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BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN  
BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS



# Kapatiran

**MAGAZINE**  
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Never a Christmas Morning  
Never the old Year ends  
But Someone thinks of Someone  
Old days, Old times, Old Friends.

The card is set against a textured gold background. It is decorated with a red ribbon tied in a bow at the top left, several colorful Christmas ornaments (silver, red, green, and yellow), and sprigs of green pine branches. A thick, braided rope lies across the bottom of the scene.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Be A Child This Christmas \* Fantasies \* No Less Than An Election \* BCBP Financial Report \* Is There Such A Thing As A Traditional Family? \* What Makes A Successful Father? \* Cures For The Chronically Unprepared

# VISION

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

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

## CONVERSION

to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ;

## COMMITMENT

to the values espoused by Him; and,

## COMMISSIONING

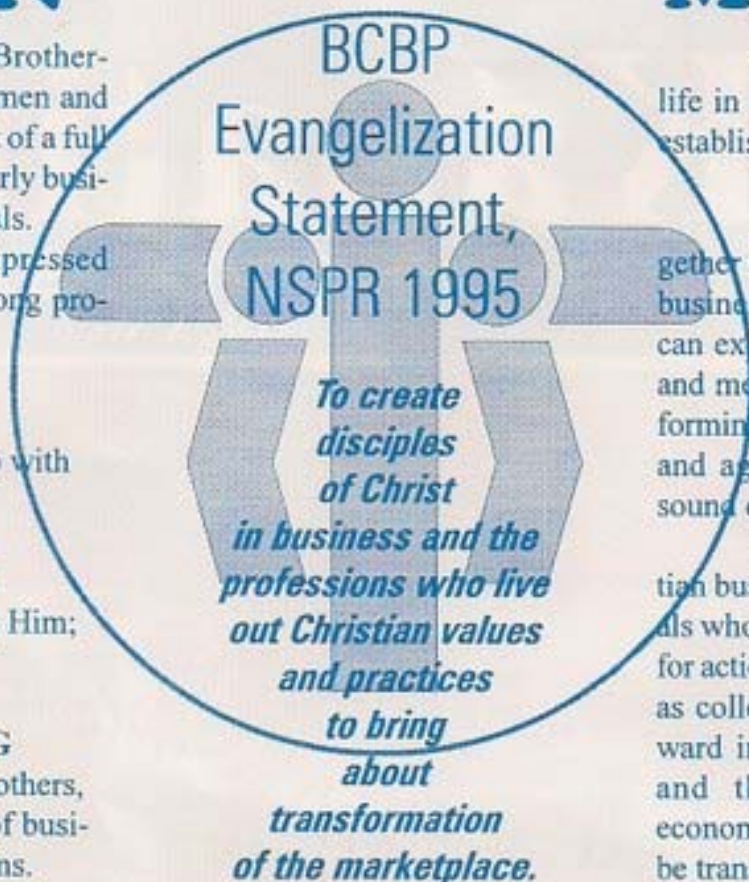
to spread these values to others, especially in the conduct of business and the professions.

# MISSION

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

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

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



## BCBP Activities that support and strengthen the BCBP's Vision and Mission

**Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts** (see Venues, inside back cover) - weekly forums for fellowship, sharing and making business contacts.

**BCLP** - Brotherhood Christian Life Program - a series of talks and discussions on Basic Christianity leading to Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**Culture Talks** - a series of talks and discussions on practical Christian living for businessmen and professionals.

**BCMR** - Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat - a weekend retreat for couples designed to strengthen their spousal and family relationships and help their family function as a "domestic church."

**Prayer Assemblies** - once or twice a month assemblies for praise and worship, mini-teachings, sharings and fellowship.

**Action Group Meetings** - twice monthly small group meetings for bible sharing, personal and spiritual development within a congenial support group.

**Other activities:** Teaching Tracks on Evangelization, Christian Service, Leadership Formation, etc. Lord's Day Celebrations. Family Days. Recollections. Many other activities, prepared for spiritual development.



# Editor's

# Note...

The season of Christmas is upon us once again so we turn our focus to being a child and the importance of family. Most of our features and sharings in this issue revolve around different aspects of family life. Being a successful father. The traditional vs. the modernized family. Savoring the joys of parenthood and grand-parenthood.

In preparation for 1998 we are beginning a series of articles on the Church and politics with a succinct analysis of Filipino politics and the PIRMA movement by Jaime Cardinal Sin. As Christians, we must not close our eyes to evil. Cardinal Sin calls us to fight courageously for justice and honesty in the electoral process.

We regret that this issue will reach you sometime in January. Unexpectedly, the Lord blessed me with a trip to the United States for business purposes with time to visit my Mom and other U.S. family during October and November. Thus the editing work on this issue coincided with the December holidays. Result? Late issue. But, praise God, here we are!

May the joys of the Christmas season continue to live in your hearts throughout the coming year!

- Nancy R. Catan

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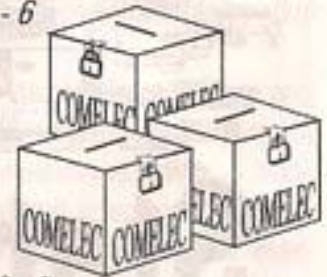
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There are years that ask questions and years that answer. -Zora N. Hurston

# Children of Christmas

There is nothing sadder than to awaken on Christmas morning and not be a child. Not to feel the cold on your bare feet as you rush to the tree. Not to have your eyes sparkle with the wonderment of discovery. Not to rip the ribbons off the shiny boxes with abandon.

What happened? When did bare feet give way to sensible slippers? When did a shiny box with a ribbon mean an item on the charge account?

If the Christmases you loved so well are gone, maybe they diminished the year you got too busy to sign your own name, and you decided to have your holiday cards printed. Maybe it was the year you discovered the traditional tree was a fire hazard and the needles had to be vacuumed every three hours, and you traded it in for a silver one that revolved and changed colors. Possibly you lost your childhood the year you solved your gift problems, neatly and coldly, with a checkbook. Or the year it got to be too much trouble to string popcorn and cranberries.

Children of Christmas are givers. They give thanks, love, gratitude, joy, and themselves. It doesn't necessarily mean you have to have children around a tree. The magic is in lighting a candle you've been saving, caroling, building a fire, grinding tinsel into the rug, licking frosting off a beater, giving something you made yourself. It's laughter, being with people you like, and, at some time, falling to your knees and saying, "Thank you."

How sad indeed to awaken on Christmas and not be a child. Time, self-pity, apathy, bitterness, and exhaustion can take the Christmas out of the child, but you cannot take the child out of Christmas.

*Erma Bombeck, Good Housekeeping Magazine, Dec. '96*



## Status symbol or substitute...

Coming with the great consciousness over success is a more recent contributor towards everybody's living and talking alike. This is the much-talked-about "status" and its "symbols." The rising young man and his family who do not watch out can be tied to or by the symbols of his status. The trouble, one might add here, is that the rising young man and his wife seem to want to be so tied.

Once upon a time it was the piano. Then it was hi-fi, then stereo. Then everybody seemed to be taping his music. Now of course, it is the small smart set viewing the current movie, why not porno — through Betamax or VHS.

Once it was Baguio, then Hongkong. Now the well-heeled go on seasonal trips further abroad. The sunken bathroom, the rock garden, TV, karaoke, a

second car, a club, antiques old and new, golf — signs of progress perhaps and genuine sources of pleasure, contributors towards more interesting living — but levelers as well.

Status sometimes makes it inevitable to play the dangerous game of enjoying now and paying later. Standards of living leap geometrically while salaries increase arithmetically but sometimes status demands that this be so. The modern man works feverishly to acquire status only to wake up one day and discover himself shackled by its symbols.

To many, of course, the avalanche of prestigious symbols accompanying new-found status is all very flattering; but who is to know whether they'd much rather have their husbands or wives rather than all those symbols...

*Asuncion David Maramba, author*

### MUST REMEMBER

**BCBP National Anniversary Celebration - April 12, 1997, Cagayan De Oro**  
**Metro-Wide General Assembly - Every Quarter to coincide with First Friday**  
**Metro-Wide Family Day Celebration - May 25, 1997**  
**Metro-Wide Bazaar - November 16, 1997**

*One of the wonders of life is just that — the wonder of life!*

# Be a Child this Christmas!

Every year I make heartfelt, serious resolutions to begin my Christmas shopping by September at the latest. Every year I find myself "cramming" the week before Christmas. This year was no exception. With my list prepared, I ventured out prepared to do battle with the wall-to-wall people and the bumper-to-bumper traffic that characterize the week before Christmas. Despite half-hour check-out lines and harassed store clerks with tired smiles, I emerged several days later more or less satisfied with my "finds".

Why do I enjoy this? Along with the gifts I accumulate, I delight in gathering impressions to reflect on. The delight of small kids gazing raptly at lavish window displays. A father carrying his young son on his shoulders while watching a sidewalk clown. A group of young carolers echoing the songs of the angels. The twinkling reflection of Christmas lights in mirrored fountains. The harassed but still patient mother selecting clothes from the bargain bins for the impatient children hanging onto her skirt. The blind beggar bestowing his blessings regardless of the size of the gift. The colors and scents of Christmas mingling with the sounds and music of the season. The aura of happiness, joy and excitement in the air.

On the other side of the coin are the drivers who continually play the

*"Is  
Jesus  
here  
already?"*



"honk-and-weave" game. The shopper just behind you who complains loudly about everything. The over-dressed, perfectly 'parlored' socialite who demands immediate attention from the sales clerk without waiting her turn. The bus conductor who enthusiastically accepts passengers without any more space in the bus.

Maybe I enjoy this because it brings me back to the time when I was a child. Although my childhood was spent in a different climate and a different culture with different traditions, still the Baby Jesus is the same and so is the wonder of being a child amidst the color, music and scents of Christmas.

And I guess this is really what Christmas is all about. Being a child. Meeting Jesus as a child. Experiencing God's love through our children, grandchildren, parents and friends. Rejoicing in the church bells that ring for Jesus' birthday. Singing from the heart the lovely Christmas carols. Standing on tip-toe for a look at the Baby in the cradle, wishing He will smile at me, and laughing in delight and awe when He does.

Just last month I came across a piece written by Erma Bombeck entitled "The Children of Christmas". I would like to share it with you with the prayer that, this Christmas, you will find it in your heart to be child-like, too.

-Nancy R. Catan

*Knowledge is the train; wisdom is the engine that pulls it.*

*In the marketplace*

Eddie Mendoza  
Greenhills Chapter

# FANTASIES

**G**od is good. My company has seen it fit once again to offer a special year-end bonus because of very good earnings this last year. But despite such blessings, the devil can play really neat tricks with me. For instance, whenever I think taxes. I don't know why, but I just can't seem to appreciate the doughnut for the hole.

Yet it is not as if there aren't any clever ways to go around the tax bite. One of the more popular ways, I know, is when I can simply submit receipts for personal expenditures and then the company can pass this off as official company expenses, and then reimburse me for it, but deduct this amount from whatever income I would have been entitled to. Thus this would save me from any withholding taxes, and yet the company is no better nor worse off because it's simply one form of expense in place of another.

The only flaw in that scheme is that it is not legal because the company claims that it spent for my (personal) receipted expenses when in fact it didn't, and the intention of the whole scheme is for me to evade the payment of taxes on my bonus.

Our kind but misguided comptroller was willing to look the other way on this deal, but then — as what has been happening since I joined the BCBP — at the last minute, I chickened out. *Ang bait ko pa kunwari.* After estimating the taxes that I would have saved, I said to our comptroller, "it's not worth it."

Then my conscience said, "*Ano ba yan?*" I wonder how much the savings would have to be from tax evasion before you would consider it worth going to hell for."

Sometimes there is no telling what sinful acts one is capable of doing, especially when weakened by desires and ambitions. I guess that's what the gift-giving season does to me, namely after all that window shopping and last minute bargain hunting, I begin to develop an appetite to spend, and to acquire possessions. Especially because I am a last minute shopper, I get caught up in such a frenzy.

the situation looks almost perfect, shortcuts and compromises would be made, the wider path would be taken.

Then the rationalization sets in. "Anyway, everyone else does it."

That reminds me of Jesus, weak from hunger after fasting forty days in the desert. How He too must have fantasized about food. How, when He was planning His campaign, He must have considered all options. Then the devil

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## How much would the savings have to be from tax evasion before you would consider it worth going to HELL for?

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I don't think there is anything wrong with desiring things per se, even when they start taking the shape and form of fantasy. My son reminds me of this sometimes, when my children day-dream about spectacularly expensive things they want or faraway places they want to go to. But somehow I worry about this kind of fantasizing about wealth because it becomes a kink in my armor. I worry that during one brief moment when my guard is down, when the reasons seem almost just right, and

seized the moment of weakness and said, "Go ahead, command these stones to turn into bread and feed all the hungry; throw yourself down and let the angels catch you so that everyone can see that you are truly the chosen one; and look, I'll give you all of Judea, if you would just do me one favor."

And then, brothers and sisters, Jesus reminds how we should respond to such fantasizing as He says, "Be on guard, and pray that you may not undergo the test."

*Eddie Mendoza is senior vice president and head of Corporate Planning of one of the Philippines' prestige corporations, Phinma, and an active member of BCBP Greenhills. He regularly shares his reflections on the Christian businessman during the BCBP Greenhills' weekly Men's Breakfast, 7:30 am at Club Filipino, Greenhills. You are welcome to attend.*



**You only live once — but if you work it right, once is enough. -Joe E. Lewis**

## Readers Survey

## What do Advent and Christmas mean to me?

A time to examine my conscience on what I have done with my life and what I failed to do in accordance with what God wills for my life. And of course, it is the celebration of man's victory over the world, the devil and sin through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Rex Sabal, Legaspi*

Advent time is a time for preparing the way of the Lord. It is a chance to look inside our hearts to find out what negative "sticks and stones" need to be removed so that the Christ Child will find a warm place to dwell. Because Christmas is about God's love for us made concrete in the person of His Son, we welcome Him into our lives, into our world, to gain the "fullness of life" as He promised. *Patria Lorenzo, Legaspi*

This is the season of welcoming and celebrating the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time for love, peace, reconciliation and giving. It is the season for joy, for family reunions, and getting together with friends. *Neilita Goncena, Legaspi*

A returning to innocence and the sense of wonder felt in childhood. A time for renewing and strengthening family ties and traditions. It is also the time when our hearts are filled with joy and generosity in sharing the peace and love of God in our lives. *Marjorie Goncena, Legaspi*

The BCLP has given a new focus in my life. Every day is Advent as I try to "level what is uneven" in my life and ask God to "create in me a new spirit." Christmas is the Word made flesh, and the fulfillment of the promise of the Father which culminates in the victory of Easter. Every day I thank God for this wonderful gift. *Amy Bolinas, Legaspi*



## How do you tell your children that there is no Santa Claus?

*Karina M. Jugo, Bacolod North*

At four, our older child has grown into an age of understanding and we feel it's time to slowly let go of the Santa myth. But telling him bluntly that Santa does not exist will only deprive him of beautiful childhood memories. So we've concentrated efforts into putting Jesus back into the limelight and allowing Santa to remain just as one of the supporting staff.

We tried to explain it all to him within his scope of understanding. We told him that Santa is just like Ronald McDonald, the burger store's star mascot. Kids think of Ronald at any mention of McDonalds, but the former is only a little part of the latter. He doesn't even make burgers, just as Santa doesn't make Christmas. McDonald's is really a burger store owned by one guy who has several people to help him make kids happy and Ronald is just one of these people.

Just like Ronald, Santa is only a little part of Christmas. It's really Jesus who owns Christmas because it's His birthday we're celebrating. So parents and kids alike should always put Jesus above everything else.

We thought we had explained it all very clearly in our kid's own language. He was so interested and kept nodding his head. Then he asked very seriously, "How can Jesus do all that when He's only a baby?"

This Christmas our kids will continue to get their Santa packages. Maybe Santa's sack might still drop from the rooftop or be left on the doorstep. Probably they'll find it among the rest of the presents under the tree, but only after the whole family gathers together at the stroke of midnight to say a little prayer of greeting and honor to Jesus, the King of all Kings.#

*The thirst after happiness is never extinguished in the heart of man. -Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

The cauldron of politics is fast warming up as we approach 1998, election year. In his address to the Philippine Columbian Association on the occasion of its 89th Foundation Day, December 11, 1996, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Archbishop of Manila, clearly points out what he feels must be done to keep our elections honest — clean up the registration lists, modernize the electoral system, and heal the Comelec.

**Y**ou have honored me by your invitation to be your keynote speaker on your 89th foundation Day. You have honored me more by giving me liberty to speak about any topic which as Cardinal Archbishop of Manila I consider important. I have therefore elected to speak about a topic very close to my heart. It is a topic I know is very close to yours.

It will not have been the first time I address this topic. It will probably not be the last. But, once again, it is high time that the topic be seriously addressed. The march of time will not be stopped. Nor will excited talk about the next national elections. Already there is spine-tingling speculation about who will or will not run in 1998. Already there is the ominous marriage of sinner and saint, the dismaying mixture of choice wine and sour vinegar, the strange merger of brilliance and the opaque.

Some have said all this politicking is not good for us. Some have said, rightly, that we would do better to concentrate our energies on matters of great national urgency. Better taxation laws must be passed. The poor must be better helped to battle their poverty. The people must be prepared for globalization, lest we all perish. So much to do! Yet, the persistent talk of the 1998 presidential election cannot be stopped.



# No less than an election

*Jaime Cardinal Sin, D.D., Archbishop of Manila*

## **Vigor of our democracy**

Indeed, perhaps it should not be stopped. Perhaps all this talk, even at this early hour, only bespeaks the vigor of our democracy. For us, election day is not the tired emergence of a foregone conclusion, as in other aged democracies; the candidates are not just different shapes of the same banana. Filipino politicians are not all "the same".

As time plunges the nation into the complex challenges of the third millennium, as the Church prays for deep spiritual renewal in preparation for the Jubilee celebration of Christ's birth 2000 years ago, and as the nation strides forward towards global competition and trade, the forthcoming national election can bow us in shame or uplift us in pride; it can spell the difference between economic disaster or national prosperity, between pragmatic opportunism and constitutional stability, between more

subservience to the already rich and powerful few or more universal liberation for the poor and downtrodden.

More concretely, elections mean the pot-holed or the repaired road, the broken or the functioning water pump, the lifeless or the glowing light bulb. They mean the feeling of inclusion or of exclusion, the feeling of power or powerlessness, the feeling of hope or despair.

For Filipinos, big and small, elections make a difference. They are part of our national soul. They are an event for which the Filipino lives, and for which we have a sacred responsibility. For much precious Filipino blood has been spilled in defense of the inviolability of our elections. It has been blood shed in defense of the people's sovereign will — our sovereign will, yours and mine.

*pls. turn to page 7*

**There's no secret to success. Did you ever know a successful person who didn't tell you all about it?**



NO LESS THAN... from page 6

### Attack on constitutional stability

So let us talk about the forthcoming presidential election. Over and over again the incumbent President, before local as well as international bodies, has said he is not interested in another term as President.

In doing so, the President is putting statesmanship over personal ambition, constitutional stability over an extension of personal power. The President is affirming that in the face of the gains that have been achieved under his administration, it is better that at this time no attempt be made at a revolution of the political system. Such a revolution would condemn this country to endless debates and wars of political bankruptcy, instead of concentrating on consolidating and strengthening the economic successes of his administration, for which we are grateful. He is saying that no administration, his included, monopolizes competence and talent in the Philippines. He is saying that it shall become a laurel of his administration, as it was of the past administration, that he served his country with dedication and competence, but when the time came for him to pass on power to his successor, he handed on this power peacefully, in accordance with the sovereign will of the people.

*"Filipino politicians  
are not  
all the same."*

I have said it before. I say it again. In this matter we must believe our President. He has sworn to uphold the Constitution conscientiously. He does not want to run again. He ought not be constrained to run again. He ought not be pressured to do the wrong thing.

The current move to gather signatures to change the Constitution in order to enable the President and other local officials to stay in office saddens me. Have we forgotten that the whole point of not allowing a second term was to avoid having to constrain an incumbent President and others to engage in destructive politicking during his incumbency? Have we forgotten that we wanted the President to make hard and right decisions that would advance the common good and not merely his personal hold on power? Have we forgotten that we wanted to put a stop to local warlords who because of unlimited terms in office built up local dynasties, terrorized the people, and effectively killed democracy in local areas?

As we face the challenges of the next millennium, we must not forget the darkness of the past. We must not agree to plunge our nation back into the evils of the past. We must not put the interests of our particular sector, whether this be the sector of the military or of the businessmen, over the interests of the common good.

### We want an election

As we look ahead to 1998, therefore, we look forward to an election as provided by the established Constitution. We look forward, we all hope, to an election and *no less than an election*.

By election we mean the constitutional process whereby the people freely choose their national leader by individual ballots. We mean the process by which people cast their votes within an electoral process that is clear, transparent and free. We mean above all a process in which ballots cast are **counted**, and counted ballots, properly consolidated, determine who sits in Malacanang and who does not.

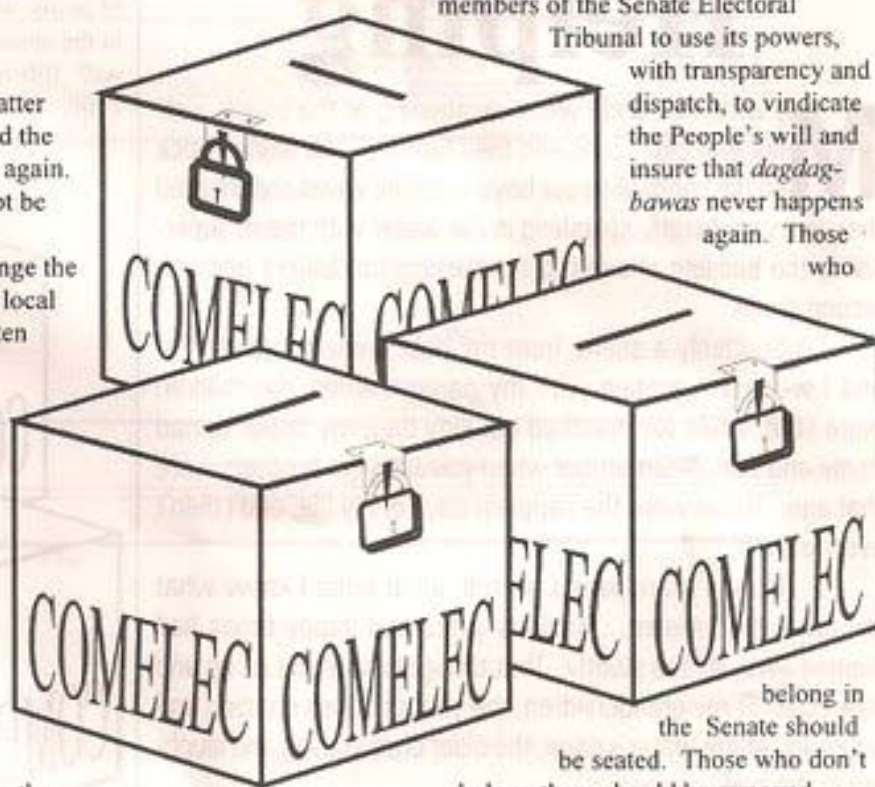
Let us not fool ourselves. Let us not think that by closing our eyes to evil, evil simply melts away. Let us not think that the evil of past elections will go away tomorrow without decisive action today. In the last senatorial elections, we were cheated. We voted, but we were cheated. We guarded our ballots with our lives, but the ballot tabulations at the highest levels were tampered with shamelessly.

There is so much election talk. But are we talking today about an election in 1998 that will express the sovereign will? Or are we talking necessarily about a repeat performance of this past election that shames us before the whole world today?

### Fight courageously for justice

In this country, the wheels of justice turn so slowly! Let them continue to turn! Let all continue courageously to fight that justice be served. However unjust the system is where the time needed to kick a cheat out of office is longer than half the term of that office, for the sake of future elections, we look to the members of the Senate Electoral

Tribunal to use its powers, with transparency and dispatch, to vindicate the People's will and insure that *dagdag-bawas* never happens again. Those who



belong in the Senate should be seated. Those who don't belong there should be removed.

Meanwhile, if in 1998 we want elections that are credible and free, we cannot sit back and wait for those who wish to thwart them anew to control them and their outcome. For now three urgent matters must be attended to, and the help of all citizens of good will is needed for all three. First, clean up the registration lists. Second, modernize the election process. Third, heal Comelec.

*pls. turn to page 8*

*You maintain a house with paint and plaster; you maintain a home with love.*



The Bernardino children, Ric-ric and Ton-ton, frolic with Martin Arancon and Enzo Matilac on the beach during a Davao Outreach Family Day.

# Second Helping

**M**y wife, Pat, and I were vacationing at the beach with our two older sons and their families. We leaned back on the sand while our boys and their wives shepherded their five youngsters, splashing in the water with them, supervising the building of sand forts, chasing sandpipers and collecting shells.

Suddenly a scene from my past came to mind. Pat and I were on vacation with my parents when *our* children were little; while we watched our kids play, my father turned to me and said, "I remember when you and your brothers were that age. Those were the happiest days of my life, and I didn't even know it."

Now a grandparent myself, all at once I knew what my father had meant. Precious years and happy times had slipped away all too swiftly. That thought made me sit up and look again at my grandchildren, the younger ones dancing and squealing at the water's edge, the older ones leaping and laughing in the surf.

At that moment I decided God has a definite reason for giving us grandchildren. I believe he wants grandparents to have a second helping of the special joy little ones bring to our lives.

I peered into the bright azure sky. From my heart a prayer escaped: *Thank you, Lord, for grandchildren.*

Benton Patterson, *Guideposts*, August 1996

NO LESS THAN... from page 7

## Registration list clean-up

First, clean up the registration lists. We do not want the votes of the dead. We do not need the votes of ghosts. We do not want the dead turning over in their graves because their good names are misused by those dead to ethics of democracy.

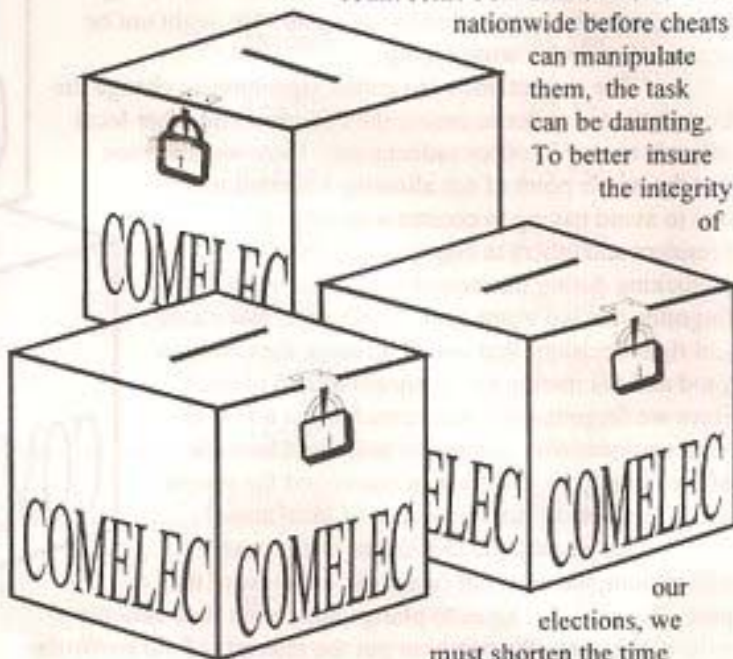
We want living citizens to vote, rich and poor, among these the youngest voters among us. Our registration list must be renewed, updated and published for public scrutiny well in advance of election day. I am sorry it won't be in place in time for the barangay elections in May, since barangay elections are not unimportant. We took too long on this fundamental reform. But June is not too late for the 1998 election. In June, we must all work together to make sure that the voters' list is properly updated. The next President of the Philippines must be elected by flesh-and-blood, qualified, living voters.

## Modernize the election process

Second, modernize the election process. We have just hosted the fourth Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit. We are now identified as an emerging Asian tiger, ready to roar. But as we demand respect in spheres of global business and international economic cooperation, we must be able to respect ourselves in the area of our own electoral integrity. Where we claim recognition in areas which involve billions upon billions of pesos, we must be able to convince ourselves and others that in the areas of our own electoral process we can count. Or can we? 100 votes plus 100 votes equals 200 votes — not 1200, not 2000, not even 20.

But even if we say we can count, when the task is to count some 36.4 million votes

nationwide before cheats can manipulate them, the task can be daunting. To better insure the integrity of



our elections, we must shorten the time between the vote cast at the precinct and the final proclamation of the winner. We must minimize the possibilities of human error and eliminate the possibility of unscrupulous human interventions. We do not want another *dagdag-bawas* ever. Modernization will help prevent that. If we can use computers reliably for schools, universities, government, business, and the

pls. turn to page 34

The eyes of my eyes are opened. -e. e. cummings

Is the "family" still relevant today? Yes, although it may take a little more effort to keep it intact against social pressures. This article examines what constitutes a "family unit" and gives suggestions on how to enrich the time you spend with those you love the most.

Is there such thing as

# a traditional family?

## 6 ways to strengthen your family bonds

Nancy R. Catan

**G**ay marriages. Instant divorce. Single parents. Television dramas bombard us with marital infidelities, sibling conflicts and a general atmosphere of family strife and relationship rivalry. Media sensationalizes spouse-swapping, who's sleeping with whom, the pleasures of instant sexual fulfillment.

Whatever happened to the traditional concept of "family" being a father and mother, their several children, a few grandparents, various aunts, uncles and cousins, even perhaps a dog, some cats and maybe a frog or two? Has "family" gone out of style?

In the past several months while visiting my family in the states I came across various articles and editorials debating this issue. I would like to share some of these thoughts with you as well as a few of my own.

### What is a "family"?

One article in a newsmagazine said that only about seventeen percent of families in the United States conform to the model of the "traditional family", which means that more than eighty percent do not. It editorialized that such idea of the family unit consisting of father, mother and their children is scarcely relevant in the realities of today. Cultural norms are changing and thus, by necessity, the "family" unit must likewise change. Hence, we see family units composed of members related by choice rather than by blood ties, like *The Golden Girls* and the growing proliferation of 'marriages' between members of the same sex.

In the Bible we see many examples of different kinds of family structure. Abraham's family was a large, extended one encompassing not only his wife and son but all his kinfolk as well, numbering well into the hundreds. Naomi and Ruth, mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, lived together after the death of their husbands. And then we have the family unit of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, brother and two sisters. Paul mentions Timothy who lived with his mother and grandmother. Even Jesus' teenage years were spent in a single parent family, Joseph having died some time after Jesus was 12 years old.

It appears therefore that a family may be constituted by birth, marriage, adoption, or choice.

What, then, is the difference between the biblical and the modern concepts of family? A sense of moral values, strong

family ties and a feeling of family solidarity and security bounded with a sincere and selfless love characterize traditional family units, whereas the modern family seems to be bound together more by social and peer pressure, by the need to conform and the desire for self-convenience. I think some "family units (?)" come together just to make the headlines and gain publicity for their latest endeavors to amass more money.

### Qualities of a strong family

How can we, who believe in the traditional family unit as the pivotal base of society, strengthen our family ties against these persistent moves for the "modernization" of the family?

If we take a closer look at strong families, we find that the one ingredient found in all of them, regardless of structure, is love. Love that is built on values. Love that is founded in promises and trust and the commitment to fulfill these promises and honor the trust. Love that finds its inspiration in God's love for us. Such love allows for disagreements, human failings and mistakes without them becoming the cause of the dissolution of the family.

To be strong, a family must build protective walls that not only discourage "modernization" and outside influence but, more importantly, that provide an internal environment which fosters love, trust and harmony, and nourishes not only family unity but also the individuality of each member.

*pls. turn to page 10*



*The greatest reward for serving others is the satisfaction found in your heart.*

**Strengthening our families**

How can we strengthen our families? Sociologists concur on six ways to do this: spend more time together, go more places together, encourage more common interests among family members, observe family celebrations, maintain connecting rituals, and preserve the family's stories and symbols.

**To protect family time.** Do things together rather than divide up the chores. Set aside a family time or family day and devote it entirely to getting to know and appreciate each other. Turn off the TV, hide the remote control, and disconnect the computer. Practice listening to each other, listening from the heart to what each one is saying or is not saying.

Author Mary Pipher (*The Shelter of Each Other*) declares "Our culture is at war with families. We are just beginning to grasp the implications for families of our electronic village. Parents have no real community to back up the values that they try to teach their children. Family members may be in the same house, but they are no longer truly interacting."

Let's face it — quality time does not really equal quantity time in the eyes of our children.

**Go more places together.** When I was growing up, we all looked forward to Sunday afternoons when we would hop into the car "to go for a ride." Dad would drive and we would explore all those country roads, preferably ones we were not familiar with. Getting lost was part of the fun!

A family's sacred places can be anywhere — the kitchen, a nearby park, the beach, dawn mass at your parish church, your favorite restaurant — a place your whole family enjoys.

If you're busy at home, create a sacred place for your kids. Children like cozy, safe places where they can hide, adults nearby, and watch activities — tree houses, the dark cave under the corner table, a blanket draped over a chair for a tent.

**Encourage common interests.** Some families play basketball and volleyball together, others enjoy the beach scene, still others are united in their love for gardening, or cooking, or antiques, or dancing, or stamp collecting. The more common interests a family has, the easier it is for members to find things to do together, to be able to connect with each other.

**Observe family celebrations.** One stimulating article I read proposed that each family should invent their own reasons to celebrate, that family celebrations should

never be limited to the usual birthdays and holidays but should include other important and unimportant rites of passage. Mentioned in the article were celebrations for retirement, finding a new job, a first driver's license, the first day of college. In this country there really does not seem to be any problem finding an occasion to celebrate but we are not talking here about having an eating party or a drinking spree with one's friends.

Each celebration should be an opportunity to create meaning. Poems can be composed, songs sung, photos taken, trees planted in honor of the day. The more effort put into designing a meaningful celebration, the more powerful it becomes. A memory is created, one that can be relived and remembered for years to come.

**Maintain connecting rituals.** Certain rituals bond family members not only to one another, but to extended family, to friends, and to your community. The ritual of everyone gathering in the cemetery on All Saints' Day connects the old to the young, and the dead to the living.

Looking through old photo albums, reading letters and diaries, browsing through old school yearbooks and reminiscing about the 'good old days' is a connecting ritual. Family reunions during special holidays bring people from different generations together in an enveloping bond of caring and sharing.

And there's also the simple family rituals one remembers from childhood and passes on to the grandkids. I can remember that every Sunday evening our supper would be

popcorn and milk, this was a family tradition. It didn't seem like Sunday evening without popcorn. We never had popcorn at any other time, just Sunday evenings. While visiting my mom last November, how wonderful it was just to sit munching popcorn on Sunday evening and remembering this precious time of family bonding.

**Tell and retell family stories.** "Remember when we had the great flood..." "Remember Aunt Jessie's visits and how she talked non-stop without finishing any of her sentences..."

At get-togethers, some family members tell certain stories as if on cue. We love to hear adventure tales like how the family evacuated to the mountains during the Japanese occupation and their harrowing survival experiences. We enjoy rehashing family mishaps — how about the time Mom baked that birthday cake and forgot the baking powder? Or the time that the six dozen cupcakes for the wedding disappeared overnight without a trace?

*pls. turn to page 11*



**How childhood stories connect us**

Storytelling is not only a way to entertain our kids, but also — when we tell tales about ourselves — a powerful way to bond with the next generation. My late husband, Milton, would tell our grandchildren stories about our childhoods, embellished and exaggerated, filled with humor, but always with a little embedded moral or lesson. They were so much more effective than lectures!

Through stories about our youth, children see themselves in us. They see that it is possible to overcome problems. And they're better able to deal with the future, knowing their roots in the past.

What kinds of stories do parents tell their kids? Psychologist Barbara H. Fiese, Ph.D., of Syracuse University and her associates found that mothers tend to tell stories of affiliation, recalling experiences that involve caring and belonging. Fathers, more than mothers, tell stories of personal achievement. —Joyce Brothers, Ph.D.

**A TRADITIONAL... from page 10**

(They were found about a week later, having been hidden in a corner under the pots and pans by some rats!) There are stories about bringing up children and about awards won, problems encountered and solved. These stories are important for they reveal what a family wants to believe about itself, its character, history and virtues.

Families also have symbols that represent what they love and admire. This symbol can be a person, a place or an object. In my mom's family, treasured recipes are a focal point. When we ladies get together, we always begin exchanging recipes and cooking tips. I don't think it's the food that so important as much as the emotion of being able to share a bit of oneself with each other.

**Family is our gift from God.**

Family life is one of the greatest gifts that God has given us. I believe that He intended that the family would provide an environment where we are accepted for ourselves, loved, and nurtured. Granted, none of us have been perfect parents, nor have we ever had perfect children. But that's part of the fun and challenge of a healthy family life.

Is the family threatened today? Yes, it is. We need to find a good balance between the modern and the traditional. To retain the traditional values even while the modern trends entice and confuse us.

What can we do? We can begin with ourselves and our own family. If our homes are built on a determination to live up to our promises and commitments to one another — foremost of which is to love in the spirit of Paul's advice to the Corinthians (13:4-7), then I believe that our homes will be established on a foundation that will not fail.

We have to work hard at keeping this traditional foundation intact, but then, isn't that what God gives us today and tomorrow for?#



*When the family gets together for the holidays or just for fun, try these activities that promote team work, group interaction and a sense of creativity. How about trying these during action group or unit fellowships — they are fun for all ages!*

# Team Plays

Prepare a large paper bag for each team of 5 to 20 players. Each bag contains a number of similar props, such as a fork, a flashlight, a ring, a pipe, a necktie, a plastic bowl, one sock, etc. As soon as each team receives its bag of props, it opens the bag and examines the objects inside. Then the team members huddle together and prepare a little play or skit (time limit depends on the number of teams to give presentations) making use of all the props and all team members. After each team has finished rehearsing, it performs the skit for everyone else. A prize may be awarded for the most original skit.

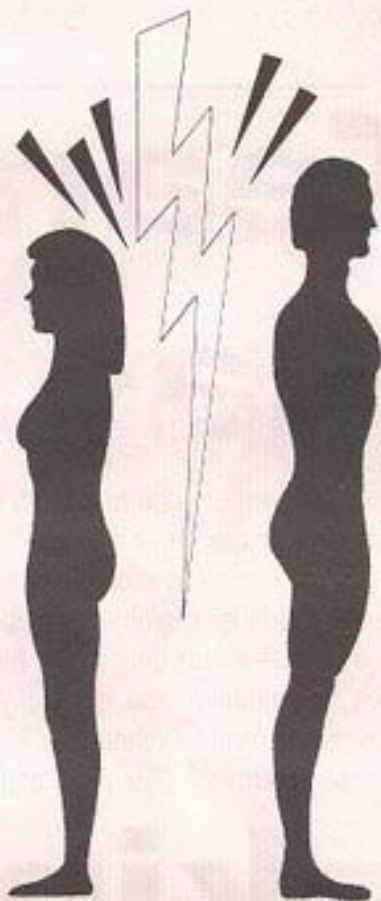
# Taking a trip

6 to 10 players sit in a circle. One member begins by saying, "I'm going to China (or the moon, or Hongkong...), and I'm taking a \_\_\_\_\_." Instead of saying the name of the object, he pantomimes its use. It may be a comb, a tennis racquet, an automobile, a guitar, or any other familiar article. The others guess what it is.

Then the next player to his right repeats the phrase, pantomimes the first article exactly as the first player did, and then pantomimes a second object. The action continues, with each player in turn showing all the objects as they have been shown before and then adding a new object and pantomime of his own. The game becomes more challenging and hilarious as it goes on since the objects must be shown in the correct order with the same pantomimes as used before. The last player to be able to show all the objects correctly is the winner. If the circle is completed and no winner has been declared, then the action continues for a second round.

*Order is the shape upon which beauty depends. -Pearl Buck*

This tribute to their parents was written by the children of Pepe and Aida Agulo, graduates of BCLP 6 and BCMR 3, Davao Outreach.  
What would your children write about you?



## Marriage on 'the rocks'....

**O**ur parents' marriage has always been on the rocks. Theirs is not a perfect marriage for nothing really is. It has its own set of problems. It is not a perfect match. Their characters dwell on the opposite ends of the personality spectrum. Our father is the calm and reserved type and our mother is undeniably an extrovert.

But, through the years they have learned to be comfortable with each other's differences and were able to nurture their similarities. Both are highly intelligent, witty and have a great sense of humor. Both are able to cope with whatever trials that come their way and come out stronger. We know, for we ate up a great portion of those trials.

They have sacrificed a lot of things just to pave a better life for us. And now they are just beginning to enjoy the fruits of the seeds of sacrifice that they have planted.

They have not given us all that we wanted but they provided us our needs. They have provided us things that we cannot hold but can feel, things we cannot see but can remember. The unqualified love, the guidance, the fond and sad memories that we cherish and learn from them are more than what we can ask for. They have given us the freedom to pursue our dreams and aspirations and the capability to face the sometimes harsh realities of life. They are always there when we need them.

In a nutshell, Mom and Dad are givers and takers of unqualified love, counselors, teachers and financiers, all rolled into one.

Yes, our parents' marriage has always been on the rocks. It is anchored on the rock solid foundation of love. We are blessed for having them as parents.

*Bernard, Cynthia, Aileen, Bing-Bong and Tintim Agulo*

## Reader's Survey

### What family practice or activity do you feel is most important in strengthening your family solidarity?

As our children — Renz-5, Hans-4 and Nadine 2 mos. — are still kids, we feel that by just being together always makes our family more close to each other. Spending MUCH of our time with them makes them feel more secure of our love. *Rod and Tes Llacer, Davao*

As parents of six children ages 9 to 16, Family Day on Sundays is an activity everyone looks forward to. The Lord's Day is celebrated the previous evening with Sunday usually spent eating out or simply staying home together to romp around and enjoy each other's company — free from the usual chores, schoolwork, deadlines and pressures of work. *Boy and Terette Magalona, Bacolod*

Car rides. We used to live 20 minutes away from the city proper and the greatest ideas and most uninhibited talks came up inside the car. Now that we've transferred to the city with the kids' school just 90 seconds away, we still make it a point to hop into the car and drive around the city, talking until we have nothing more to talk about, singing praise songs, or dropping by a nearby burger joint. And if car rides happen to be on a Friday night, everyone in the family is in for bigger fun as we make it a point to sleep together on Friday nights. *Tutay and Marissa Corral, Bacolod*

*It's not the tragedies that kill us, it's the messes. -Dorothy Parker*

## 12 characteristics common to successful fathers

### 1. Successful fathers have a sense of supportive partnership with their wife.

Neither domineering nor neglectful, they appreciate their wife's sacrifices, hard work, long hours, and loving attention to detail. They show this appreciation in front of their children. Such a father draws the children's attention to their mother's outstanding qualities. He directs his children to share his gratitude and respect for Mom.

### 2. Successful fathers think long-term about their children's future character as grown-up men and women.

They think of their inner strengths, not career choices. They ask the same character-centered questions that parents have always asked and then ask themselves: "What do my wife and I have to do now to raise our children toward responsible adulthood?" In other words, they see themselves raising adults, not children.

### 3. As a consequence of this vision, they frequently talk with their wife about the children's character strengths and weaknesses.

Such men are conscious that their wife is probably more sensitive and insightful in these areas, and they respect her judg-



## What makes a

# SUCCESSFUL FATHER?

ment. Though they may have disagreements with their wife on tactical matters, they are determined to come to some agreement; they realize how important it is for the children to see the parents united, especially in matters of discipline.

### 4. These fathers frequently discuss things with their children.

Conversation is the most common leisure activity at home. Fathers talk about their own childhood and family life, their job responsibilities, their courtship of Mom, their worries and concerns, their past mistakes and hilarious blunders, their relations with people whom they admire, their opinions and convictions, and so on through the range of their minds.

### 5. And, of course, such fathers listen to their children as well.

They listen to what is unspoken and implied. They come to understand the changes taking place in their children's minds, and they steer the children's judgment about people and affairs. They respect the children's privacy. They praise them for their growth in character, showing their earnest expectations that the children will grow up to become great, honorable men and women — regardless of what they do for a living.

### 6. Successful fathers keep television-watching to a minimum.

They realize that TV steals time from the family's life together. Whenever something worthwhile is on, the family (or most of it) watches together. Otherwise the screen remains dark and the

Much has been said and written about the qualities of a mother and what makes a good parent.

There are many women's magazines dealing with the ins and outs, ups and downs of motherhood and parenthood in general. But little seems to have been written about what makes a good father.

So, quoting an article from *The Documentation Service*, June 1996 issue on "Successful Fathering" by James B. Stenson, we would like to go back to the basics: twelve characteristics common to successful fathers. We do, moreover, recommend reading and reflecting on the entire June 1996 *Documentation Service* issue that includes provocative articles on responsible fatherhood and motherhood by Pope John Paul II, and on men and marriage by George Gilder.

children constructively occupied: talking, playing games, reading, studying, making the most of the few years they will spend together as a family. Under his leadership here, the home is more active, and consequently healthier.

*pls. turn to page 14*

*Happiness is not a possession to be prized. It is a quality of thought, a state of mind. -Daphne du Maurier*

*SUCCESSFUL FATHER... from page 13*

**7. Successful fathers see discipline, not as punishment or mere behavior-control, but rather as a means of building the children's self-control.**

They see that 'No' is also a loving word. From their long range vision, such fathers realize that the children need practice and encouragement in overcoming their feelings now, so that later they will exercise mastery over themselves. Such fathers do not hesitate to use reasonable physical punishment when necessary.

**8. Related to this, successful fathers are confident of their authority.**

They know that fatherhood is not an elective office. Their authority as father comes from the responsibility given by God and taken on freely by man himself. Consequently, successful fathers are not afraid of being temporarily unpopular. In short, such fathers do not permit what they do not approve of.

**9. Most successful fathers seem to have a number of close friends.**

The home is open to guests: neighbors, relatives, colleagues from work, friends from childhood. Such men also go out of their way to befriend adults who deal closely with their children: clergy, teachers, coaches, parents of the kids' friends. The kids see Mom and Dad show the courtesy and respect that underlies all true friendship. Moreover, the children learn whom their parents respect, and why, and how they show this.

**10. Successful fathers frequently have a deep and active religious faith. The children see them pray and take serious interest in doctrinal-moral formation.**

This religious outlook seems to directly affect the way these fathers discipline their children. They are neither tyrannical nor permissive, for both of these extremes are basically self-centered. Their love for God and their family, along with their commitment to living by a well-formed conscience, makes them treat their children the way God treats all of us — with firmness, understanding and affection.

**11. Successful fathers teach their children to be 'poor in spirit'.**

Such men know that excessive wealth can corrupt people, adults as well as children. They work alongside their children at home, teaching the relationship between effort and results, along with the satisfaction of personal accomplishment. They are sparing in allowances. They make the children wait for things, and if possible, earn them. They give generously of time and money to the needy, and they encourage (but don't force) the children to do the same. They don't fill the home with expensive gadgets and amusements. They budget and save for the future, and thus teach the children an important lesson: money is an instrument, a resource for the service of our loved ones and those in need. And that's all it is.

**12. Finally, the most successful fathers always put their family's welfare ahead of their jobs.**

They know that their children can be seriously hurt through fatherly neglect, and no job advantages — no raises or promotions or projects completed — can compensate for this loss. The children's earthly and eternal happiness depends, in enormous measure, on their father's influence

during the first two decades of life. This is a brief span of time, and it passes only once.

[From James B. Stenson, *Successful Fathering, Documentation Service*, Vol. IX, No. 6, June 1996]

## Where's the joy?

Paul Thigpen

I remember coming home one afternoon to discover that the kitchen I had worked so hard to clean only a few hours before was now a terrible wreck. My young daughter had obviously been busy "cooking," and the ingredients were scattered, along with dirty bowls and utensils, across the counters and floor. I was not happy with the situation.

Then, as I looked a little more closely at the mess, I spied a tiny note on the table, clumsily written and smeared with chocolate fingerprints. The message was short — "I'm makin sumthin 4 you, Dad" — and it was signed, "Your Angel."

In the midst of that disarray, and despite my irritation, joy suddenly sprang up in my heart, sweet and pure. My attention had been redirected from the problem to the little girl I loved. As I encountered her in that brief note, I delighted in her. With her simple goodness in focus, I could take pleasure in seeing her hand at work in a situation that seemed otherwise disastrous.

The same is true of my joy in the Lord. Many times life looks rather messy; I can't find much to be happy about in my circumstances. Nevertheless, if I look hard enough, I can usually see the Lord behind it all, or at least working through it all, "makin sumthin" for me. He has left His signature, His fingerprints, on the situation if I will just search for them. And when I find the evidence of His presence and His plan, a joy rises up in me that cannot be overcome by otherwise unpleasant circumstances.

From the article "Where's the joy?", Paul Thigpen, *Discipleship Journal*, #93, 1996.



### Gift to follow?

I was surprised when my teenage son handed me a Christmas gift as I knew he had little money to spend. Opening the gaily wrapped box, I found two batteries with a note: "Gift not included."

### Ssshhh... or else!

It was a real challenge keeping our five active children, ages 5 to 19, quiet when our son Nathan arrived, especially during the baby's nap time. That is, until my clever husband posted a sign: "Nathan's sleeping. You wake him — you take him."

*The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits.*



***One Minute Meditations****Fernando de Larrazabal*

# Both need to learn

*"That resourcefulness may be imparted to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion." Proverbs 1:4*

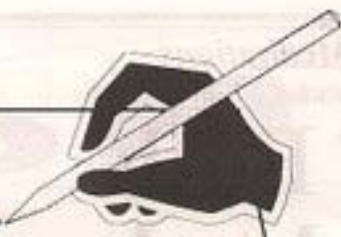
In a young man's life, there are numerous questions that perplex his mind; the why's, when's, where's and how's — which confuse his life. So many questions and very few answers. There are doubts that plague him about his own parents, ambitions, goals, love, sex, responsibilities and expectations of the future.

In the process of growing up, mistakes are made, and as a result, he learns from these experiences. Life is complicated and it is so much more for the inexperienced youngster, who much of the time is groping in the dark, trying to find answers to life's problems, all by himself.

Parents are most of the time not totally aware of what their children are going through. They only recognize their children's mistakes and how their authority is being questioned and challenged. Parents easily forget their own youth, when



## Memo to Parents from a Child...



*Don't spoil me. I know that I shouldn't have everything. I ask only to test you. Don't be afraid to be strict with me. Actually I prefer it when you are strict and have rules. It gives me a sense of security to know that you are in control.*

*Don't let me form bad habits. I don't always know what is good and what is bad. I have to rely on you to warn me about the bad habits that I am starting to form. Treat me as though I were older than I really am. I will try to live up to what you expect of me as an "older person." When you treat me like a little child all the time, I will keep on acting like a little child.*

*Please don't correct me in front of other people. It makes me ashamed and rebellious. I will pay a lot more attention if you talk to me "man to man" or "woman to woman," quietly, reasonably and in private.*

*Don't always make me think that my mistakes are "sins." You will spoil my sense of values.*

*Please don't protect me from the consequences of my mistakes. I have to learn to accept the consequences.*

*Don't pay too much attention to my little ailments. Don't baby me. Sometimes I use them just to get your attention. And please don't nag me. If you do, I have to protect myself by pretending that I am deaf and didn't hear you.*

*Please don't forget that I can't always explain myself to you the way I want to. Because you are older, more experienced and more logical than I am, my explanations may seem unreasonable.*

*Please don't put me down when I ask questions. It is the only way that I can figure things out for myself. If you are annoyed or impatient, I will be tempted to stop asking you about things that I think are important. Then I will be forced to seek the information that I need elsewhere.*

*Don't be inconsistent with what you command and what you do. It makes me feel confused. I start to lose all my trust in you.*

*Don't brush aside my fears and worries. They are terribly real to me. I want you to listen, to reassure me and to understand what I am trying to say about my worries and confusions.*

*Please don't suggest to me that you are perfect. I don't need a parent who is perfect. I want a parent who loves me and understands me in my imperfections. Don't ever think that it is below your dignity to admit that you were wrong. It makes me feel surprisingly warm, closer and loving towards you when you apologize with love.*

*Don't ever forget that I love experimenting. That is what growing up is all about. I can't get along and learn without trying out things for myself. So please be patient with me. I can only thrive and grow with lots of patient love, understanding and forgiveness.*

*From a column by Rev. Fr. Jose M. Dimaculangan entitled "Parents: Angels incarnate".  
Contributed by F. de Larrazabal.*

## Mind tickler

### Brothers and sisters

There are three families with children in our neighborhood. The Santos' have one child, the Tans have two, and the Bensons have three. Among the children who have no brother, there are twice as many boys as girls. How many boys and girls does each family have?

Answer is on page 18

*Everything in life that we really accept undergoes a change. -Katherine Mansfield*

*From Cries to Kisses*

Annie Salvador, Makati Chapter

One of the very first purchases I made as a married woman was a 6-foot tall, faux-pine plastic Christmas Tree. On our first Christmas, she shone beautiful and new in our small, apartment-size home for two, gracing it and brightening it as befitted her purpose. She kept her figure (just like the woman who owned her) for the several years following that.

1989 was Nico's first Christmas. That year, she shone, still beautiful and new-like in our bigger, family-sized home on Oakville Street. Little did we know that it would be the last Christmas she would ever have looking like that, for the new year that came was to mark the beginning of The Toddler Era.

In 1990, Nico's dainty little fingers plucked her lower ornaments off, much like one would pick guavas, exerting just the right pressure to pull them off, and so straining her branches. Then Tono, in 1991, actually grabbed hold of her trunk and shook with all his one-and-a-half year old might. I could almost hear her screaming. The next year, and the next, Anton tried, until he succeeded, to pull her lower branches right off their sockets, tearing a couple of them straight into oblivion.

By this time, the taste of melted plastic (I burned the stubs to make them stick back again) and insta-glue had become regular fare for my tiring friend. As I gave her the ritual bath before putting her away for the rest of the year, the sound of my clucking tongue would progressively grow louder, in direct proportion to the radius of my shaking head.

The next events were almost pre-ordained.



Annie and her husband, Nelson, are active members of BCBP Makati chapter and are blessed with five energetic children.

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*Christmas is a time for family and friends.  
Annie ponders with us the age-old query:  
is the time ever right to say good-bye  
to a close family friend?*

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# “C” is for CHRISTMAS TREE

Whatever Anton had left untouched, Marga made sure to take care of. And the taller she grew, the higher the damage. Our youngest, who turns two in December, will hardly have any more harm to inflict on the poor thing. There's little left to do to her, unless Mia would care to chew plastic.

Last Christmas, our tree, veteran of many seasons and five offspring (mine, not hers), joined us to salute our 10th Noel, a little lop-sided and not just a little denuded. Nonetheless, she proudly wore the precious memento of the past decade: bent wire stars, chipped ceramic angels and faded homemade hangings. Gracing our home, she stood incomparably beautiful in my eyes.

On a recent trip to Clark, I spied a ten-foot synthetic beauty, tall and straight and statuesque, all for a reasonable 80 dollars. Over the last few years, I have been compiling a collection of new, pretty, semi-

expensive and breakable Christmas ornaments in preparation for the future, when discipline would finally take the place of accidents around our Christmas tree. Thinking that perhaps the time had come, I almost grabbed the new tree. But on second thought, I changed my mind.

Our loyal emblem, although certainly retireable, deserves her swan song. I will let her celebrate her twilight year (or two) in her usual role, second only to our Belen as our Christmas centerpiece. We will once again more gently this time hang the ornaments upon her branches, wind the Christmas lights around her and bedeck her with ribbons and tinsel. We will once again, more lovingly this time, sit around her on many a night, telling stories, counting presents or just admiring our familiar, beloved, much-repaired friend.

Besides, who knows what Mia will think of?

*The more original a discovery, the more obvious it seems afterward.*

## Council runs AGL workshop in Metro and Vismin

The National Council successfully concluded two Action Group Leaders (AGLs) Workshop Retreats for BCBP AGLs in the Metro Manila and Vismin areas during the month of October 1996. 40 AGLs attended in Metro Manila at the Institute of Social Order, Ateneo de Manila campus from Oct. 11-13, while 92 Visayan and Mindanao AGLs participated in the weekend retreat in Cebu City October 25-27.

The retreat and bible sharing portion of the workshop included the video showing of the "Power of Vision" and a series of reflections zeroing in on the personal attributes of the AGLs as foundation for drawing up their individual principles attendant to their Christian life and service to the BCBP.

The workshop proper dealt with a review of the NSPR (National Strategic Planning Retreat) document, and an over-



*Vismin Action Group Leaders' Workshop Retreat participants listen to Sadi Saguisag (standing left) explain the next exercise. Rolly Aberion and Milton Mendoza (sitting right) standby to give further instructions during one of the workshop activities.*

view of the proposed Marketplace Transformation Program (MTP) which is the crux of the continuing process of the Business Evangelization Program (BEP) of the Brotherhood. This session saw the

participants role-playing different marketplace issues such as bribery, dishonesty, corporate politics, taxation, sexual harassment and the firing and hiring of employees.

"How To's" were emphasized in the second workshop portion of the weekend with concentration on how to perform effectively as an AGL. The participants discussed meeting format, one-on-ones, shepherding and caring, addressing problems and conflicts and effective listening.

The workshop team was composed of Manolet Siojo, who handled the retreat and bible sharing portion of the retreat, Manny Banigan for the NSPR and National Council Concerns, Rolly Aberion for the MTP. Milton Mendoza facilitated the workshop exercises while Sammy Ulanday handled the secretariat and documentation needs of the group.

"Because of the success of the two runs," Manny Banigan summed up the experience, "we will finalize the program and, together with it, draw up a trainers' training program to offer those who would conduct this workshop retreat for their chapters."

Banigan also emphasized that this new program does not take the place of the one-day AGL training program. "In fact," he continued, "the AGL training program is a prerequisite before taking the AGL Workshop Retreat."

## A high powered affair

*Ladi Lluch, Iligan Outreach*

High-powered is the word that immediately comes to mind when I think of the Action Group Leaders Workshop Retreat that four BCBP couples from Iligan attended in Cebu. And the reason is because the people behind the workshop were all top-caliber.

You couldn't find a more articulate and effective speaker than Workshop Coordinator Manolet Siojo of Greenhills Chapter. You couldn't find a more appropriate technocrat than Bro. Rolly Aberion. You couldn't find a more effective guiding hand at the top than President Manny

Banigan, and you couldn't find a more consistent inspiration than Sadi Saguisag.

With people like them, any workshop is bound to be interesting and productive. Add to the mix a crop of very intelligent and articulate participants, and you have one fine brew.

We were all challenged to put our best feet forward and contribute to the discussions with enthusiasm. I speak for the Iligan participants - Cres/Jet Benitez, Fras/Remy Orbe, Tibong/Vising Espenido and Ladi/Lyn Lluch - when I say heartfelt "thanks" for a job well done!

*From the KAADLAWON newsletter of BCBP Iligan*

### Answer to Mind Tickler

The Santos family have one girl, the Tans have one boy and one girl, the Bensons have one boy and two girls.

*Conscience is that small voice that is sometimes too loud for comfort.*



*Top Left: Rolly Aberion discusses the Marketplace Transformation Program (MTP) during the early stage of the Vismin AGL Workshop Retreat. Below Left: Part of the 92-strong participants posed for a picture at the culmination of the activity. The AGL Workshop Retreat Team is seen seated in the front row: Sadi Saguisag, Manny Banigan, Sammy Ulanday (fourth from left) Rolly Aberion and Manolet Siojo. Third from left at the last row is Milton Mendoza, also part of the team.*

## Advent of the Third Millennium launched

The Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, as a member of the Federation of Transparochial Communities and the Catholic Church, joined the many thousands of faithful Christians in the launching of the Advent of the Third Millennium December 1, 1996 at the Rizal Park (Luneta).

The launching of this New Advent took place universally in all countries to begin a three-year celebration leading to the great Jubilee Year 2000, marking the two thousand years of the Incarnation of Our Lord and Savior. The first year is dedicated to Jesus Christ, with the second and third years dedicated to the Holy Spirit and to God the Father respectively.

In Manila the launching program began at 1:00 p.m. with a parade of fifteen floats representing the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary. These floats were contributed by the business community. Fifteen marching bands followed the floats together with delegations from different transparochial communities and mandated organizations.

Prior to the Eucharistic celebration by His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin at 4 p.m., there was a presentation of the meaning of the New Advent of the Third Millennium. The festivities concluded with a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and 500 Christmas lanterns, and the awarding of prizes for the best floats, bands, lanterns and fireworks display.

## PIM announces new name in prayer rally

The Partners in Mission or PIM launched its new name in a Prayer Rally last November 24, 1996 at the Loyola Center, Ateneo de Manila in Quezon City. The PIM shall now be officially known as "Partners in Mission of Christ the King."

Appropriately held to coincide with the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King, the prayer rally was the first activity jointly organized and conducted by the members of the partnership, with the BCBP taking charge of the stage prepara-

tions. Its theme was "Side by side for the Gospel".

Bishop Teodoro Bacani, DD gave the inspirational talk followed by a dedication ceremony with the leader of each community in the partnership dedicating their organization in the service of God and man.

Fr. Herb Schneider, spiritual director of the Brotherhood, celebrated the Holy Eucharist together with Fr. Guido Gockel. Praise and worship songs were provided by the Ligaya ng Panginoon music ministry.

*Almost always it is the fear of being ourselves that brings us to the mirror. -Antonio Porchia*

# Be bold in service

"In leading God's people, you must have a courageous heart that loves unconditionally. You need to have a bold spirit that will never hesitate to speak out against all forms of evil, especially in the marketplace." With this challenge Fr. Herb Schneider introduced the theme of the leaders' retreat: responsible and courageous stewardship.

He zeroed in on at least three elements as the main thrust of the weekend. Firstly, a leader must exhibit personal holiness plus commitment and fidelity to the BCBP life and mission. Secondly, he or she must be strong and bold in intercession. And, thirdly, a leader should be able to exercise loving pastoral care.

Fr. Herb said that leaders must first of all live a life totally submitted to the Lord, a life that reflects a deep personal relationship with Jesus, a righteous life of prayer and faith.

"Ultimately you are God's stewards," he explained. "All that you have must be used to glorify Him. As a steward,

you need to empower and raise up other leaders. You are submitted to the Lord's authority — for it is in following the Lord that you can truly lead," he continued.

There are some areas wherein the leaders may need improvement, he pointed out. These include the areas of complete faith and total submission to the Lord, anger and impatience, and unconditional love.

Fr. Herb called on the BCBP national leadership to provide more opportunities (such as the retreat) for its leaders to gather together to share and fellowship, to have more leadership programs, and to encourage an awareness of real personal concern for its leaders.

During the weekend sessions, Fr. Herb also touched on the vital role of the action group in strengthening and sustaining the life of the Brotherhood. He discussed qualities and methods of action group interaction, underscoring the need to enhance communication lines between action group leaders, unit leaders and the chapter head whenever possible through actual visitations.

He laid out some principles for leaders to consider:

- the BCBP does not run the lives of its members;
- a BCBP member is responsible to make his/her decisions and be responsible for the consequence of such decisions;
- a basic membership requirement is to follow the Ten Commandments;

*Fr. Herb Schneider, BCBP Spiritual Director, encourages BCBP leaders to be bold in their service.*

*Fr. Herb Schneider, BCBP's spiritual director, conducted a three-day retreat for 64 BCBP leaders (council members, chapter/outreach heads and their wives) at the Meralco Foundation in Talisay, Batangas, on November 15-17. A synopsis of the retreat is shared in this report. The first of its kind in the Brotherhood, BCBP national president Manny Banigan said the National Council intends to make this leaders' activity an annual affair to "foster a continuing process of unifying and strengthening the BCBP leaders nationwide."*

*A similar retreat is planned for mission and chapter life directors in February 1997.*

- the life and welfare of each member is not just the responsibility of the AGL; each action group member should be responsible for each other;

- the leader (and members) must recognize and acknowledge and bow to the authority of the Lord who commands us to live a Christian life.

In closing Fr. Herb posted some concerns that he felt BCBP leaders should address. He said that our members must be supported in being credible witnesses both in character and competence, especially in the marketplace. The leaders and members need to be competent professionals, equipped for the future, and given the opportunity to immerse themselves into the information age to enhance their productivity and know how. He even cited the recently concluded APEC summit as a great opportunity for BCBP members.

"The marketplace (both generally and within the action group) needs bold leaders with vision. Why not BCBP leaders who not only are professionally competent but are also well-founded in stewardship, prayer and the love of God?" This was the challenge the BCBP leaders took home with them from the retreat.



*Sooner or later, every teenager gets what's coming to them — they grow up and become parents.*

*Bible sharing*

## Showing our concern for others

As a leader St. Paul repeatedly shows his total concern for those people and their communities that he visited. We see this in the following scripture passages:

- Romans 1:8-15
- Romans 16:25-27
- 1 Corinthians 1:4-9
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Ephesians 1:15-21
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5

1. Make a list of the different areas of concern that St. Paul had for others. Are these areas of concern still valid today?

2. What was St. Paul doing to address each of these concerns?

3. Make a list of the things that you are anxious, disturbed or concerned about. Do separate lists for family concerns, for neighborhood/community affairs, for your BCBP service area and action group concerns.

4. What are you doing to meet these concerns? How can you adopt effectively the approaches and methods of St. Paul?

5. What insights from St. Paul have you gained that can help you be more effective in your relationships with other people?

*2nd National Grand Breakfast*

## Cory Aquino: My secret is prayer

The second national grand breakfast of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals held October 23, 1996, at the Shangri-La Manila Hotel in Makati City heard Her Excellency Corazon C. Aquino, former President of the Republic of the Philippines, share her joys and sorrows with a record crowd of 522 BCBP brothers and sisters and their guests.

She related some soul-searching moments she had during her one-day retreat with the Pink Sisters when faced with the decision whether to accept the draft for president against Marcos or not. She cited numerous instances, some humorous, others poignant, that she had experienced as the President. Even after the presidency, difficult situations did not stop challenging her, she said, as she told about how she had been able to finally come to terms with her daughter Kris's life style.

All these underlined her belief and trust in God and the power of prayer. "I look at the bad things as reminders from the Lord that we are not paying much attention

to Him," Cory stated. "If we surrender our problems to the Lord..., it is in acceptance that we become stronger," she continued unequivocally.

When asked during a previous interview what in her presidency would she like to be continued, she replied, "It is the power of prayer."

She said she had also been asked what she would like to be if reincarnated. "I would want to be again a Filipino; I would want to be a woman. There are many things we women can do," she said, "especially when it comes to prayer and patience. I believe that we women can do these better than men."

Cory emphasized, however, that "we are not competing with men, we are complimenting them ... and we just hope that you men understand the difference!" she laughed.

She ended her talk with the challenging statement: "We are all Christians ... Only by believing in Christ and believing in each other can we truly say that we are God's children."



Former President Cory Aquino during the Second National Grand Breakfast: "Prayer is my secret."

Other working committees for the affair and their respective heads were Physical Arrangements - Gary and Tess Mendoza of BCBP Parañaque, PR and Advertising - Orly Neri and Malou Guzman of BCBP Alabang, Program - Bong Loderero of BCBP Las Piñas.

Registration was handled by Pete Medina of BCBP Rizal and Louie Rodrigo, BCBP Quezon City. The BCBP Greenhills music ministry headed by Buboy Cantera and Ben Aganon led the musical portions of the program. Andy Fornier, BCBP Makati and Manila emceed the affair. #

## TY's to working committees

Ronnie Caballero, chapter head of BCBP Makati, headed the overall working committee assisted by Litong and Teresa Limcauco, also of Makati, and Sammy Ulanday, BCBP Secretary General, represented the Council in the working committee. Caballero extends his thanks to all those who helped make the 2nd grand breakfast a success.

*No one needs a vacation more than the person who just had one.*

# WELCOME

**BCLP 5****Iligan Outreach**

Abrahan, Casiano/Nicanora  
 Acosta, Leo  
 Alcuizar, Dick/Fe  
 Alemania, Sergia  
 Amit, Elpedio/Ofelia  
 Anton, Miguel/therese  
 Bajunaid, Elvra  
 Banzuelo, Marina  
 Barga, May  
 Barretto, Celedonia  
 Chiu, Reynaldo  
 Chua, Robert  
 Clar Sr., Jose/Nora  
 Ducao, Neilo/Lina  
 Engcong, Ildelfonso/Edna  
 Enoy, Pedro  
 Espinosa, Josephine  
 Feraren, Lucinia  
 Flores, Eufemio/Diana  
 Francisco Sr., Mario/Aleth  
 Gaité, Regino/Angelina  
 Garcia, Araceli  
 Gianan, Rosita  
 Ginco, Julbert IV Melana  
 Halili, Virginia  
 Jandoc, Gertrudes  
 Labaro, Herminia  
 Lazada, Nestor/Leonida  
 Lluch, Ma. Joselito/Mary Rose Rowena  
 Macaling, Margarita  
 Mago, Imafe  
 Magsalin, Michael/Fides  
 Maristela, Nicolas  
 Monte, Peter/Gilda  
 Obach, Lucero  
 Obach, Rogelio/Emily Luz  
 Obed, Veronica  
 Orbe, Edgar  
 Padawan, Victoria  
 Pedro, Victoria de

Pepito, Benjamin/Lucita

Peteros, Nonita

Pienos, Oscar/Aida

Raguine, Alfonso/Paz

Redaja Jr., Lorenzo

Sabelita, Rhoda

Sagrado, Marcelina

Sales, Beethoven/Alicia

Serina, Ramon/Ciriaca

Sun, Adeline

Tapo, Ma. Bernardita

Tiago, Guillermo/Zenaida

Toledo, Mahinhin

Tolentino, Max

Villacorta, Mercedes

**BCLP 4****Legaspi Outreach**

Ajero, Errol/Rose  
 Alegre, Cesar  
 Arcinue, Nehl  
 Banas, Lyn  
 Bustamante, Mike  
 Callos, Manny  
 Cano, Tita  
 Ciocson, Nell  
 Comelio, Jing/Linda  
 Dayao, Ben/Arlene  
 de la Cena, Adiel  
 de los Santos, Grace  
 Dominguez, Cris/Fely  
 Gimenez, Bert/Miles  
 Goncena, Matj  
 Goncena, Nitz  
 Hugo, Ding  
 Labayo, Mon/Glo  
 Lardizabal, Liza  
 Lee, Ric  
 Medalla, Rhic/Aleth  
 Robrigado, Doming  
 Sabal, Rex  
 Segui, Celso/Nikki

Sial, Emily

Lledo, Maya

Tengco, Melds

Vargas, Chit

**BCLP 1****Butuan Outreach**

Ato, Asuncion  
 Butao, Anita  
 Chanjuceo, Judith  
 Cupin Jr., Ma. Francisco/Lucena  
 Dalanta, Eugenio  
 Datinggaling, Enriqueta  
 Dimaunahan, Gaudencio/Rosana  
 Gatab, Ernesto/Judith  
 Gonzaga, Alejandra  
 Guzman, Salvador/Sharon  
 Mira, Edwin  
 Olib, Oscar/Roberta  
 Ortiz, Edmund/Verflyn  
 Piencenanes, Floro  
 Quinones, Ephraim/Marcedea  
 Sanchez, Bartolome  
 Sanchez, Edna  
 Santos, Philip  
 Uy, Jeange  
 Villanueva, Illino  
 Wilkom, Susan  
 Young, Alonzo

**BCLP 2****Lipa Outreach**

Bautista, Butch  
 Braceros, Emma  
 Calibara, Pons  
 Cuenca, Charlie/Winnie  
 Dimayuga, Percy/Sonny  
 Escubil, Danny/Malou  
 Espinili, Janet  
 Fernandez, Vic  
 Gener, Aida  
 Labindalawa, Paul/Ellen

Macasaet, Emma

Macasaet, Liza

Magtibay, Eric

Oxemer, Violy

Pena, Onis/Fe

Pesa, Tess

Quizon, Cristy

Recinto, Norie

San Gabriel, Flor/Glo

**BCLP 6****Tacloban Outreach**

Bula, Emma  
 Cruz, Frank/Glen  
 Dupic, Jun/Chat  
 Estorninos, Dedette  
 Go, Edward  
 Kuizon, Myrna  
 Labarda, Buddy  
 Ramos, Linda  
 Rasor, Philip  
 Riel, Elmo/Elvie  
 Tomis, Bella

**BCLP 5****Rizal Chapter**

Benares, Gogo/Rose  
 Custodio, Tony/Shirl  
 Espiritu, Edwin/Rossa  
 Felix, Joe/Dorie  
 Flameno, Lito/Carol  
 Guarin, Rey  
 Gutierrez, Chu-chu/Edith  
 Isip, Mon/Alice  
 Javiet/Jei-one/Cecil  
 Loyola, Bernie/Connie  
 Manalo, Raul/Marie  
 Mendoza, Jun/Nene  
 Rulloda, Ben  
 Sta. Ana, Cyrie/Malu  
 Santos, Jess/Rosie

*Not everything that you face can be changed, but nothing can be changed until you face it.*



## BCBP Bacolod is now two chapters



The Installation Ceremony for the Bacolod North and Bacolod South Chapters was held jointly last August 31, 1996 at the Bacolod Convention Plaza. BCBP national president Manny Banigan officiated the chapter installation rites. He also formally announced the appointment of chapter heads Arturo Legarde for Bacolod South and Dennis Gamboa for Bacolod North.

In their acceptance speeches, the new chapter heads called on all their members to accept the challenge of on-going growth.

The day's celebration began with a joint prayer breakfast with sharers Byong and Carlota Ureta. The installation ceremonies started with a Eucharistic Celebration with BCBP member Fr. Rolly Escubido as celebrant. The evening program that followed was highlighted with a symbolic Candle-lighting Ceremony, filling the darkened hall with the flicker of a hundred lights passed on by the national president to BCBP Bacolod founding member Alex Espiritu and then to its first chapter head Ray Garcia.

BCBP Bacolod chapter was officially installed on January 23, 1993, exactly five years after the first men's breakfast was held in the city. The years following its chapterhood saw the addition of two new outreaches, Silay and Victorias, with current membership at 525 after ten BCLPs.

Present during the joint chapterhood rites were Manny Banigan, national president, Rolly Ona, national director for Visayas and Mindanao, BCBP secretary general Sammy Ulanday, and representatives from the BCBP chapters in Greenhills, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu and BCBP outreaches in Mactan, Silay and Victorias.



## Chapter officers named

During the August 31, 1996 installation rites formally dividing the former Bacolod chapter into two new chapters — Bacolod North and Bacolod South, Manny Banigan, BCBP national president, announced the new chapters' officials.

BCBP North chapter is headed by Nene Gamboa; its life director is Ed Pama and its mission director is Ricky Lim.

Art Legarde was named chapter head of Bacolod South with Jun Vargas as his life director and Od Gamboa as his mission director.

*Above: Some of the guests from other Vismin chapters and outreaches, and from Metro Manila graced the occasion*

*Left: BCBP member Fr. Rolly Escubido anoints Chapter Heads Dennis "Nene" Gamboa and Art Legarde during the Eucharistic Celebration at the Bacolod North and South Chapter Installation Rites.*

*Where there is great love, there are always miracles. -Willa Cather*

## 4 years of God's glory

August 24, 1996, saw the celebration of BCBP Tagbilaran's two years as a chapter and two years as an outreach. Nine brothers and sisters delivered "capsulized" life sharings during the Anniversary Breakfast that began the day of thanksgiving. They focused on the workplace, the family, service and mission work in the Brotherhood. Sharers were Getty Escobia, Maning Decasa, Marjoe and Inday Magallano, Dane and Melotte Ybanez, Dodong and Wennie Arcay and their son Jojo.

In the afternoon, a Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated at the Bohol Cultural Center with Bishop Leo Tumulak of the Diocese of Tagbilaran officiating. Concelebrating the mass was Fr. Bing Husan, Fr. Gil Espuelas, Fr. Peter Balili and Fr. Jun Ligtas, all BCBP members.

Bishop Tumulak also led the blessing rites for the new trailer for the instru-

ments of the chapter's music ministry. The trailer will be used to transport the heavy instruments of the ministry to various venues of the chapter's activities.

A grand family get-together followed the Mass. Highlighting the celebration were cultural presentations from the five BCLP batches. The evening was capped by a bingo social for which prizes were donated by community members on a "share-what-you-have-with-our-brothers-and-sisters" scheme. Among the prizes were both second-hand and brand new refs, a piglet, a turkey, slightly used barong tagalog, free breakfast fellowship meals, an encyclopedia and empty barrels.

Gracing the anniversary activities was Sadi Saguisag, BCBP VP for Visayas and Mindanao and former chapter head of BCBP Cebu, the chapter responsible for opening up the outreach in Tagbilaran in 1992.

## BCLP 6 reaps huge harvest

BCBP Tagbilaran started its sixth Brotherhood Christian Life Program last September 22 with 193 brothers and sisters enlisted for the course. Ed and Gaya

Escalona, the course leaders, directed the weekly talks and discussions that were held every Sunday afternoon at the Dumadag Farms in Taloto District, Tagbilaran City.



*There is only one journey. Going inside yourself. -Rainer Maria Rilke*

## Outreach holds BCLP 2

BCLP 2 is now on-going in the Ormoc outreach with 50 participants. It began November 23, 1996. Course leaders are the couple Ted and Doris Oliva assisted by Mayong and Jenet Rodriguez.

## New outreach harvests 29

Butuan outreach completed their first Brotherhood Christian Life Program on September 28, 1996 with activities centered in the Echelon Hotel and the Arrujville Chapel, Bo. Libertad. Those who graduated the course are welcomed on page 22.

The course was conducted by service teams from BCBP Cebu and Cagayan de Oro chapters headed by course leader Bong Pelaez. Assisting him were Boy Neri, assistant course leader and service head, and Nap Polutan, assistant service head. Members of the service team included Jean Enterina, Letty Cabana, Ping Almonia, Dodong and Chita Racaza, Beng Pelaez, Pinky Lim, Boy Wilkom, Mel Enterina, Cesar Romarate, Jun Parantar and Cris Alatraca.

Discussion group leaders were Roging Villanueva, Gilbert Uy, Jack Lacre, Roger Navarro, Ric Roa, Baby Villanueva, Grace Uy, Pinky Lim, Jing Navarro and Linda Trinidad.

"The mission was indeed a joyful one," commented a service team member. "We reinforced the true meaning of brotherhood as we traveled back and forth to Butuan. The Medina White Beach served as a halfway house to flex our travel-weary muscles. The Gingoog City durian served as a source of recharging our bodies."

*Bishop Leo Tumulak blessed the new music ministry trailer of the Tagbilaran Chapter Music Ministry during the chapter's anniversary. Assisting him are Chapter Head Peter Dejaresco (third from left) and Mission Director.*

## LEGASPI

## 1st separate men's & ladies' breakfasts held

The BCBP Legaspi outreach had its first separate men's and ladies' breakfast meeting on September 28, 1996. Previous to that only joint breakfasts had been held. Maning Lorenzo, the outreach head, was the sharer for the men's breakfast held at the Bistro Albay while Margie Seville was the ladies' sharer at the nearby El Sid Cafe.

Reactions to the "gender-exclusive" breakfasts varied. Some men confessed that they missed the presence of the ladies. And most of the ladies said they were curious as to what the bursts of laughter of the men were all about.

Beginning October and thereafter, there will be a joint breakfast with a sharer from BCBP Makati on every second Saturday. Every fourth Saturday will see separate breakfasts with local sharers.

## Young professionals join BCBP

It was the first time that a group of young single professionals in their early 20's became members of the BCBP's Legaspi outreach. They were part of the 36 participants who completed the outreach's BCLP 4 on August 3, 1996.

Commitment ceremonies were held at the Aquinas University Chapel with Msgr. Ralph C. Salazar celebrating the Mass. Dinner and fellowship followed the more formal ceremonies with some of the graduates sharing their experiences and insights gained during the nine-Saturdays course.

Legaspi is an outreach of the Makati chapter. Representing the chapter at the Commitment Night rites were Ronnie Caballero - Makati chapter head, Rudy Flores - Makati's Legaspi outreach mission director, and Babes Javellana - Makati's former outreach mission director. Other visitors were Rudy and Paring Orino and Ching Azarcon from Makati chapter.

## CEBU

## Cebu ladies' breakfast turns seven

Tita Cerdania of BCBP Alabang shared her life experiences with the BCBP Cebu ladies during their 7th anniversary breakfast last July 20, 1996. The simple, but lively ceremonies were held at the ladies' new breakfast venue, Ding Qua Qua Restaurant along Mango Ave., just a floor away from the men's breakfast.

Breakfast head Gerry Maraya capped the anniversary celebration by giving Brotherhood "shirts of appreciation" to those ladies who had shared during the year August 1995 to July 1996. She also awarded tokens to frequent breakfasters.



Blowing out the candles on the anniversary cake are members of the Cebu ladies' breakfast team Stella, Rosemarie, Fe, Gerry, Nena, Tessie and Loie.

## SILAY

## CLSS 3 brings in 120 participants

120 participants from Silay joined the Catholic Life in the Spirit Seminar no. 3 of the BCBP Bacolod's Business Evangelization Program, BEP, last September 1996. The BCBP-BEP Silay newsletter, issue 9,

reported the record participation even as the seminar was still on-going.

Speakers for the CLSS included Ray Garcia, Art Legarde, Ricky Lim and Digoy Montalvo of the BCBP-Bacolod.

## LIPA

## BCLP 2 produces 25 graduates

Twenty-five participants successfully completed the second Christian Life Program seminar of the Lipa outreach of the Brotherhood.

The graduates of the 13-weekend BCLP, May 11 to August 10, 1996 at the Department of Agriculture Training Center at Marauoy, Lipa City, held their solemn commitment rites on the second Saturday of August.

Course leader was Mel Rebutica assisted by his wife Del; assistant course leader was Bong Valdez and wife Joy.

More than 60 members and officers from the Las Piñas chapter and the local outreach joyfully joined the service team for the seminar. Activities were coordinated by the spouses Nanding and Alice Perce, head servants of the Lipa outreach.

God is in the details. -Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe

## MACTAN

## 3rd year for Mactan

BCBP Mactan celebrated their third anniversary as an outreach last October 19, 1996 with a grand breakfast at the Waterfront Hotel, Mactan. The occasion was highlighted with the life sharing of

Sports Commissioner Philip Juico and his wife Margie, BCBP Quezon City members.

The following day, October 20, saw an inter-unit bowling tournament take place at the Mega-Lanes, Mabolo.



Above: BCBP Mactan celebrated their 3rd anniversary last October 19, 1996 with a grand breakfast at the Waterfront Hotel, Mactan. It was highlighted with the life-sharing of Sports Commissioner Philip and Margie Juico, both are BCBP members.

## DUMAGUETE

## 16 couples finish BCMR 1

Sixteen couples completed the Brotherhood Christian Marriage Retreat No. 1 of the Dumaguete outreach last September 13-15, 1996. The weekend retreat was held at the El Oriente Beach Resort and was a project of BCBP Tagbilaran headed by Peter and Sarah Dejaresco. Course leader was Ely and Marlen Dejaresco.

Graduates were: Paul/Glyn Ong, Jimmy/Rhea Buenavista, Allan/Melda Gandola, Cesar/Lilia Concepcion, Wading/Auring Buenavista, Rem/Virgie Cornelio, Ted/Lina Cortes, By/Inday Saceda, Frank/Liza Cabaron, Paul/Dory Flores, Ben/Dinah Merto, Demor/Josie Gumalo, Ranie/Nanie Pacaldo, Nando/Betty Martinez, Nonong/Eve Rubio/ and Ben/Pat Babor.

Below: Dumaguete BCMR 1 participants pose for a picture after the retreat.



## ILOILO

## Calendared events

Baptism of the Holy Spirit, BCLP #1, Roxas City took place on October 12, 1996.

In connection with the anniversary of BCBP Iloilo chapter, a two-day live-in retreat was held on October 19-20 with speakers Ken Noecker, Menchie Rojas and Francis Iturralde.

Some chapter members participated in the National Leaders Training Conference held in Iloilo Oct. 21-28, sponsored by the Ang Lingkod ng Panginoon.

## ILIGAN

## Outreach increases by 78

Last September 22, the Iligan outreach increased its membership as 78 participants completed BCLP 5 and made their commitment to the Lord through the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals. Commitment ceremonies took place at the La Salle gym. The program began at 9:00 a.m. and included a Eucharistic celebration, luncheon and group presentations from the participants.

The BCLP 5 not only saw a good harvest in number of new members but it also provided an opportunity for the outreach members to serve the thirteen discussion groups during the seminar.

The well of Providence is deep. It's the buckets we bring to it that are small. -Mary Webb

## Mini-sharings reveal God's blessings

A wealth of mini-sharings by the Manila breakfast-goers revealed a wide range of the ways that God had blessed them during the past year. These sharings highlighted the BCBP Manila's joint Christmas breakfast, December 19, at the Chateau 1771, Malate, Manila.

Sharers were Nancy Catan, Vic Cuna, Mon Gaité, Rollie Chavez, Danny Roldan, Jun Catan, Cris Rocamora and Andy Fornier. Mon Gaité also sang together with Francis Mapili and Mon Cabayo the song "You Are Near" to emphasize his message that God is just a thought away.

Abel Tolentino, BCBP Cagayan de Oro, gifted the breakfast with several songs including a stirring rendition of "O Holy Night." Emcee Andy Fornier immediately christened him the Abel "erotti" of the Brotherhood.

The Christmas breakfast ended with songs and an exchange of gifts. Manila breakfasts resume on Friday, January 3, 1996.

### RIZAL

## New breakfast venue in Lucena, BCLP 1 slated

Rizal chapter under the headship of Romy Tocjayao opened up a BCBP breakfast in Lucena, Quezon, after meeting with the Bishop of Lucena, His Eminence Bishop Profulgo, last September 21, 1996.

The breakfasts are held every other Saturday at Cherry Blossoms Restaurant, Quezon Avenue in Lucena City.

Instrumental in the new outreach are Pete Medina, the Lucena outreach head, Ping Ramirez and Marte Sarenas, all from the Rizal chapter.

According to Pete Medina a team had already been organized to conduct the first BCLP set to start on January 25, 1997.

**Anybody can observe the Sabbath but making it holy surely takes the rest of the week. -Alice Walker**

## Davao runabout

### VISMIN convened August 10-11, 1996

Davao outreach hosted the VISMIN conference meeting August 10-11. National president Manny Banigan key-noted the session by emphasizing the need for promoting and maintaining a set standard and guide for key BCBP activities.

*Due to lack of space, pictures for these articles have been deferred. However, we shall keep these pictures on file for use in future issues. -Ed.*

### Welcome back!

Former action group members of Davao city outreach action group leader, AGL, Romy Arancon gave him a surprise welcome upon his arrival in Davao from Jakarta, Indonesia. Romy, since being posted to the co-ASEAN nation last January, has linked up with Christian renewal groups there for his sustenance. Romy was in Davao Sept. 14-21 to be with his family and his action group members and their families.

### Action groups hold family day

Five action groups of the Davao outreach joined together for a day of fun and games during their joint family day last October 6, 1996. Ging Gaane gamely patches tapes on parts of husband Manny (picture below) but they lost out to Cherry Napala who showed more familiarity with husband Noli's anatomy.

### Seventeen couples take BCMR

Seventeen couples renewed their marital vows as the Davao outreach's third BCMR, came to a close September 1, 1996. BCMR course leader for the weekend retreat was Hansel and Nilda Magno assisted by chief servants Bambam and Lisa Cuison.

Speakers from Cebu included Raymond and Daisy Cokseng, Mari and Chi-chi Martinez, Rene and Marite Congmon and Sadi and Ester Saguisag.



*Fun, fun fun. Action Group members of the Davao Outreach are having so much fun and festivities during their family day celebration.*

# SGV & Co

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

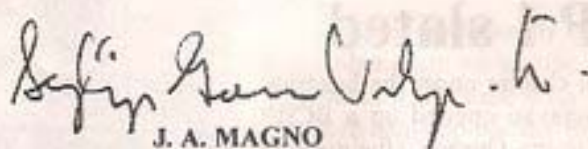
The Board of Trustees  
The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood  
of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc.

Rm. 22 P & L Condominium  
South Super Highway cor.  
Arellano Avenue  
Palanan, Makati City

We have audited the accompanying statements of assets, liabilities and fund balance of The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc. as of December 31, 1995 and 1994, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in fund balance and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements, which were prepared from the accounts maintained by the Foundation, are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits, which were limited to the transactions recorded in such accounts.

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

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and fund balance of The Philippine Foundation of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Inc. as of December 31, 1995 and 1994, and its revenues, expenses and changes in fund balance and its cash flows for the years then ended, on the basis of accounting in Note 2.



J. A. MAGNO  
Partner

CPA Certificate No. 13812  
PTR No. 276623  
January 10, 1996  
Makati City

6760 Ayala Avenue  
Makati City  
March 30, 1996

**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.  
(A Nonstock, Nonprofit Organization)**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

	December 31	
	1995	1994
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	P2,016,550	P987,352
Accounts Receivable from Members	138,624	150,042
Musical Instruments and Office Equipment (Net accumulated depreciation of P673, 990 in 1995 and P462,888 in 1994)	191,360	247,303
	<b>P2,346,534</b>	<b>P1,384,697</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		
Accounts Payable	P24,853	P30,298
Advances from Affiliates	23,043	13,043
Fund Balance	2,298,638	1,341,356
	<b>P2,346,54</b>	<b>P1,384,697</b>

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

*"Hope" is the thing with feathers — that perches in the soul. -Emily Dickinson*

**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.  
(A Nonstock, Nonprofit Organization)  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**

	Years Ended December 31	
	1995	1994
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Donations and tithes received	P6,682,378	P5,345,244
Interest	33,204	56,663
	<u>6,715,582</u>	<u>5,401,907</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Training, seminars and conference	3,542,051	3,674,397
Donations	400,573	417,754
Salaries and employees benefits	366,267	469,481
Kapatiran	287,864	211,586
Transportation	241,124	197,706
Depreciation	211,102	158,152
Rental	176,867	138,989
Professional fees	152,080	134,003
Office supplies	123,420	87,054
Others	256,952	234,131
	<u>5,758,300</u>	<u>5,723,253</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>957,282</b>	<b>(321,346)</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,341,356</b>	<b>1,662,702</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>P2,298,638</b>	<b>P1,341,356</b>

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements*



**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.  
(A Nonstock, Nonprofit Organization)**

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

	Years Ended December 31	
	1995	1994
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	P957,282	(P321,346)
Adjustments to reconcile excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Depreciation	211,102	158,152
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable from members	11,418	(72,626)
Accounts payable	(5,445)	26,058
Advances from affiliates	10,000	13,043
Net cash provided (used in) operating activities	1,184,357	(196,719)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITY</b>		
Additions to musical instruments and office equipment	(155,159)	(133,585)
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>	<b>1,029,198</b>	<b>(330,204)</b>
<b>CASH BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>987,352</b>	<b>1,317,556</b>
<b>CASH AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>P2,016,550</b>	<b>PP987,352</b>

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION OF THE BROTHERHOOD  
OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS, INC.  
(A Nonstock, Nonprofit Organization)**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**1. General**

The Foundation is a nonstock, nonprofit corporation organized to promote, support and encourage the: (a) human development and value formation of businessmen and professionals; (b) improvement of Filipino marital and family life and community consciousness; (c) total human development and value formation of the youth and students and all others who may be so interested therein; and (d) to foster and maintain fellowship and goodwill and unity among its members and all those with whom the Foundation and its members may interact.

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

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**2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Method of Accounting

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

Musical Instruments and Office Equipment

Musical instruments and office equipments are carried at cost. Donated assets are carried at fair market value at the time of donation less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of three years.

Donations and Tithes

Donations and tithes are recognized as revenues when received.

# Cures for the chronically unprepared



**Y**ou are the action group leader and have been conducting a bible sharing during your action group meetings. Your members are faithful in attendance but they are seldom prepared to participate in the discus-

sion. Here are a few suggestions gleaned from various sources on how to motivate them to prepare without actually scolding them.

## Of love and chicken pie - or - our dilemma as Action Group Leaders

*Gassy and Karino Jugo, Bacolod North*

As action group leaders, we sometimes wondered (worry is more like it!) and asked ourselves: Are our members getting tired/bored with our usual meeting format? Do they get spiritual satisfaction attending our assemblies, community masses and other BCBP activities? Are they pleased with how we serve and tend to their needs? Or are they spiritually drying up?

Last September 1996 we were assigned to take charge of snack preparations for the first chapter assembly of the new Bacolod North chapter. Towards the end of the assembly, we found ourselves with 150 pieces of chicken pie left untouched.

One of our members suggested we give out take-home bags to members, another opted to send the stuff to jail inmates but expressed doubts as to getting by the jail guards. Finally all agreed to bring them to the indigent patients of the government-run hospital. When it was proposed to have dinner first at a nearby restaurant, one member quickly protested and insisted on swinging by the hospital first.

As each of our three member couples walked along the hospital ward enthusiastically giving out chicken pies to the sick and engaging them in small talk about their illnesses and how they were doing, something inside us stirred. How much love there was in their hearts! What great desire there was in them to reach out in brotherly love and caring service!

Our worries about how our action group members were faring spiritually were wiped out that evening. The seed that had been planted now needs continuing nourishment. And it is our task as action group leaders to provide them with opportunities for bearing fruit.

### Enthusiasm is caught, not taught.

Are you excited about the topic and the verses you will be studying? Are you prepared to share a bit of your life with your members? Unless you are enthusiastic about what you are doing and you communicate this enthusiasm to the others, nothing is going to happen. You cannot just tell them what to do and expect them to be really excited about doing it unless you, yourself, are excited.

### What's the relevance of all this?

Have you had this question thrown at you? What does the Bible say about things your group members care about? Get input from them about which topics they want and need to discuss. Once they become involved in what is planned for the meeting, they will want to prepare themselves for it.

### Put them to work.

Give out "mini assignments" one or two meetings ahead of the actual discussion and ask them to prepare a three-minute reflection on the verses. Let them be the ones to prepare the discussion questions on that particular verse or passage.

### When all else fails ...

Unprepared group members may be a cross you just have to bear. At least they are showing up and enjoying one another! Include them in your daily prayers and let the Holy Spirit go to work on them.

*Worry is today's mouse eating tomorrow's cheese.*

complexities of credit cards and our stock exchange, we can certainly use them to help us count and tally votes which express our sovereign will.

We have already tried modernized counting during the elections in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. We are able to learn from our shortcomings there. Especially for the choice of the counting machines to be used, we know we must rely on the objective recommendations of credible computer experts who are committed to electoral truth. The choice of the machines must be totally transparent, totally above board.

Despite its shortcomings, the pilot elections in Mindanao were a historical success. The results were out in record time. Do we not wish this for our forthcoming national elections?

I am sure we all do, as we all yearn finally for truth in our election activities! I consider therefore the modernization of our election mechanism among the real, non-negotiable, moral imperatives of the moment.

I therefore ask our Congress to pass the necessary legislation for the modernization of the electoral process before the end of March, so that it can be implemented with the proper educational programs before May of 1997. Let the relevant committees be guided only by the imperative for truth in the election. Let whatever money is required be appropriated for this purpose. Let no one say there is no money for their purpose; our elections are certainly more important than one more new highway. I ask the President to certify this legislation with the urgency it truly has. Most of all, I ask all citizens of good will in this country to support this modernization. March is only three months from now. There is not much time. After March, it may be too late.

**Heal Comelec**

There are many good people in Comelec, people who know that their only loyalty belongs to the Philippine electorate, and not to any appointing power.

We hold as part of our national treasure the memory of good people in Comelec who have been courageous paragons of moral integrity, even against overwhelming pressure and threats to their lives. Today, good people continue to dedicate their best energies towards insuring that the vote of the Filipino is counted and the will of the People is respected. I wish to encourage them in their service, and express our gratitude for their dedication.

There are good people at Comelec. But today many of these are frustrated. These are people who want to do good, but

can't. People prevented from doing better, because of less-than-competent, or worse, less-than-honorable superiors.

In the face of the unhappy truths that are being unearthed due to the wholesale electoral fraud during the last elections, a Comelec that would be obedient to its sacred mandate would be doing all it can do to prevent any recurrence of such as *dagdag-bawas* in the future. During the

launching of the People's Actions for Clean Elections (or PACE), I was happy that the commissioners committed themselves before God and all the world to the vigorous prosecution of erring officials in the *dagdag-bawas* affair. I wish at this point I could see more results.

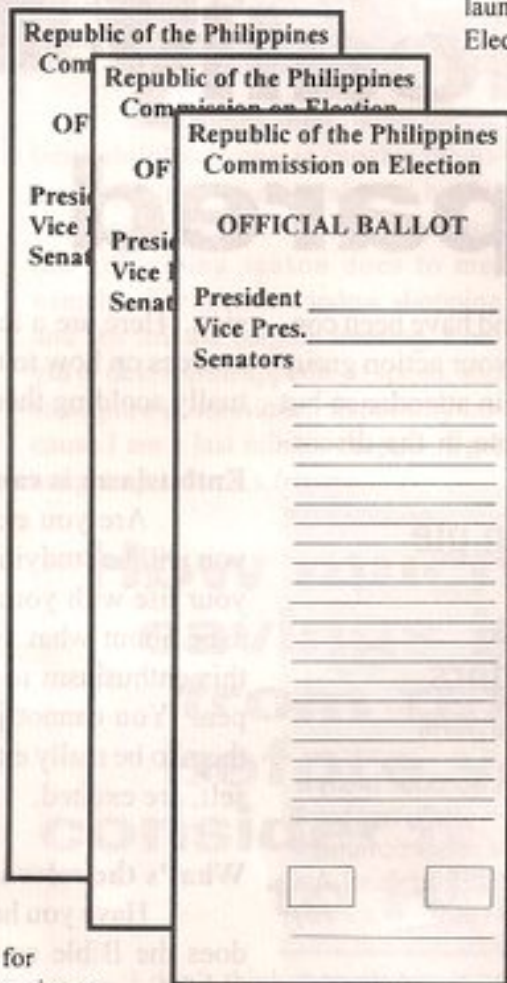
But what I see is this: The will of the Comelec to file criminal charges against any of its officials, despite the evidence at hand, is weak. Its desire to forgive its erring officials with but a token reprimand is strong. The desire of the Supreme Court to disbar lawyers for electoral fraud is very lax.

Will we ever give our people the electoral integrity they desire if we let participants in electoral fraud off with but a reprimand? If one's daughter has already been raped, and if this same daughter can be expected to be raped again unless the rapists are properly punished for the heinous crime that rape is, I am sure you will agree with me that a mere reprimand does not do justice. Nor does it prevent a new rape. Electoral fraud in a democracy is no less than heinous rape.

I would expect that the Comelec, as is mandated by the Constitution, to "recommend to the Congress effective measures ... to prevent and penalize all forms of

election frauds, offenses, [and] malpractices..." The present Comelec however has taken a completely passive stance towards Congress, declaring it refuses to go to Congress to "beg" for reforms, making Comelec deadweight in the national movement for electoral reform. Hence, in the need to inform the people about the advantages of modernization and to mobilize universal support for this clearly beneficial electoral reform, the Comelec has sat back and declared it would only inform people about modernization should a law on modernization be passed.

Hence, of the 40 million pesos available to Comelec for popular education, only a paltry 80,000 pesos has been spent on educational projects. Do we therefore wonder why despite *dagdag-bawas* so little has been done towards putting genuine modernization in place? The Comelec has been waiting for a law that it has not been helping to pass. On the other hand, now that the law enabling Party-List Voting has been passed and its implementing rules and regulations finally available, we sorely



*pls. turn to next page*

NO LESS THAN... from page 34

miss Comelec's active effort to inform the nation about this important aspect of empowering the less advantaged and cause-oriented groups in the Philippine democracy.

During the last Presidential elections, Comelec enjoyed the respect and confidence of the people. It had risen from the ashes of the Marcos regime, and had grown in the esteem of the people. I wish it were possible for me to say that that same esteem is enjoyed by the present Comelec. There is fear that Comelec may not be strong enough to accomplish its mission.

*Electoral fraud  
in a democracy  
is no less a crime than heinous rape.*

### **We place our hope in the people**

But we must not lose hope. Ours is a vibrant democracy. We place our hope in the people. We place our hope in you. We place our hope in the power of the People, in ourselves, as God wills, to protect our democracy together, even with our lives on the streets.

We pray that the President of the Philippines, who appoints Comelec Commissioners, having shown that economic gains can be achieved best in this country in the framework of genuine democracy, appoint only persons to the Comelec with competence, passion and independence. He must appoint respectable and God-fearing personages who will restore the credibility of the Comelec and truly prepare this country for a new millennium of democracy, freedom and prosperity before our loving Father. For Comelec is the most sacred of all constitutional bodies. If it allows one cheat to win illegally in an election, it unlooses a criminal who becomes a mayor, congressman, a governor, a senator, or even a President.

The Comelec's allegiance must be exclusively with the People, and not with any appointing power, nor with any bearer of thirty pieces of silver.

President Mendoza and friends at the Philippine Columbian, thank you for your kind attention! As we prepare for the great Jubilee of Christ's birth and strive with his grace for the fullness of life in the fullness of time, let us all work together to fix our registration lists, modernize our electoral system, cure our Comelec, and keep our democracy alive and free!

May Jesus with His Blessed Mother, Our Lady of EDSA, Queen of our Freedom, bless you all and grant you peace and joy at Christmas!#

*The full text including several pages of explanatory footnotes may be obtained through the BCBP National Secretariat.*



## BOOKSHELF

### Some suggestions to read on your journey with Jesus

*Sadhana: A Way to God by Anthony de Mello. (Image Books, New York, c1978)*

Drawing on Scripture plus insights from Eastern and Western spiritual masters, this small book presents an approach to inner peace that brings the *whole* person to prayer — body and soul, heart and mind, memory and imagination. Fr. de Mello, a renowned Jesuit spiritual guide, gives us 47 exercises that impart revealing depths to prayer *from the heart*.

*Christian Reflections by C.S. Lewis. (HarperCollins Religious, London, c1980)*

This collection of essays embraces a wealth of subjects, such as ethics, Christianity and culture, historicism, Church music, prayer and literature, that directly address what C.S. Lewis was apt to term the "spiritual poisons" that confront us today. Some of his essays are published in this volume for the first time, others are familiar to C.S. Lewis readers; all present the author at his most varied and profound. *The Church Times* calls this collection "a magnificent restatement of the essence of the gospel and the faith."

### How's that again?



A man died and went to heaven. When he got to the gate, St. Peter told him that he would have to answer three questions as part of the new screening

procedures.

St. Peter asked, "How many days in a week begin with 'T'?" The man answered confidently, "That's easy. Four — Tuesday, Thursday, today and tomorrow."

"Very good," said St. Peter. "Now, how many seconds are there in a year?" The man replied quickly, "Twelve — Jan. 2, Feb. 2, etc."

"I'm impressed," said St. Peter. "Last question is: what is the Lord's name?" The man thought for a moment, then laughed happily. "That's easy. His name is Harold (as in Hallowed be Thy Name)."

*It is never too late to be what you might have been. -George Elliot*

BROTHERHOOD OF CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS

# KAPATIRAN Magazine

Vol. X, No. 6 NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1996

**"Answers the call for INFORMATION, INSPIRATION and FORMATION, nationwide"**

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## UP NEXT

**JAN. - FEB. Issue**

Deadline: January 15, 1997

**Features:**

Worshipping God  
Evangelization through the BCBP

**Readers Survey:**

What act of worship brings you most strongly into God's presence?



**MAR. - APR. Issue**

Deadline: February 15, 1997

**Features:**

Politics & Leadership

**Readers Survey:**

What do you feel is the most critical issue in the Philippines' political situation at this time?  
What to you are the most important qualities you expect to see in a BCBP leader?

When playing golf, if you can't be good, at least be quick.

KAPATIRAN Magazine NOV. - DEC., 1996

# VENUES

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

*Wednesdays* - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club, Makati

*Thursdays* - GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills

*Fridays* - MANILA: Chateau 1771, Adriatico St., Malate, Mla.

## *Saturdays*

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang CC

BACOLOD: Roli's, La Salle, Bacolod

BAGUIO: Prime Hotel, Session Rd., Baguio

(2nd & 4th Sat)

BUKIDNON: Taipan Restaurant, Valencia (1st Saturday)

Pines Hotel, Malaybalay (3rd Saturday)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Paolo's Ristorante, CDO

CALAMBA: Max's Restaurant

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

DAVAO: Terraza Millesa (2nd/4th Sats.)

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

ILIGAN: Maria Cristina Hotel (2nd, 4th Sats.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel

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

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

LUCENA: Cherry Blossom Restaurant (every other Saturday)

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

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

OZAMIS: 1st and 3rd Saturday

PARAÑAQUE: Center Mall - Pres. Ave. BF Paranaque

PUERTO PRINCESA: Asiaworld Resort Hotel

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

SAN FERNANDO: Rotary Skills Center, Greenville Subd.

San Fernando Pampanga

(1st/3rd Sat.)

RIZAL: Valley Golf and

Country Club,

Antipolo

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin,

Justice Rumbaldez St. (2nd/

4th Sats.)

TAGBILARAN: Mel's

Kainan (2nd/4th Sats.)

## MEN'S LUNCHEON (12:00

noon)

*Saturdays* - DAGUPAN:

Pinkee's Restaurant

## 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: Ding Qua Qua Rest. (1st/3rd Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd Sat.)

LEGASPI: El Sid Cafe (4th Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: Little Quiapo, Aguirre St (4th Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace Grill (2nd Sat.)

RIZAL: Valley Golf and CC, Antipolo (1st Sat.)

## LADIES' LUNCHEON (12:00 noon)

*Mondays* - GREENHILLS: Casa Nila, Fe-Luisa Bldg.

Greenhills Commercial Center (3rd Mon.)

## JOINT BREAKFASTS (7:30 a.m.)

*Wednesdays* - MAKATI: Makati Sports Club, (1st Wed.)

*Thursdays* - GREENHILLS: Club Filipino (1st Thurs.)

*Fridays* - MANILA: Chateau 1771

## *Saturdays*

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

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

CAINTA: Valley Golf and Country Club, Antipolo (3rd Sat.)

BUTUAN CITY: Echelon Hotel (2nd and 4th Saturday)

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

LAS PIÑAS: Italia Club 500

(1st Sat.)

LEGASPI: Bistro Albay (2th

Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: Center Mall

Pres. Ave. BF (2nd Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Terrace

Grill, (4th Sat)

RIZAL: Valley Golf and CC,

Antipolo (3rd Sat.)

## JOINT LUNCHEON

*Saturdays* - CAVITE/LA

NAVAL: Jack 'n Jill, Cavite

City (3rd Sat.)



**The Second National Grand Breakfast fetched a record-breaking attendance of 522.**

**Mrs. Aquino shared that throughout her incumbency, prayer was her weapon against her detractors.**

**The Second National Grand Breakfast held on October 23, 1996 at the Shangri-la Hotel Manila with her Excellency Former President Corazon C. Aquino as sharer.**

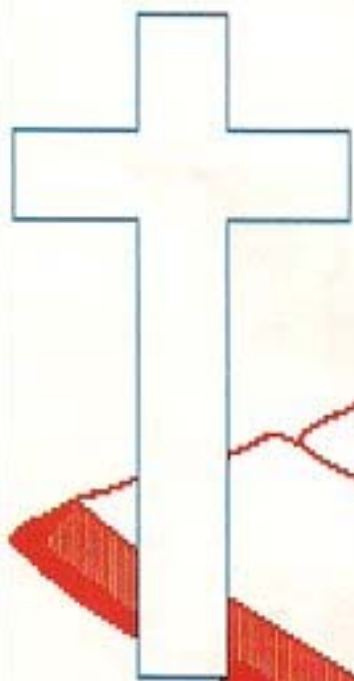
**I  
DO  
NOT  
KNOW**



**WHAT THE  
FUTURE HOLDS**

**BUT**

**I KNOW**



**WHO**

**HOLDS**

**THE FUTURE**

