also carry with you a prescription antibiotic to relieve fever and severe diarrhea caused by food poisoning. If you get seriously ill with gastroenteritis, avoid drugs that suppress stools; they can prolong fever and infection.

## Get enough rest

Too little sleep produces anxiety and intensifies depression. Pay attention to your body rhythms: Are you happiest in bed by 10 p.m.? Then pushing for several nights in a row isn't reasonable, no matter how delicious the invitations!

Should insomnia be a problem, avoid alcohol with your evening meal although it may initially relax you, there's an inevitable rebound that leaves many people awake and jumpy at 3 a.m.

## Reserve time for yourself

This season of endings and of new beginnings can present important challenges. Use the freedom from work and your usual responsibilities to list what was good and valuable about the year you've just finished. Set some simple goals for the next. Above all, keep your expectations and efforts within reason. Have a happy holiday! - *Philippine Daily Inquirer, Dec. 22, 1994*

*After all is said and done, sit down.*



# I Don't Want A Traffic Ticket From God

**LAST MONTH**, I applied for the third renewal of my driver's license. Despite my being a daily driver, I felt so happy for I was able to maintain a clean record with LTO. I thanked the Lord for this and also for sparing my family from accidents.

Usually, I sing when I drive. "Into Your Hands...", "God is My Refuge", "You O Lord are My Delight", "Ascribe Greatness". And many other inspiring songs. As they say "when you sing, you pray twice." Not only that, I feel good, hence, I don't get easily irritated by discourteous drivers. It helps me start my day right and bright.

I tried evaluating my driving skill. Was I a slow, fast, reckless, or average driver? But more importantly, as a BCBP driver, how were my manners, attitude, my over-all performance on the road? Because as a BCBP driver I must not only observe traffic rules, I should also observe Christian values.

Thanks to the BCBP sticker on my car, it reminds me to drive carefully and conscientiously follow the rules so as not to be a big disgrace to the Brotherhood. They say, if a car is slow moving and unsure of its maneuvers, "no wonder, it's a lady driver." But if the car zooms like hell, don't be surprised, it's most likely a male accelerator tripper.

But the point is with or without a sticker at the back of my car, the journey is not between me and the traffic aide, but more of me and my God. I alone am responsible for my passengers and the people on the road. By invoking God's presence in my hands and feet, in my senses, I can overcome anger which may be brought about by a fellow driver's inconsiderate style of driving. It takes only a few minutes to cool down a boiling head but it takes months to remove a plaster cast and worst, forever to wait for a replacement for my shattered permanent teeth. It only takes a few seconds and a little patience to give way to somebody, but it takes days to process your papers after bumping one another.

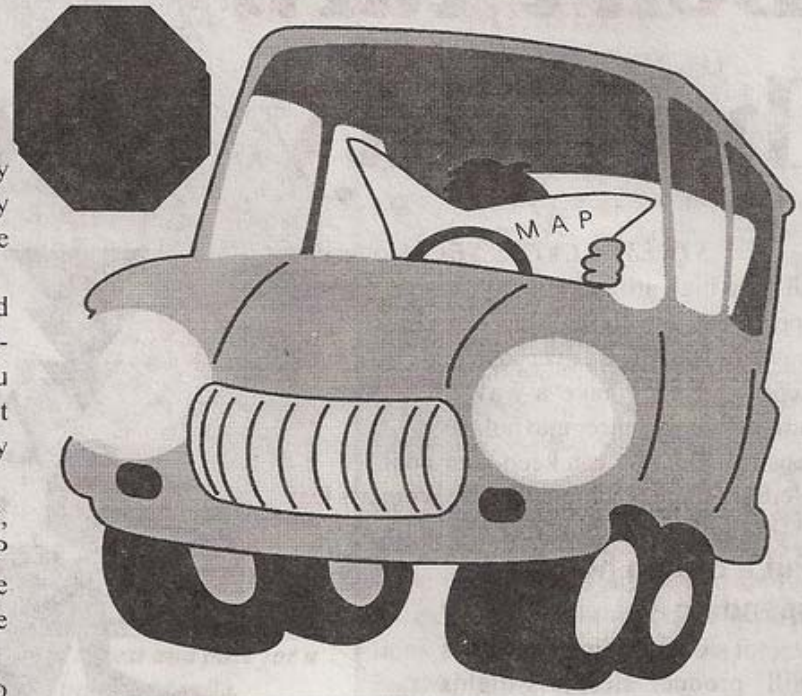
So I see to it that I drive God's way. I am afraid that when I face my God some day, He might issue me a traffic ticket with the following charges — so I better do what I can to prevent it now.

## God's Traffic Ticket

**B** - As a driver, there was a time when you were not a **Brother/sister** to a crossing pedestrian or a fellow driver.

**C** - You were **unChristian** because once you retaliated by chasing the driver who overtook you with a deadly cut. Not contented you blurted out dirty words that almost caused me to fall off my Throne.

**B** - You weren't a good **Businessman** because profit-wise, a bump (front or rear) is a waste of your precious time and money. Your accident and life insurances on earth will not guarantee your entrance in Heaven.



*Have you ever stopped to think of what kind of traffic ticket God issues to BCBP members? Or what tools and car accessories a BCBP member should carry in his/her car? This sharing by an anonymous Iloilo BCBP brother gives us a different perspective on driving. It is reprinted from an Iloilo newsletter.*

**P** - You were **unProfessional**. You may hold a degree to your name and people respect you for it. You may even get high pay for it. But once you are in control of the steering wheel, instantly, you become "Mad Max of the Road". You forgot that it is I, not you, who are in control.

## My Car Accessories and Tools

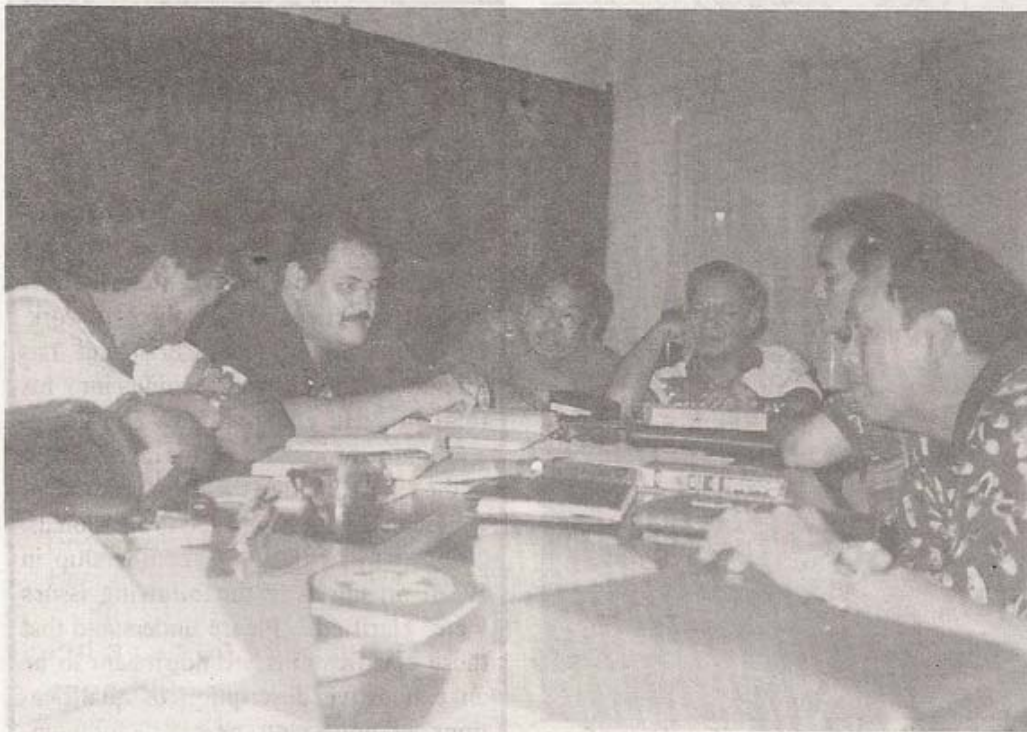
To all the drivers, male and female, here are the car accessories and tools which I always bring with me when I drive. So that in case I get to meet the World's Most Reckless Driver or the Country's Most Careless Pedestrian, I can stay cool and calm.

**Proverbs 14:7** — People with hot temper do foolish things, wiser people remain calm. **Romans 8:6** — To be controlled by human nature results in death, to be controlled by the spirit results in life and peace. **Ephesians 5:26-27** — If we are angry let it be without sin. Do not give the devil a chance to work on you. **Bible Diary 1986** — The strongest man is he who can control himself. **Proverbs 15:28** — Good people think before they answer. Evil people have a quick reply but it causes trouble. **Matthew 5:38** — Do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you.

As one priest said, if we will treat each other with an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, we might all end up blind and toothless, and for drivers a special bonus, braces on our necks. So let's sing not scream while driving! Happy driving! #

*Overheard at a health spa: "If she puts on any more weight, she'll be a conglomerate." -Columbus Dispatch*





*Conference participants in one of the breakout sessions. Shown in the picture are Puerto Princesa chapter head, Fuji Rodriguez; Alabang chapter head Charlie Carballo; Iloilo chapter mission director J.T. Barrera; Deputy Director for Vismin, Sadi Saguisag; Las Piñas mission director, Lito Pardo, and Rollie Aberion of Greenhills, one of the facilitators.*

Major issues concerning the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals were resolved during the National Strategic Planning Retreat held at the Capuchin Retreat Center (CRC) in Tagaytay last Sept. 1-3, 1995.

Thirty-eight participants composed of the National Council members and the chapter heads and mission directors of the different chapters from all over the country converged at the CRC for two and a half days to settle some of the issues that confront the Brotherhood.

The conference was no ordinary meeting of minds, according to BCBP president Manny Banigan. Activity centered on praising and worshiping God invoking His divine intervention for the conference. The product of the retreat, as most of the participants believed, had the full guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Among the major issues resolved are the following:

#### **MISSION AND VISION OF THE BCBP**

The statement of vision and mission of the BCBP remains unchanged.

The participants recognized that the BCBP has succeeded in establishing a culture that strengthens individual, personal spiritual conversion and growth. The need for a sound, Christ-centered marital and family life is emphasized.

However, it was felt that the BCBP should begin to focus more on its calling to bring Christ into the marketplace, noting that this calling is unique to the BCBP (vis-a-vis other charismatic renewal groups). We should therefore orient our community life and support teachings, and evangelistic efforts towards making a Christ-centered impact in the work place of our members. The survey results show that the BCBP members have not imbibed this workplace orientation and mission in their view of their role and the BCBP's thrusts.

There is therefore a need to enunciate this aspect clearly to the entire membership in order to gain a shared vision of unique calling of the BCBP.

The Lord has called us for a specific purpose, namely the transformation of the marketplace. The BCBP therefore ought to fulfill and satisfy what the Lord has commanded it to do. BCBP must sustain its

# National Strategic Planning Retreat resolves major issues

unique evangelistic mission capitalizing on its community strengths. But in order to be effective, BCBP should cultivate a commitment to this common purpose and mission.

#### **BCBP EVANGELIZATION STATEMENT**

Evangelization by the BCBP means "creating disciples of Christ in the businesses and professions, who bring about a transformation of the marketplace by living out Christian values and practices not only in their personal and family lives, but more particularly in their respective businesses and professions."

This evangelization statement has four key components:

**Creating disciples of Christ** - This essential aspect of the evangelization process involves bringing people through the process of spiritual conversion, commitment and commissioning. This process of personal renewal is standardized throughout the entire BCBP community, and is the means by which people enter and participate in BCBP community life.

**The businesses and the professions**- The BCBP "marketplace" is the world of commerce and government and economics. This means that members, and those whom we call disciples of Christ, are persons who operate in the marketplace, namely the businessmen and the professionals.

**Bringing about a transformation of the marketplace** -The marketplace is the battleground. It is here, in the economic and business world *next page pls.*





*After a two and a half days of Spirit-filled discussions, it was time to rest and pose for a picture. The participants in front of the CRC just before embarking for Manila.*

**NATIONAL STRATEGIC ... from p. 19**

where people pursue money and wealth and power. Unfortunately, in so doing, they tend to compromise their faith in and love for God. In the marketplace, it is not only the individuals themselves who are prone to temptations and destructive ways, but it is also the institutionalized systems, practices and cultures that make it even more difficult for the righteous to survive.

The marketplace not only influences the economic situation of the society but also social culture, lifestyle, and quality of life. Therefore there is great potential to transform society if the marketplace itself is transformed.

This is the core of the BCBP mission -- to bring about a visible transformation of the marketplace so that gospel values are adopted and practiced in the day-to-day conduct of the businesses and professions where the member exerts authority or influence.

Living out Christian values and practices. - By the power of the Holy Spirit, the BCBP member lives out Christian values and practices in his place of work. Through the boldness of his actions, decisions and business and professional dealings, as well as personal testimony he is

able to bring the good news of Jesus Christ among those he deals. By these means, he invites his colleagues, associates, suppliers, customers, clientele, and others to a fuller life in Christ.

**ACTION ITEMS TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY BY EACH CHAPTER**

In order to get all members in the Chapters to become more sensitive and more responsive to the evangelistic mission of the BCBP, we must encourage our members to talk about their struggles and their victories in winning the marketplace over to Christ. Many of the public testimonies in the past have centered on experiences in one's personal life or family life. Without necessarily removing this element of personal and family renewal, *we should begin to re-orient these testimonies towards the essential aspect of our calling, namely the renewal of the marketplace.*

Breakfast sharings - testimonies by brothers should highlight workplace victories, in addition to personal renewal.

Assemblies - members should be encouraged to share about their victories in the marketplace.

Action Group meetings - prayers, sharings and fellowship *next page pls.*

**CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BCBP**

A BCBP member is a businessman or professional who influences change leading to Christ-centered behavior and practices in his sphere of work. He is a disciple of Jesus Christ and has integrated the Lord's teachings into his total life. He gains support and grows spiritually through his active involvement in the Church and in the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals.

In so defining membership in BCBP in this way, the following issues were clarified. Please understand that these clarifications are not meant to be an exhaustive description of qualifications, commitments, or criteria for membership.

"Leadership" - The traditional description of "captain of industry" has been replaced with a broader definition. We now refer to the member as a "businessman or professional who exerts influence in his place of work", whether out of his position of authority or leadership, or simply out of his own effective dealings with those whom he works and comes into contact with. This broader definition admits faith in the providential power of the Holy Spirit to use whomever is called and chosen.

The focus should therefore not be on the corporate title or rank of the person in his work organization but on his capability to influence change and bring about Christ-centered values and practices in the workplace. Thus, the ability to become an agent of change, and a powerful witness and to lead transformation become the criteria for membership.

This definition of membership applies not only to men but also to women who are engaged in the businesses and professions.

Active participation in BCBP activities - The member must be a true disciple who has fully imbibed the BCBP

*Ever notice that when your arms are filled with packages, the sign on the door says "PULL"?*



## CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BCBP

culture. This means that he must be an active participant in all aspects of BCBP life, including the Action Group structure.

Minimum attendance compliance- As a measure of his commitment to the life and practices of the BCBP, it is essential that the BCBP member must attend at least 50% of every BCBP activity. This will be evaluated and monitored on a quarterly basis.

State of life and belief prior to joining the BCLP - Official membership in the BCBP occurs after a person completes the BCLP and commitment process. The new member commits to renounce all forms of serious wrongdoing and un-Christian relationships and commitments. Examples of such include adulterous relationships, membership in non-Christian cults or organizations, drug or alcohol-related abuse. If necessary, with the guidance of his Action Group Leader, he establishes a time-bound program that will result in amending such relationships, commitments or wrongdoing.

It is not necessary that candidates to the BCLPs need to have reformed their ways of serious wrongdoing and associations prior to attending the BCLP. However, it is up to the sponsoring member and the participant's Discussion Leader to disclose any underlying problem that may exist. It is recognized that the BCLP is geared towards spiritual renewal, and therefore cases which truly require professional psychiatric or medical help need to be referred to other competent parties.

A separate, specific directive will be released by the National Council with respect to the matter of members and BCLP participants who belong to the Freemasonry.



*It was then time to say goodbye. Congratulations for work well done.*

### NATIONAL STRATEGIC... from p. 20

should lead to action that support one another's workplace transformation.

Harness Action Group resources- Members of each Action Group are asked to collectively care for any Breakfast first-timer or BCLP participant which is sponsored by a member in that Action Group.

In addition to re-orienting the content of the testimonies, each Chapter must begin to develop a means by which the members are supported and encouraged to evangelize in the marketplace. Action Group Leaders should regularly monitor how each of their members is doing in this respect so that proper action can be taken. And this information must be passed on to Unit Leaders, and the Unit Leaders report this to the Chapter Heads.

### ACTION ITEMS TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY BY INDIVIDUAL BCBP MEMBERS

The following activities comprise a list of essential tasks which each individual BCBP member who is engaged in the marketplace is expected to undertake. This list is an initial effort to specifically indicate those "cultural" practices unique to BCBP that members are expected to perform in their respective work environments.

-Start each workday with prayer together with work/officemates.

-Start and end meetings with a prayer.

-Remove from office or work area anything that is not of God, and replace these with things of God (as far as your authority allows).

-Take active part in value formation in your workplace (newsletters, seminars, etc.).

- Take initiative in holding Christian renewal programs (e.g., LSS, retreats) in your organization.

-Personally witness in your marketplace.

### PROJECTS TO BE ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL TASK FORCES

A number of critical programs need to be undertaken in order to reinforce and strengthen this evangelistic thrust of the BCBP. Special task forces shall be organized to develop these programs commissioned by the National Council. The approved output of these task forces will be disseminated nationwide to all the Chapters for their guidance and implementation.

Task Force to Develop a BCBP Code Of Values. - This code of values will contain what is important to the BCBP member and what will *cont. on p. 29*



## TAGBILARAN

## Relampagos says the Lord willed his election

"He has a plan and purpose for me in the service of our people," said Brother Rene Relampagos of his unprecedented and overwhelming election as governor of the province of Bohol last May 2, 1995.

The 31-year old governor admitted during a 40-minute sharing in the BCBP that he hardly imagined himself being called to the challenging task as chief executive of his province.

This all started when he was included as one of ex-Gov. Nonoy Torralba's "seven wise men" and later was appointed by former Pres. Cory Aquino as provincial board member representing the youth. In 1992, he won as vice governor and this paved the way for his running as governor three years later.

According to Relampagos, no one, not even his own supporters believed that he would win because of the political machinery and resources of his opponents.

But he won with a winning margin of 56,000 votes because the Lord heard his prayers and those of his brothers and sisters in BCBP.

## VIP's attend Tagbilaran BCLP 5

"Captains of the industry", both from the government and private sector, were among those who attended the Brotherhood Christian Life Program 5 which started last Sept. 24 at the Dumadag Farms, Tagbilaran City.

Leading the attendees from the government service were Tagbilaran City Mayor Torralba, former assemblyman and now Balilihan Mayor Eladio Chatto, Sikatuna Mayor Constancio Rule, Provincial Board Member Eladio Jala, City Kagawad Paulino Clarin, DPWH Public Engr. Yolanda Requirme, DECS Supt. Cerina Bolos, Bohol School of Trades Administrator Elpidio Magante, DBP Manager Melo Supre, PPA sub-port supervisor



Gov. Rene Relampagos of Bohol, BCLP 2: "The Lord willed my election."

Relampagos is a graduate of BCLP 2. Though an ex-seminarian, it was only when he joined the BCBP that he realized "everything that I am and what I have been through and where I am now, is because of God."

And he is thankful to the Lord for his election "for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ concerning us," he said.

Vic Bolos, Barangay Captain Betty Torralba and the two technical assistants of the provincial governor, Teresita Pernia and Suki Plaza.

Participants from the private sector included businessman Mar and Neneng Uy; Union Bank Manager Ben Escobia; Far East Bank Manager Carlos Lao; Dr. Boy Camacho, president of the Medical Mission Group of Hospitals and Health Services Coop. Phils (Bohol); and Drs. Dodong Arcay and Juanita Arcay of Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital, heads of the radiology and pathology, respectively.

Government officials in the province who are already members of the Brotherhood are Gov. Rene Relampagos, Vice

## CAGAYAN DE ORO

## CDO honors Mama Mary in assembly

With "The Holy Rosary as weapon and sword of the Spirit" as a theme, the BCBP Cagayan de Oro Chapter honored the Blessed Mother last Oct. 6, 1995, in lieu of its regular worship assembly, since it was the month of the Holy Rosary.

Bro. Ric Roa who facilitated said activity emphasized in his introduction that **hyperduhlia**, according to the early Greeks, is the form of reverence reserved only for the Blessed Virgin Mary as the greatest of all saints.

While **Latria**, he added, is the highest form of worship reserved only for God the Almighty.

The worship assembly was highlighted by the praying of the cenacle. As told to Fr. Gobbi of the Marian Movement of Priests, the meditation part is the heart of the cenacle since the prophecies of the Blessed Mother are centered in that part.

## CDO graduates BCLP 8

Cagayan de Oro Chapter welcomed the 63 new members of the Brotherhood during their commitment night on Oct. 7 at the Paolo's Ristorante.

Earlier, they had their baptism of the Holy Spirit on Sept. 3 at the Chapel of the St. John Vianney Seminary.

Couples Tony Boy and Anne Fernandez served as the course leaders of BCLP 8.

Gov. Edgar Chatto and Tagbilaran City Vice Mayor Jorge Cabalit.

Couples George and Gie Lao steered BCLP 5 as course leaders with Pepe and Openg Estrera as chief servants.



**CAGAYAN DE ORO****Two BCLPs  
open in Ozamis  
City, Valencia**

Two separate BCLPs under the Cagayan de Oro Chapter opened simultaneously on Oct. 14, 1995. The first, sponsored by the Iligan Outreach, was held at the Carmelite Sisters' Convent in Ozamis City. The second was launched at the Tayen Hotel and Restaurant in Valencia, Bukidnon.

Bro. Joe Coruña, CDO Chapter head, led the group of Chapter members who travelled from Cagayan de Oro to Ozamis City to support Iligan's undertaking. Ozamis City is some 160 kms. away from Cagayan de Oro City with a 45-minute ferry boat ride from Iligan City.

Bro. Bobby Borromeo served as course leader with Bro. Mulong Tapia as head servant.

The BCLP in Valencia was handled by Bros. Roging Villanueva, Jong Tiro and Ditto de la Serna as course leader, asst. course leader and head servant, respectively.

**DAVAO****Davao celebrates 2nd year**

August 13 was a big day for Davao Outreach as they celebrated their 2nd anniversary at the Ladislawa Garden Village Country Club.

A Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Finster, S.J. highlighted the whole day affair. The Mass was followed by an array of presentations of songs, dances, skits and spoofs.

Raul Rebosura entertained the members with his rendition of several old time favorites on the piano, and was later joined in by Rocky Malaki and Menchie Avencena as the rest of the bunch feasted on the sumptuous meal prepared for the occasion.

Guests from Cagayan de Oro also belted out their own songs, followed by parlor games handled by Uly Lopez and Cherry Napala.

It was a celebration filled with blessings, fun and excitement.

**46 in Davao Outreach baptized**

Forty six participants of BCLP No. 5 had their baptism of the Holy Spirit on Oct. 14, 1995 at the GSIS Chapel in Matina, Davao City.

Bro. Sadi Saguigag, Vis-Min deputy coordinator, came all the way from Cebu in behalf of his Chapter. Bros. Eli Flores and Sel Lagmay represented Cagayan de Oro Chapter.

Davao Outreach is a joint undertaking of Cebu and Cagayan de Oro Chapters.



*Cagayan de Oro BCLP 8 graduates celebrate Mass during Commitment Day*

*She who laughs — lasts. -Norwegian Proverb*



## ILOILO

## Iloilo shines out as BCBP's newest chapter

With the inspiring lines "Arise, shine out, for your light has come" from Isaiah 60 for its theme, Iloilo was finally installed as BCBP's 14th full-fledged chapter on October 21, 1995 at the Amigo Terrace Hotel during a mass concelebrated by Archbishop Alberto Piamonte of the Archdiocese of Jaro and Bishop Raul Martinez of Antique.

Bro Gau Arancillo, erstwhile Iloilo Outreach head, was also installed as Chapter head. With Arancillo at the helm of the BCBP's newest chapter are J.T. Barrera as Mission Director; Noel Amane, Chapter Life Director; Bernan Certeza, Treasurer; Lenny and Lilia Penasales, Secretariat. Unit Heads are Art/Lory Padojinog, Doy/Precy Andrada and Cesar/Helen Firmeza.

BCBP National President, Manny Banigan, Director for Vismin Rolly Ona, Vismin Deputy Director Sadi Saguisag and OIC-National Secretariat Sammy M. Ulanday led distinguished guests who graced the occasion.

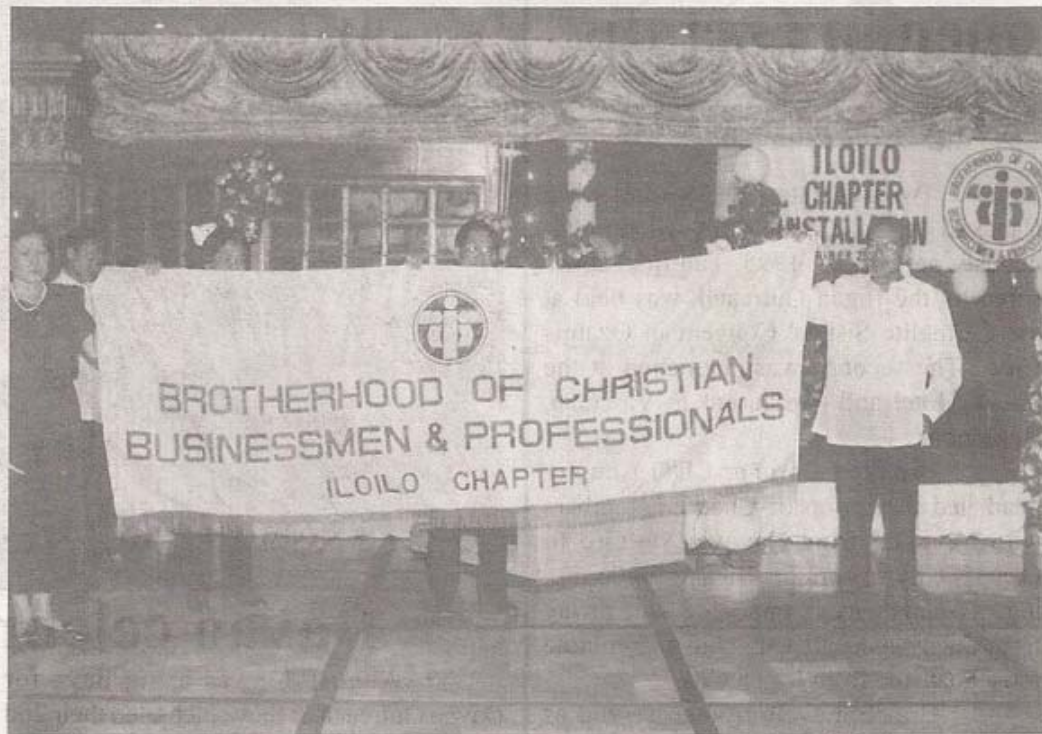
Representatives from other Vismin chapters and outreaches came to render their support to the newly installed chapter. Sponsoring chapter Bacolod came with a delegation of over 60 members who brought with them their entire music ministry to provide the songs for the Mass.

Dinner was served after the Mass and the installation rites. The audience of about 600 were then entertained with an elaborate program.

Bacolod presented a medley of praise songs which was followed by a "modernized" ethnic dance by San Jose, Antique, Iloilo's outreach. A smorgasbord of dances from ballet to folk to Spanish beat were presented by Iloilo with no less than the newly installed chapter head, Gau Arancillo with wife Lori leading the pack.

The affair ended with ballroom dancing and fellowship.

Iloilo's installation was preceded by a joint breakfast the day before with Boy and Tet Javier of Parañaque chapter as sharers.



*Top photo: Iloilo Chapter Head Gau Arancillo assisted by his wife Lori unfurl the new banner signifying the outreach's elevation to full chapterhood. Witnessing the occasion is BCBP president, Manny Banigan (center, partly hidden). Above: Iloilo chapter governance team, from left to right: Marjoe Castro, Breakfast Head; JT Barrera, Mission Director; Noel Amane Chapter Life Director; Doy Andrada, Unit Leader; Lenny Peñasales, Secretariat; Gau Arancillo Chapter Head; BCBP president Manny Banigan and Bacolod Chapter Head Art Legarde.*

*Seize from every moment its unique novelty. -Andre Gide*



## QUEZON CITY

### Joy of Discovery held for BCBP

BCBP members from Quezon City and Rizal Chapters together with Baguio outreach members attended a two-day Joy of Discovery Course on Sept. 23-24 at the Institute of Social Order in Ateneo de Manila, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Conducted by the Institute of Pastoral Development, the Joy of Discovery is a one-week course but it was condensed to two days for the BCBP members.

The resource speakers from IPD led by Nena Lagdameo, Ima Besa and Dax Almendras ably guided the participants in developing skills and methods in various methods of studying the Bible.

The course ended with a mass celebrated by a priest from Fiji Islands who happened to be attending a course also being conducted by the IPD.

### Cooking demo at ladies breakfast

Jenny Villagarcia was the Ladies' Breakfast sharer on Saturday, Oct. 7, but she did not come with the usual sheets of type-written sharing. Instead, she came with several recipes and her cooking paraphernalia.

Jenny went to Terrace Grill that morning to share, not the Lord's blessings to her and her family, but God's gift to her, her talent to cook.

And to the delight and amazement of the Chapter ladies who are mostly career women, Jenny showed them how to prepare Creamy Potatoes with Meat Sauce, Choco Banana Crepe and Tutti-Frutti Juice.

Demo cooking is not new to Jenny since she regularly shows her culinary knowhow in Channel 5's *Lutong Bahay* every Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

"They (Chapter ladies) learned about my demo cooking in Channel 5 so they requested me to do one here," Jenny explained.

For those who want to sample her specialties, Jenny and her husband Rey own and manage Beverly's Catering Services.



Members of the Quezon City chapter who attended the Joy of Discovery Course.

## GREENHILLS

### GH leads BCBP relief operation

With its outreach, San Fernando, as one of the towns hit by the recent lahar devastation, Greenhills chapter has spearheaded the relief operations of the Brotherhood.

With cash and material donations from BCBP chapters all over the country together with its own appropriations for such eventualities, the chapter provided relief to the victims in San Fernando, Pampanga.

BCLP 1 graduates of San Fernando, some of them are lahar victims, assisted the Greenhills outreach mission and operation team in distributing relief goods.

GH chapter head Manolet Siojo and outreach head Sonny Marquez wish to convey their thanks to all chapters who shared with their brothers and sisters in San Fernando.

Special thanks to Eveready Phils, through Gus Arguelles of Alabang chapter, who donated 36 flashlights with batteries.

### Fr. Herb lauds 3 ways of praying

Praying should be second nature to every BCBP member, but to be a true disciple of Jesus, one needs to learn the proper ways of praying.

There are three different ways of praying to be able to heed the call of discipleship, according to Fr. Herb Schneider, spiritual director of the BCBP. These are: praying with the scriptures, contemplative praying of the rosary, and the Jesus prayer experience.

Fr. Herb recommended these ways of praying during the 3-day retreat organized by the Greenhills Chapter for all Unit and Action Group Leaders and Service Heads.

This was held on Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 1 at Don Bosco Retreat House in Batulao, Batangas.

With "Discipleship" as the central theme of the retreat, Fr. Herb explained the three concepts on how to become true disciples of Jesus, namely: the Lord calls us to be His witnesses; the Lord calls us to be His friends; and He also calls us to Service.

Couples Bobby and Marite Laviña and Dante and Cora Magdangal assisted Fr. Herb in the retreat that was attended by 26 couples and five individuals.



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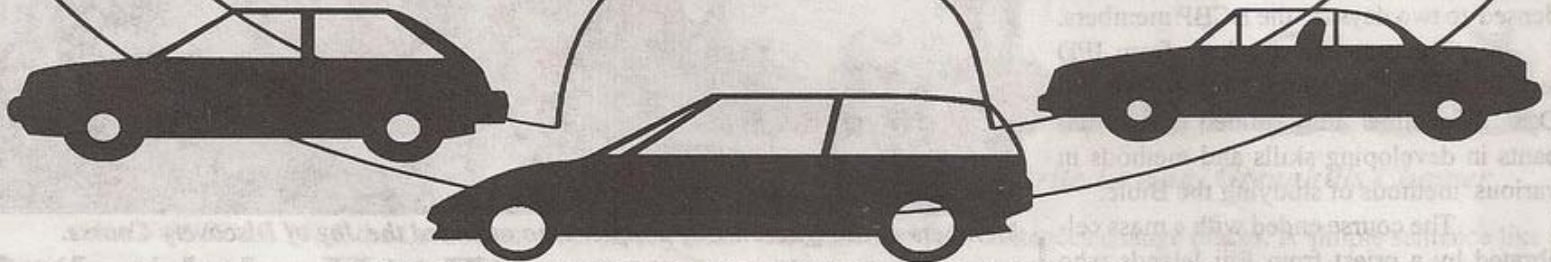
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# WELCOME

## BCLP 24 Quezon City Chapter

Alcantara, Levi/Lily  
Aragon, Timmy/Babsie  
Astillero, Bert/Beng  
Balatbat, Teng/Calay  
Bautista, Tim/Joy  
Caingat, John/Marissa  
Calleja, Sonny/Tita  
Gealogo, Vince/Veny  
Limjuaco, Rolly/Edna  
Payawal, Ruel/James  
Perez, Dave/Len-len  
Poblete, Jesus/Belen  
Reyes, Cesar/Joji

## BCLP 24 Makati Chapter

Adecer, Grace  
Advincula, Delfin/Ramona  
Agustin, Victor/Arleen  
Arceo, Larry/Irene  
Baltazar, Ping  
Bernardo, Bong/Jenny  
Bulaon, Ed  
Cartagena, Clifford/Heidi  
Catly, Cecille  
Cuison, Mon  
Esquivel, Gerry/Beng  
Galve, Rene/Evelyn  
Galvez, Dennis/Edith  
Lero, Ariel/May  
Lindo, Boy  
Luna, Leoncio/Lolita  
Luyon, Bennie  
Mapile, Francis/Edel  
Morse, Mendoza  
Natividad, Enrico/Daisy  
Pagsibigan, Rony/Susan  
Palileo, Tony  
Perez, Vicente/Flora  
Ocampo, Sany/Monica  
Rellosa, Dindo  
Reyes, Angie  
Tan, Butchie

## BCLP 8 Cagayan de Oro Chapter

Abonitalla, Virgie  
Abola, Bert/Denie  
Agoncillo, Nap/Mara  
Alas, Larry/Beded  
Along, Manny/Biema  
Aquino, John/Shirley  
Arcega, Dorie  
Bardilas, Cesar  
Cabasan, Jojo  
Cabilin, Rusty/Liza  
Cabrera, Tata  
Casinillo, Welma  
Cid, Grace  
Co, Addie/Joy  
Cruz, Bong/Monique  
Dacudao, Mon/Fely  
Dayot, Vivs  
Dayrit, Raf/Julie  
Diamal, Wen/Andie  
Estandarte, Jun/Fely  
Flores, Bert  
Gaane, Roy  
Igot, Gerry  
Jacutin, Rico/Suzette  
Jacutin, Dicky  
Kho, Sam/Tessie  
Lactao, Roger  
Lico, Aris/Joy  
Magtajas, Sar/Nene  
Malferrari, Nito  
Nadela, Tony  
Navarro, Cocoy/Tata  
Pabayo, Loloy  
Pacamio, Emil/Ding  
Parrel, Gilly  
Petilla, Tenny  
Quindag, Rudy  
Rimando, Jim  
Roa, Dondi/Marie Jo  
Vewrano, Pompey/Clemen  
Willkom, Boy  
Zarsuelo, Josie

## BCLP 24 Las Piñas Chapter

Alba, Portia  
De Leon, Aida  
Fabros, Gil/Cel  
Gonzales, Gela  
Lontok, William/Vangie  
Magat, Mel/Cel  
Menina, Delio  
Morales, Ernie  
Morales, Ric/Edna  
Ngking, Gerry/Riza  
Obra, Dita  
Padilla, Pete/Baby

## BCLP 10 Bacolod Chapter

Abello, Joseling  
Alagao, Rocky/Jenny  
Alonso, Joeben/Linda  
Amar, Rey/Bebing  
Ang, Cecile  
Avancena, Rosario  
Avancena, Thelma  
Avelino, Bonnie/Gina  
Busil, Francis/Fely  
Cheng, Mon/Reine  
Concha, Roming/Greg  
De la Rama, Ado/Maribel  
De Paula, Ruby  
Decatoria, Pacita  
Dionaldo, Jojo  
Disen, Jonathan, Marivic  
Dondoyano, Ricardo/Elsie  
Escario, Tito/Zony  
Escubido, Fr. Rolly  
Esguerra, Jess/Pris  
Francisco, Oliver/Kathleen  
Fregil, Larry  
Gamboa, Allan/Marlyn  
Gamboa, Elenita  
Garcia, Chuck/Ochie  
Gustilo, Loret  
Kho, Tony/Violeta  
Kilayko, Elnora

Lacson, Aida  
Lacson, Luigene/Bev  
Lagtapon, Beth  
Lecias, Mary  
Ledesma, Maritel  
Limuaco, Ric/Elna  
Magno, Rico/Josette  
Manaloto, Tony/Ofelia  
Miraflones, Baby/Daysie  
Monfort, Gerry  
Montoya, Boy/Mary Ann  
Morales, Dennis/Arlene  
Ong, Elsie  
Perolino, Roming/Ann  
Petero, Joel/Helen  
Pilongo, Jun/Jasmin  
Puey, Pepito/Belle  
Querubin, Beth  
Rabago, Poch/Jat  
Roxas, Jimmy/Baby  
Santibanez, Horace/Jo  
Sarrosa, GJ/Lulu  
Solas, Gerry/Teret  
Sumagaysay, Cyril/Cosie  
Titular, Lucille  
Tumonong, Erwin/Tess  
Ureta, Biyong/Carlota  
Valerio, Bert/Penny  
Vicencio, Jed/Emily  
Yap, Bert/Candy  
Zayco, Skippy/Jekjek

## BCLP 1 San Fernando Outreach

Andin, Tolong/Weng  
Castro, Fred/Luz  
Dayrit, Francis/Cel  
Dayrit, Perry/Joyce  
Dayrit, Soy/Olet  
Juco, Pingco  
Malonzo, Ernie  
Mariano, Richard/Nanette  
Mungcal, Chito/Rhen  
Ronquillo, Raul/Susie  
Tayag, Efren  
Valencia, Jack  
Valencia, Nide/Odette



## MAKATI

### 20 couples attend marriage encounter

Twenty couples from Makati Chapter and Legaspi and Cavite outreach attended a weekend marriage encounter last Sept. 8, 9 and 10, 1995 at the SVD Retreat House in Tagaytay City.

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Philippines presented various aspects of relationship and communications between husbands and wives.

Headed by Fr. Dave Clay, the 3-day encounter was facilitated by Emmy/Ester Tagonicar, Rey/Beth Montemayor and Mo/Mila Escano.

Those who attended from Makati were: Ronnie/Mari Caballero, Jun/Beth Ginete, Manny/Lei Bade, Nelson/Annie Salvador, Oca/Floren Ballares, Topy/Susan Vasquez, Jules/Elvie Villamor, Rudy/Cora Flores, Larry/Ellen de Vera, Rudy/Paring Orino, Eric/Karen Tinio, and Boy/Margie Nadala.

Attendees from Cavite were Rod/Emma Banico, Ferdie/Del Dimawala, Nonie/Cita Taraya, William/Marlyn Turalde, Willie/Edith Arce and Jesse/Mellie Mendoza.

Don/Lyn Banares and Meds/Emy Reynoso were the participants from Legaspi.

### Modified BCLP 24 ends

BCLP 24, held for the first time at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center in Forbes Park, Makati, was completed with BCBP national president Manny Banigan himself giving the commitment talk.

The talks in this batch were compressed to two a night compared to the previous one per session in order to accommodate busy Christian businessmen.

A Salt and Candle Ceremony led by Rudy Flores was included in the commitment night.

### Formation Ministry takes off

How is it really like to be a member of the BCBP Makati Chapter? The answer to this will come out through the survey initiated by the Formation Ministry headed by Milalin Javellana.

Said ministry hopes to determine

also, through the same survey, other needs of Chapter members, e.g. new skills and spiritual growth activities.

Members of the ministry include Annie Salvador, Beth Ginete, Maan Tripon and Teresa Limcaoco.

### New Men's Breakfast head

Litong Limcaoco (CLP 9), inadvertently described as graduate of CLP 8 in the previous issue, now heads the Men's Breakfast Service. His wife Teresa was also recently designated as head of the Ladies Breakfast.

### Mama Mary's messages to tots

Chona Montinola of the Center for Peace expounded on the messages of Mama Mary in relation to the life of children during the October edition of Children's Formation and Chapter teaching night.

## LAS PIÑAS

### 11 couples complete BCMR

Eleven couples finished the Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat at the Blessed Joseph Retreat House in Tagaytay.

The participants in said course, with Mar and Belle Ciabal as course leaders, were Danny/Cindy de Leon, Rudy/Nilda Aronce, Ric/Auring Bermundo, Dondie/Dors Ngking, Rey/Merle Mariano, Omar/Nor Dizon, Manny/Au Dy, Benjie/Sally Bailon, Ric/Nanette Gomato, Ric/Marlyn Alviar, and Johnny/Becky Allanigue.

### Workshop on prayers held

Centering prayers, a seminar and workshop was held at Italia Country Club last Sept 16, the course presented by Lita Salinas. The workshop was arranged and coordinated by Lyn Fera, and was attended by members from the Alabang, Parañaque and Las Piñas chapters. They were joined by other Church organizations of the area.

### Children's Formation Field Trip

The children's formation had their field trip at Nayong Pilipino last Oct 14. The children were treated to a guided tour, fun and games. Transportation was provided by Rey and Lyn Fera, Las Piñas chapter head and Susan Cunanan, Oggie and Becky Hachang, and Marlyn Alviar.

**BCLP 24:** Las Piñas finished its BCLP 24 last August 24 with 17 persons making their commitment. They were William and Vangie Lontok, Delio Menina, Mel and Cel Magat, Ric and Edna Morales, Portia Alba, Aide de Leon, Dita Obra, Pete and Baby Padilla, Gerry and Riza Ngking, Gil and Cel Fabros, and Gela Gonzales.

**Family Mass:** A quarterly Mass is being held at Las Piñas chapter at the Franciscan Sisters convent. The Family Liturgical Celebration is followed by an Agape breakfast.

*One good thing about paying a compliment is that it doesn't cost a cent more than it used to.*



## BACOLOD

## 21 attend youth music ministry workshop

Twenty-one teen-aged singers and young musicians attended a Recollection-Workshop on Oct. 14 at the Benjamin Hall in Bacolod City.

The participants, mostly members of the Acts 2 (BCBP-Bacolod Youth) Music Ministry, with the Sta. Clara Chaplaincy Choir, learned the importance of music in praising God.

"The whole experience called to our minds the importance of music in praising God, our reason for our existence," said Kitty B. Kho, daughter of Drs. Tony and Violeta Kho of the BCBP Bacolod Chapter.

The young Kho was all praises for Ray Garcia, former head of the Bacolod Chapter, who talked on music as instrument of **zamar** and **tehillab** (Hebrew words for praise). "He explained the true meaning of praise according to the Scriptures and encouraged us to be sincere in our commitment to our Youth Music Ministry," Kho averred.

The participants also received inspiring tips on singing from BCBP Music Director Nel Dingcong. The workshop was sponsored by Acts 2 Parent-Heads Ating and Paul Jochico and was made possible through the assistance of Music Ministry heads, Jun and Ginny Vargas.



Participants of the Bacolod BCBP Youth (ACTS 2) Music workshop having a group dynamics.

## "He silenced the heavens to hear our praise"

Karina M. Jugo, Bacolod Chapter

September 29, 1995. Typhoon Mameng regains strength and begins to unleash its fury over almost the entire central and upper parts of the country, leaving behind grim accounts of devastation splattered on front pages for the week that followed.

### WE ALL REMEMBER

Mameng and her fury. But for us in Bacolod, the memory of Mameng also recounts to us that day when our Heavenly Father unleashed his love and "stormed" us with His living presence in a gathering for peace and unity organized by the Diocesan Renewal Commission of Bacolod, of which BCBP-Bacolod is an active member community.

Heavy rain began to fall over the entire city of Bacolod as early as dawn of September 29, just as the weather bureau released information that Typhoon Mameng was to cross the Visayas area shortly after midnight. The entire region was placed under signal no. 2.

Organizers of the Unity Worship scheduled for 5:30 that afternoon at the La Salle Coliseum were *cont. on p. 33*

### NATIONAL STRATEGIC.. from p. 21

guide him in evangelizing the marketplace. The code of values shall include: stewardship, justice/fairness, service, brotherhood spirit, fair competition, respect for authority/corporate citizenship, relationships.

Task Force to Review All Current Teaching Tracks and Culture Talks -

All the talks in the BCLPs, Culture Talks, and other teaching tracks currently in use in the Brotherhood will be reviewed in order to reinforce the marketplace orientation, and to generally assess them for effectiveness, relevance, timeliness, etc.

Task Force to Develop a New

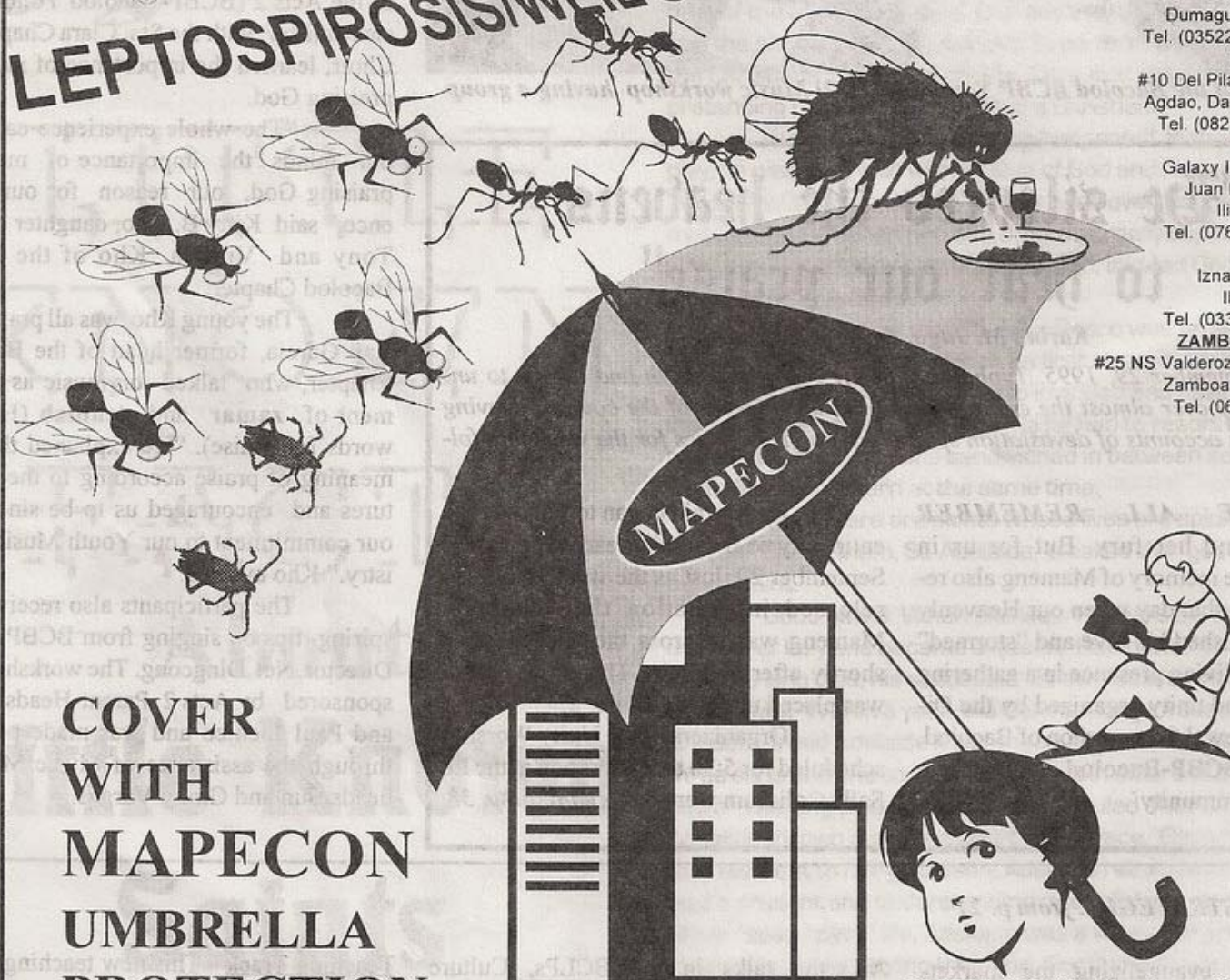
Teaching Track - This new teaching track will be composed of teachings that will help members handle issues related to work, moral choices, how to handle difficult situations with employers, suppliers, bureaucrats, how to witness in the marketplace, how to stand up for gospel principles, etc. - *Sammy M. Ulanday*

*Life is the childhood of immortality. -Daniel A. Poling*



# WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS!

**MALARIA  
PLAGUES  
DIARRHEA  
CHOLERA  
HEPATITIS  
DYSENTERY  
TUBERCULOSIS  
TYPHOID FEVER  
YELLOW FEVER  
FOOD POISONING  
LEPTOSPIROSIS/WEIL'S DISEASE**



**COVER  
WITH  
MAPECON  
UMBRELLA  
PROTECTION**

*"MOM & DAD, thank you for protecting us from rain. But protect us too from the kadiri flies, cockroaches, mosquitoes, and rats. MAPECONTROL the kadiri pests now!"*

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Cor. Galo & Lacson Streets  
Bacolod City  
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- BAGUIO**  
#65 Ledesma Street  
Aurora Hills, Baguio City  
Tels. 097-3752672
- CAGAYAN DE ORO**  
136 Dolores cor. Pabayo St.  
Cagayan de Oro City  
Tel. (08822) 734700
- CEBU**  
67 Logarta Street  
Cebu City  
Tels. (032) 95942/99820
- DAGUPAN**  
Fernandez Avenue  
Dagupan City  
Tel. (075) 2903
- DUMAGUETE**  
593 South Wood,  
Calindagan  
Dumaguete City  
Tel. (03522) 97641
- DAVAO**  
#10 Del Pilar Street  
Agdao, Davao City  
Tel. (082) 75 035
- ILIGAN**  
Galaxy Inn Bldg.  
Juan Luna St.  
Iligan City  
Tel. (076) 20365
- ILOILO**  
Iznart Street  
Iloilo City  
Tel. (033) 76088
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# BAGUIO: Serving God to New HEIGHTS

*Maan Aragon, Quezon City Chapter*

**DURING OUR ALMOST** nine years in the BCBP, my husband Ricky and I have been fortunate to be in service. Prior to our present service, we were Action Group Leaders to an inseparable group for almost five years. Just like all the other action groups, we were put together for the purpose of supporting one another with Christ as the center.

As years passed, however, the relationship with one another became very close as we got to know more of each other's problems, concerns, desires and needs. We became so familiar with one another that we, as AGL and members likewise, became complacent with our ways. Thus, it became easy to find excuses for not attending BCBP functions.

All the more, Ricky and I found ourselves not anymore serving from the heart but as an obligation. As 2 Cor. 9:7 states: "Each man should give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." And true enough, this situation brought about anxiety and tension leading us to finally decide to reluctantly move on to a new service.

Having voiced out this sentiment to another brother, we found ourselves invited to the QC Baguio Outreach service team. However, having couple-shared in the Baguio breakfast, I knew the rigorous schedules, not to mention the sleepless nights, the service team has to undergo. I thought of our children ages 14, 5 and 3 that we would be leaving behind without a maid every weekend for four months. and told Ricky of my concerns. To my surprise, Ricky did not relent in his decision to join the Baguio Service Team. So I sought God's wisdom, guidance and the overflowing grace of acceptance.

Brothers and sisters, having been with the team for over five months, I would like to proclaim God's goodness, wisdom and most of all God's love for Ricky and I. During this time, we felt how gratifying it was to be part of the team and to serve brothers and sisters.

As James 1: 2-4 says: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." It is in the hardships,



*Ricky and Maan with their kids.*

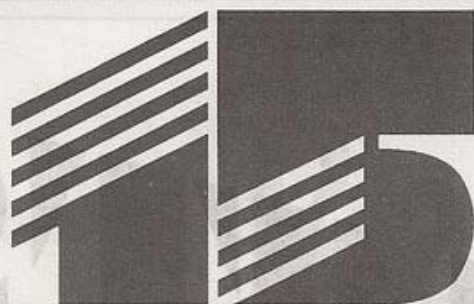
struggles, pains and even the discomfort our family that I saw God's work of faith. As we accepted the rigors, the physical and emotional stress of this service, we felt the Lord becoming "real", ever present in our lives. Once again, we felt as zealous Christians, eager to serve and fill the needs of our brothers and sisters in the mission and the Baguio Outreach. We saw ourselves focusing outward to others and in doing so, we were wholly renewed in our own faith. Simple acts of concern and camaraderie which we, at times, take for granted, became meaningful. We readily recognized God's love.

Likewise, amidst the spiritual upliftment, we found ourselves happy and content. Seeing the members of the team who vary in age, status, and occupation give their time, effort, talents and resources to complete the task just overwhelms Ricky and I. My 14-year-old, ever dependable daughter, Carla, takes charge of her younger brother and sister together with my in-laws. Truly, the Lord has rewarded our obedient and willing hearts by fixing our schedules and giving my family an open heart.

I thank and praise God for giving Ricky and I this opportunity to be used as HIS vessel, HIS instrument in proclaiming HIS words. And I thank God, too, for giving Ricky the firm heart and mind to accept the challenge for if not for this we would have not been part of this mission.

Truly the Lord is marvelous in HIS ways, generous in giving, rich in wisdom, true to HIS promise and loving totally.#





# Business Classics

*Abstracts from Harvard Business Review's*

*15 Business Classics: Fifteen Key Concepts for Managerial Success*

## What Makes a Good Salesman

*David Mayer and Herbert M. Greenberg*

"Our basic theory is that a good salesman must have at least two basic qualities: empathy and ego drive."

Empathy, the ability to feel as the other fellow does, helps the salesman get powerful feedback (whether stated or implied) from his prospect or client. He senses the reactions of the customer and is able to adjust to these reactions. He functions in terms of real interaction between himself and the customer.

A good salesman should possess a particular kind of ego drive which makes him want and need to make the sale for his personal satisfaction, not merely for the sake of his commission. The sale helps him fulfill his personal need.

Most salesmen possess these two qualities but many times they are not in balance resulting in misunderstandings between himself, his customers and his company. It is only when there is proper balance between empathy and ego drive that one can see the dynamic synergistic effect that results in more, and better quality, sales.

The authors discuss why, generally speaking, recruitment procedures, entrance tests and experience cannot guarantee hiring a good salesman. They posit that when the emphasis is put on experience, more than on empathy and drive, what is accomplished "can only be called the inbreeding of mediocrity."

They conclude that industry can improve its ability to select and train competent salesmen by zeroing in on and developing the qualities of empathy and ego drive.

## Managing for Business Effectiveness

*Peter F. Drucker*

The first duty of the business manager is "to strive for the best possible economic results from the resources currently employed or available."

Drucker defines the major problem of business effectiveness as the confusion between effectiveness and efficiency. He says, "There is surely nothing quite so useless as doing with great efficiency what should not be done at all."

He claims that while 90% of the results are being produced by the first 10% of events, 90% of the costs are being increased by the remaining and result-less 90% of events, and believes that costs are a "social phenomenon." He points out that economic results are, by and large, directly proportionate to revenue, while costs are directly proportionate to number of transactions.

The manager should attack the problem of increasing business effectiveness systematically — with a plan of action, with a method of analysis, and with an understanding of the tools he needs. The end products of the manager's work therefore are decisions and actions, rather than knowledge and insight, with the crucial decision being in the allocation of efforts. He cites examples and step-by-step programs for addressing both the problems and the desired end results in the article.

Drucker concludes that no matter how painful, one rule should be adhered to: "in allocating resources, especially human resources of high potential, the needs of those areas which offer great promise must first be satisfied to the fullest extent possible."

## Computer Data Bases: The Future Is Now

*Richard L. Nolan*

There has been considerable debate among specialists about what a data base is, if such a thing exists at all; about the elements of information that ought to go into it; about the administrative complexities created by the concept; and about the real value of the concept as the central organizing principle for a company's EDP operations.

Nolan presents this dilemma facing management in the form of a simplified case study that allows the reader to work through the problem of establishing a data base, its effects and its integration into company activities. He also discusses briefly data-base administration and the role of the administrator.

He traces the traditional pattern of the management of data generally used by companies and contrasts it to the more modern concept that centralizes corporate and management information into a central data pool through a data-base interface system with specialized programming applications. Three data-base strategies are pinpointed as "brute force", "piggy-back" and "key task".

What should management do? Nolan lists five things. Firstly, take the idea of EDP data base seriously. Second, set up data administration function. Third, incorporate data-base technology into the computer system. Fourth, think of data as a resource.

And, fifth, estimate your own company's position in the evolutionary sequence. If you find that your company is still at a rudimentary stage of development, plan for development. If your company is fairly advanced, press forward a little harder. The only thing to lose is redundancy.

*Revised law of gravity: A spilled drink flows in the direction of the most expensive object. -Anon.*



**HE SILENCED... from p. 29**

already entertaining the thought of postponing the gathering as most areas with insufficient drainage were flooded and not for a minute did the skies rest. (This writer recalls having to scoop out water from a goldfish pond six times during the day.) However, Bro. Ed Locsin of the Peace Fellowship reiterated that doing so would just be giving in to the desires of the enemy, stressing that worship should go on even with just a handful.

The Unity Worship commenced with the praying of the Holy Rosary by a few hundred early birds that swelled to over 5,000 at the beginning of the hour-and-a-half praise and worship that followed. As heavy rain endlessly battered the roofs of the coliseum, so did about 10,000 feet batter the floors in song and dance as young and old, unmindful of the storm, continued to commune with the Lord in praise and worship.

The gathering culminated with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Bacolod Bishop Camilo D. Gregorio and some priests from the diocese. In a most appropriate sermon, the bishop stressed unity as the highest expression of our being community, and unity as the highest expression of love that Christ expects of us if we are to be His real and faithful followers.

The bishop called on everyone to pray hard for unity, and to pray harder for the love of unity that Jesus had in John 17:21 when he prayed: "That all may be one as You, Father, are in me and I in you. I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me."

All throughout this unity worship everyone present may *cont. on p. 34*

## Myth of the Well-Educated Manager

J. Sterling Livingston

Livingston claims that many highly intelligent and ambitious men are not learning from either their formal education or their own experience what they most need to know to build successful careers in management. Furthermore, he believes that there is no direct relationship between performance in school or training programs and records of success in management.

It seems that classroom teaching theories and strategies tend to limit the manager's ability to learn from his experience. Many crucial managerial tasks are left to be learned on the job, but few managers ever master such tasks because no one in the corporate jungle takes time out to teach them how.

One skill that managers must learn in order to build successful management careers is the skill of problem finding as well as how to overcome the "analysis paralysis" hangover from the classroom. This goes hand-in-hand with the critically important talent for opportunity finding.

Opportunities are not exploited and problems are not solved, however, until someone takes action and gets the desired results. This requires a natural management style that the manager must learn how to use in a way that is consistent with his unique personality. Artificial styles don't usually work in the long run, claims Livingston.

The author presents three characteristics of men who learn to manage effectively: the need to manage, the need for power, and the capacity for empathy. He concludes that managers must not only have

the intelligence needed to absorb the necessary education, but also have the capacity to learn from their own firsthand experiences. If they can do neither, they will be only second-rate managers.

The well-educated manager is a myth because management is more than just a formal education. A true manager is one who is able to integrate his formal education with native intelligence and common sense and experience.

## Decision Trees for Decision Making

John F. Magee

This is a precise article discussing the concept and practical use of decision trees in management planning and decision making. The article abounds with visual examples and illustrations as well as data tables with analytical content. How to treat uncertainty alternatives is discussed.

Magee believes that "today's decision should be made in light of the anticipated effects it and the outcome of uncertain events will have on future values and decisions." Such decisions should balance economy with flexibility as well as the need to capitalize on profit opportunities that may exist with the capacity to react to future circumstances and needs.

A unique feature of the decision tree is that it allows management to combine analytical techniques such as discounted cash flow and present value methods with a clear portrayal of the impact of future decision alternatives and events. As management becomes more adept in using decision trees, it can consider various courses of action with greater ease and clarity.

In the article's appendix, Magee gives further examples and illustrations of decision-tree structures that typify a management's analysis of decision-requiring alternatives in setting up a new plant facility and in plant modernization.

*These abstracts were prepared for the KAPATIRAN by Nancy R. Catan. The first five abstracts were published in the September-October issue, the remaining five will be in the January-February issue. Please let us know if you find such abstracts useful.*

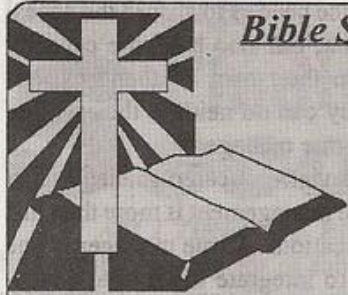
### THE GIFT

*Bennet Cerf relates this touching story about a bus that was bumping along a back road in the South. In one seat a wispy old man sat holding a bunch of fresh flowers. Across the aisle was a young girl whose eyes came back again and again to the man's flowers. The time came for the old man to get off. Impulsively he thrust the flowers into the girl's lap. "I can see you love the flowers," he explained, "and I think my wife would like for you to have them. I'll tell her I gave them to you." The girl accepted the flowers, then watched the old man get off the bus and walk through the gate of a small cemetery.*

Contributed by a member from  
BCBP Cagayan de Oro



*Bible Sharing*



**OUR ATTITUDE  
TOWARD THE WORLD**

1. Being a Christian and living in today's modern society many times presents conflict. How should we as Christians relate to the world? Read and reflect on the following verses.

*John 17:9-19; 1 John 2:15-17;  
James 1:27; 2 Peter 1:3-11;  
James 4:1-4; Romans 12:2*

2. Do you believe it is possible to be in this world but not of this world? Can these two worlds be reconciled? How?

3. If our priority is God's world, how can we participate in the life of this world on earth so as to help make it more into what God would like it to be?

4. How would you reply to these remarks:

a. "No, I don't want to join your organization or participate in community affairs. What I do here doesn't matter at all. I'm just waiting for God's world — that's where things really matter!"

b. "Come, let us eat, drink and be merry and enjoy this world's pleasures. God gave this world to us so why shouldn't we enjoy it to the fullest?"

5. What attitudes do you think are essential for today's Christian living in this world?

**I HATE TO  
TITHE**

*Ed Escalona, Tagbilaran Chapter*

IT WAS ONLY years ago when I joined the renewal and in the weeks that followed, I first heard about that word — "tithe." A brother from Cebu came over for a special talk to enlighten us about the subject. When the talk was still halfway through, I already developed a lot of resentments. Bro. Al-al recalls that he observed me during that time and in his own words described me as "nanikad na nga mo-walk-out".

During the days that followed that subject was the only thing that I talked about. Questions persisted. On whose authority were they collecting this money? Why dictate to me when I should give, how much and where? Why the 10 percent and 10 percent of what? -- the gross or the net income? And what happens to the money that we give? I did some research and could not even find the word "tithe" in the Documents of the Vatican II. I was troubled and disturbed.

It was during our next action group meeting that I really poured out



**stewardship  
dedication  
sunday**



my resentments. We discussed the matter and our AGL Bro. Forting shared some of his insights and calmed me down. With further discussion, research and with a lot of prayers, the Holy Spirit slowly enlightened me about the whole thing.

In the weeks that followed, I gradually came to understand "tithing" even though I was still reluctant to accept the truth. I have already accepted the Lord as my God, proclaiming He is my King, the Author and Owner of everything -- my life, my family, my business and profession and my material possessions. And I know I am only the manager or the steward of it all, yet I still question His authority on how I should dispense these material possessions. *cont. on p. 36*

**HE SILENCED... from p. 29**

recall the endless beat of the Lord's presence in their hearts, but surely no one will forget that moment when the bishop raised bread and wine in Consecration, and there was this sudden "whoosh" as the endless batter of rain immediately stopped, leaving behind a deafening silence as everyone bowed their heads in reverence. What great manifestation of His magnificent living presence!

And true enough when the huge crowd left the coliseum after another set of praise songs rendered by the BCBP music

ministry, the skies were silent.

*(The Diocesan Renewal Commission of Bacolod is an organization of various Catholic Charismatic renewal groups headed by Bacolod Bishop Camilo Gregorio DD, with BCBP Bro. Digoy Montalvo as Lay Director. Member organizations are the BCBP, Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon, Couples for Christ, Bukas Loob sa Dios, Casa Maria Prayer Group, Peace Fellowship, Servi Dei, and the Catholic Charismatic Movement which include El Shaddai.)*

*In a child's lunch box are a mother's thoughts. -Japanese Proverb*





## To Become An Angel

Random acts of kindness are those little sweet or grand lovely things we do for no reason except that, momentarily, the best of our humanity has sprung, exquisitely, into full bloom.

Most of us try hard to fulfill our obligations in life, to be responsible parents, to reward and discipline our children, to assist our employees or colleagues, to support and comfort our spouses, to do our share of the work at the office and at home. But these deeds are what we're expected to do, what in fact we have agreed to do because of the mates we have chosen, the lives we have decided to live. They come, in effect, with the territory.

But it is when we step outside the arena of our normal circumstances, when we move beyond the familiar emotional and circumstantial boundaries of our lives that our kindnesses, too, move beyond the routine and enter the realm of the extraordinary and exquisite. Instead of being responsible good deeds they become embodiments of compassion.

To become the perpetrator of random acts of kindness, then, is to become in some sense an angel. For it means you have moved beyond the limits of your daily human condition to touch wings with the divine. No longer circumscribed by "can" and "must", you have set your soul free to give for the sheer, beautiful sake of true giving. In giving freely, purely, for no reason and every reason, you move into another person's emotional landscape — not because you must, not because you have no choice, but because in your heart, you have felt the spiritual necessity of acting out of your love.

BCBP Cebu Newsletter

### One Minute Meditations

*Fernando de Larrazabal*

## TAKE TIME TO VISIT



*"Take this and eat it," he said, "This is my body." Matthew 26:26*

The consecrated hosts that are not consumed at Mass are kept in the tabernacle to give the faithful the opportunity to visit Jesus. But it is sad to note that many who believe Jesus is present in the Blessed Sacrament seldom, if at all, take time to visit and talk to him.

We travel hundreds of miles to visit tourist spots, go visit friends, go to movies or stay home viewing TV, yet have no time to visit the Lord of all creation.

It is hard to believe people prefer to do these things than visit the Lord who one day will judge them. One would think people would want to develop a closer relationship with the Judge; but ignoring him when one has the opportunity to visit him is not exactly a smart thing to do.

Take advantage of the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament to really get to know Jesus. You will love Him.

---

### Prayer

For he will hide me in his abode in the day of trouble:  
He will conceal me in the shelter of his tent,  
he will set me high upon a rock.

Psalm 27:5

I confess I am guilty, Lord, for failing to visit you in the shelter of your tabernacle. I wish to be set up high upon a rock and this can only happen if I build a relationship with you. I resolve to visit you whenever I am within-reach of a church or a chapel. Amen.

---

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.

To create disciples of Christ in the business and profession who live out Christian values and practices to bring about transformation of the marketplace.

**-BCBP Evangelization Statement, NSPR 1995**



*I HATE TO TITHE... from p. 34*

I can recall a lot of instances wherein as a manager of our business, the owner has the last word with regards to decisions in the business. As the manager, I merely comply with his directives. Why then do I disobey God, who is the Owner of my possessions, on the matter of tithing?

About the question of the 10 percent, I can still recall our company offering a person the position to manage a branch without any capitalization on his part. The company was giving all the capitalization and the technology and all that that person would have to do was manage the business. They would divide the profit as follows - 80 percent for the company, 20 percent for the manager. Do you think this is fair? To me this is very, very fair already. But my God who is the Owner of my business is only requiring me to give back to Him 10 percent. And yet I resent this? I shrink in shame thinking of this.

The question on where we should give our tithe can be explained logically. We cannot eat at Jollibee and pay at McDonald's. So, I should give where I get my spiritual nourishment.

And, lastly, the question of what happens to the money I give, this should not be a problem. What is given is already given! I can not anymore claim ownership of what has already been given.

So now, my brothers and sisters, I am untroubled. I return to God 100 percent of the sufferings, the trials and the pain He has given me. But with regards to the material possessions, He has abundantly provided me, I only return a small percentage to Him in the form of my tithe of it. #

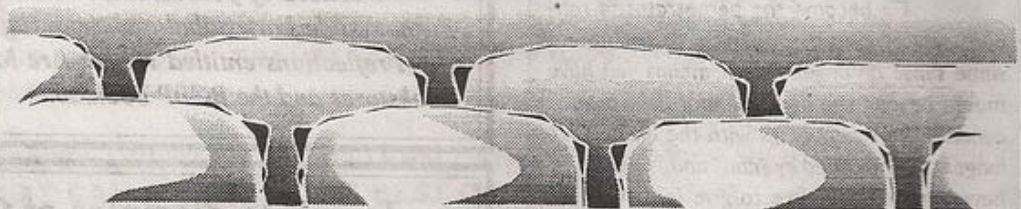


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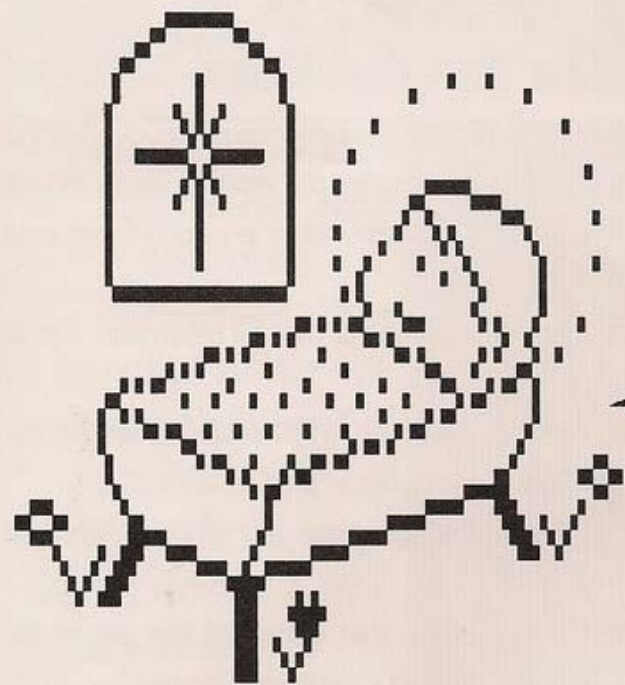
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*It is as grandmothers that our mothers come into the fullness of their grace. -Christopher Morley*



# On The Twofold Coming of Christ



We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, what relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming he will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels.

We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.** At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

The Savior will not come to be judged again, but to judge those by whom he was judged. At his own judgment he was silent; then he will address those who committed the outrages against him when they crucified him and will remind them: **You did these things, and I was silent.**

His first coming was to fulfill his plan of love, to teach men by gentle persuasion. This time, whether men like it or not, they will be subjects of his kingdom by necessity. Malachi the prophet speaks of the two comings. **And the Lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple:** that is one coming.

Again he says of another coming: **Look, the Lord almighty will come, and who will endure the day of his entry, or who will stand in his sight? Because he comes like a refiner's fire, a fuller's herb, and he will sit refining and cleansing.**

These two comings are also referred to by Paul in writing to Titus: **The grace of God the Savior has appeared to all men, instructing us to put aside impiety and worldly desires and live temperately, uprightly, and religiously in this present age, waiting for the joyful hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.** Notice how he speaks of a first coming for which he gives thanks, and a second, the one we still await.

That is why the faith we profess has been handed on to you in these words: **He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ will therefore come from heaven. He will come at the end of the world, in glory, at the last day. For there will be an end to this world, and the created world will be made new.

*From a catechetical instruction by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop. Taken from the Liturgy of the Hours, readings.*





# CHRISTMAS

## Prayer

I am your friend, and my love for you goes very deep. There is nothing really that I can give you which you do not already have. But there is much — very much — that you can take even if I am not the one to give it to you.

No heaven can ever come to us unless our hearts find rest in God this Christmas. Take heaven for a gift this Christmas.

No peace lies in the future for us which is not already hidden in this present little moment. So take peace which is in the hidden places around us today.

The gloom of our world is really only a shadow. Behind the gloom, yet still within our reach is joy. Take joy for your heart this Christmas.

Life is actually a very generous giver, but because we judge the gifts of life by their covering, we cast them away as ugly, or heavy, or hard. Remove the covering from the gifts of life and you will find beneath it a living splendor woven of love.

Welcome life and its gifts, and you touch the angel's hand that brings life to you. The angel's hand is in everything that we call a trial, a duty, or a sorrow. And the gift is there too — the Christmas gift of God.

There are joys this Christmas, too. But do not be content with them only as joys. They also conceal God's gifts as well.

Life is full of meaning and purpose. It is full of beauty beneath its covering. I pray that this Christmas you will discover that earth is only a cloak for heaven. All we need then is courage this Christmas — courage to claim the heaven which is in the midst of our earth. That courage is God's Christmas gift to us who are pilgrims together wending our way home through a strange country.

So this Christmas, I send you greetings. They are not exactly the kind of greetings the world sends. But I send them to you with great love and with the prayer that for you this Christmas and forever the day will break and the shadows will flee away.

