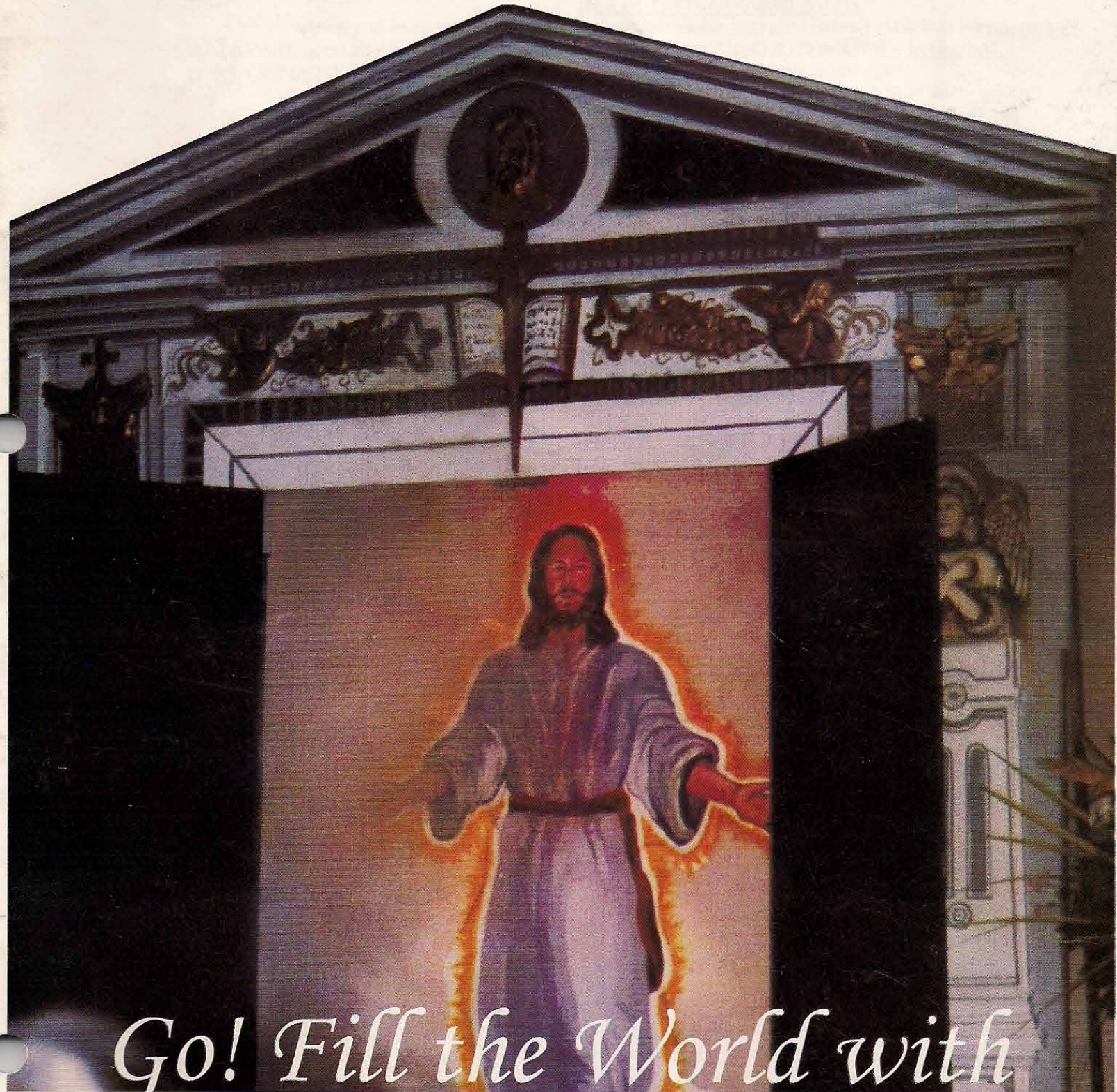


Kapatiran

Vol. XIV Issue 3

MAY - JUNE 2000



*Go! Fill the World with
the Fullness of CHRIST's Joy*

BCBP

Breakfast Venues

MEN'S BREAKFASTS (7:30 A.M)

Wednesdays – MAKATI : Beverly Hills Deli, Greenbelt, Makati

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, Greenhills
VILLAMOR: Villamor Golf Club (1st & 3rd)

Fridays – MANILA: Aristocrat Restaurant, Malate, Manila

Saturdays

ALABANG: Ayala Alabang Country Club, Muntinglupa

BACOLOD NORTH: Roli's La Salle, Bacolod

BACOLOD SOUTH: McDonald's

BAGUIO: Max's Restaurant (1st, 3rd, 4th Sat.)

BAYBAY: Angelicum (1st & 2nd Sat.)

BUKIDNON : Taipan Rest., Valencia (1st) Hotel Malibu

Malaybalay (3rd Sat.)

BUTUAN: Embassy Hotel

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, Cagayan De Oro

CALAMBA: Riverview Resort and Conference Center

CATBALOGAN: Maqueda Bay Hotel, Tomalistis Dist.,

Catbalogan, Samar,

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

DAGUPAN: Jollibee Junction A.B. Fernandez Ave.

cor. M.H. Del Pilar St. Dagupan

DAVAO: CAP Anda St. (1st, 2nd & 3rd Sat.)

DIGOS: CAP/ANP Hotel (every other Saturday

ILIGAN: Sunburst Restaurant. Sabang, Lipa City

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel

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

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel, Legaspi City

LUCENA: Halina Hotel & Restaurant, P. Gomez,

Lucena City (3rd Sat.)

LIPA: Sawali Restaurant, Sabang, Lipa City

MACTAN: Majestic Restaurant, Mactan City

MANDAUE: Flormont Hotel

MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Orosa St., Malate Manila

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel

PARAÑAQUE: Pidente Rest. Presidents Ave. BF Homes

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel, Puerto Princesa

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, T. Morato Ave.

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal

ROXAS: Kanami Restaurant

SORSOGON: Jollibee Sorsogon (1st & 2nd Sat.)

SURIGAO: Gateway Hotel and Rest. (1st and 3rd Sat.)

TACLOBAN: YamYam Food Lane, Salazar St. (2nd & 4th Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: La Roca Hotel

TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn's Restaurant

VILLAMOR: Villamor Air Command Staff College

DAVAO: CAP Anda St. (4th Sat.)

ILOILO: Amigo Terraces Hotel (last Sat.)

LAS PINAS: Italia Club 500 (3rd Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel (4th Sat.)

MACTAN: Majestic Restaurant (2nd Sat.)

MANDAUE: Flormont Hotel (2nd Sat)

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel (3rd Sat.)

PARAÑAQUE: Ribs & Chops, Presidents Ave., (3rd Sat.)

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel (3rd Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, T. Morato Ave. (2nd Sat.)

ROXAS: Kanami Restaurant

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal (1st Sat.)

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin (2nd Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: La Roca Hotel (3rd Sat.)

JOINT BREAKFASTS (7:30 A.M.)

Wednesdays – MAKATI: Beverly Hills Deli, Greenbelt, Makati (1st Weds.)

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino (1st Thurs.)

Fridays – MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Malate, Manila (1st Fri)

Saturdays

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

BUTUAN: Echelon Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

BACOLOD NORTH: Roli's La Salle (4th Sat.)

BACOLOD SOUTH: McDonald's (4th Sat.)

BAGUIO: Max's Restaurant (2nd Sat.)

BAYBAY: Angelicum Parish Hall (2nd & 4th Sun.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Silver Court, Capt. Vicente Roa St., (3rd Sat.)

CAVITE: Emperor Restaurant, Cavite City (3rd Sat.)

CEBU: Ding Qua-Qua Restaurant (3rd Sat.)

DAGUPAN: Jollibee Junction A.B. Fernandez Ave., Cor. M.H. Del Pilar St. Dagupan City

DAVAO: CAP Anda St. (2nd Sat.)

DIPOLOG: Top Plaza Hotel (2nd & 4th Sat.)

DUMAGUETE: Bethel Rest. House (1st & 3rd Sat.)

LAS PINAS: Italia Club 500 (1st Sat.)

LEGASPI: Albay Hotel, Legaspi City (2nd Sat.)

MAASIN: Valtevia Restaurant, Leyte (1st & 3rd Sun.)

MACTAN: Majestic Restaurant (4th Sat.)

MANDAUE: Flormont Hotel (4th Sat.)

ORMOC: Pongos Hotel (2nd & 3rd Sat.)

OZAMIZ: Supermix Restaurant (1st & 3rd Sat.)

PARANAQUE: Chilean Restaurant Nat'l Rd. Infront of Robinson's Imus (1st & 3rd Sats.)

PUERTO PRINCESA: Legend Hotel (1st Sat.)

QUEZON CITY: Max's Restaurant, T. Morato Ave. (4th Sat.)

RIZAL: Manila East Golf Club, Taytay, Rizal (3rd Sat.)

SAN FERNANDO: Café Rustico, Olongapo – Gapan Rd.

SAN JOSE: Regina's Restaurant (1st & 3rd Sun.)

SORSOGON: Fernando's Hotel (Merienda)

TACLOBAN: Don's Cabin (4th Sat.)

TAGBILARAN: JJ's Seafood Village (2nd & 4th Sat.)

TAGUM: Molave Restaurant (1st & 3rd Sat.)

TUBIGON: Parish Palao Hall (1st & 3rd Sat.)

TUGUEGARAO: Marilyn Restaurant (2nd & 4th Sat.)

LADIES' BREAKFAST

Wednesdays – MAKATI: Max's Greenbelt, Makati (2nd Wed.)

Thursdays – GREENHILLS: Club Filipino, SJ (3rd Thurs.)

Fridays – MANILA: Max's Restaurant, Malate, Mla. (2nd Fri.)

Saturdays

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

BACOLOD NORTH: Jollibee, Bacolod City (3rd Sat.)

BAGUIO: Max's Restaurant (4th Sat.)

CAGAYAN DE ORO: Tia Nanang, Corales St., (2nd & 3rd Sat.)

CEBU: Ding Qua-Qua Restaurant (3rd Sat.)

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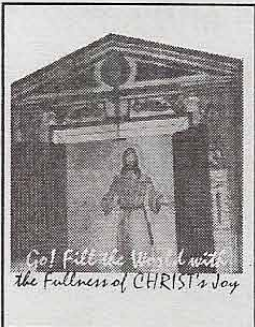
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OUR COVER

As we entered the Anniversary's assembly venue, the stage was dominated by the presence of The Door, an over-sized, larger-than-life structure featuring closed doors. As the program opened, angel-costumed dancers floated unto the stage and amidst resounding praise and worship slowly opened the doors to reveal ... Jesus calling to us out of a misty cloud to "Go! Fill the World with My Fullness!" With this issue's cover, we relive this intensely emotional moment and once again, respond, "Yes, Lord, here we are. Use us in Your marketplace."



We deviate from our regular Kapatiran format to feature the BCBP's celebration of its 20th Anniversary as a Catholic Christian organization of businessmen, businesswomen and professionals whose vision and mission is to bring Christ into their respective marketplaces. We give you an overview of the growth of the BCBP in Manny Banigan's article, interspersed with historical comments from others. The anniversary celebration at Subic is presented in pictures with insights from the Las Pinas Secretariat. BCBP President Louie Morales shares with us his vision of Going Global ! Nancy's article on Transformation also emphasizes the anniversary thrust. To this melange we've added a few sharings and some of our regular columns. A Happy and Inspired 20th BCBP Year to us all! -Ronnie Caballero

Editor's Note





The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Manila
121 Arzobispo Street, Intramuros Manila, Philippines

I send my warm greetings to the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals on your 20th Anniversary. Indeed, God has proven his fidelity and solicitude to you. Always remember that God is constantly showing His great love and concern for you. And from this love, God is calling forth a response. You have an important role to perform, particularly in building up the community of God. And if you imbue your work with the love coming from God, certainly you will bear lasting fruits. Continue to place yourselves at the service of life, truth and love.

I impart my paternal blessings as you journey to become God's living and loving community. As we celebrate the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, your work at the service of truth becomes a fitting gift to the Lord Who is the very meaning of every human effort. May He always guide and inspire you and all your endeavors.

Congratulations. God bless you always.

Jaime L. Cardinal Sin
+ JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN
Archbishop of Manila

BCBP VISION

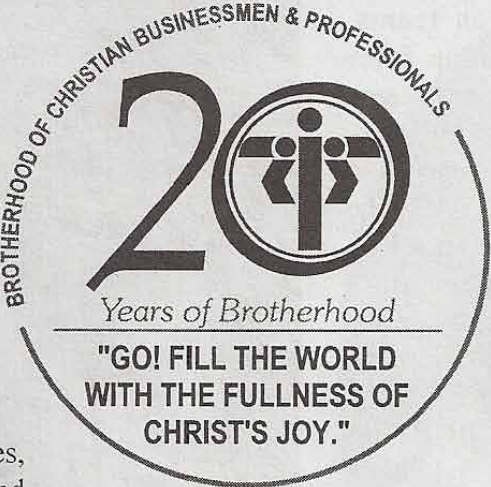
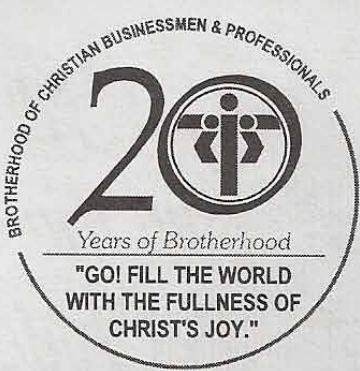
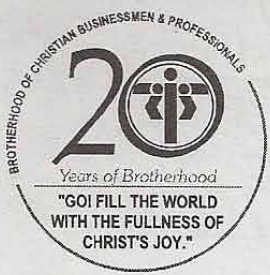
Life in Christ in all its fullness for businessmen and professionals.

(John 10:10)

BCBP MISSION

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

- CONVERSION to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- COMMITMENT to values espoused by Him, and
- COMMISSIONING as disciples to spread the Good News in the marketplace.



Every time I go through the Acts of the Apostles, I cannot help but be amazed at the boldness and adventurism of the first Christian missionaries. The determination of St. Peter in bringing Christ to the Jews and the untiring and daring travels of St. Paul for the purpose of establishing various church communities among the Gentiles are glaring marks of unwavering faith in action. The contrast by which Peter and Paul had delivered Christ to different nations and cultures and the success that they attained is but an evident monument of God's faithfulness to his promises and loyalty to the people who answer his call for evangelization.

Paul and Barnabas and others who believed in Jesus and fired-up by the Spirit walked through miles of wilderness and barren region, braved the dangers of seafaring wrought with many storms and strong typhoons, faced real and threatened adversities from pagans and other non-believers, suffered untold persecution and prison terms, were afflicted with illness, pain and sorrow and lived lives that seem to be totally dedicated only to Christianizing as many and far away as their lives can bear. These initial moments of lay evangelization opened the gateway to the Christian faith that had since then transformed the lives of people, nations and cultures.

To a great extent, the exciting adventurism lived by the original missionaries has been re-lived by the men and women of the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals especially during the last decade of the last millennium. The beginnings of the BCBP were modest, both in terms of membership, culture, community life and evangelization thrust. From a simple men's breakfast at the Makati Sports Club, membership growth was mainly carried out through invitations to the BCBP breakfasts and later on to the Brotherhood Christian Life Programs (BCLPs) that were being conducted twice a year in Makati, Greenhills and later on in Alabang.

BCBP Turns 20

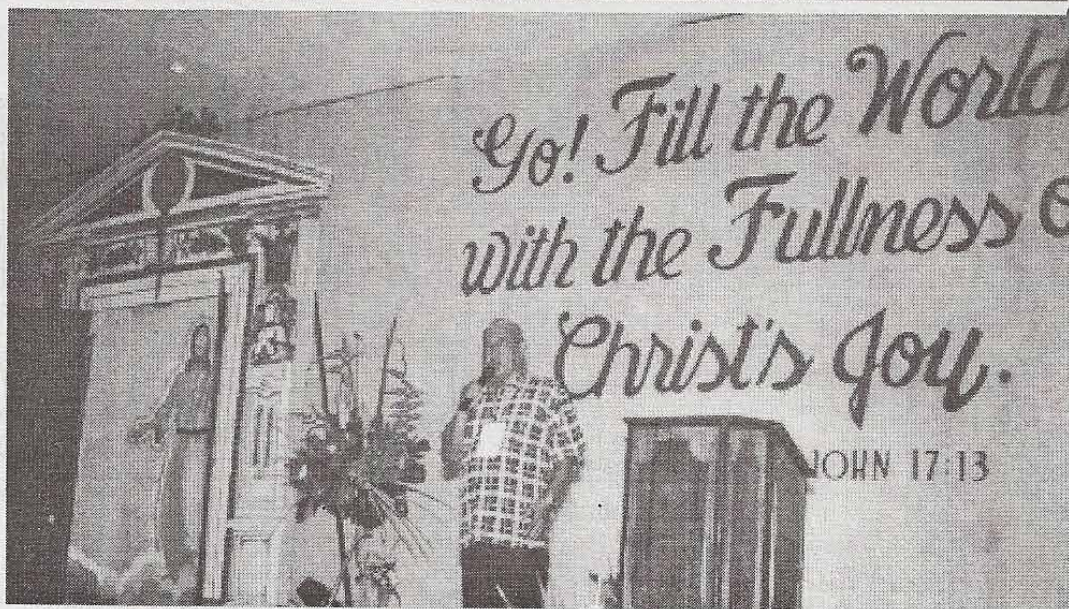
*By Manny Banigan, Past National President
With sidebars by Jun Medina, BCBP Las Pinas, Ed Canlas,
Selmo Lagmay and Fanny Escara of BCBP Iligan*

Although Dagupan was established in 1986 by Greenhills, then the North chapter, the year 1988 was the dawn of a new spirit of evangelization. BCBP Alabang, with its newly established Mission Team, encouraged by a growing desire among the members to go beyond the boundaries of Metro Manila and undoubtedly inspired by the Holy Spirit crossed the seas and within the year established three BCBP outreaches – Cebu, Bacolod and Puerto Princesa – that were to be the catalysts of the now numerous chapters and outreaches in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Today the island of Cebu has four full chapters (Cebu North, Cebu South, Mactan and Mandaue); Bacolod has two full chapters (Bacolod North and South), and now ministers to Kabangkalan and Cadiz outreaches. Puerto Princesa continues to be an assuring radiant light in the business community of the eden-like island.

BCBP Cebu mission teams, infected by the evangelization fever initiated by Alabang, thereafter became actively involved in missionary work, setting up various BCBP outreaches in the Visayas and Mindanao. Today the BCBP is found in Tagbilaran, Tacloban, Maasin, Baybay, Calbayog, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Iligan and Butuan among others. Together with other chapters and outreaches, these in turn have worked in tandem to bring the BCBP to Malabalay and Valencia in Bukidnon, and Ozamis and Pagadian.

With the vastness of opportunities in Mindanao, Davao ventured into Tagum and then into Digos, while Butuan, in partnership with Maasin introduced BCBP to Surigao. But Mindanao is not exclusively for Mindanaon's. Dumaguete, an outreach of Tagbilaran, has crossed the channel to bring the BCBP to Dipolog while Mactan, imbued with the same zealotness as Cebu bravely faced the challenges offered by Zamboanga City in addition to its earlier Ormoc outreach.



Luzon where it all started was not to be denied of its passion to spread this new life in Christ. Caught in this dizzying web of evangelization, Alabang gave birth to Las Pinas which in turned traveled long distances to Tuguegarao, almost at the northern tip of the country. When Paranaque was jointly set-up by Alabang and Las Pinas, it took the caring chores of rearing Tuguegarao. As soon as

Tuguegarao became a chapter, the Lord brought them to Santiago City in the province of Isabela.

Meanwhile back in Metro Manila the North Chapter was split into Greenhills and Quezon City. Quezon City then climbed to the summer capital of the Philippines where it established, rather firmly, the BCBP Baguio outreach with some assistance from our relations in Dagupan. Inspired by the emergence of a good number of Quezon City members in the CAMANAVA (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela) area, it was only a matter of time before BCBP-CAMANAVA became part of the growing BCBP family. Baguio in turn has recently initiated a BCBP Breakfast in San Fernando City, La Union.

For its part, Greenhills proceeded to aggressively establish BCBP Rizal to cater to the businessmen and professionals in the eastern part of Metro Manila before it flexed its motor muscles and went on to laharlandia in San Fernando, Pampanga. Rizal on the other hand, found its way to Lucena City in Quezon Province where it enjoys the hospitality and facilities of the Bishop's palace for its BCLPs and other activities.

Like Peter who was the rock, Makati, the original situ of the BCBP, also did its share of evangelization. Cavite City outreach (originally known as the Sangley group) was formed to

The Beginnings

The first Brotherhood breakfast was launched in July 1980 by 24 men at the Makati Sports Club. Fr. Herb Schneider, S.J., BCBP's spiritual director, said the BCBP started as an outreach of the Ligaya ng Panginoon, one of the earliest and successful Catholic renewal communities in the country. After a couple of breakfast fellowships, Fr. Herb said the participants started to bring their business acquaintances to the breakfast.

Fernando de Larrazabal, "Tito Larry", one of the BCBP pioneers and first executive director of the BCBP (after Fr. Herb), remembers that the people who came to the breakfast clearly yearned for spiritual growth. "They were ready for a personal relationship with Christ, and we were glad the Brotherhood could help them in this," he reminisces.

Encouraged by the remarkable success of the Makati Men's Breakfast that continues to this very day, the BCBP pioneers decided to open a new breakfast venue on Thursdays at the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan. After two years with the Pasig River as the dividing line, BCBP South chapter and BCBP North chapter came into existence. Soon afterwards as the southern Manila group grew larger, they became the South chapter in 1985 and the Makati-based group was renamed the Central chapter.

Invasion of Mindanao

The BCBP in Mindanao took root some 10 years ago in 1990 when the mission teams from Alabang and Cebu invaded Cagayan de Oro. At the helm of these teams were Louie Morales (Alabang) and Sadi Saduisag (Cebu). In August 1990 a small group met in Cebu with Ed and Lita Carlas, the couple who were later tasked to help introduce the BCBP movement in Mindanao. A month or two later, Ed Lising, the late Nap Polotan and Kit Garcia from Cebu visited Cagayan de Oro to hold an orientation meeting. Among those present were Mon Dacudao, Dito de la Serna, Fanny Escara, the late Benjie Gorospe, Gerry Adaza, Jun Javier, and Ed Carlas.

In January 1991 after much hesitation and two postponements due to Typhoon Ruping and the infamous march of Colonel Noble into Cagayan, the first breakfast, followed by a Christian Life Program in the afternoon were held on the same day. The first breakfast sharer at Estrella's Restaurant was Lito Urgino. The BCBP invasion of Mindanao had begun!



reach out to the men and women in the military, especially in the Air Force and the Navy, as well as the businessmen and professionals in the city of Cavite. Makati then moved southward into the center of the Bicol region to Legaspi City which in turn shared the BCBP to their region mates in Sorsogon.

And Manila, which is probably the longest breakfast venue in the Brotherhood (began sometime in 1981 or '82) eventually graduated to a full outreach status in 1997 when Makati designated a team to open up the city's center. Manila is now well on its way to gaining full chapterhood.

Consistent with Alabang's continuing evangelistic character, it opened BCBP Calamba and together they have started to jointly bring about a BCBP Binan in Laguna. Alabang also put down the BCBP roots in Villamor Air Base.

Indeed, the last decade of the 20th century has been a dizzying growth period for the Brotherhood. As of today, Luzon counts for 22 breakfast venues, Visayas has 21 while Mindanao counts for 13 for a total of 56 breakfast venues nationwide. But God did not only gift us with numbers. He coupled with significant changes – an evolution in our Brotherhood culture that came unperceived, a way of life that now dictates not only the future of the Brotherhood as a movement in the

church but more appreciably the future of the businessmen, the professionals, their families and their respective environment.

At the the forefront is the vision and mission the Lord had initially gifted us with "Bringing Christ to the marketplace and winning the marketplace for Christ". This became our battle cry impelling many of us to be missionaries in our own ways. Then in 1992, the Lord speaking before a handful of national leaders articulated a new vision statement, not far from the first but progressively promising a richer goal: "Full life in Christ for all especially

those engaged in business and the professions".

In November 1999 during the National Strategic Planning Retreat of the national leaders, the vision statement that will carry the BCBP into the new millennium was clearly revealed by the Lord: "LIFE IN CHRIST IN ALL ITS FULLNESS FOR BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS" inspired by John 10:10. And to ham-





mer His presence into our whole being, He likewise defined our Core Values – LOVE FOR GOD, LOVE FOR COMMUNITY, and COMMITMENT TO THE LORD’S WORK.

We have all been privileged to enjoy a few more amenities in the way we are expected to live our life together in the Brotherhood: new programs such as the BCMR (Marriage Retreat) and the BCBR (Christians in Business Retreat), a clearer understanding of who a BCBP member is, the organizational changes that will best suit the movement’s directions in the future. Plus the BCBP is now involved in the wider church through the Partners in Mission of Christ the King, the Council of the Laity, the Federation of Transparochial Charismatic Communities and the numerous local councils and organizations existing in the different dioceses.

In the course of Paul’s travels as a disciple, he inevitably stayed in the homes of many believers who received him with much joy and generosity in their hearts. Very much like Paul, I and my wife, Haydz, were received in many BCBP homes with so much love and care and treated as a member of the family. Our greatest joy for the last seven years is that we have seen, felt and experienced Christ in all the

brothers and sisters with whom we served with and especially to those who had accepted us as their own despite all our frailties and imperfections.

As we remember in joyful celebration our 20th year of blessed existence in the service of the divine God, there are so many brothers and sisters we should recognize with much honor – those who guided by the Spirit paved the way and were the instrumental helpmates of the Lord in making the Brotherhood not only His arena for

Christianizing the business and professional milieu but also our way of life. They are too many to name here but to all of you I convey the same word Jesus had spoken to the 72 disciples He sent out to evangelize:

“Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”
(Luke 10:23-24) †

Into the Marketplace

The BCBP, true to its calling to evangelize the marketplace, has opened several corporate evangelization communities in different business establishments.

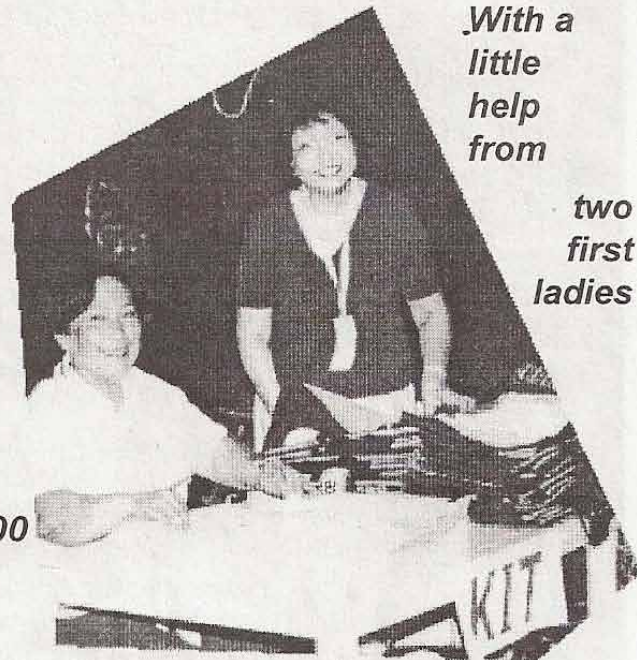
Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Dutch Boy, Philippines, Silay City Government, Victoria’s Milling Co., MAPECON Phils. Inc., and the Department of Labor (NCR) are among those which have benefited from the conduct of BCLPs and other growth programs through the efforts of the various BCBP chapters’ mission teams.

As a further support to its corporate evangelization program, BCBP has, as a special outreach, the Workers of Christ (WOC), a prayer group generally composed of rank-and-file and supervisory employees. The group conducts Life in the Spirit Seminars for employees of BCBP members and other interested offices.



With a little help from

two first ladies



The registration room buzzes with activity with 1,800 delegates to attend to.

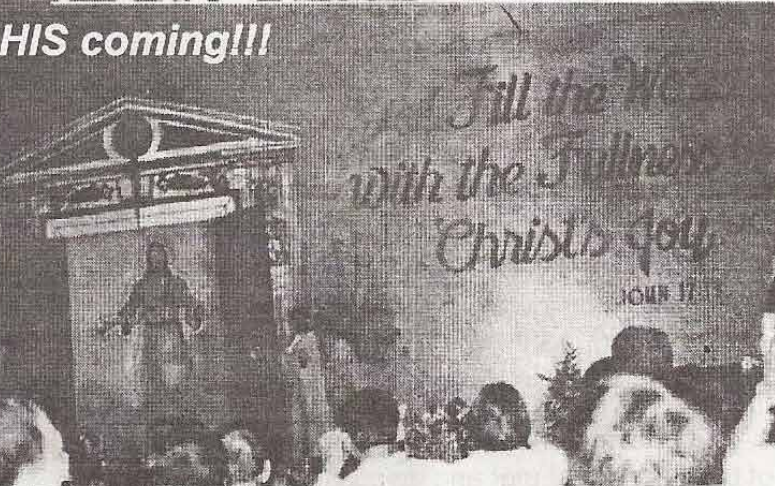
...and the band prepares

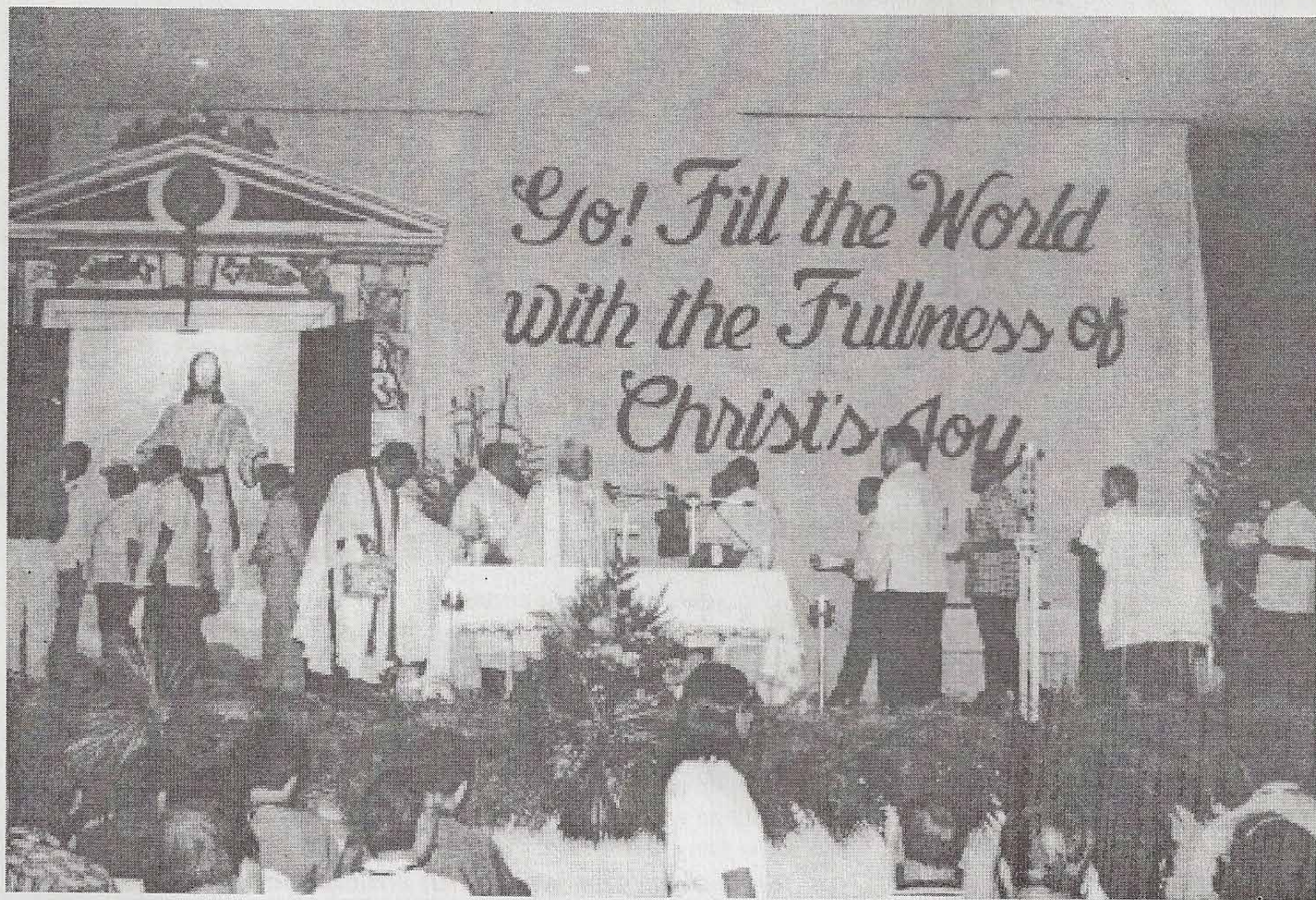


...as everyone waits with anticipation....



HIS coming!!!





Insights

on BCBP's 20th Anniversary Celebration

*By Lito and Ludy Pardo,
BCBP Las Piñas*

Our service in the 20th Anniversary celebration was a difficult task, but at the same time, a golden opportunity for bringing brothers and sisters closer, working together towards a common goal. As Head of the Secretariat, we were tasked to coordinate the various logistical support for the anniversary. The responsibilities were overwhelming. On our own, the mandate seemed a herculean task.

We thank the Lord for sending zealous brothers and sisters to be part of the Secretariat. Without them, the task would not have been possible to accomplish.

Several months before the great day, members of the Secretariat met and discussed every Saturday

afternoon to prepare action plans and address various concerns (promotion and information campaign, advisories and site visits, among others) to pave the way towards the achievement of our final goal. Pre-registration was made easier and more "hi-tech" by opening a website and e-mail. Our telephone lines became busy with inquiries and pre-registration from brothers and sisters, especially those from the provincial chapters and outreaches. Phone calls were also made to our offices, and for some of us, this meant devoting office time for anniversary work, while others had to go on undertime to attend to other concerns. Our helpers learned how to use the fax machine. *Sa dami ng pumasok na fax*, the machine had to be turned off one time because of overheating.

We also experienced “divine economics”, or multiplication of food. The few pieces of tilapia and cans of sardines intended for Good Friday were multiplied to be able to feed 25-30 people. There was the essence of giving and sharing.

We could feel the team beaming with eagerness, stamina, commitment and bright ideas. Their dedication propelled us to carry on despite mounting difficulties. We thanked the Lord that the anniversary fell a week after the Holy Week. We defied the Chapter Head’s directive that nobody would work during the Holy Week. Instead, we took advantage of the four-day break and worked on the preparation of more than 2,000 IDs, registration slips, and hotel accommodations.

Our house was instantly converted into an office. We ended working at 1:00 in the morning, sometimes, even later. During these four days, there were at least 25 people in the house, including members’ children, all eager to take part in the service, all eager to lighten each other’s load. We experienced the joy of working together, the joy of serving the Lord. We experienced the real labor of love –

except for the names on the cards which were printed through the computer, finishing each piece of ID was manually done. Attaching the metal clips to hold the colored ribbons on the IDs was done by hand – *nangapal ang mga kamay namin sa pagkakabit nito*. Indeed it was a true labor of love.

We also experienced “divine economics” or multiplication of food. The few pieces of tilapia and cans of sardines intended for Good Friday were multiplied to be able to feed 25-30 people. There was the essence of giving and sharing.

These difficulties were nothing compared to the real Subic experience. The Secretariat experienced eating breakfast at 2:00 pm, or at times, completely missing meals. There was confusion about hotel bookings and billings due to last minute changes and/or miscommunication. Some IDs were missing; some people came without pre-registering; some registered quite late. Some were not fetched by the bus for the prayer rally or for the Sunday mass. Some participants were not able to eat properly. The color coding was not enforced, and so on, and so forth. The complaints from some brothers and sisters really tested our patience and humility. The Lord taught us to be humble and to persevere.

Indeed, it was a taxing experience, but it was also joyful, gratifying and purifying as well. It was a test of patience, humility, perseverance and understanding, not

only for the service team but for all the members as well. It was all about the real essence of Christian love and community life.

From the general feedback that we got, the 20th Anniversary celebration was a success. Admittedly, there were hitches that went along with the celebration as earlier mentioned, but God in His omnipotence had allowed these little irritants and inconveniences for us as a community to continuously grow – in patience, perseverance, humility, understanding and in Christian love, for us to grow in community life. After all community life is all about the association of imperfect people who are at the same time fallen and beautiful, weak and strong, loving and unloving. It is an association of imperfect human beings trying to grow, at the same time helping each other to grow spiritually.



The prayer rally that powerfully set the tone and theme of the celebration, and the Holy Mass that solemnly and triumphantly ended it, with praising and singing to the Lord in one powerful voice, drowned out all these little irritants. In the end, it was one Christian community, the BCBP, praising and worshipping God with one voice, one heart and one soul. The 20th Anniversary celebration will indeed be memorable to us, and we thank the Lord for allowing us to take part in this momentous event in the Brotherhood’s history.

The Subic experience has enhanced our growth in community life. And as we continue our pilgrimage, we find comfort in the thought that indeed we have a community of loving brothers and sisters who will provide support and inspiration on our spiritual journey. †



Sammy M. Ulanday

↑ brothers' Updates

Happy 20th Anniversary! I guess that's all there is to say after we've had those long and hectic days at Subic.

Just in case you haven't noticed, this issue does not carry any news items. This is due to at least two reasons. One, there were actually no submissions from the chapters, despite the Kapatiran staff's persistent follow ups. Second, we might be shifting into a new scheme of delivering the news to you. This new scheme that the national leadership is pursuing is part of the updates that I'll be giving.

In the national level, there have been quite a number of new appointments in the last couple of months. The former chapter head of BCBP Dagupan, Ted Siapno has accepted the appointment as Deputy Director for Luzon Regional Council. Other deputies appointed are Peter Dejaresco for East Visayas Regional Council, Ed Banaag of Cebu as National Service Deputy Director for Mission, Bobby Cabrera of Cagayan de Oro as Deputy Director for Life and Orly Neri as Deputy Director for Business Evangelization Program (BEP) both for Mindanao Regional Council and Rey Feria as National Service Director for Programs and Services to undertake the Advocacy and Social Action ministry of the Brotherhood.

The new BCBP Website is now on line! You can access this website at bcbp.org or bcbp.net. In accordance with the Mancom mandate, Bobet Deluria, National Service Director for Information Technology, who is in charge of the program, will work on providing an individual page for each chapter in addition to their respective e-mail address within the bcbp.org domain. This page will be the venue where the chapters can post their governance team, breakfast and assembly venues, plus their ongoing activities, updates and announcements. This scheme will now be the environment for news items from all over - liberating the Kapatiran from reporting them on its pages. For inquiries, the national office can be reached via admin@bcbp.org.

The national office had completed the program for the computerized BCBP National Directory. All chapters and outreaches are now requested to make an inventory of membership and to submit an updated roster of members to the national office for inclusion to the computerized directory.

Luzon Region is expanding with the opening of BCBP Laoag by Dagupan and San Fernando, La Union by Baguio, newly elevated to chapter-in-training status, while San Fernando Pampanga, now a chapter in training is looking at the possibility of

opening Angeles or Olongapo City, or Marilao in Bulacan. And still in the agenda of Luzon Regional Council is to target Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, Cawayan, Isabela and Vigan in Ilocos region. Down South, Daet and Naga are under study, San Pablo is being opened by BCBP Manila which was elevated to full chapter status recently.

Calamba, also recently elevated as chapter in training has opened Binan-San Pedro, while Imus and Dasma-rinas Cavite are on the target list of Parañaque. Lipa has been elevated into a chapter in training status.

Due to its enormous size, the Mancom is now considering to divide the Luzon region into North and South regions.

This may take effect before the end of the year.

In Metro Manila, Lito Pardo took over the helm as chapter head for Las Piñas,

while Eddie Mendoza of Greenhills is ending his term this year paving the way for the assumption into office of Roy Siojo as the new chapter head. Villamor BEP is now converted into Pasay-Villamor Outreach. Metro Manila Regional Council Director Roy Calleja in collaboration with the MM chapter heads had instituted the Sectoral Business Breakfast every 3rd Wednesday of the month at Makati Sports Club, while the same business breakfast is being considered for the Ortigas-Greenhills area. At the same time Sectoral Assemblies are on going. MMRC also took the lead in piloting the Leadership Training Program which is earmarked to start in the third quarter.

Tacloban has been elevated as full chapter while Tagbilaran is scheduled to grow into two chapters - all under the East Visayas Region. Tubigon is set to go to Siquijor. Cebu South has opened the Talisay outreach.

In the Visayas West Regional Council, Dumaguete was elevated as full chapter and has opened BCBP Bais; Roxas City will be installed as a chapter later this year. Bacolod South is to spin off a new outreach and Silay BEP is to be elevated as a full outreach.

Mindanao Regional Council has given Butuan a chapter in training status and opened up Surigao. Davao has opened their Digos outreach while Dipolog is scheduled to go to Oroqueta.

As mandated by the NSPR-2 output, the Mancom has assigned Alabang to be in charge of the BCBP International Outreach Program, while another chapter is being considered to undertake an evangelization program specifically designed for the Chinese community.

On top of these, your BCBP Mancom has completed and put in place the BCBP Curriculum, developed new formation programs, such as the BCBP Way of Life, revised the BCMR1 and is now developing BCMR 2, has started the review of all programs that are now being made into Manual form, has developed and is now making available the Mission Director's and Chapter Life Director's Working Kits to complement their individual retreats which were recently completed. It has instituted the Chapter Review and Visitation (CRV), and has instituted national treasury and financial reforms. There has also been a facility and manpower upgrade in the National Office.

The Mancom has just started their work with the first six months elapsed and more to be undertaken in the succeeding months. We request all our members to pray for the Mancom members. †

BCBP Way of Life
Breakfast in New York, LA, Singapore...

Assemblies in Sydney, Paris, London...

Action Groups in Chicago, Mexico and Shanghai...



Louie Morales
BCBP President

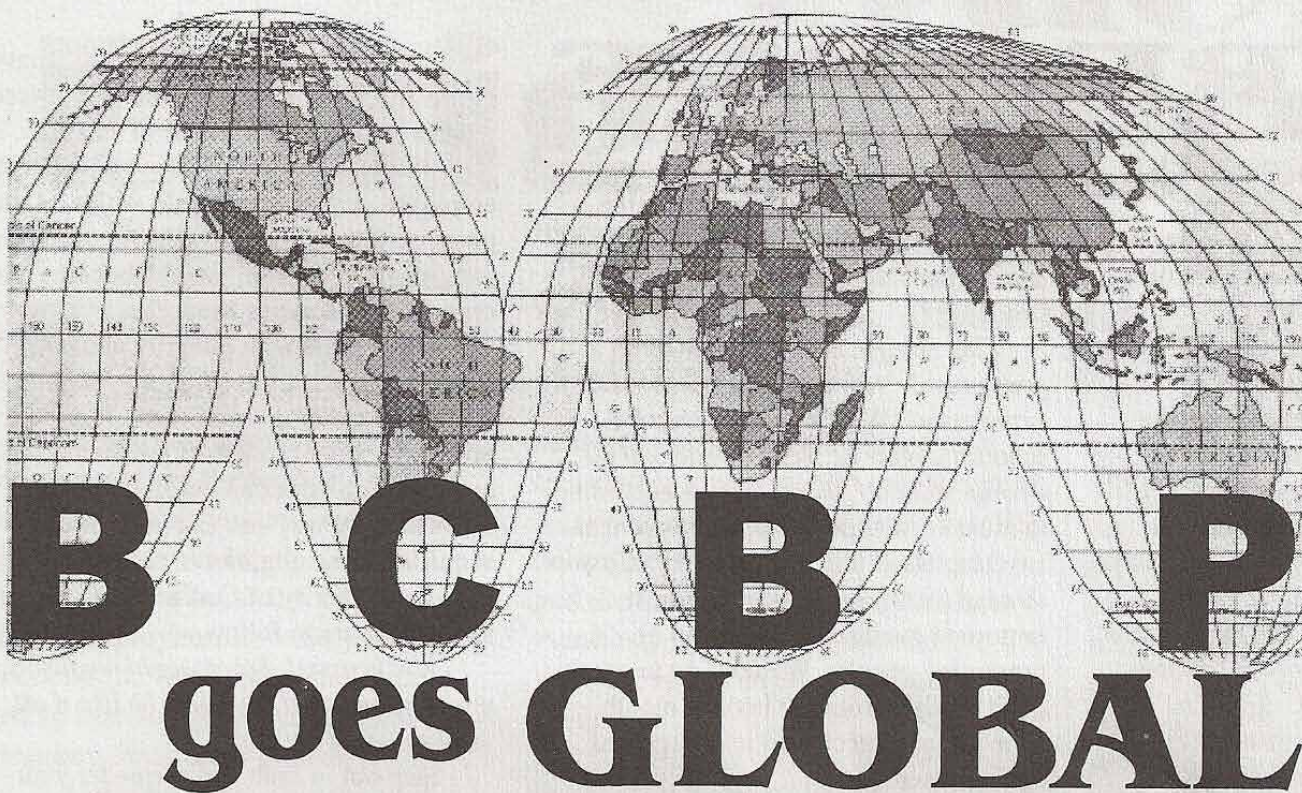
in the community. In us they will see the reality of BCBP, not just a bunch of activities and teachings but really a way of life. So test yourself: how well are you living out your BCBP Way of Life?

But we must never forget that all that we are and all that we will dream for the BCBP are all

dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit. Everything we do is His power. Prayer is the key to receiving all the benefits of this power and He has not spared us any. We always work full throttle with the Holy Spirit. You can see the results for yourself. Always pray for this power and I can assure you our dreams will always come true.

So in this millennium, the BCBP must perform even better, for as Scripture says "to whom much is given, much is expected." The Lord has given you a lot and He is interested in you and your life. The work that you are doing in the BCBP is proof enough that He wants you to succeed. For you in the Brotherhood are not just any person, but one who has a personal relationship with Him. You are His, as you are in Him. If we believe this how can we fail in our dreams? For as we dream of a global BCBP the Lord has this already in his plan. He is just waiting for us to do our share – without fear but full of faith. Today, it is all dreams. But tomorrow these dreams will be fulfilled by the Spirit. You can count on that!

As we work in this millennium of the Lord, our strength as a community will be tested by our commitment to living fully in Christ. Our work will be measured by what we give of ourselves in service and once again our proof – victory in the marketplace as we have done in the last 20 years. Can we do it again? I believe we can do it 20 times better. Have faith and put that faith into action and the Holy Spirit will guide us to victory. Congratulations to everyone on our 20th year and may God continue to shower us with His unending LOVE. ✠



If you read through these lines you must be dreaming! But 20 years ago we were also dreaming of what the BCBP is today. We must dream these dreams to bring the BCBP Global, and this is what we see happening in this millennium.

Like Joseph the dreamer, I see these things as inevitable, for it is not in our power that these things happen but in the power of the Holy Spirit who made the BCBP what it is today. We only have to believe and be ready to be used in the Lord's work here on earth. What is our share of the work? First we must ensure that the foundations of the Brotherhood are solid – meaning being faithful to our vision and mission of living our life in the fullness of our Lord. If we have not yet focused on this, then we have not yet started. We must keep this vision like second nature.

Secondly, we have to see to it that programs, traditions of the culture of the BCBP are effectively rendered in the Breakfast, the teaching programs, assemblies and action groups. These support systems must always be in top quality to be able to carry out our "looking out" for each other in the community.

Finally, the Evangelistic Spirit of the BCBP must never be missed. This is our reason for being, to bring our brothers and sisters to Christ.

Maybe the greatest challenge really is how people see us living out our Brotherhood life. This is the bottom line. The more they see us as good examples of businessmen and professionals the more they will want to be with us



Francis Kong

the RIGHT PEOPLE

In this highly competitive age, what are the key qualifications that corporations look for in their prospective employees? A quick look through the classified ads reveals some interesting criteria.

- * Position: Quality Assurance Manager for a car manufacturing company. Qualifications: a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering or business management; ability to plan and implement quality standardization systems; must be knowledgeable in computer systems and software applications.
- * Company: Interior Design Co. Qualifications: college degree; presentable; possesses strong and aggressive personality; proficient in oral and written communication.

Female applicants should have "a pleasing personality"; that is, pleasing to

the eyes. On the other hand, the men should possess expertise; that is, coming from the right university and with the right track record. By the way, these usually should come with the right surname.

Can anyone ever go wrong with a pretty face? With an impeccable work experience? With a very impressive scholastic record? *Yes, anyone can go wrong with all these.* This is according to most Fortune 500 CEO's. More than anything else, it is *integrity* and *trustworthiness* that they consider the most important qualities when hiring or promoting people. We now, so to speak, get it straight from the horse's mouth – from already successful and respected businessmen.

Not technical skill. Not education. Not work experience. Not even a pleasing personality. But good old-fashioned integrity and honesty - qualities that the Good Book extols.

After decades in business, I have come to realize that an inexperienced worker with a track record of integrity is most likely to be preferred over a brilliant employee with questionable ethics. I am positive that the latter, who is the more sought-after person, would become the organization's major headache.

The trouble with integrity and trustworthiness is the absence of schools that teach and emphasize them. Some business school professors are themselves reckless with ethics and morality.

The only way one can be assured of acquiring these qualities is to totally give in to the authority of God's Word. Then success is sure to follow.

Ask yourself: *What would my family, my company, and my world be like if all were to adopt my ethics?*

Step out in faith and surrender your life to Jesus Christ. Seek to understand His Word and obey Him. Only then can people qualify to be men and women of integrity and trust. †

(Reprinted with permission)

reflections

one minute meditations



M A K A T I

F. de Larrazabal

carrying the CROSS

"...carrying the cross by himself, went out to what is called the Place of the Skull." John 19:17

The cross was heavy and the soldiers, fearing that Jesus would succumb before he reached the Place of the Skull, hired a man called Simon the Cyrenean, to help Jesus carry the cross. The people who condemned Jesus wanted to have the pleasure of seeing him nailed to the cross, and did not want to be robbed of the satisfaction of seeing him crucified. They gloated over his suffering as he fell several times while carrying the cross. They enjoyed the spectacle of seeing Jesus fall and rise on his way to the cross. His mission was almost over and

he did not allow those falls to prevent him from reaching his goal.

We all have the mission to reach the goal Jesus has prepared for us.

However, as we walk towards this goal, we stumble and fall many times. As we lie in the gutter of our sins, we need to rise up to continue our walk towards this goal. The world is full of sinful attractions that can entrap us.

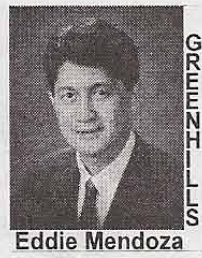
As Jesus stood up from his falls to reach the end of his mission, we also have to stand up from the fall of sin to cleanse ourselves, to continue our walk towards the kingdom prepared for us. †

Prayer

Dear Jesus, you loved me enough to take upon your bleeding shoulders the heavy cross. My love for you is wanting for I find pain difficult to bear, sorrow oppressive and tragedies cruel. You have asked that I carry my own cross and follow in your footsteps, and yet I often think the cross was only meant for you and not for me. Help me, Jesus, to carry my cross with joy, ever keeping my eyes on the Father's will.

(Mother M. Angelica)

Due Diligence



Eddie Mendoza

"Whatever you do, work at it with your whole heart, as working for the Lord, not for man."

Ipity my poor staffer in HR. Several months ago, we decided to computerize our employee information, and he was assigned the tedious chore of encoding all this voluminous data into his computer. Seeing that it was a gigantic task to input the 201 files of all our employees, he wisely managed to cut up the work into small pieces just so that he could squeeze that in to his many other daily chores.

Little by little, over the past four months, he was making good progress, many times coming to work on Saturdays just to catch up on the backlog. All this time, I would repeatedly warn him of the danger of losing data in the unlikely event of a computer malfunction or maybe a virus attack. So I advised him to create back up copies of the files he was creating so as not to waste all the effort that he put into it.

Finally two Mondays ago, he reported mission 99% accomplished. The following morning, however, he walked into his supervisor's cubicle with tears in his eyes, declaring that the computer crashed. All this while, he had not created any backup copy despite my warnings. Not only was the entire 201 file data base lost, he also lost a few other important files vital to the administration of our personnel function.

In frustration I pondered why it is that people fail to protect against imminent and potential dangers, even though they know that the danger can

cause serious harm. I realized that this case is not unique to the danger of lost computer files. I realized that this behavior plagues not just the clerks and the unlearned, but sadly it also manifests itself among the educated, the rich, and even the "spiritually mature".

People know that seatbelts save lives, yet they don't buckle up. They know that cigarette smoking causes cancer, but they continue unabated. They know that adultery can destroy their families, their personal and professional lives, and even society, yet they continue their deceit. They know that driving while intoxicated can cause fatal accidents, but they do it anyway. They know computer hard disks crash, but they don't create backup copies.

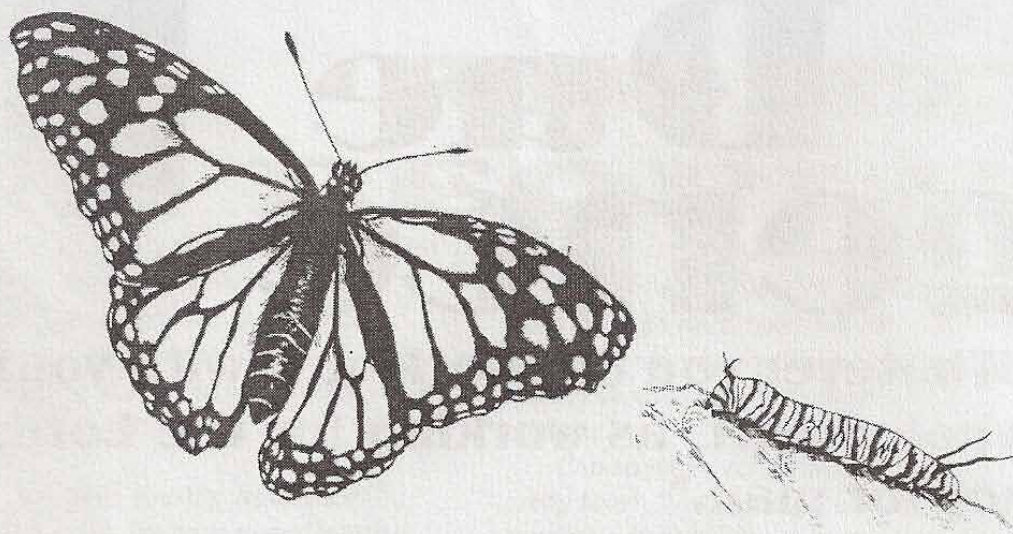
The point is, people don't act according to their knowledge and they fail to exercise the diligence that is due.

Diligence means "taking pains with one's work". It implies industriousness, a steady disciplined effort to do what is required. The book of Proverbs makes it clear that diligence is a vital part of wise living. Exercising due diligence in one's work, in one's life in fact, is not easy, and I will not belittle the effort needed to break the easier habit of cutting corners, to find the easier and "puwede na" solution.

But if we examine the word 'diligence' some more, we will learn why it is good to be diligent in everything. You see, diligence comes from the Latin word, *diligo*, which means "to love". Applied to work, it could mean either love for the work, or better still love for the person or persons being served by one's work. In a sense, therefore, failure to exercise due diligence is a failure to love. "Kulang sa amor," I would comment about people's work sometimes.

Yes, love plays a key role in our workplace. "Love conquers all," scripture says. Love is the great motivator. Love is the prime mover in the most difficult of circumstances. Love is what distinguishes ordinary work from excellent work. Love is what takes our minds away from ourselves and our lazy ways, and focuses us on others whom we should care for. Wearing a seatbelt, putting out that cigarette, backing up your computer files – all these simple mundane tasks are works of due diligence, sacrificial service, acts of love.

Ultimately, love focuses our minds on Him whom we serve. "Whatever you do," Paul says in Colossians (3:23), "work at it with your whole heart, as working for the Lord not for men." It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving. ✠



TRANSFORMATION

Pasting Wings on a Worm will never give you a

BUTTERFLY

Sunday's theme during the BCBP's 20th Anniversary at Subic Bay was "Transformation". The first day of the celebration began with thanksgiving while the second day emphasized growth. Then we moved forward to "transformation" – both personal transformation and organizational transformation.

My husband Jun and I extended our stay in Subic for another day. This enabled us to visit the Butterfly Garden, a magical nature garden with over 2,000 adult butterflies fluttering around as you stroll through the garden's paths. We saw butterflies in all stages of development from worms to cocoons to newly emerged butterflies. I had the unforgettable experience of having a newly emerged butterfly crawl slowly up my arm, gently flexing its wings, until it reached my shoulder. Perched lightly on my shoulder with its wings fairy-like fanning my neck, it gathered strength and after several wonderful moments, lifted itself in the air to alight on a nearby leaf.

This is "transformation" – a dramatic changing from one form to

another. For the butterfly this metamorphosis takes place physically; for the Christian, the transformation is more of a spiritual process.

On this, our 20th year of BCBP existence, we must ask ourselves the hard questions — how has the BCBP transformed us as persons? How has the BCBP transformed its target market, the business milieu? Is our life different since we became renewed Christians? Have we changed in some revolutionary way?

Many of us can answer resoundingly, "Yes, I have changed!" Others of us may say, "I'm still trying to become better."

As we wrestle with this continuing process of maturity and the ups and downs along the way, we wish that growth and transformation could be easier than it is. David Hazard (DJ#104, '98) puts it this way. He says that after initially placing our faith in Christ, we may fail to understand the inner dynamic of God's Spirit at work within us. Instead of recognizing the power of the gospel to continue to

change us and renew our minds, we believe that since God has made the initial radical changes in our lives *gratis*, it's now our job to pay back the favor. So we mistakenly commit ourselves to a holy self-improvement program.

Holy self-improvement vs. genuine transformation

A holy self-improvement program can take on many forms: memorizing whole Bible passages, participating daily in Holy Mass, reciting numerous novenas and rosaries on schedule, attending all BCBP activities, strictly observing and following each and every item in our BCBP Commitment Card, taking up various forms of meditation, denying oneself of the "good times". All of these are worthwhile practices, but they, *per se*, do not transform us.

There is a universe of difference between self-improvement efforts and learning to know God. The former develops into false piety or self-righteousness; the latter is what Paul calls living in the Spirit and letting the Spirit control our lives (Gal. 5:25). In his letter to the Galatians, chapters 5 and 6, Paul warns us not to fall into the trap of outward conformity to some set of "spiritual" standards or expectations of "holiness" set by others (and sometimes even set by ourselves). This often results in making us smug and self-righteous, or else overworked, tired, and dry. This is like pasting wings on a worm to create an instant butterfly! And when the pasted-on wings dry and fall off, the worm reverts to crawling in the dirt. We become spiritual casualties.



Nancy R. Catan,
BCBP Manila

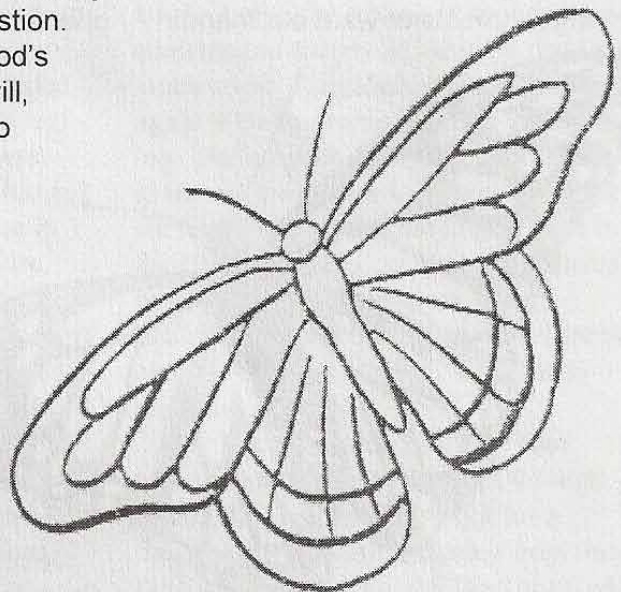
Jesus had an assignment to do, given Him by His Father.
 His whole life was lived fulfilling this assignment.
 We need to realize that we, too, have been given
 an assignment by God.
 Our assignment is
 to do His will.

now. Now God has Me working. I do nothing on My own initiative. I watch to see what the Father is doing. I do what I see the Father already is doing. You see, the Father loves Me. He shows Me everything that He, Himself, is doing" (paraphrased).

Right now, God is working all around us as well as in our lives. The key here is to watch to see where God is working and then join Him in His work. We don't have to "invent" assignments to do God's work; we just have to get to know Him better and then transform our lives, adjusting our lives to Him.

Having a listening spirit

Because God is at work in all circumstances, we need to have a listening spirit, a watchful spirit, an alertness to His work in our lives and to what our spiritual assignment might be. We are a "doing" people. We always feel we must be doing something. If we pause to catch our breath, before too long someone will say, "Don't just stand there, do something." Media, T.V., radio, all sorts of enticing advertisements shout at us to "Do Something!" We find ourselves being judged more by what we do and how much we can do, then by who we really are.



Paul exhorts us to avoid conforming to the world around us and instead pursue God Himself and experience the genuine metamorphosis of spiritual transformation. Transformation happens when we allow His work to go deep – to the very core of our being. Hazard writes, "For as the life of the body is in the blood, the life of the spirit is in the innermost attitudes and beliefs that shape our will." We need to take on the attitudes of Christ and allow the Spirit room to work in us to transform us into what God wants us to be – understanding that the result may not necessarily be what we want Him to make us into.

What are some of the attitudes that can help us grow in an intimate, vital relationship with God and keep us from becoming spiritual casualties? Every inspired writer has his/her own list of essential attitudes for becoming Christlike but for me, these can be boiled down to five: grasping God's goodness and love, accepting that we are here "on assignment", having a listening spirit, cultivating a healthy detachment from the world, and loving God completely and unconditionally.

Grasping God's goodness and love

Jesus' life and ministry is a study in living with childlike trust in the love and goodness and utter trustworthiness of the Father. No matter what happened to Jesus, He knew that God loved him and would never abandon him. He could see God's goodness and love in the people around him, in the storm on the sea of Galilee, in the death of Lazarus, in the multitudes seeking healing, in the soldiers sent to persecute him.

How often have we sung "God is

good" while at the same time we were asking, "If God is good why did He ...," "Why hasn't He...", "Why won't He...?" In a moment of depression or frustration we might even cry out, "If You're so good, why does it seem that I've been more faithful to You than You are to me?" This cry results from the mistaken attitude that since God loves me, He will give me what I want. We try to control God, to limit His goodness to our wants, rather than allowing Him to do what is best for us.

Like Jesus, we need a childlike confidence in the love and goodness of God, trusting in Him no matter what. Paul emphasizes this attitude in his letter to the Romans, chapter 8, especially in verses 28 and onwards.

We are on assignment

Jesus had an assignment to do, given Him by His Father. His whole life was lived fulfilling this assignment. We need to realize that we, too, have been given an assignment by God. Our assignment is to do His will. Often we ask the question: "What is God's will for my life?" This is not the right question. The right question is: "What is God's will?" Once we know God's will, then we can adjust our life to Him. The focus needs to be on God, not on my life.

During Jesus' 33 years on earth, He perfectly completed every assignment God gave Him to do. He never failed to do the will of the Father. How did He do this? John 5:17, 19-20 summarizes Jesus' approach to doing the will of His Father. He says, "The Father has been working right up until

And yet throughout scripture God is telling us to "Be still and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11). He is asking us to enter into a love relationship with Him. Yes, there is a time when we must "do" something, but we cannot skip the relationship. The relationship with God must come first (John 15:5).

Cultivating the attitude of healthy detachment

Jesus was content to carry out His entire ministry as an itinerant preacher, owning only the clothes on His back, depending on God to provide for His daily needs. But His detachment was not withdrawal from the world. Because He was not overly attached to a house, his family and friends, or his possessions for security, approval or worth, He was able to more closely connect with those who most needed His help. He was able to easily move about the land doing His Father's work without worrying about what other people thought of Him. He looked to God for His security and for approval of what He was doing.

We need to have this attitude of healthy detachment. This doesn't mean that we have to give up the things we have – our nice home, our closets full of clothes, our comfortable lifestyle, or our "barkada". Healthy detachment means that our happiness should not depend on our possessions, our social and business accomplishments or what our friends

Only by living a life fully loving God can we experience true and lasting transformation. Only as we follow Jesus, taking the attitudes that shaped His heart, allowing God's Spirit to work in us and with us, will this new life – His life and attitudes – become one in us.

think of us. Our happiness should depend more on what God thinks of us. It is God's "Well done, good and faithful servant" that is our ultimate source of approval.

Living in love

In everything that Jesus did, He showed His great love, a love that stemmed from His own personal, intimate love relationship with God the Father. His secret was utter trust in the love of God. It is only this quality and attitude of love that can make us give ourselves completely to God as we answer His call. Only love lets us accept – as Jesus did – that we are here "on assignment." Only unconditional love and childlike trust can turn us to God the Father for our meaning and purpose.

Only by living a life fully loving God can we experience true and lasting transformation. Only as we follow Jesus, taking the attitudes that shaped His heart, allowing God's Spirit to work in us and with us, will this new life – His life and attitudes – become one in us.

Only then can we say with resounding conviction, "Yes, I am transformed!" with this statement being immediately followed by "Yes, and I am still being transformed!" for in truth and in fact, this change is a never-ending process, a journey toward holiness, a

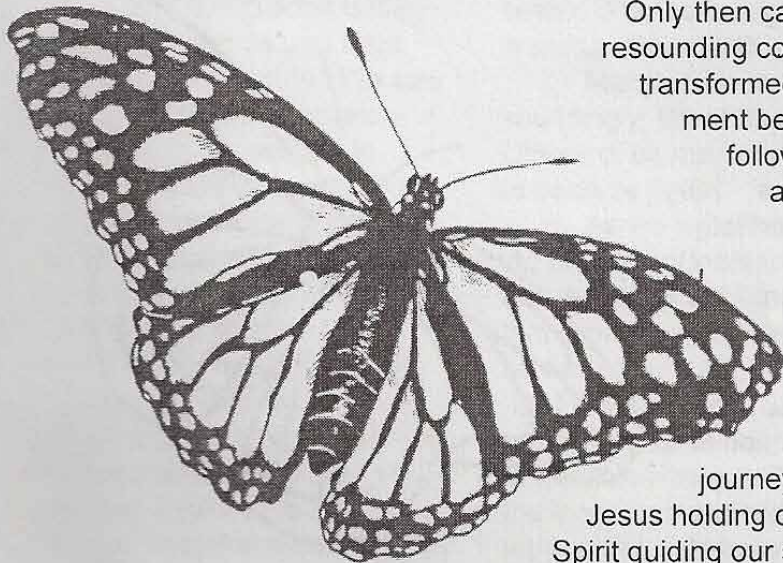
journey toward God with Jesus holding our hand and the Spirit guiding our steps.

Making an impact in the marketplace

The mission and vision of the BCBP is to make an impact not only on our personal lives but to transform the business world into a more Christian environment. But we can only influence the marketplace to the extent that we ourselves, as members of the BCBP, are transformed. As we ourselves experience life-changing transformation through a closer, more intimate living and loving relationship with God, we naturally find ourselves wanting to share our joy with others.

We just need to look around us and be aware of where God is presently working and what He is presently doing in our businesses and professions. Then with the help of the Holy Spirit we can easily align our evangelization efforts with His work. We mustn't be content with getting the numbers to attend our BCLPs, this may just be a pasting on of wings, a cosmetic increase in membership. For our organization to have a real impact on the business milieu, we need to experience real metamorphosis starting from within.

And this we can do as we adopt the attitudes of Jesus. Deep and lasting change is not a mirage; it is our birthright as children of God. My prayer for this 20th year celebration of God's goodness in the BCBP is: *Let me never be content with pasting on wings. Help me live the core attitudes of Jesus in my daily life. Lord God, may I experience a true metamorphosis and become all that You want me to be – in my personal life, in my family, in my marketplace. Thank you for your unending goodness and merciful love. Amen. ✠*



My profession is to

RELIEVE PAIN

Oscar Cruz, BCBP Rizal



In 1994 we were asked to serve as discussion leaders and eventually AGLs. In 1997 we became unit leaders and early this year 2000 I was asked to serve as Life Director of our chapter. I do not consider these as steps of promotion as in the corporate ladder but rather as opportunities to grow more in God's service. It is through these years of service that the Lord has let me realize some very important things that I would like to share with you.



Firstly, in the medical and allied medical professions where physical healing is the ultimate goal, our talent, training and intelligence can overwhelm us into actually believing that the power to heal patients originates from and rests in our hands, the hands of the doctor. I have realized that the power to heal really emanates from God and that I am just an instrument of the Greatest Healer who is God.

How many times have I found myself on the verge of giving up in the middle of a procedure? I knew what I had to do but I could not. Because of these past experiences, now before I do any procedure on my patients, I quietly lift up my hands, eyes, mind and my patient to the Lord for guidance. He has not failed me and for every successful procedure, I continue to stand in awe of His power.

The Lord has reduced and changed my longing for recognition and fame in my profession to an attitude of service. He constantly reminds me to use Dentistry to alleviate probably one of the most annoying forms of pain known to man ... toothache and other diseases associated with the tooth and the mouth. At the same time, He wants me to use Dentistry as a source of livelihood so I can care for the needs of my wife and five children.

He has put order in my life by helping me rearrange my priorities. My

life priorities now are 1-God, 2-family, 3-livelihood, 4-community.

He has taught me that I can be holy in my work. In many instances I could have engaged in erroneous and unethical work practices like overcharging, padding bills for insurance companies abroad, but time and again He has reminded me to stay clean, honest and professional. It is not easy especially in times of need and I thank the Lord for guiding me to overcome the inertia of sin with the momentum of His grace.

Occasionally I still feel the urge to teach. I miss the feeling of explaining to students and the joy of knowing that I am understood. I have asked God time and again if He wants me to return to teaching. He has been firm. Instead He has given me the chance to quench my thirst for teaching by using me to give talks in the Brotherhood in our chapter. Whereas before I was asked to speak about healing teeth and the mouth, now I speak about the Lord's healing of our hearts and souls.

My profession is to heal pain. Now in the service of the Lord through the BCBP I can open the door for a deeper kind of healing coming from the Greatest Healer of all, the Lord our God. Praise God! ✠

I had originally wanted to be a physician and, in fact, had completed my 1st year of Pre-Med. I however decided to shift to Dentistry probably because my mother is a dentist and my early exposure to dental practice might have influenced my decision. I graduated from Dental School, took and passed the Board exams in 1980 and began teaching plus dental practice with my mother. Several years later I was granted a scholarship to train in dental surgery abroad. Upon my return to the Philippines I became active in organized dentistry with the chance to go around the country giving talks to dental societies and groups.

As I began to make a name for myself in the dentistry profession I distanced myself from God as the thought of Him only served to make me feel guilty about some things I had been doing. Then I was invited by a former classmate from elementary to attend a BCBP breakfast and then the BCLP. The talk about God's love hit me where it counted most. It was the first time I really understood how God feels for us all. As the BCLP went on I resolved to end my wrongdoing and the painful process of healing began. My wife and I formally joined the BCBP and immersed ourselves in community life and service.

Most BCBP sharings have been about personal conversions – from a life of sin to a personal relationship with the Lord after the Brotherhood's Christian Life Program following the parable story of the Prodigal Son. I was not like the Prodigal Son and I have no dramatic conversion story to tell. Rather, I was more like the other son in the parable – the son who stayed home, who remained a good son to his father, but who resented the royal welcome accorded his prodigal brother by his father.

All throughout my life I considered myself to have been a "good boy". At least that was what everybody was telling me at the time. I was always close to the church. I could even have been a priest – if not for my name. I could not imagine myself being called "Father Padre". So I took up journalism at Ateneo and worked for awhile as a full-fledged staff reporter of the Philippines Herald. Then I shifted to corporate journalism where the hours and the pay were better. I worked hard but I began to resent those who seemed to be moving ahead faster than I. This was when I started acting like the son who stayed home in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. *What about me, Lord, I complained. Is this what I get for being faithful to you all these years?*

It is during moments of crisis in faith like this, which come often in our lives, that the Lord reaches out and touches every one of us – if we would only care to notice. It was at this time that I first heard of a group of businessmen and professionals who were meeting every Wednesday morning at the Makati Sports Club to talk about nothing else but the Lord and how He was working their lives. But I was not interested in joining them; I already had my agenda full of the Lord's work – Rose and I were members of the Christian Family Movement, both of us were active in our parish, I was a 4th degree Knight of Columbus.



Growing in

Pete Padre, BCBP Parañaque

GOD'S LOVE

How to Survive Mid-Life's Night of the Soul

But I had a friend who persisted in inviting me to the breakfast and I finally agreed to go with him, even if only once. This was in 1981 and the BCBP was not yet one year old. That was the beginning. I never missed a breakfast after that. Rose and I took the Christian Life Program (No. 3) and there, for the first time I began to see God as a personal God – not a medicine-cabinet sort of God who was somewhere else and whom I would call upon only when I was in trouble or needed something.

Then followed a series of increasing responsibilities in the BCBP peaking in being a member of the BCBP Excom, the forerunner of the present BCBP National Council. But our life in the BCBP was not all a bed of roses. We have had our moments of highs and lows, light and darkness, but we have persevered in faith until we have reached a point where we are now experiencing a return to the fervor of our first love – the BCBP.

What's the lesson that we can learn from this? Rose and I attended

a retreat in Tagaytay with Fr. Thomas Green, S.J. Paraphrasing Fr Green... at least this was my interpretation of what he said...our life with the Lord also goes through various stages like our natural love life with our spouse.

First, **there is the courtship stage**, where we always want to be with the object of our courtship, we want to know everything about him or her, and we worship the very ground he or she is standing on.

Then, **we move on to the honeymoon stage**, where we are on Cloud 9, so to speak. We are on fire and are ready to move heaven and earth at our loved one's bidding.

Finally, before we know it, **we are in the mid-life stage**. We still love each other, perhaps, but the fire is no longer there. Life becomes a constant struggle, day in and day out. Now we have a problem. Or, we think we have a problem.

Applied to our life in the BCBP, **the BCLP is the courtship stage**. We are finding out things about Jesus that we never knew before. We fall in love with Him and, during our Baptism in the Holy Spirit, commit our lives to Him. **After the BCLP we enter the honeymoon stage**. We are faithful to our daily prayer time, scripture reading, action groups, assemblies, teachings, and so forth. We volunteer for all sorts of service.

Then **gradually we begin to miss BCBP activities. Our prayer time and scripture reading loses its allure. We are burned out and Jesus suddenly disappears from our life, or so we think. We have reached the mid-life stage** – what St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila call the 'dark night of the soul.' According to Fr. Green, if we have remained faithful to our prayer life, this dark night or dry well is a natural progression in one's faith or prayer life. It does not indicate the absence of God. On the contrary, it means that our relationship with God has moved on to a more mature level.

But of course, it can also be otherwise. Our dark night could just as well be the result of the Devil's workings in our lives. The Devil

doesn't always go after us to do bad things. Sometimes, all he wishes is for us to do less good. So he puts obstacles in our way. If we end up praying less and less, forgetting our scripture readings once in a while, and missing BCBP activities, he is already happy. Or he can even push us to more and more service, fouling up our schedules and disrupting our family lives, to the point where we get burned out. Then he has achieved his objective.

Then gradually we begin to miss BCBP activities. Our prayer time and scripture reading loses its allure. We are burned out and Jesus suddenly disappears from our life, or so we think.

How do we handle this onset of a dark night in our prayer or faith life?

First, we must accept that our dark night is sure to come at some point in our lives. It is not a matter of "if" but "when." If we are not prepared for it, we could very well think that God has abandoned us. We would then be easily discouraged and simply backslide to our old ways.

Second, we must persevere in our BCBP commitment, especially during these dark nights. We are called to be members of a community – the BCBP. It is here where we can draw support from, and give support to, one another in our walk with the Lord.

Third, we should be more active in evangelistic work, inviting relatives, friends, business associates, neighbors, even strangers to the breakfast. It is a fact that while we evangelize others, we ourselves get evangelized.

Fourth, we should volunteer for service, but always striving for a balanced schedule. We need to get our priorities right – God first, our family next, then our work, and so forth. Not God first, God second, and

God always. God Himself would not like that.

Fifth, we need to take personal responsibility for our own continuing growth. Don't leave everything to our BCBP leaders. Try to go to Mass and receive communion everyday or as often as your schedule permits. Attend retreats and recollections outside of the BCBP. Read inspirational books.

Sixth, we must rid ourselves of any and all inordinate attach-

ments that are not of the Lord. Golf is a good pastime, but if it fouls up your priorities in life, it ceases to be of the Lord. The same is true of many of our involvements in life.

Finally, it is important that we be active in our parish in addition to our BCBP service. The two are not mutually exclusive but rather should reinforce each other to make us better disciples of Jesus.

These are some of the ways that helped me through my dark nights and I share them with you praying that you can keep the fire burning in your hearts especially when it is darkest. What's important is that we don't give up. We persevere in this way of life that the Lord has given us in the BCBP. It's like riding a bicycle – you just have to keep moving forward, or you will fall down.

In closing I want to thank the Lord for His faithfulness to Rose and me during every stage of our life. Our sentiments at this point in our earthly existence can be summed up in the song, "All My Days":

*Till the end of our days, O Lord
We will bless Your name;
Sing your praise, give You thanks
All our days. †*

The BCBP Woman:

"Wind beneath his wings"

By Miriam P. Cue, BCBP Iligan

J heard my husband telling our Mission Director that I am the "wind beneath his wings." Basking in such honor, I would like to believe this is true for all of us women in the BCBP – the mainstay of life in the brotherhood, the women who know themselves too well to have transcended the issue of sexism in the transformation of an imperfect world. They are certainly far from the human mouse most bigoted males think a woman should be; they are successful professionals and entrepreneurs in their own right, the epitome of Gallic competence and self-confidence, perfectly content with whatever role assignment is given them. The struggle to defend themselves in a male dominated world is over. They have found the peace that meekness brings, the quietness of soul which is the fruit of truly seeking God. In silent rhythm, which only the spirit can perceive, they take the Christian walk hand-in-hand with their husbands in communion with the rest of their brothers and sisters in the community, blending in harmony and oneness with the grace of God. We thus see the men growing strong in the support provided by their women and the women themselves growing more glorious in the gratitude expressed by their brothers.

These great women have certainly brought the word "woman" to higher levels of meaning. What is the purpose of being a woman after all if we do not take seriously the responsibility of supporting our imperfect husbands and brothers? Our concern for their good is our concern for ourselves. We are here to care, and care actively ... for the good of our male counterparts is inextricably bound up with ours.

Indeed in the BCBP, you come to witness the beauty of women in their full splendor, with the power of their gen-

teel femininity and sacred sensibility emanating from the depth of their compassion, and the power of their vision bursting forth, for their men to literally find in their unwavering love and support, the kingdom of heaven. ✠



Which face do you like, Annie?

By Ginny Quizon, BCBP Parañaque

Now that I am back in the workforce and deliriously trying to balance home and career, I find myself calling the likes of us as "Annie Batungbakal." If you are over 35 you would surely remember that OPM by the Hotdogs – "Sa umaga, despatsadora, sa gabi ay bonggang-bongga" – which to me seems pretty much like my split personality in reverse. Because it is in the morning that I do the "bongga stuff" of looking and smelling good to hide all the effects of age and stress and it is in the evening that I am like the "despatsadora" when I "dispatch" the orders of a good mother – Stop watching TV, Brush your teeth, Turn off the faucet, Lock the gates and the whole regular lines of motherly and housewifely concerns.

If you are like me where work is not a matter of choice but economics, you need not use the "self-actualization" or "self-fulfillment" as justification for the time spent away from home. And if you are a Christian with a BCBP logo on your car, and in your prayer book, you are blessed to have the air to exhale. You have sisters who will mirror your complaints about the traffic, lack of time, dry skin, growing waistline, tight budget; just as you will have sisters praying for your targets, unkind boss and retirement.

As a Christian, we believe we are "to be perfect as the Father is perfect" so we deliver our best in any work we are given – be it career or homemaking. However, it does not mean that we can be outstanding in everything we do all the time. Trying to excel at all times leaves one distraught and engaging in endless wishful thinking and reciting litanies of "IF's" – if only I did not marry young, if only I have a job, if only I were slimmer ... at the end of which is if only I didn't have a bad hair day. Instead, we believe that when we put the Lord in the center of our lives, He gives us the grace to accept our roles as a mission so that what seems like an obligation becomes a willing sacrifice where the rewards are inner joy and completeness.

If I were to look at one side of my face as a career woman, I am to see the power of the Almighty giving the talents and skills I need to perform my job. Before the renewal, I would have said I had good genes, but now I know the Lord has always favored me with His miracles. On the other side, I go home and see the same power of the Lord which allowed me to bring forth life in my three children. And then I see His love by which I can share my life with my husband. So what I am trying to say is this – that both sides appeal to me, but a BCBPer should not lie. I have to say that I prefer to see the second side, or the home-front view, if possible all the time.

And I am praying that if the Lord agrees, even this will no longer be wishful thinking!

Here's something very true from Bishop Oscar Romero. It was shared with me by Fr. Ely Santos when we were handling chapter life. I always looked back to this whenever community work became demanding or tiring. It also planted my feet on the ground when activities became successful. I'd like to share this with you.

—Floren Ballares, BCBP Makati

PLANTING the SEEDS



By Bishop Oscar Romero

**It helps now and then to step back and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise of God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.**

**No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.**

**This is what we are about:
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects, far beyond our capabilities.**

**We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this
that enables us to do something and do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace
to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but there is a difference between
the master builder and the worker.**

**We are workers, not master builders, ministers not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.
Amen.**



M A K K A T I

Annie Salvador

We've all heard horror stories of parents losing their children, and in fact, when Nico was 3, we had quite a scare of our own. In a department store, we were quietly browsing, of course having given him the regulatory "stay by me" instruction, when we realized he was missing. We looked and looked for hours (well, yes, it was actually like ten minutes at the most, but it SEEMED like hours, okay?) until we found him inside the cashier's counter, curiously inspecting the differently sized plastic bags they had in stock.

Vagabonds from when we were singles, Nelson and I have kept our love for going places, and have duly infected our children. As our family grew, we would take everyone along for the ride. Not wanting to be overly dependent on yayas, we tried, as early as possible, to go it ourselves. All this being so, we've had to devise a few techniques to make sure that as many heads as left home would come home. And in addition to having the children memorize our names, address and telephone numbers, we've been quite inventive, I must say.

Anticipating crowds, we would dress them all in one bright color, the easier to spot. In carnivals and amusement centers, we would talk to the security guards at the exits, advising them "Amin 'tong lahat ha!" so he'd know our kids were ours – in case someone would try to smuggle them out. Travelling, we would provide them with ID cards, complete with all the necessary hotel and home country information. Arriving someplace, we would designate a rendezvous spot, easy to see and locate, where anyone of us may go if separated from the pack.

We had a buddy system, so that each one was always holding someone else's hand. We rehearsed situations, so that they would know what to say or do if they got lost. And we put whistles around their necks, to blow on in emergencies. Once when Nelson decided to bring the boys, then 6, 5 and 4, to a carnival, he actually attached each of them to himself by roping their beltloops together. With enough slack, they all had both hands free to enjoy the games, safe and secure.

We have gone to all sorts of places and through all sorts of experiences with nary a mishap. Of course we have had very exciting adventures, but absolutely none of the horrific variety. Thus for the last eight years or so since the incident with Nico, all has been well.

So, who would have thought...

It was our first Family Assembly, a bright Sunday morning when we gathered at the Forbes Parish Center and celebrated Holy Mass. After having listened to sharings and conducted an activity for the children, we

Who would have thought...



had also discussed plans for the Subic anniversary, and since so many have expressed their intent to be there, we parted on such a high and happy note.

Having led the children to our parked van, I opened the door for them, said goodbye to a few brothers and sisters and got in to my seat. Soon, we were homeward bound along C5, relaxed and content. Nelson's beeper

sounded and he passed it to me to read. It was from Jun and Beth Ginete: "Please come back to the church because Mia is with us."

What can I say? A lot of discussions, jokes, teasing and consolations have ensued from this incident, which has been told and retold all over again in our family and in our chapter – in fact Danny Silbor has "threatened" to expose me with a news report in the Kapatiran (well, Dan, with this public confession, it seems I beat you to it) – but really, what can I say?

Apparently Mia didn't realize the beeline I was leading was bound for the van, and so had continued playing with the toy she brought. When she couldn't find us, she wandered along the corridor as the remaining Makati members trickled out. This was how Alex and Ester Uychoco found her, and we will always be grateful to them for taking her by the hand. And we will always be grateful to the Ginetes, who stayed with her until we got back.

We weren't dressed in any one bright color. We had not spoken to any security guards. The kids wore neither ID's nor whistles. We had not assigned a rendezvous spot and Mia was buddy-less (obvious ba?). There were so many, SO MANY "what if's" that besieged us, and the answers to all of them were dreadful, the implications of each of them were painful.

But one thing stood out, clear and vivid and blinding as the Sunday sun: it was none of our inventive devices that kept us safe and whole and complacent all these years; it was not Nelson and it was not me. Only by the preservation, protection and providence of the Father have we been successful – not just in our effort to keep together, but in ALL our efforts as a family. It was this truth that brought me to tears, not because I was seeing it for the first time, but because again, I was recognizing it in my life.

And how gently God loves us! He had engineered the circumstances so that his instruction would be delivered in the most benevolent means: a BCBP activity, within church grounds, at high noon, when brothers and sisters were still around. He even went so far as to spare us from the unknown, since the moment we realized Mia was not with us was also the moment we knew she was safe with friends. That 10-minute drive back to Forbes could have been torture – a lifetime of agony. Instead, it was filled with praise and thanksgiving. And indeed, we will be eternally grateful to the Lord for how He has held us in the palm of His hands that memorable day.

And the lessons we reaped! Shortly afterwards, I apologized to Mia for not making sure she was with the rest of us before leaving. I also commended her for being so cool, as her Titos and Titas were telling us that she was very relaxed and did not display any panic, or even distress. In her calm and stoic way, my five-year old, youngest daughter looked me in the eye and said, "Jesus was also lost, and they found Him."

Well, who would have thought... ✠

Do the things you can do... NOW

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time at work. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first Amaryllis blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank.

"Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what my cousins would've done had they known that they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, or for whatever their favorite food was. I'm guessing; I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days.

Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God.

If you'd like to begin to make a difference in your relationships, why not take a few minutes to share these few thoughts with people you care about, just to let them know that you're thinking of them. People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don't need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there. —Internet

Ronnie Caballero. Another year. Another anniversary. For his vision of the Kapatiran as a unifying element in the BCBP, and for his continuing efforts to realize this vision, the Kapatiran staffers salute Ronnie! Keep up the good work!



Nancy Catan. With her knack of relating her everyday experiences with what God is doing in her life, Nancy talks about worms, butterflies and metamorphosis in her Back to Basics article. In this 20th year of the BCBP, she asks, "How has the BCBP transformed us personally and our marketplaces? Are we just pasting wings on worms or is there a real metamorphosis?"



Louie Morales. As Tatang Louie takes over the steering of the BCBP into the new millenium, he envisions the Brotherhood as going global and is working indefatigably to bring this to reality. At the same time he urges us all to renew our BCBP commitment to the Lord and step out in faith that God makes all things possible in Him.



Eddie Mendoza. Eddie echoes Kahlil Gibran's maxim that "Work is love made visible" as he equates due diligence with "doing our work with love." He says that exercising due diligence in our lives will keep our self-computers from crashing!



Annie Salvador. The mere thought of "losing" one of our children, even temporarily, is enough to send shivers up and down our spine. Annie shares with us one of their most embarrassing moments as parents, losing their daughter Mia, and the lessons they gained from this experience.



Fernando de Larrazabal. We salute Tito Larry for his unwavering commitment and loyalty to the BCBP. He was one of the early moving spirits behind our organization and continues to be one with the BCBP today, if not physically present, certainly in spirit. More power and years to you, Tito Larry!



Sammy M. Ulanday. As the BCBP moves deeper into the IT stream, Sammy continues to grow with all the new developments, learning new IT skills and putting them to use in honing the BCBP's nationwide communication systems. But Sam's best message is his smile!



Francis J. Kong. To have a successful business we need the right people. Author of "Only The REAL Matters", Francis believes that the right people are those with integrity and trustworthiness, and wonders why these values are not more emphasized in our educational system.



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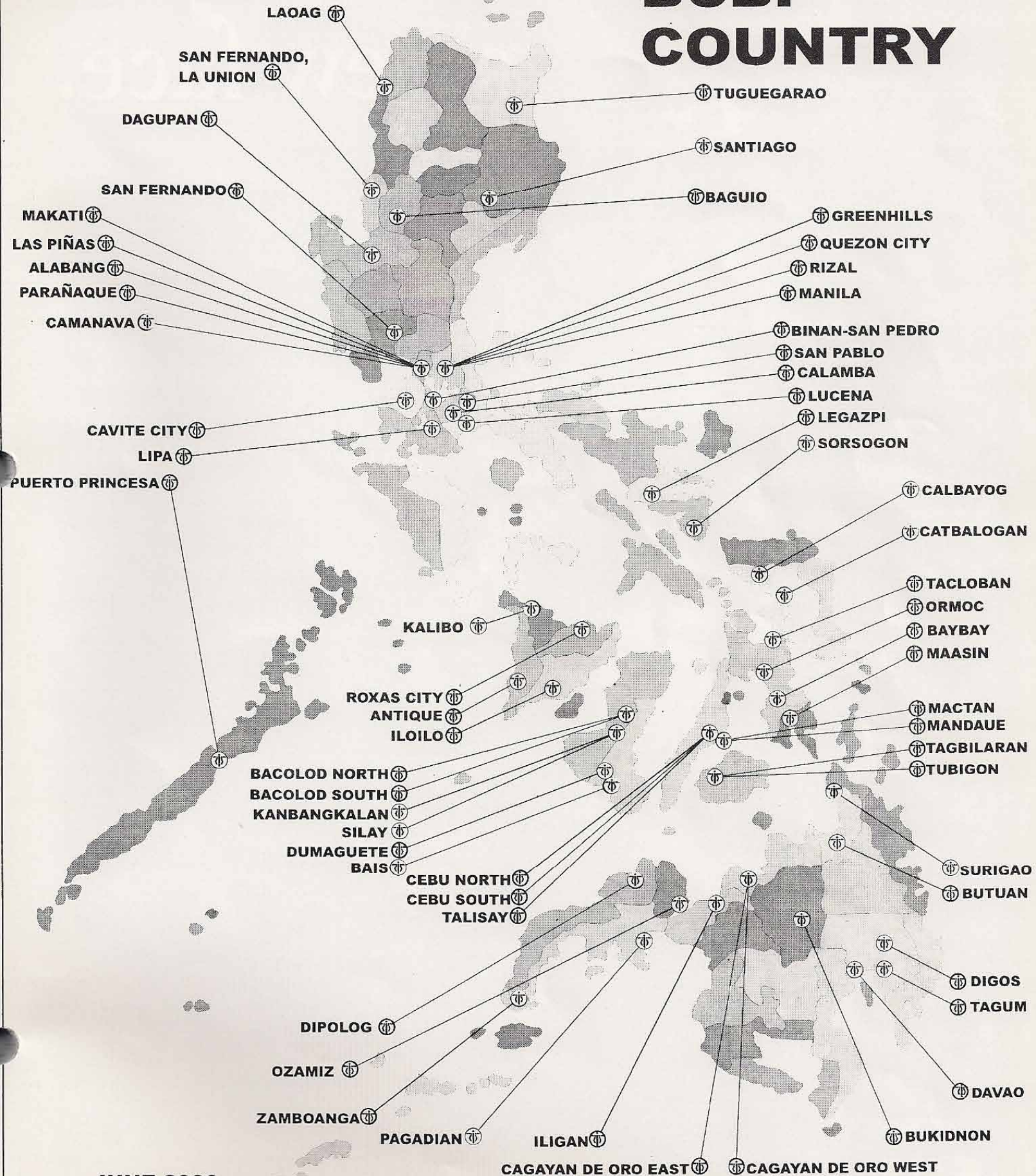
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THE BCBP COUNTRY



Give your business a new face.

Is your business running your life?
Then it's probably time to take a new perspective.
Give your business a new focus. A new face.
The face of Peace. The face of Love.

Let Jesus Christ be your business partner and
you 'll know your business is in good Hands.

After all, you are His business.



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